

Wheatstock ready to rock Helix

Music festival returns Aug. 21

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

HELIX — Just like the title of Randy Rogers Band's 2004 album, "Rollercoaster," things have been up and down for DeWayne Dunlap, founder and president of Wheatstock Music Festival.

The Helix man was absolutely thrilled when talking about booking the Texas-based group for the 2020 summer event. Then everything went downhill as COVID-19 restrictions forced its cancellation. Now, Dunlap is riding high as Rogers and his bandmates — as well as the rest of last year's confirmed lineup — are set to play Saturday, Aug. 21, from 2:30-11 p.m. at Quantum 9 Arena in Helix.

"They're the best band coming out of Texas playing real country and red dirt music," Dunlap said about the Randy Rogers Band.

"We're lucky to get them."

Co-headliner Tylor and the Train Robbers is a Boise-based band with deep roots in Eastern Oregon. Along with performing on the Wheatstock stage during the festival's early years, Dunlap coached frontman

Tylor Ketchum in basketball during his younger days in Helix.

Calling him a "wordsmith," Dunlap said Ketchum has Bob Dylan-esque songwriting abilities. As for the rest of the band, he said people will be really amazed by

their playing abilities.

"They are really stepping up their game," Dunlap said. "They are really making a name for themselves in the country music world."

The rest of the lineup features Wanderlost, Norman Baker and the Backroads, Great American Trainwreck and Hillfolk Noir. Dunlap said many of them are headlining acts in their own rights. Offering everything from southern rock, country and bluegrass to a unique funk vibe, the audience will be treated to a variety of sounds.

Wheatstock was founded with the purpose of raising money for the Helix School District music program. It continues to support that effort as well as donating proceeds to Divide Camp, a wilderness retreat for combat veterans in the Wallowa Mountains. The festival is dedicated to Army warrant officer Adrian Stump, a Pendleton man who died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2005.

The event features free camping, food vendors, a beer garden and bouncy castles. General admission is \$40 and VIP passes are \$149,



Wheatstock/Contributed Photo

The Texas-based Randy Rogers Band is a co-headliner during Wheatstock Music Festival on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at Quantum 9 Arena in Helix.

which includes admission, a limited backstage pass and event swag. Entry is free for active military personnel and kids 12 and under. For more information or tickets, visit www.wheatstock.org.

Contact community writer Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4532.



Wheatstock/Contributed Photo

Co-headliner Tylor and the Train Robbers of Boise are coming home to play Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at Wheatstock Music Festival Quantum 9 Arena in Helix.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

Til Taylor Park feature offers splashing good time

PENDLETON — The Til Taylor Splash Pad opened during the weekend. And if the gleeful laughs Sunday morning, Aug. 15, from 4-year-old Iden Harvill of Pendleton are any indication, it's a big hit.

The splash pad will operate daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 700 S.E. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. The control system will automatically shut off after hours, said Liam Hughes, Pendleton Parks and Recreation director.

"City staff and contractors have been working exceptionally hard to get the park open to the public as soon as possible," Hughes said. "There is still some work to be done, but since the playground and splash pad are now complete, we have made the decision to open those so the kids can enjoy the play areas while we continue to work on the rest of the park."

People arriving at the park will notice construction fencing still in place, separating the playground from areas currently under construction. The entrance to the playground will be temporarily limited to the Eighth Street side of the park, while Seventh Street is under construction. The parks department is asking parents to closely supervise their children and not allow them to manipulate fencing or access any active construction areas for their safety.

"We made the decision



Marta Poulson/Contributed Photo

Iden Harvill, 4, of Pendleton, gets wet Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021, at the Til Taylor Splash Pad in Pendleton. The newly completed park feature is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 700 S.E. Dorion Ave.

to erect temporary fencing so that the kids could get a chance to enjoy the park while the weather is still hot," said Todd Kligel, parks supervisor. "We will continue to work on what we can around the playground, and we will come finish the rest once we shut the water off in the fall."

The Pendleton Public Works Department is rebuilding Southeast Seventh Street adjacent to the park. The project will include additional parking spaces to service the park. In the meantime, parking is available on the Eighth Street side and surrounding

streets, but the city is asking patrons to not take up church parking spots on Sundays and be respectful of area businesses and residences.

Hughes expressed excitement in seeing the project come together. He said it's been a joint effort with a number of city departments and outside contractors.

"Everyone has been really great about working together to provide something great for the community," Hughes said.

For more information, call the parks department at 541-276-8100 or search www.facebook.com/PendletonParksRec.

Pendleton library highlights its 'Library of Things'

PENDLETON — The Pendleton Public Library unveiled its newest offerings Friday, Aug. 13, during a STEAM event.

