

HoneyHoney concert to cap Wallowa Resources' 20th year

Wallowa County Chieftain

Los Angeles alternative folk group HoneyHoney returns to the OK Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 20, bringing their raw energy and contagious stomp to the final event of Wallowa Resources' 20th anniversary celebration.

"It seemed a fitting way to cap off a great year," said Wallowa Resources Executive Director Nils Christoffersen. "We're hoping everyone is going to come out and enjoy the music and dance together."

Coming just two days after the official birthday of the nonprofit, founded Oct. 18, 1996, the concert will open with the premiere of a



Ben Jaffe and Suzanne Santo are HoneyHoney.

Courtesy photo

Whitman College short film about Wallowa Resources' history. The 10-minute movie includes appearances by Joe McCormack, Nancy Knoble, Jim Zacharias and Doug McDaniel, among other familiar

faces. The HoneyHoney duo plays country-infused Americana music, featuring strong lead vocals and guitar complemented by tight harmonies, banjo and violin. Roll-

ing Stone magazine recently listed their album "3" at No. 7 on its list of 30 great country albums of 2015.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward Wallowa Resources' local programs, including youth education, weed management, collaborative watershed restoration and renewable energy.

Tickets cost \$35 and are available at eventbrite.com, Dollar Stretcher, Joseph Hardware, The Bookloft and M. Crow. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 7.

For more information about Wallowa Resources, visit wallowaresources.org or call 541-426-8053. For more information on HoneyHoney, visit honeyhoneyband.com.

JOSEPH

Continued from Page A9

Joseph then reeled off three dominant games, 25-9, 25-13 and 25-12, to take the four-game match.

Senior Haven Johnson led Joseph with 16 kills, while Cooney added nine and sophomore Emma Hite had seven. Sophomore Alexis Syko-

ra, known primarily for her blocking, managed six kills, including three in the span of four points during the final game.

"Haven was by far our strongest hitter today," coach Jill Hite said. "Ally came on later, and Emma was probably our most consistent. Then Alexis came on in the last game. That was great to see. It's nice when it's mixed around."

Sykora also led the team with four solo blocks, with Emma Hite adding three.

Serving continues to be the Eagles' Achilles heel. They finished with 14 service errors as a team.

"The good thing is that only a few of those serves went into the net," Coach Hite said. "I'd rather have them go long, because that means they're trying to push the back line."

Cooney led Joseph with seven aces against the Leopards. Emma Hite led the team in digs, while senior Johnelle Suto led in assists.

On Saturday, Joseph swept Nixyaawii 25-12, 25-6, 25-7, then wrapped up a three-match weekend home stand

with a four-game victory over Griswold, 25-20, 25-19, 20-25, 25-12.

Johnson led the team with 16 kills, Cooney had 10 and Emma Hite added seven. Sykora again led in blocks with 13 on the day. Cooney led in serving aces and Suto again led in assists.

The Eagles came out of the weekend ranked No. 8 in the state by the OSAA. They wrap up regular-season play with three matches this week, the first at 4 p.m. Thursday at Pine Eagle.

On Friday they'll host Echo, which defeated the Eagles in five games on Oct. 1.

The regular-season finale comes Saturday with a road match at Cove.

MidValley Theater opens auditions for winter play

Wallowa County Chieftain

MidValley Theatre Company, based in Lostine, is continuing its search for cast

members for its winter production, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Roles are open for boys ages 7-13 and girls ages 6-10. These parts need to be filled.

The more the merrier. Please call Director Kate Loftus at 541-569-2302 to schedule an audition. Rehearsals will begin this week, and performances are scheduled for the first two weeks in December.

CAMP

Continued from Page A1

"I wanted to be a better person — I wanted to be unselfish. It was the most unselfish thing I could ever do."

The Army deployed Martinez to Afghanistan in 2011. In 2012 an Improvised Explosive Device sent him spinning into a different world.

He remembers the 60-pound IED he stepped on. He instantly lost his right foot. His left leg was slightly attached, as was his right arm. He lost major portions of all of them, including a finger on his left hand. He also remembers begging his fellow soldiers around him to let him go.

"My guts were hanging out and my guys were on top of me. We were having this fighting conversation — me telling them not to save me and let me go, and them fighting, saying, 'No, we're going to save you.'"

Martinez woke up from a coma 10 days later at Bethesda Hospital in Baltimore.

When he awoke, he saw his family and closed his eyes, wishing to be back in Afghanistan. When he reopened them and saw his family, he knew the injuries weren't a dream.

The next war started with numerous surgeries and doctors who told him he would never walk again. Battling against the naysayers, Martinez learned to walk with prosthetics, though it took a grueling 18 months of therapy. Even so, not every problem was conquered. Extreme depression set in. Two suicide attempts later he took a drastic step and stopped taking his prescribed medication.

"They were giving me the drugs for my pain, but it was taking over everything. When I stopped, my life started opening back up."

Martinez started by sharing his experiences with soldiers and others who needed to hear. He became a motivational speaker.

"I don't call it work; I've been given the podium to speak, and I want to take advantage of it to help as many people as possible for the right reasons."

Along those journeys, he met Divide Camp veterans liaison Corey Watson during a Texas hunt two years ago. Watson later remembered the plucky soldier and invited him up for a bear hunt. Martinez had

never been to Oregon but knew this was a step to fulfilling his wish to visit every single state.

"It was different country, a different kind of terrain than I'm used to, and I wanted to challenge myself," Martinez said.

He arrived for the hunt Sept 29. Jim Soares, a local real estate agent and avid hunter, served as the hunt guide. He told Martinez the bear hunt was canceled. The news didn't phase Martinez. Soares then told Martinez that local resident Saralyn Johnson had donated an elk tag.

"Oh, man, he gave me a big hug, he was so happy," Soares said.

Martinez went hunting the same day.

"I missed the first couple of times, but my friends didn't give up on me and Divide Camp didn't give up on me and I got one the next morning," Martinez said. "Elk hunting was one of the best experiences I've ever had. How many amputees in California can say they shot an elk?"

He also had high praise for Soares.

"Jim Soares is amazing. He surprised me with the elk tag when I first got here. I started crying and he started crying. People feeling emotion is what makes us human, and a lot of us have steered away from that. Anyone who acts like a real human is someone I want to keep in my life."

The rest of his time at the camp was spent viewing wildlife, including a bald eagle, and enjoying a rare view (for him) of the Milky Way.

"It's gorgeous, even if we hadn't gone hunting and just saw wildlife I would have loved it."

He also stayed in a new cabin built to accommodate veterans with disabilities. He appreciated the camp's efforts to make him comfortable.

"It doesn't take much, really, but it let me know how much they cared," he said.

Martinez is planning a return trip to Divide Camp.

"I asked them if I could come back to go fishing. I've only fished once, in a pond, but I've never experienced anything like river fishing. It'd be pretty awesome if I could come back. It's been so therapeutic, being out in the woods. I was out in the snow taking pictures like I was a little kid. It's a place you need to come and see yourself. The people are great, and all they want to do is help."

After a pronghorn hunt in Wyoming, Martinez will return to his Apple Valley, Calif., home. He's also scheduled for another Divide Camp event this spring as the featured speaker at the Divide Camp banquet on April 29.

In between are more speaking engagements to let other wounded vets know about options available to them while expanding his own horizons.

"People tell me, 'You're nuts,' or ask 'Why are you doing it?' Well, I don't want to limit myself. I want to push boundaries and show people there's no limits to anything. They once told me I wouldn't walk, but look at me now. Here I am without a wheelchair. I can walk, hunt and fish. I just want to help as many vets as possible who feel they're in the same predicament."

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