

# READY, SET, SHOW!

## Main Stage acts offer variety

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After a one-year hiatus because of the global pandemic, the Umatilla County Fair is preparing to live up to its 2021 theme of Ready, Set, Show! with its concert lineup on the Wildhorse Resort & Casino Main Stage.

Angie McNalley, fair director, said all of the acts, except the Wednesday night performer, were scheduled to play in 2020.

The concert opener on Wednesday at 9 p.m. is Stone In Love — Journey Tribute. Thursday features Everclear. A Latino Night Dance is set for Friday. And closing out the week on Saturday is Frankie Ballard. Also, a DJ and dancing is available before and after the concerts at the Barley Barn, across from the concert entrance.

All seats for the Wednesday night show are free with fair admission. General admission for the Thursday and Saturday night concerts, which begin at 9 p.m., are free with fair admission. Reserved and premium seating (first five rows) are available for \$12 and \$20, respectively.

Advance tickets are non-refundable and do not include fair admission, which is \$11. Reserved concert tickets, and discounted fair admission and parking passes can be purchased online via [www.umatillacountyfair.net](http://www.umatillacountyfair.net).

Friday evening's Latino Night, with show opener Fortaleza De Tierra Caliente, will take the stage at 8 p.m. McNalley said it's a real treat to have a trio of headlining acts performing in Hermiston on the same night together for the first time. They include Alfa 7 at 9:10 p.m.; Diana Reyes at 10:30 p.m. and Tierra Cali at 11:50 p.m.

Tickets purchased in advance at Velasco Used Car Sales (80596 High-



Diana Reyes/Contributed Photo



Stone in Love/Contributed Photo



Tierra Cali/Contributed Photo



Everclear/Contributed Photo



Frankie Ballard/Contributed Photo

way 395, Hermiston) will cost \$30 and includes fair admission. Tickets purchased at the gate will not include fair admission.

Churning out the hits of Journey for more than a dozen years, Stone In Love offers a high-energy performance. Showcasing the Journey sound, the Portland-based tribute band brings the soaring lead vocals, signature guitar licks and driving rhythms Journey fans have come to love.

Fairgoers will hear such classic favor-

ites as "Don't Stop Believin,'" "Wheel in the Sky," "Faithfully," "Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin' and "Any Way You Want It." Come prepared to see and hear why Stone in Love is one of the Pacific Northwest's hottest tribute acts.

Formed by vocalist/guitarist Art Alexakis in 1991 in Portland, Everclear has soldiered on with a variety of musicians. The '90s alt-rock band garnered a Grammy nomination for Best Rock Instrumental Performance for "El Distorto De Melodica." The group has

released 11 albums, including "Black is the New Black" in 2015.

While the band hasn't been in the studio recently, it continues to tour, racking up thousands of shows over the years. According to the band's biography, Alexakis was particularly proud of the band's 40-stop tour in mid-2017 celebrating the 20th anniversary of "So Much for the Afterglow," the band's second successful release on Capitol Records.

Frankie Ballard's "El Rio" was selected by Rolling Stone as one of the 25 Best Country and Americana albums of 2016. Over the years, some of his hot country singles have included such titles as "Sunshine & Whiskey," "Helluva Life" and "Young & Crazy."

According to his biography, the country-blues-rocker has combined album sales of more than 450,000 and more than 150 million total streams across all streaming platforms. In addition, Ballard has performed on national TV, including on "Today," "Live! with Kelly" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" He's also toured and performed with the likes of Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, Sugarland, and Big and Rich.