

Pop artist Alex Boye to perform in La Grande

With help from an ‘angel’ La Grande couple arranged free concert to raise awareness about suicide

By **ANDREW CUTLER**
The Observer

LA GRANDE — Cassy Kellogg wanted to do something special for her children and other kids after the strain of nearly two years of COVID-19 mandates.

So, one day earlier this month, when Kellogg saw a clip of an Alex Boye concert on social media, on a whim she reached out to Boye’s camp to inquire about possibly having the Utah-based singer perform in Union County.

“When I watched how fun those concerts are, I just thought I want my kids and their friends and the kids in our area to be able to have that experience,” Kellogg said.

Boye’s free, public “Bend not Break” suicide awareness concert will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Union County Fairgrounds. Magician/motivational speaker Brad Barton will open for Boye. Don Kellogg, Cassy Kellogg’s husband, met Barton in 2000 at a Boy

Scout camp at Farragut State Park.

“You have all these acts that like to go to the big cities, We just like to go to a city,” Boye said. “This isn’t like an Alex Boye concert, this is a mental health, suicide prevention awareness concert. That applies to anyone and everyone.”

The Kelloggs have been seeing to all the details that go into bringing in a nationally known artist in a short period of time.

“We have a lot going on,” Don Kellogg said.

Finding an ‘angel’

When she reached out to Boye about coming to La Grande, Cassy Kellogg said she was given a couple of options about raising the money to pay for the concert — find sponsors or “find an angel.”

The couple found an unnamed “angel” who donated \$50,000 to make the concert happen. Don Kellogg, who retired a couple of years ago after a long career with Avista, is raising another \$15,000 to pay for Barton and the rest of the event.

Cassy Kellogg said finding either a sponsor or an “angel” was a key factor in making sure the concert happened.

“Alex and I were half in



Alex Boye/Contributed Photo

Utah pop artist Alex Boye will perform a suicide prevention concert on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, at the Union County Fairgrounds.

tears reading the note that they found an ‘angel,’ Eddie Wenrick, Boye’s manager, said. “These people are serious. They want to help kids. We have to show up.”

Boye’s shows routinely draw as many as 10,000 people. The Kelloggs are optimistic the Union County show can draw as many as 2,500 fans.

“There’s people who will travel from Boise and the Tri-Cities to see Alex,” Don Kellogg said.

Sharing a positive message

Cassy Kellogg said she’s seen, and heard about, young people struggling emotion-

ally and mentally during the pandemic. When she saw the clip of Boye’s performance on his “Ignite the Light” tour, she thought having him bring his show to La Grande and offering suicide prevention resources could be beneficial.

“People come to watch the concert, but the purpose in the tour is to connect local people with local resources,” she said. “So the Union County Safe Communities Coalition is supporting us.”

Boye said mental health therapists, called “thought leaders,” will share during the concert and will be available for anyone who wants to talk about mental health.

“That’s a win for me,” he said.

Exhibitors will have booths to provide resources and the Kelloggs also are working with the La Grande Lions Club to open their booth at the fairgrounds to sell hamburgers.

“That would be another charity people would be donating to if they bought lunch,” Cassy Kellogg said.

The concert will strive to follow all COVID-19 mandates, including masks and social distancing.

“We want everyone to wear a mask,” Cassy Kellogg said.

The Kelloggs also urge

attendees to bring blankets and folding chairs to the concert.

Boye’s background

Boye has resided in Utah for two decades. He is a former member of the European boy-band “Awesome” and of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

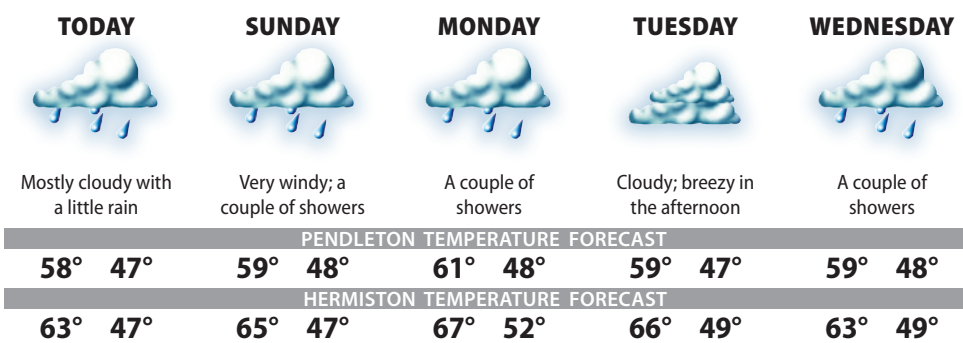
Boye’s professional career has included recording religious and Latter-day Saints music.

