

Toby Keith headlines Whisky Fest

Clare Dunn, Clay Walker and Cole Swindell also to take the stage

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton Whisky Music Fest is ready to thrill again.

Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee and two-time Academy of Country Music Awards Entertainer of the Year Toby Keith is set to headline the annual summer event on July 10, 2021, at the historic Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

Country music's Clare Dunn, Clay Walker and Cole Swindell also are slated to perform, according to the announcement from Pendleton Whisky Music Fest.

Doug Corey, Whisky Fest co-founder, said the entertainers have been easy to work with and "having a top notch agent and one that is respected in the industry" was central to getting the lineup.

"Trying to do this without an agent would be difficult,"



Greg Allen/Associated Press, File

Country music recording artist Toby Keith performs on NBC's Today Show at Rockefeller Plaza on July 5, 2019, in New York. Keith, a Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee and two-time Academy of Country Music Awards Entertainer of the Year, is set to headline the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest on July 10, 2021, at the historic Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

he said. "There are simply too many moving parts. We are extremely lucky to have secured Toby Keith, Cole Swindell and Clay Walker, all on such short notice. It will be a wonderful country music event. We are excited for this year's Pendleton Whisky Music Fest."

Organizers canceled the

2020 festival due to the coronavirus pandemic. The new lineup of 2021 performers will replace the original headlining artist Eric Church, who is now set to perform at the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest in 2022, along with Macklemore.

Whisky Fest also plans to take place in front of a live audience, but there will be

differences from previous years.

Pendleton Whisky Music Fest, according to the press release, will follow all health and safety guidelines per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as local and state government health officials. This year's main event will have a reduced capacity of 12,000 fans, and title sponsor Pendleton Whisky will provide face masks at each entrance to festivalgoers who choose to wear one.

The event has showcased some of the biggest names in the music performance industry, including Maroon 5, Blake Shelton and, in 2019, Pitbull and Post Malone.

This year's festival will kick off as usual with a Friday night party in downtown Pendleton, featuring musical performances by Kurt Van Meter, Precious Byrd and DJ Sovereign-T.

For updates on the 2021 and 2022 musical festivals, including ticket information, visit www.pendletonwhisky-musicfest.com.

Yellowhawk CEO caps tenure, steps down

Human Resources Director Aaron Hines named interim CEO

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

MISSION — Lisa Guzman, chief executive officer of Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center, has resigned.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation announced the move in a press release

on Thursday, May 27. Guzman said she resigned due to "personal reasons," saying she needed to "rebalance and do some self-care."

"This past year has been fast-paced due to the high demand of what the COVID-19 pandemic imposed on all of our lives," Guzman said. "This year provided me new learning opportunities as I was part of the proactive incident command team and experienced the commitment that this tribe had in supporting their members as well as Umatilla County and their ceded territories."

The CTUIR Health Commission has designated Yellowhawk Human Resources Director Aaron Hines as interim CEO starting on May 28. Hines has worked for the tribes for 16 years, including on multiple committees and commissions and the Board of Trustees.

In March 2020, Guzman was the incident commander when the trustees declared a state of emergency as the first COVID-19 cases were reported on the reservation and in Umatilla County.

While American Indians nationally have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, infection has been largely suppressed on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, even as cases have surged in Umatilla County to some of the highest rates statewide.

"Our Yellowhawk Team thrived during the pandemic by building a whole new public health infrastructure," Guzman said. "I am confident I am leaving high level health care administrators and providers."

In December, Guzman headed the health center's COVID-19 vaccine rollout. A series of clinics with the Oregon National Guard at Wildhorse Resort & Casino highlighted the rollout, vaccinating thousands of people from across Oregon and Washington, including American Indians and non-American Indians.

In all, tribal health officials have vaccinated more than 3,100 people, according to Yellowhawk data.

Guzman became Yellowhawk's CEO in 2018, just before the new 64,000-square-foot health care center opened on the reservation. During her tenure, the health center achieved national accreditation as a public health authority and received a Regional Public Health Innovation Award from the National Indian Health Board last month, the press release said.

Capping off her time at the health center on May 28, Guzman said she now plans to spend time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

"As I look back," Guzman said, "I am smiling."



Guzman

LOCAL BRIEFING

Arrow Dental clinic opens in Hermiston

SALEM — Moda Health is working to address shortfalls in rural access to dental care with the opening of Arrow Dental in Hermiston.

The clinic is focused mostly on serving patients on Medicaid, known in Oregon as the Oregon Health Plan. It is a full service dental clinic that includes pediatric specialists.

Moda opened the original Arrow Dental in Salem in 2014, and has since opened offices in Astoria, Clatskanie, Eugene, Milwaukie and Hermiston as well as a mobile clinic that serves patients in the Portland area.

Greg Hansen, director of dental Medicaid for Moda, said conversations with coordinated care organizations pinpointed Hermiston as an area with high need for more dentists who take Oregon Health Plan patients, particularly for providers specializing in pediatric dentistry.

The company opened the Hermiston office in April, and the branch is taking patients. Hansen said 98% of Arrow Dental's patients statewide are on Medicaid.

"We do take private insurance, but it's usually family members of patients," he said.

In 2018, Oregon Health Authority's statewide health assessment found only 0.42 dentists per 1,000 people in Oregon, with rural areas even further underserved. It also found 58% of third graders in Oregon already experienced tooth decay, and 45% of children ages 1-5 on Medicaid had not received any preventative dental care.

Dr. Teri Barichello, chief dental officer at Moda, said it is important for people to understand what a "critical role" oral health plays in peoples' overall health. It can have an effect on everything from cardiac health to diabetes.

"In children we don't worry as much about gum disease, but their enamel is much thinner," she said. "Once a cavity gets started it can progress much quicker."

Children experiencing tooth pain have trouble concentrating in school, she said, and sometimes resort to acting out with bad behavior. Barichello said all children should visit a dentist by their first birthday or once their first tooth erupts to get an early start on prevention.

Opening Arrow Dental in Hermiston should make that easier for Eastern Oregon residents.

Arrow Dental shares a building with Affordable Family Eyewear at 298 E. Gladys Ave. in Hermiston.

Athena woman injured in head-on crash

HERMISTON — A woman from Athena was injured in a head-on collision on Tuesday, May 25, near Hermiston, according to Oregon State Police.

Stephanie R. Sneed, 34, was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston for treatment, along with the driver of the other vehicle, Michael R. Sanchez, 33, of Hermiston.

Sneed still was at the hospital the afternoon of May 26, but hospital representatives said they would not release information on Sneed's condition.

According to a report from state police, the crash occurred just before 7:30 a.m. on May 25 on Highway 37 near its intersection with U.S. Highway 730 and Landing

Road northeast of Hermiston.

Sanchez, driving a gray Chevrolet Malibu, allegedly failed to give Sneed the right of way at the highway's split intersection and crashed head-on into Sneed's white Dodge Caravan, troopers reported.

State police cited Sanchez for his reported role in the crash.

The drivers were trapped in their cars, according to the report. Both cars were totaled and towed from the scene.


A 13-year-old Athena girl also was in the car with Sneed.

Troopers also said they found a gun from Sanchez's car and placed it "into safe-keeping."

—Hermiston Herald and Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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