

Hoot, mon, Caledonian Games return to Athena

Join the one-day festivities on July 10

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

ATHENA — Organizers of the Athena Caledonian Games are making good on a promise from last spring after canceling the 2020 event because of the global pandemic.

“We look forward to a time when we can gather our friends in a pretty park for Scottish music and dancing. ‘Haste Ye Back!’ in 2021,” Caledonian President Sue Friese said in a press release.

While the event typically encompasses a full weekend, this year’s one-day celebration kicks off Saturday, July 10, at 9 a.m. with a parade on Main Street. It will continue throughout the day, Friese said, with touches of traditional Scotland evident with lots of kilts, piping and athletic competitions at Athena City Park, 353 S. Third St. Unlike past years, no camping will be allowed on the school grounds.

The celebration began as the Umatilla County Caledonian Society Picnic and Games in 1899. According to the association’s original constitution, its purpose is “... to preserve and perpetuate Scottish social manners and customs.” The family-oriented festival offers activities for spectators and competitors from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is no admission charge.

Utilizing skills that are based on Scottish history and farm life, professional and amateur athletes will compete in Scottish athletic competitions. The most recognized event is the caber toss. Featuring an object similar to a telephone pole, athletes throw it end-over-end. Other events include throwing objects in the air for height measurements, including hammers, hay bales and a stone.

The athlete fee is \$30. On-site registration and check-in begins at 10:45 a.m. An athlete field meeting is at 11:45 a.m. with the competitions starting at noon. For questions, email athletic director Alan Wernsing at alanwernsing@yahoo.com

Friese said a fun contest getting underway around 4 p.m. will crown the person with the bonniest knees.

With many people donning kilts (or at least shorts because of the hot weather), the knees of contestants should be easily viewable. However, Friese said Margaret Hansell, who is serving as the judge, will be blindfolded.

“That should be something to see,” Friese said.

In addition to the athletic contests, the festivities also include music, Highland dancing, a car show, park activities, vendor booths and more. Live entertainment includes Tri-Cities-based Celtic band Skweez the Weezle; a demonstration by the Tri-Cities School of Highland Dancing, who will perform the “Highland Fling”; and numerous clans, who are expected to come from far and wide. The festivities close with a candle lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. at Hesketh Rose Garden.

Elected by the Main Street Association, Caledonian’s chieftains of the year are Alan and Chrissy Froese, who were recently honored as Athena’s 2021 citizens of the year. The couple has served the community through volunteering with youth programs, sports, families in need and at the Athena Christian Church.

Honorary chieftains of the day, elected by Athena Caledonian Games Association, are Michelle Kirby, a graphic artist and Caledonian supporter; and R. Lee Friese, director/conductor of the Inland Northwest Musicians, who serves as an assistant with the games.

Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, will introduce them during the opening ceremonies following the parade at approximately 10:20 a.m. in the park. The Chieftains will then declare, “Let the Games begin!”

Sponsored by Umatilla County Cultural Coalition, a free program is available that includes the full schedule. Also, it features a 20th century Caledonian love story about a Highland dancer from Portland and a wheat farmer from Helix. They will be available at the festival.

For more information, search www.facebook.com/athena.caledonian.7. A schedule of events and registration forms are available at www.athenacaledonian.org. For questions, contact Friese at athenacaledoniangames@gmail.com or 541-566-3880.

Tap into party in Pendleton with Portland band

PENDLETON — A Portland-based band is ready to bring the party to Pendleton.

Sweet N’ Juicy, featuring a banana named Sweet, a pineapple named Juicy, offers funk and fun when they perform — complete with fruity costumes. “... if the Talking Heads were a funk band,” is how radio personality Daria Eliuk described Sweet N’ Juicy.

Formed in 2017, the group is known for its ability to get people on the dance floor and laughing. The 21-and-over event is Thursday, July 8, from 7-10 p.m. at 40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton. There is no cover charge.

