

Music of Metallica

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Blistered Earth is bringing the music

of Metallica to Baker City — a chance, said Jared Kiess, to hear the songs if you can't attend an actual Metallica concert.

"Metallica isn't playing Baker City anytime soon," he said. "We make it more accessible in the short term."

Kiess plays rhythm guitar and provides vocals for Blistered Earth, a Metallica tribute band based in Spokane, Washington. Shawn Murphy plays drums, Jesse Jensen is the lead guitarist, and Cody Davis plays bass.

Blistered Earth will take the stage outside at The Ison House, 1790 Washington, on Friday, Sept. 3. Gates open at

5 p.m., and local band Trailer Hitch plays at 6 p.m. Blistered Earth goes on at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 and available at www.theisonhouse.com/upcoming-events. The event is for ages 21 and older. Food and beverages are available to purchase.

Blistered Earth formed more than 10 years ago when Murphy's band branched out on their music.

"Those guys started jamming Metallica songs in practice," Kiess said.

The band plays all over the western United States, mainly in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Although Metallica

is still touring, Kiess said Blistered Earth emulates the band from about 1986.

"We're trying to be a tribute to them in the 1980s," he said. "If you're a fan of Metallica now, you'll love all their eras."

They've met Metallica — twice.

The first time came after a disaster. The band played a gig in Portland, then parked their truck and locked trailer in front of the hotel. The next morning, they saw only the truck.

"The truck is there, but the trailer is gone," Kiess said. "It was devastating."

They submitted claims to insurance and posted the story on Facebook.

"The word really spread. Eventually it got back to Metal-



Mike Jones/Contributed photo
Metallica tribute band Blistered Earth plays at Baker City's Ison House Friday, Sept. 3.

lica. Lars Ulrich called us up," Kiess said.

Ulrich, Metallica's drummer, said the band wanted to help.

"They sent a truckload of brand-new gear, plus amps they'd used on their last tour," Kiess said. "It was ridiculously cool. Super nice guys."

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