

Steve Miller Band, Marty Stuart coming to Walla Walla

‘Americana Tour’ will stop in Eastern Washington city on Aug. 27

By VICKI HILLHOUSE
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Three months after the city of Walla Walla hired an L.A.-based festival and event consultant to help plan more musical performances in town, the first concert has been announced.

Steve Miller Band and Marty Stuart will make Walla Walla a stop on their 40-city “Americana Tour” on Aug. 27.

According to tour listings, the show will take place at “The Range Amphitheater,” which is a name given to a developing vision for the driving range at Veterans Memorial Golf Course.

Ken Deans, of Ken Deans Production Services, said Friday a maximum of 5,000 tickets will be available. Details, including when tickets will go on sale and pricing, are expected to be forthcoming from partner Knitting Factory.

Miller, a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer who reportedly will be inducted into the Songwriting Hall of Fame two days before the



Steve Miller, of the Steve Miller Band, is a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer. He and country musician Marty Stuart will make Walla Walla, Wash., a stop on their 40-city “Americana Tour” on Aug. 27.

tour kicks off, and country musician Stuart combine for the perfect first show in a long-term focus to attract big-name artists, Deans said.

Miller, who wrote or co-wrote 1970s-era hits that include “Fly Like an Eagle,” “Rock ‘n Me” and “The Joker,” has Northwest roots and is described by Deans as a “quintessential musician” whose music remains relevant to younger generations.

“He and Marty Stuart have become friends and decided to tour together,”

he said. “For me, this was an opportunity to come into a show that had a wide range of appeal to a wide demographic.”

Grammy Award-winning Stuart blends traditional country, rockabilly and honky-tonk with his band Fabulous Superlatives.

Deans said the Americana Tour is one of two performances he hopes will be ahead for Walla Walla in 2020. Getting the second may be a difficult feat. Bands that used to book six

to eight months out are now scheduling 12 to 18 months ahead of performances, he said.

By October, the focus will be the 2021 season, when anywhere from four to six concerts may be booked, he said.

Deans said the approach to building Walla Walla as a concert and festival destination combines the collective 30 to 40 years of expertise and relationships between him and his partners with responsible and

respectful development in the community.

“That key word is ‘responsible,’” Deans said. “Our philosophy in our company is if we do what’s good for the community, it will be good for our business.”

The idea sprung from the success of the 2015 Gentlemen of the Road Stopover in Walla Walla. That two-day festival brought thousands into the community, bolstering business and activity with bands, such as Foo Fighters, The Flaming Lips and headliners Mumford & Sons, along with at least two dozen local and regional acts on multiple stages throughout town.

It also showed the city what can be done here.

Last November, the Walla Walla City Council approved a \$150,000 contract with Deans to help plan options for events of all sizes.

L.A.-based Deans has been director of logistics for Southern California music festivals Coachella and Stagecoach.

Closer to home, his more than 25 years experience in the music industry also helped with the building of the amphitheater at Chateau Ste. Michelle, which draws people from all over for concerts each year. He worked on Columbia Meadows north of Portland, as well.

Among Deans’ partners are Mitch Gilbert, a Pasco resident who brings culinary expertise to the mix. In this case, it means pulling in local food vendors already lauded in the community to help enhance the events.

Working, too, with the Knitting Factory adds an established nationally known company in music and entertainment that knows well the Northwest with venues in Spokane and Boise, Idaho, as well as Missoula, Montana, and many others.

Deans said the contract with the city started with development of a feasibility study. A large portion of funds paid to his company were used on other experts in marketing, sponsorship, engineering and design to develop the financial and environmental plan behind this.

They looked at other possible venues already in town and wanted something both sizable and central to the enhancement of Walla Walla culture.

The town’s potential for festivals is not a hard sell, he said.

