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## PENDLETON WHISKY MUSIC FEST

# ROARING BACK

## Pendleton Whisky Music Fest makes a triumphant return

By ANTONIO ARREDONDO  
*East Oregonian*

**P**ENDLETON — Macklemore himself told the crowd he had no idea what he was doing in Pendleton. The Grammy-award-winning artist was making his first appearance in the area for the sixth Pendleton Whisky Music Fest.

“But then I walked out and saw everyone, and was like, OK, this is what we’re doing here,” Macklemore said to the packed stands and roaring fans.

The filled seats at the Round-Up Arena marked the triumphant, full return of Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. The pandemic canceled the event in 2020, and in 2021 the festival saw limited attendance and a different headliner than planned.

“At that time the state hadn’t even opened up yet,” said Doug Corey, Whisky Fest’s co-founder, “we decided to do Toby and limit the venue size.”

Toby Keith was onstage perform-

ing for the lucky 12,000 people who secured a ticket in 2021. Due to the change, Corey and his co-founder Andy McNally offered ticket refunds. Even with refunds offered, Corey said they retained nearly 80% of the ticket revenue.

Those ticket holders saw the return of the original acts meant for 2020, headliner Eric Church and Macklemore, who were moved to 2022 to perform in front of a packed crowd.

The crowds made sure to show up; Corey said more than 19,000 tickets had been sold, with the ground-level party pit and arena seating completely booked.

Fans trickled in through the opening acts — Nate Botsford and Ashley Cooke — before that trickle turned into a solid stream. Midway through Dylan Scott’s performance, the party pit was full.

Macklemore stepped out for his performance to a raucous crowd, laughing, drinking and dancing to the Seattle-based singer’s music. He was the one non-country act of the day.

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**TOP LEFT:** Ashley Cooke performs Saturday, July 9, 2022, at Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. **TOP RIGHT:** Macklemore shines on stage in front of thousands of people. **ABOVE:** The crowd cheers and hollers in the Pendleton Round-Up Arena where the festival was held. **LEFT:** Dylan Scott commands the stage Saturday, July 9, 2022, as he sings at Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. Photos by Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

## Leak detectives

Mystery water floods Pendleton man’s North Hill basement and keeps on coming

By KATHY ANEY  
*East Oregonian*

**P**ENDLETON — The sound of flowing water can soothe the soul — or be the stuff of nightmares.

The day after renters moved out of his Pendleton North Hill rental home in early February, Dean Fouquette entered the house to see what needed to be done. He froze at the sound of running water in the basement.

Fouquette quickly clomped

down the stairs to get a look. Water streamed in through seams in the bottom two steps with the same volume as a garden hose at full force. He grabbed a mop and his 5-gallon wet/dry vacuum and got busy.

Soon he drove to Zimmerman’s Hardware to buy a bigger shop vac.

“I set it up in the basement so the hose could vacuum up the water and I wouldn’t have to stand there and do it,” Fouquette said. “So every hour I would come back and empty this 12-gallon shop vac ... I did that from 6 in the morning until about 8 at night, then I’d turn it off and let the water run at night.”

*See Flooding, Page A9*



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

**Dean Fouquette on June 2, 2022, sits next to a sign in the yard of his Pendleton North Hill rental home. In February, water began flooding into the home where Fouquette spent much of his boyhood and hasn’t stopped since. A contractor who helped Fouquette deal with his flooded basement placed the sign.**



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