In recent years, he has built a massive YouTube following by performing Africanized versions of popular music, including “Let It Go” and “Circle of Life,” from the Disney movies “Frozen” and “The Lion King,” respectively, as well as the Taylor Swift hit “Shake It Off.”

Boye also appeared on America’s Got Talent and was named the 2017 artist of the year and grand prize winner in a music contest sponsored by Pepsi and Hard Rock Cafe. This past December in Miami, he performed a halftime show for NFL’s Monday Night Football.

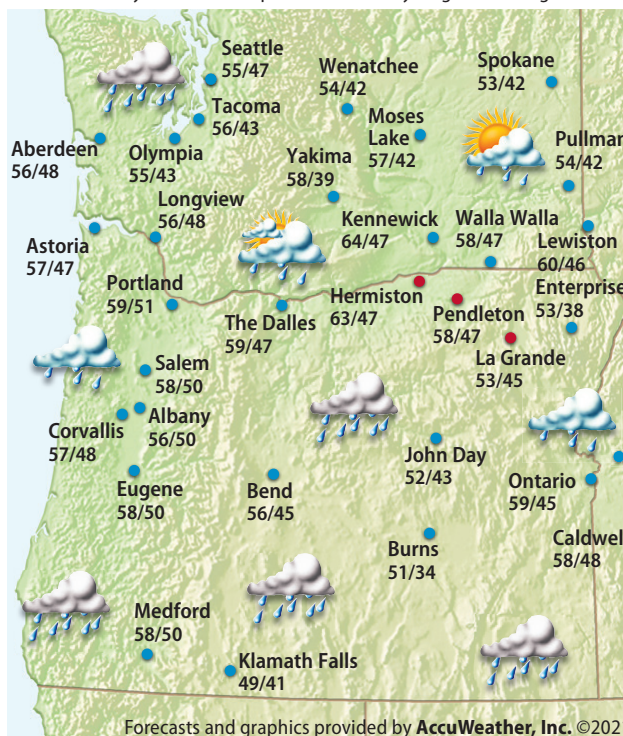
“I’m hoping that La Grande can prove to the rest of the world that you can get Alex Boye to come because Los Angeles, Miami, Salt Lake City, those are his venues so far,” Don Kellogg said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	57°	50°
Normals	62°	39°
Records	80° (1982)	16° (1911)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.54"
Month to date	0.60"
Normal month to date	0.75"
Year to date	5.60"
Last year to date	9.42"
Normal year to date	9.96"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	60°	53°
Normals	63°	37°
Records	79° (2003)	21° (1984)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.46"
Month to date	0.52"
Normal month to date	0.53"
Year to date	3.19"
Last year to date	2.13"
Normal year to date	6.20"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	SSW 6-12	S 12-25
Pendleton	SSW 7-14	SSE 20-30

SUN AND MOON

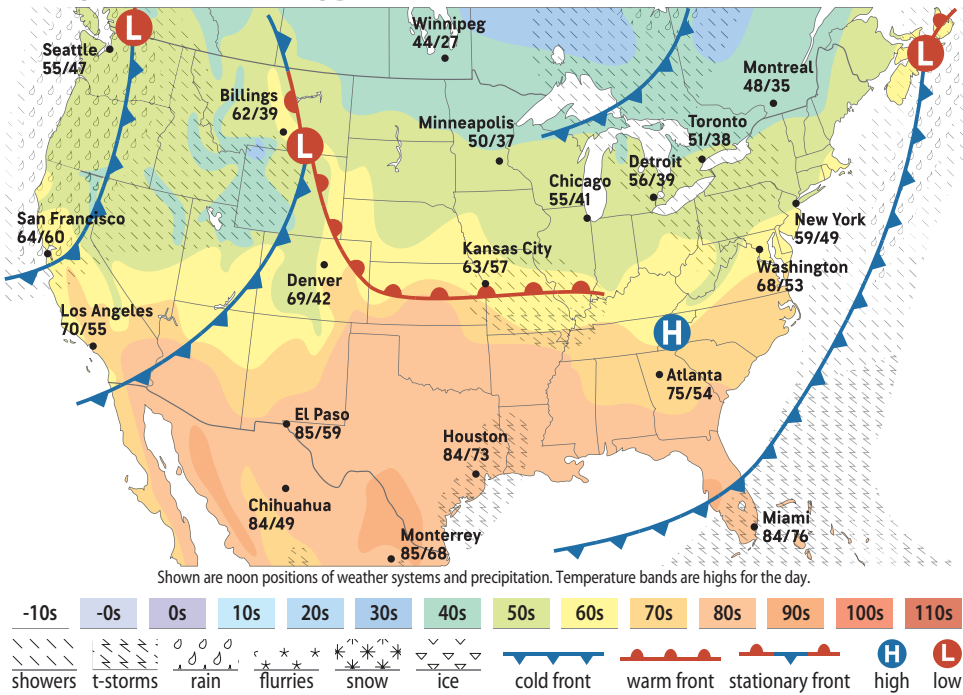
Sunrise today	7:23 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:56 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:34 p.m.
Moonset today	10:30 a.m.

