

Backcountry Bash is back!

**Music festival is
Aug. 5-6 at Joseph**

By Katy Nesbitt

Go! Magazine

JOSEPH — After a two-year hiatus the Backcountry Bash is back, featuring American and Red Dirt bands at the Joseph Rodeo Grounds' Harley Tucker Arena Aug. 5 and 6.

On both days, gates open at 4:30 p.m. and the music starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per night, or \$90 for both. Admission is free for ages 8 and younger. The Joseph Rodeo Grounds offers dry camping for tents and recreational vehicles for \$40 a night.

Organizer Randall Eschler said the event was designed to bring great music to local fans, but more than half the tickets are sold to people from out of town.

"I like putting the festival on for obvious reasons — I love our community and the idea bringing bands to the county that we would normally have to travel to Portland or Boise to see," Eschler said.

Some of these bands are considered "up and coming" in the industry and as they tour the Northwest Eschler was able to woo some of them off the freeway and up to Northeastern Oregon.

Friday night's headliner is Eli Howard and the Greater Good of Twin Falls, Idaho. Their single "Wildfire" is getting air



www.facebook.com/sammorrowmusic

Sam Morrow plays Saturday, Aug. 6, at Backcountry Bash in Joseph.

time on radio stations and Spotify.

Next up is Them Dirty Roses, who come from Alabama and are influenced by classic country rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hank Williams. This band is including Joseph in the Northwest leg of their summer tour that will take them to the Midwest and Deep South.

The Lowdown Drifters, who take the stage Friday night, are originally from

Northwestern Washington and now based in Fort Worth, Texas. Their first album release in 2016, "Wood and Water," gave them recognition to play with country artists such as LeAnn Rimes. They regularly tour the festival circuit in the Northwest.

Also playing Friday night is the Read Southall Band, hailing from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Saturday night's headliner is Sam Morrow and his gritty Southern rock. Originally from Houston, Morrow now lives and records in Los Angeles. "Heart-break Man" off the album "Concrete and Mud" gets down and bluesy similar to Government Mule with a nod to Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Another Oklahoman performing on Saturday is Josh Meloy, and rounding out Saturday's lineup are Bart Crow and Whitey Morgan and the 78s.

Bart Crow from Maypearl, Texas, began writing while serving in the U.S. Army and started performing live while studying at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Whitey Morgan and the 78s, based in Flint, Michigan, are getting airplay on Sirius/XM Radio's Outlaw Country and will



www.facebook.com/ReadSouthallBand

The Read Southall Band is in the lineup for the 2022 Backcountry Bash, which returns Aug. 5 and 6 after a two-year hiatus.

be pairing up with Cody Jinks for two East Coast shows. Their songs are reminiscent of classic country from the 1970s.

A STAGE FOR LOCALS

The locals' stage will be set up outside the rodeo arena, Eschler said, featuring music between sets on the main stage. He said Eric Butterfield, Tyler Chrisman and Lyle Witherite are signed up to perform and he is expecting a few more to join in.

Food and drink vendors will be onsite, with two beer stands in the arena and another by the locals stage.

For tickets, visit www.backcountrybash-joseph.com or drop by the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Office on Main Street in Joseph.

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