

The blues are back at Ione celebration

Ione Fourth lineup includes one-hit wonders, blues classics and edgy riffs



Tommy Tutone will be one of the groups performing at this year's Red, White and Blues celebration in Ione.

If you call 867-5309, you may not reach a girl named Jenny. You will, though, have the name of one musical hit that will be performed during this year's Fourth of July celebration in Ione.

In 1982, Tommy Tutone exploded onto the music scene with what is one of the best known songs in history. The song that sparked millions of prank calls is none other than "Jenny/867-5309." Coming on the scene at the same time as MTV certainly didn't hurt either, thus cementing the group a place in the culture of the 80s.

But to define Tommy Tutone by "Jenny" would only tell half the story.

First, Tommy Tutone is the name of the band, and the lead singer is named Tommy Heath. The band was named Tommy & The Tutones, but so many peo-

ple identified Heath as the face of the band, they called him Tommy Tutone, and the moniker stuck.

Growing up an Air Force brat, Heath was exposed to a wide range of musical influences, from Buddy Holly and Elvis, to folk music and surf rock. His catalog of music breaches rock, pop, country, folk, and his new sound, which he likes to call...soul twang.

The band rode their popularity through the 80s and early 90s before taking a break. Finally, Tommy Heath went to Nashville and did a good bit of writing and recording, discovering his new 'soul twang' sound, before moving back to Portland, OR. He gathered the band again and started touring with his new sound, but never forgetting his legion of hard core fans in the process.

Tommy Tutone will

take the stage at the Ione Amphitheater from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, during the Red, White and Blues celebration.

While the other groups featured on the Fourth can't boast a one-hit wonder like Tommy Tutone, they promise to heat up the night right until the fireworks take to the sky at dusk.

Hi Fi Mojo will take the stage at 3 p.m. to start thing off right. Drummer, lead singer and songwriter Marty Henninger began playing drums in 1967. He began singing in 1969, when the lead singer in his first band got tossed from the high school dance they were supposed to play that night.

After working as a sideman in dozens of bands over the years, in 2001, Marty decided to strike out on his own. He loves all music, but for Henninger, the blues is what it all comes down to. Joining him singing the blues in Hi Fi Mojo are Mark "Rev" Sexton on guitar, slide, blues harp and vocals, and Gerry Valvona on bass guitar and vocals.

Sexton was born in Denver, CO, in 1969 into a musical family and prides himself as a "singer friendly" guitarist.

Valvona was born on the Isle of Wight, England. He sang choir as a child, and picked up the guitar around 12 years old, and the bass at 15. Blues, rock and folk were big influences.

On stage at 4:45 p.m. will be Billy D and the Hoodoos. Born on the south side of Chicago, Billy Desmond grew up surrounded by the blues and early rock & roll. He started playing profes-

sionally at teen dances and parties at the age of 14, and by 18 he was sneaking into the blues clubs of Chicago. By the late '70s he had formed his first band, Skid City Blues Band.

In the mid '90s, he moved to Santa Fe, NM and began focusing on writing and playing his original songs. Within the year, Billy D and The Hoodoos were formed. After several more successful years in New Mexico, Billy left the Southwest for Oregon in early 2010.

Taking the stage after Tommy Tutone, at 8:30 p.m., will be the Vicki Stevens and Sonny Hess Band. In it, Vicki Stevens from Seattle and Sonny Hess from Portland have joined forces.

The dynamically talented vocalist Vicki Stevens, originally from Las Vegas, now makes Albany, OR her home. Stevens fronted The Vicki Stevens Band for four years before resigning from that group of musicians to move on to the Portland area to pursue her music career on a different level, adding funk and soul to her list of genres.

Veteran guitarist, vocalist and songwriter Sonny Hess first picked up a guitar as a kid age eight; by the time she was a teenager she was picking up gigs all over. The late Paulette Davis gave Sonny the nickname 'Sonny Smokin' Hess.' She has played with, sung with and composed with many of the region's top artists.

The pair is joined by Kelly Pierce, drum/percussion man, and bass man and veteran player Jim Hively.

Rios, Danny Doherty, Cord Flynn, Breawna Teeman, Marisol Avila-Ramirez, Yaniva Garcia, Babali Peterson, Yaneri Calvillo, Ashley Medina, Hannah Padberg, Cassidy Braun, Daniel Holtz, TJ Patton, Adara Hasbell, Brianna Snyder, Zane King, Evette Calvillo, Tyrell Barnett, Stewert Syverson, Shadow Kendrick and Jordan Braun.

Horseshoe tourney returns

After being missing from the Ione Fourth of July roster for a few years, the Ken Turner Memorial Horseshoe tournament is back this year. The tournament starts at 9 a.m. at the horseshoe pits near the park. It will be a doubles tournament with single elimination.

The entry fee is \$10 per team. Third-place winner gets \$10, second place gets \$20 and first place takes the remainder of the entry fees collected.

Ione students graduate from EOU

Three Ione residents participated when Eastern Oregon University held its 83rd commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 15, at the La Grande Community Stadium.

College President Robert Davies awarded two Ione High School graduates their diplomas.

Clay Morter, son of Ralph and Anne Morter, received a Bachelor of Science in business administration, and Eric Jepsen, son of Bill and Nancy Jepsen,

graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in multidisciplinary studies.

In addition, Stephanie Spivey, Ione sixth-grade teacher, earned her master's degree in education.

In 2013, Eastern Oregon University awarded 104 master's degrees, 978 bachelor's degrees, 28 nursing degrees, and 42 degrees in agriculture in partnership with Oregon State University.

