

Eastern Oregon Beer Festival beckons



eobeerfest.org

**Features
more
than 30
beers and
ciders**

By Lisa Lester Kelly
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — The 2021 Eastern Oregon Beer Festival is just around the corner. This year the festival — Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Union County Fairgrounds in La Grande — will have longer hours, offering beer enthusiasts more time to mingle with brewers, enjoy the live music and, of course, taste more beer.

“We are incredibly excited to bring the Eastern Oregon Beer Festival back to La Grande this year,” said Taylor Scroggins,

executive director of La Grande Main Street Downtown, the sponsor of the annual event.

“We have brewers coming from all over Oregon and beyond, and are looking forward to featuring over 30 different beers and ciders.”

The 21-and-older event is mostly outdoors and runs from 1-9 p.m. (In previous years, the festival ended at 7 p.m.) Along with the beer, there will be live music, food, and opportunities to talk with brewers.

Two bands have been signed for the festival: Coyote Kings out of Walla Walla, and local favorite The Wasteland Kings.

For this summer’s festival, organizers have brought back VIP passes. In addition to admission to Saturday’s event, those who purchase a VIP pass are invited to a VIP-only party on the rooftop of Marketplace Fresh Foods in downtown La Grande on Friday, Aug. 13, from 6-9 p.m. Each VIP will get to taste six special beers, partake of provided food and hobnob with brewery reps. VIPs are also given early entry to the festival, at noon on Saturday.

“VIP passes are limited, so we encourage beer lovers to act fast

before they’re gone,” Scroggins said.

The \$50 VIP passes can be purchased at www.eobeerfest.org or at Tap That Growlers (1106 Adams Ave.) and Side A Brewing (1219 Washington Ave.) in downtown La Grande.

General admission passes are also available now on the festival’s website, at Tap That and at Side A. The tasting passes are \$25 pre-sale or \$30 at the gate on Saturday. Festival entry fee for

non-drinkers is \$5.

Proceeds from the Eastern Oregon Beer Festival go toward community and business development, community events and beautification projects. “La Grande Main Street is a non-profit organization that aims to engage the community to create a welcoming and economically diverse downtown rooted in La Grande’s history and culture.” Learn more at www.lagrande-mainstreet.org.



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