



Blake Shelton will headline and Pitbull will open at the 2018 Pendleton Whisky Music Fest on July 14.

AP IMAGES

Blake Shelton, Pitbull coming to Pendleton

By **ANTONIO SIERRA**
STAFF WRITER

When selecting a follow-up to Maroon 5 and frontman Adam Levine, the organizers behind Pendleton Whisky Music Fest looked no further than one of the neighboring swivel chairs on "The Voice."

Whisky Fest announced country star Blake Shelton as its 2018 headlining act at the July 14 concert in Pendleton. He will be joined by rapper Pitbull as his opener.

Co-organizer Andy McAnally ticked off the reasons why Shelton was a logical fit for the festival.

Shelton is a judge on the popular singing competition "The Voice," which includes other pop stars like Levine, Alicia Keys and Kelly Clarkson. He's made headlines as People magazine's "Sexiest Man of the Year" in 2017 and through high-profile relationships with country star Miranda Lambert and pop star Gwen Stefani.

Since breaking out with his 2001 self-titled album, the Oklahoman has had nine albums certified gold or platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America. Shelton has sold more than 10 million

albums, more than 30 million singles and his songs have been streamed online 1.7 billion times. On the awards circuit, he's been nominated for a Grammy nine times, and won numerous awards from the Country Music Association, the Academy of Country Music and Country Music Television.

McAnally said the key to Pitbull's popularity was in his nickname, "Mr. Worldwide."

The Cuban-American rapper who has released music in English and Spanish broke through with his 2009 single "I Know You

Want Me (Calle Ocho)," which peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Two No. 1 singles — "Give Me Everything" and "Timber" — would follow in 2011 and 2013.

McAnally said the Whisky Fest would retain the same format it had last year: four musical acts and a DJ. The two other opening acts will be announced later, with plans to open the stadium gates at 4 p.m., earlier than last year. Organizers are also interested in expanding the event through a food court and a kick-off party on Main Street.

Greenough named Desert View principal

HERMISTON HERALD

Pendleton High School Principal Dan Greenough will oversee a significantly younger group of students next year.

In a press release Monday, the Hermiston School District announced that Greenough will take over as the principal of Desert View Elementary School for the 2018-2019 school year.

Greenough submitted a resignation letter to the Pendleton School District in January and has not publicly commented on his departure.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to join the Hermiston School District as the principal at Desert View Elementary School," he said in a statement. "Through the interview process, I felt a strong sense of collaboration, care for the well-being of children, and commitment to students throughout the school. I am looking forward to building relationships with the children, staff, parents, and com-

munity, and in continuing the tradition of excellence already present at Desert View Elementary."

Greenough will work again under Hermiston interim superintendent Tricia Mooney, who served as Pendleton's assistant superintendent from 2009 to 2016.



Greenough

A Yakima native, Greenough was a teacher in Michigan before he was hired as the principal of Weston-McEwen High School in 2007. Following a two-year stint as a high school principal in Onalaska, Washington, he returned to Eastern Oregon in 2013 when he became the principal of Pendleton High School.

He has a master's degree in K-12 administration from Michigan State University.

Desert View's previous principal, Laura Jacobsma, resigned in December, only a few months into her first year. Hermiston assistant superintendent Bryn Browning has been serving as interim principal.

Williams appointed to Echo city council

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Echo has a new city councilor after a busy council meeting.

Tammie Williams was appointed to the council Thursday to replace Lou Nakapalau, who resigned in January. She was chosen out of a field of four applicants, which also included Chad Ray, Carol Neely and Mel Wagner.

Williams has lived in Echo 33 years, and said she loves the small community that feels like "a big family." She is a small business owner and said she has served in a number of

public positions through the years, including Echo's budget committee and the Umatilla County Planning Commission.

"I enjoy doing things for the community," she said. "It's just nice to feel like I'm doing something good. I just try to honor what the people want."

She will be up for election in November.

On Thursday the council also discussed a petition delivered by an Echo resident to Kayak Public Transit asking for a bus stop in Echo. The city plans to send out a survey about it in the next city newsletter and make it available at city hall.

New general manager starts work at EOTEC

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center now has a general manager at the helm.

Al Davis is settling in at EOTEC after moving from Kansas this month to manage the center full-time. He was hired by VenuWorks, the event management company that took over EOTEC's day to day operations in January.

"I think this is a great facility," Davis said. "I can tell there's a lot of heart and soul that's gone into it."

Davis most recently served as president and CEO of Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership, a two-year program of study that trains farmers and others in Kansas' agricultural industry to provide leadership through challenges facing agriculture and rural America. Before that he was the operations manager of American Royal, a Kansas City nonprofit that encompasses — among other things — an annual

livestock show, horse show, rodeo, barbecue contest and year-round youth programs. He is also a former 4-H leader and extension agent.

"I'm a 4-H guy by heart," he said. "I grew up with 4-H, I love 4-H."

He said the EOTEC general manager position seemed like the perfect opportunity to merge all of his experience with event management, agriculture, 4-H, fairs and rodeos into one place.

Davis visited for two weeks in February before returning to Kansas to get his family and officially

move to Hermiston. He said he has been working to get to know the facility and meet with those connected to EOTEC. He has also been working to prepare the facility for an upcoming horse sale, private weekend events and Cinco de Mayo.

He said he described EOTEC as the perfect location to recruit events from around the Pacific Northwest, and said he was looking forward to taking the facility "to the next level."

Davis will be backed up

by other staff from VenuWorks, which contracts to provide professional management of arenas, stadiums, event complexes, the Toyota Center in the Tri-Cities and other facilities around the country. The operation will be overseen by the city of Hermiston, which took full ownership of EOTEC this week.



Al Davis

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