Steve Lawn Jr., chief engineer of the Pendleton UAS Test Range, and his team were on hand conducting drone demonstrations. The event highlighted STEAM-themed activities and gadgets that patrons now have access to, which are as simple to check out as a book.

The library added a series of activities dedicated to the STEAM fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts and math to its popular Library of Things section, thanks in part to a grant from Pacific Power Foundation. It's

part of Pacific Power's effort to strengthen communities and provide opportunities for the future by supporting hands-on learning opportunities for children, teens and young adults.

The Library of Things already offers patrons access to free regional museums, a telescope, a paddleboard and bocce balls, as well as wifi hotspots and Chromebooks. The new items include a programmable rover, Sphero mini robot balls, drones and more.

The Pendleton Public Library is located at 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. For more information, call 541-966-0380 or visit www.pendleton.or.us/library.

Rogers Toyota revs up with Show & Shine

HERMISTON — There's still time to get your car in tip-top shape for the second annual Show & Shine car show at Rogers Toyota of Hermiston.

The event is Friday, Aug. 20, from 4-8 p.m. at the Hermiston dealership, 80364 N. Highway 395. Free registration begins at noon.

In addition to checking out all the shiny cars, the event features prize drawings and live music by the Brass Fire Band. Also, donations will be accepted for Sweet Potato's Closet.

For more information, visit www.toyotaofhermiston.com or call 541-567-6461.

Local students graduate from EOU

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University recently announced local graduates from spring 2021

commencement exercises. They are among 389 degrees awarded during the 2020-21 academic year, including:

Adams: Maverick Beach, BS, business administration.

Athena: Madison Carlin, MAT, elementary education; Nicole Harrison, MAT, secondary education; Malinda Swafford, BS, anthropology/sociology; Keith Udy, MBA, business.

Boardman: Rosa Delgado, BS, psychology.

Echo: Elizabeth Cox, BS, elementary education.

Heppner: Patrick Collins, MBA, business.

Hermiston: Monica Aguilar, BS, elementary education; Rileigh Anderson, BS, biology; Megan Bunn, MAT, elementary education; Stephanie Duquette, MAT, secondary education; Melissa Foster, MAT, elementary education; Kody Moss, MBA, business; Edgar Navarrete Ruiz, BA, history; Cecilia Palacios, BS, early childhood education; Tori Scott, MAT, secondary education; Daisy Victorio, MAT, elementary education; Luke Walchli, BS, history.

Irrigon: Justin Lay, BS, psychology; Tiffany Locey, MAT, secondary education.

Meacham: Stefanie Buckley, BS, integrative study (2 EOU minors).

Milton-Freewater: Eli Garlitz, BA, English/writing; Kara Hoel, BS, integrative study (2 EOU minors); Brendan Smith, BA, English/writing; Amanda Stewart, BA, English/writing; Celinda Timmons, MBA, business.

Pendleton: Samson Beckman, BS, business administration; Serena Bon Temps, BS, multidisciplinary studies and elementary education; Haley Bradley, MAT, secondary education; Rebecca Emmons, MS, education; Christopher Haselden, BS, information tech management, BS, business administration and certificate undergrad; Kylisue Johnson, BS, elementary education; Hailey Kendrick, MAT, elementary education; Adhal Martineez, MAT, secondary education; Jeneal Merriman, BS, biology; Nellie Nicholes, MAT, secondary education; Madison Parker, BS, multidisciplinary studies and elementary education; Krysten Powell, BS, elementary education; Trevor Prow, BS, psychology; Lauren Roberts, MAT, elementary education; Joseph Savage, BS, business administration; Erin Scionti, MAT, elementary education; Johnathan Stuvland, BS, physical activity & health; Michael Swanson, MAT, secondary education; Jacey Wilson, BS, multidisciplinary studies and elementary education; Julia Withers-Lyons, BS, business administration.

Pilot Rock: Bailey Weinke, MAT, secondary education.

Stanfield: Veronica Coria, BS, physical activity & health; Scott Goff, BS, fire services administration; Jade Martinez, BS, business administration; Tyler Watson, MAT, secondary education.

Umatilla: Yoshira Escamilla Barajas, BS, elementary education; Alejandra Garcia Coria, MAT, secondary education; Rachelle Nycz, BS, English/writing and theatre arts.

— EO Media Group



Bailey Sitts/Pendleton Public Library

Steve Lawn Jr., Pendleton UAS Test Range chief engineer, prepares the Sphero RVR Programmable Robot before the Library of Things STEM event Friday, Aug. 13, 2021, at the Pendleton Public Library.

inside every Thursday

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