“Not having been to Walla Walla in 30-plus years, when I saw it I thought it was probably one of the best-kept secrets on the planet. What an amazing place this is,” Deans said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Sunshine and patchy clouds

WEDNESDAY

Plenty of sunshine

THURSDAY

Sunny to partly cloudy

FRIDAY

Sunshine

SATURDAY

A couple of showers possible

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST					
46°	22°	47°	25°	45°	27°
52°	31°	54°	40°		

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST					
50°	22°	49°	22°	47°	25°
52°	31°	56°	43°		

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OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	47°	35°
Normals	47°	29°
Records	68° (2007)	-10° (1936)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	2.01"
Normal month to date	0.70"
Year to date	4.03"
Last year to date	3.61"
Normal year to date	2.08"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	51°	36°
Normals	48°	29°
Records	70° (1948)	-15° (1936)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.12"
Normal month to date	0.59"
Year to date	0.36"
Last year to date	2.93"
Normal year to date	1.87"

WINDS (in mph)

Today	Wed.
Boardman NE 4-8	NE 4-8
Pendleton ENE 6-12	NE 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:54 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:25 p.m.
Moonrise today	3:49 a.m.
Moonset today	12:41 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Feb 23

Mar 2

Mar 9

Mar 16

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 92° in Falfurrias, Texas Low -27° in Kabetogama, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

-10s

-0s

0s

10s

20s

30s

40s

50s

60s

70s

80s

90s

100s

110s

showers

t-storms

rain

flurries

snow

ice

cold front

warm front

stationary front

high

low

Oregon Gov. Brown calls for breaching 4 Snake River dams

Associated Press

SALEM — The governor of Oregon has come out in favor of removing four hydroelectric dams on the Snake River in Washington state, saying it is the best way to increase endangered salmon runs.

Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, sent a letter to Washington’s Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee this week, offering her support for removing the dams.

The letter outraged Washington state’s three Republican U.S. House members, who want to keep the dams, the *Tri-City Herald* reported.

“Gov. Brown’s position

is not only misguided, it is shocking and extreme,” said Reps. Dan Newhouse, Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Jaime Herrera Beutler, in a joint statement on Friday afternoon.

The three said it is best to wait for the release of a federal environmental study of the Columbia and Snake river hydrosystems that was ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon of Portland.

The four dams are located along the Snake River from Pasco to near Pomeroy.

Brown said it is clear the “most certain and robust solution to Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery” is removing the dams.

“No other action has the potential to improve overall survival two-to-three fold,” she said.

The dams generate electricity, provide some irrigation and flood control and allow barges to operate all the way to Lewiston, Idaho. But they are also blamed for killing salmon and steelhead that are migrating to the ocean or back to their spawning grounds.

The state of Washington, under an initiative spearheaded by Inslee, has been gathering information on what Northwest residents think about breaching the four dams. That report is expected in early March.

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BRIEFLY

Police: Burglary ring targeted marijuana businesses

SALEM — Police in Portland and Salem seized firearms, marijuana and cash and made at least one arrest after breaking up a burglary ring that apparently targeted state-legal marijuana businesses, authorities said.

The ring was working in Oregon and Southwest Washington, according to *The Oregonian*/OregonLive.

Authorities said they seized 16 firearms, \$33,000 in cash, 30 pounds of marijuana and other items during the police operation in Salem on Friday. Also seized were 6 pounds of hash oil, a marijuana concentrate, and burglary tools.

Authorities have not disclosed further information due to the ongoing investigation.

Jury decides convicted Oregon meth dealer should lose home

PORTLAND — A Yamhill County jury has concluded that police can seize the home of a woman convicted of a felony drug crime under Oregon’s civil forfeiture law.

Sheryl Sublet, 62, pleaded guilty in 2018 to selling less than 1,000 grams of methamphetamine, *The Oregonian*/Oregon Live

reported. She was sentenced to six years in prison.

Sublet, a grandmother and military veteran, forfeited \$50,000 in cashier’s checks found inside her home about 3 miles outside Yamhill at the time of her arrest. The Yamhill County Interagency Narcotics Team then attempted to take Sublet’s \$354,000 home.

Under Oregon’s civil forfeiture law, authorities can seize items from a person if they are convicted of a crime and if the property is suspected to be a proceed or instrument of the illegal conduct. The statute emphasizes that the value of the property forfeited should be “proportionate” to the conduct underlying the criminal conviction.

After a two-day trial, the jury determined Wednesday that the woman’s home helped facilitate her criminal activity and that forfeiting it to police would not be excessively punitive.

Sublet plans to appeal the decision, said her attorney, Zachary Stern.

“We don’t believe it’s appropriate for officers to police for profit,” Stern said. “Hopefully, my client is not homeless upon her release from prison.”

Alisa Ray, a deputy district attorney who handled the case for the county’s narcotics team, did not respond to a request for comment.

— Associated Press

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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