Local students make OSU honor roll

Three local students have been named to the Oregon State University scholastic honor roll for the spring term, the university announced this week.

Students who made the honor roll with a GPA of 3.5 or better were Emily J. Thompson of Heppner, a junior studying biology; Mary V. Rietmann of Ione, a sophomore studying human development and family science; and Tanner J. Rietmann, also of Ione, a sophomore studying agri-

cultural sciences.

Other Morrow County students named to the honor roll were Matthew B. Hyder of Boardman, junior, pre-mechanical engineering, 3.5 or better; Adriana Sanchez of Irrigon, freshman, pre-business, straight-A average; and Ivan A. Estrada of Irrigon, junior, exercise and sport science, 3.5 or better.

To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

Pranger named to dean's list

Justin Pranger of Heppner has been named to the Dean's List for the University of Idaho in Moscow.

Pranger, a 2012 graduate of Heppner High School, earned the distinction by earning a minimum 3.5 GPA as a full-time student as of spring semester 2013. He recently finished his freshman year in the university's College of Natural Resources, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in rangeland ecology and management

and veterinary sciences.

"Your natural intellectual abilities combined with the willingness to work hard are reflected in this academic achievement," college dean Kurt S. Pregitzer, Ph.D. wrote in a letter to Pranger. "You have already learned that dedication, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence will serve you well for now and in the future."

Pranger is the son of David and Anita Pranger of Heppner.



Justin Pranger

Local youth named national scholarship recipient

Local American Quarter Horse enthusiast, Garrett Robinson of Heppner, has been named as an American Quarter Horse Foundation Scholarship Recipient.

The foundation's scholarship program awards outstanding members for their dedication to higher education. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, references and participation in equine-related activities.

Robinson is the 18-year-old son of Kyle and Darcy Robinson of Heppner and will be attending Oregon State University this fall majoring in agricultural sciences.

Robinson was selected as the recipient of the Farm & Ranch Heritage Scholarship, which allows up to \$12,500 in scholarship funding.

Since 1976, the foundation has funded over 1,200 students for more than \$5.7 million in scholarship funding. For more information of the AQHF Scholarship program, visit the foundation's website at www.aqhf.com/foundation.



Garrett Robinson

Ione announces honor roll

Ione Community School has announced its second semester 2012-2013 honor roll.

The following students received a 4.0 GPA for Ione Community School for the first quarter for the 2012-2013 school year: Kaitlin Garrett, Morgan Orem, Roman Sheena Rodriguez, Dayshawn Neal, Tristan Estabrook, Katelyn Bass, Maia Fuchs, Ann Rietmann, Rachel Holland, J Oskar

Peterson, Emily Holland, Gus Peterson, Evan Rietmann, Tim Emmel and Stacey Halvorsen.

The following students have earned honor roll status at Ione Community School (3.5-3.99): Maggie Flynn, Sonia Medina, Ally Haguewood, Karsen Dumler, Tatum Clark, Sadie Hasbell, Austin Carter, Hannah Flynn, Jason Juarez, Jessie Flynn, Joshua Still-

man, Lauren Garrett, Joe Doherty, Rita McElligott, Jaqueline Juarez, Joel Stillman, Luke Jobs, Larissa Jones, Bailey Haguewood, Lacey Thompson, Kirk Haguewood and Julianne Carlson.

The following students have earned honorable mention status at Ione Community School (3.0-3.49): Austin Morter, Wyatt McNary, Emily Taylor, Karsyn

Beautification project to begin for Heppner

The next project for the City of Heppner will be starting the first of July.

JAL Construction, Inc., from Bend, OR, will begin mobilizing next week. Actual construction will start July 8.

According to city manager Kim Cutsforth, this project will have four phases.

The first phase will be improvements on Elder and Quaid Streets, to include

sewer, water, paving and sidewalks.

Phase two will involve replacing the sidewalk between the library and the RV Park (Baltimore), improving the bridge, and replacing and terracing around the walkway at the sports field.

Phase three is new sidewalks and paving from Main to Gale Street on Center Street.

Phase four includes new sidewalks on Court Street from August to the end of Hager Street.

Some of these projects will be done concurrently. Please watch for restricted traffic during construction.

The contractor is estimating the completion of these jobs by late October.

The City of Heppner appreciates the citizen's patience during this time.

Calling all Equestrian Trail Riders!

3 days of trail competition for the Silver Buckle Series
Grab your horse, your children and friends and come to
Whispering Pines Benefit for Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch

TRAIL RIDE ★ 2013
Friday - Sunday
July 5th -7th

3 miles north of the OHV Park Hwy 207 Deadman Hill Loop Road out of Heppner OR. Free camping to all contestants, free entertainment nightly, potluck hamburger barbecue Saturday, free sit-down breakfast for those who attend Sunday morning worship service with Dr. Dick Temple. For more information check out Whispering Pines Ranch, Heppner, OR on facebook



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You and seven of your friends will have a delightful evening with amazing food in a peaceful country setting!

Tickets are \$5 each - ALL MONEY FROM TICKET SALES will benefit Relay for Life



Tickets can be purchased at the Heppner & Ione Wheatland office and during Celebrate Heppner

Dinner prepared by Carri and Missy at the Snider home on Rhea Creek, with the Wheatland staff serving. The date and time of the dinner will be determined once the winner has been drawn.

Drawing will be held during Relay for Life the first weekend in August.

Have a news story or photo for the Gazette?
e-mail editor@rapidsolve.net call 541-676-9228 or stop by the office at 188 W. Willow St., Heppner Today