Phase: Last (Oct 28), New (Nov 4), First (Nov 11), Full (Nov 19)

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday’s National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 96° in Zapata, Texas Low 8° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



ODFW kills three more wolves from Lookout Mountain Pack

ODFW does not plan to kill any more wolves, according to a press release from the agency

Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Employees from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, firing rifles from a helicopter Wednesday, Oct. 20, killed three more wolves from the Lookout Mountain Pack.

The agency has now killed eight wolves from the pack, which has killed at least seven cattle and injured three others in eastern Baker County since mid-July.

ODFW does not plan

to kill any more wolves, according to a press release from the agency, and local ranchers are no longer authorized to kill any wolves. The wolves killed are two 6-month-olds and one yearling.

As many as three wolves remain in the pack, the collared breeding female and up to two juvenile wolves. “We’ve seen good results from incremental removal in the past, when removing a few members of the pack reduced or even stopped further depredations,” said Roblyn Brown, ODFW wolf coordinator. “It’s disappointing that was not the case this time.”

ODFW employees killed two wolf pups from the pack on Aug. 1, and three more

wolves on Sept. 17. There were no confirmed attacks by the pack on cattle for almost a month, until Oct. 16, when biologists determined that wolves had killed a 400-pound calf, likely Oct. 14.

ODFW officials said in early August they planned to kill some of the younger wolves from the pack to reduce its food needs and potentially deter future attacks on cattle. But after depredations continued in August and early September, agency officials decided to also target the pack’s breeding male.

The Lookout Mountain pack’s female gave birth to seven pups in the spring of 2021.

IN BRIEF

House arrest lifted for College Place man accused of child sex crimes

WALLA WALLA — A College Place man accused of raping a child is no longer on house arrest but must still wear an electronic home monitoring device while awaiting trial.

Ryan Dahlin, 30, who has pleaded not guilty to four counts of criminal activity involving the same 12-year-old Walla Walla girl, was in Walla Walla County Superior Court on Tuesday, Oct. 19, to request the removal of the house-arrest order.

A condition of earlier release, dated Oct. 6 stated Dahlin must live at his home under house arrest and could only leave for medical, legal or work-related reasons.

The new condition of release keeps certain restrictions in place. He has to reside at his current home on Ash Street in Walla Walla,

keep in weekly contact with his attorney, not leave Walla Walla County, not have any contact with any state witnessed, and he must wear an electronic home monitoring device.

Only the house arrest portion of the order has changed.

The order was issued by Judge Brandon L. Johnson after hearing remarks by defense attorney Nicholas Holce, prosecutor Michelle Mulhern and Dahlin himself, according to court documents.

Dahlin was arrested in College Place in November 2020 and faces charges of second-degree rape of a minor, second-degree child molestation, communication with a minor for immoral purposes and indecent exposure.

According to court documents, a 12-year-old girl told police Dahlin had touched her inappropriately several times for multiple months.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

CORRECTION

The A1 story “Protesters decry vaccine mandate,” published Thursday, Oct. 21, had inaccurate information in the subhead. The hospital placed unvaccinated hospital employees on unpaid leave. That information was accurate in the body of the article.

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN
— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —
211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays
EastOregonian.com
In the App Store:
EO **EO**
East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801.
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For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops or delivery concerns call 800-781-3214

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	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$10.75/month	50 percent
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