Sweet N’ Juicy prides itself on creating songwriter-funk people-pleasing music. The band has collaborated with numerous Grammy Award winners, comedians and Pacific Northwest celebrities while playing host to a weekly variety show. Individually, members have played on Warped Tour, been featured in High Times Magazine, co-written music with Blondie and have been session musicians on dozens of albums. But first and foremost, they come to party and play music for the masses.

For questions about the event, call 40 Taps at 541-612-8559. For more about the group, visit www.sweetjuicymusic.com.

Wednesdays in the Park returns with four weeks of free music

PENDLETON — Wednesdays in the Park is returning to Pendleton’s Roy Raley Park for four weeks of free concerts.

Co-organized by the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Department and concert booking company Sounds Like Entertainment, the concert series will run every Wednesday in July from 6-8 p.m. The series will feature The Identities, a punk fusion rock band, on Wednesday, July 7, Eilen Jewell, a singer-songwriter, on July 14, Grateful, a Grateful Dead tribute band, on July 21, and Hillfolk Noir, a folk, bluegrass and punk

COMMUNITY BRIEFING



Rose City Review/Contributed Photo

Portland-based band Sweet N’ Juicy will get the party going Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 40 Taps in Pendleton.

band that describes its style as “Junkerdash,” on July 28.

As in years past, each concert also will include a food vendor area and a beer and wine garden.

Veterans share stories through Red Badge Project

WALLA WALLA — A project designed to improve the lives of veterans by sharing storytelling skills is featured at Gesa Power House Theatre in Walla Walla.

The Red Badge Project — established by former Army Capt. Evan Bailey and actor and Air Force veteran Tom Skerritt — can assist veterans in managing the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and other burdens they carry. Red Badge Project: Veterans Tell Their Stories is Thursday, July 8, at 7 p.m. at Power House Theatre, 111 N. Sixth Ave., Walla Walla. General admission tickets are \$15.

Tickets are available via www.phtww.org or by calling the box office at 509-529-6500. A portion of ticket sales will benefit the Red Badge Project.

The event will feature veterans from the Walla Walla group (and others from across the region), who will present stories they have crafted in Red Badge. Audience members may be the first people outside of the classroom or tight-knit circles of friends and families who have heard these tales. The 90-minute event is hosted by Red Badge instructor

Warren Etheredge.

Red Badge offers ongoing, bi-monthly classes for veterans in the Walla Walla area. For more information, visit www.theredbadgeproject.com.

Fort Walla Walla announces special programs

WALLA WALLA — A demonstration of scientific instruments from the Lewis and Clark era and a living history presentation are the upcoming special programs at Fort Walla Walla Museum.

Historian Gary Lentz will illustrate during the event Saturday, July 10, how Lewis and Clark expedition captains measured distances, collected data on temperatures and determined their location using the sun, moon, planets and stars. It begins at 2 p.m. at the museum, 755 Myra Road, Walla Walla.

Then, on Sunday, July 11, Tom Williams will portray Sam Black, the master of Fort Nez Perce at the mouth of the Walla Walla River, 1825-30. The Living History program begins at 2 p.m.

Both programs are included with the cost of museum admission, which is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors/students, \$4 for children 6-12 and free for children under 6. Fort Walla Walla Museum is open daily (except Tuesdays) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact 509-525-7703, info@fwwm.org or visit www.fwwm.org.

PARTY IN PENDLETON

MUSIC ▼ PENDLETON® WHISKY ▼ CAMPING ▼ BREW ▼ WINE ▼ FOOD TRUCKS



SATURDAY, JULY 10
PENDLETON ROUND-UP GROUNDS

Powered by:
LEGACY
RAM

TOBY KEITH



COLE SWINDELL
CLAY WALKER
CLARE DUNN
DJ SOVERN-T



TICKETS ON SALE **FRIDAY, JUNE 4 @ 10 am** ▼ pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com

