

TRIBUTE

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As an impersonator, Tugg is a longtime fan of Osbourne and has watched the singer perform live at least a dozen times.

Tugg said he started as a tribute performer 14 years ago when he sang “Paranoid,” one of Black Sabbath’s biggest hits, at a friend’s wedding.

Tugg had no musical experience.

After that performance, he and a friend who is a guitarist started playing during open mic nights at various bars. Eventually Tugg started a band with his friend and another guitar player he met.

“I have always wanted to perform but really didn’t know what to do and then when I started doing the Ozzy, people loved it,” Tugg said.

Even before he imperson-



Casey Crowley / Baker City Herald

Roger Sabtin is the drummer in Crazy Train, a Black Sabbath tribute band.

ated Ozzy, Tugg had dressed up as the singer for Halloween, starting in 2002.

“Every time I dress like

Ozzy I win a prize,” Tugg said.

At every Crazy Train show, Tugg wears a silver cross that Osbourne’s father made for each of the members of Black Sabbath. Tugg said he was given the cross by a former girlfriend, who got it from Osbourne himself before a Black Sabbath concert in 1971.

“It kind of gives me power — not really, but I feel like it does,” Tugg said.

Although he has never met Ozzy, Tugg said he has met the singer’s wife, Sharon Osbourne, and a couple other members of their family.

Tugg is excited about October, when he plans to meet Osbourne at the Hollywood Bowl. Tugg said his son bought him a \$1,000 ticket to a meet-and-greet with the singer.

“When he sees this cross, he’s going to start crying,” Tugg said. “And then I’m going to say ‘Hey, Ozzy, why don’t you let me come up and sing with you’ and that’s going to launch my career; that is what I am hoping for.”

So far Crazy Train has performed in Oregon, Washington and California. Last month the band performed at Harefest in Canby.

Tugg said he enjoyed performing in Baker City.

“The crowd was a good audience, lot of singing and they sound like a choir,” he said.

TributeFest No. 2?

TributeFest had been in the planning stages for over a year.

“It started out as creating another event for Baker and hopefully increasing the tourism,” Busciglio said.

The event started Friday at 6 p.m. with a performance by Steel Horse, a Bon Jovi Tribute band. Saturday’s show began at 12:30 p.m. with a performance by Petty Fever, a Tom Petty tribute band.

Busciglio said he would like to repeat the TributeFest in 2019, although he hasn’t decided for sure.

“I haven’t heard one bad thing from anybody here in the event, they are just enjoying themselves,” he said.



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Michael Taulier is lead guitarist in Crazy Train.



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Allen Stores handles bass duties for Black Sabbath tribute band Crazy Train.

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