

Get the party started

Westminster show to kick off Long Creek Music Fest



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL
Whiskey Wolves of the West has recently been on the radar of Rolling Stone magazine as a new country artist to watch, and the magazine called their song “#1 (The Ballad of Davidson)” one not to miss. They’ll be playing Friday night as part of the Long Creek Music Festival, which kicks off with an official pre-party tonight at 8 p.m. at the Westminster Music Centre.

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Top Guns Mini-Storage, Salem
RED LOCKS TO TAKE OFF (E-Y-1)

BY CAITLIN HERRINGTON
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WESTMINSTER — Though the Long Creek Music Fest doesn't start until Friday night, the pre-party kicks off tonight at the Westminster Music Centre with sets from festival headliners Travers Brotherhood and Whiskey Wolves of the West.

Music center executive director B.J. Callahan said the 8 p.m. show should be a proper warm-up for the three-day festival happening just a few miles up the road.

"Both Travers Brotherhood and Whiskey Wolves of the West have a really unique sound, but they are sure to come together to produce an amazing night of music and get folks warmed up properly for the big festival in Long Creek this weekend," Callahan said. "They are national-caliber bands, and it's pretty special for us to have them both on one night at the music centre."

Both bands will play a full set of music and Callahan said a potential joint jam session would result in some "epic collaborations as the night goes on."

Tim Jones of Whiskey Wolves of the West is making his fifth trip to the Golden Corner this weekend for the Long Creek Music Fest, which is in its sixth year. Though he's familiar with the Chattooga River Resort and Campground where the festival takes place, he's excited to take his talent to a new venue down the road.

"It looks awesome," Jones said. "It looks like it would be a great place for some of the harmonies we do."

Overall, Jones said Whiskey Wolves of the West doesn't tour much, but he loves the return trip to Long Creek and looks forward to the atmosphere — rain or shine.

"It's nice to play the festivals where you don't have the congestion and big crowds," he said. "Music is the focus and not the scene."



Chattooga River Resort and Campground sits on 34 acres and features three stages. "We have a rain contingency plan so we may not use our big stage, but we just built an amphitheater out here that can hold about 2,500-3,000 people," Long Creek Music Fest producer Mike Stockton said.

Being based in Nashville, Tenn., he said he and partner Leroy Powell are used to playing for tourists in a big city but love the homegrown feel of small towns. Recently named by Rolling Stone as one of the top 10 new country artists to know, Whiskey Wolves of the West

brings a sound that combines the Allman Brothers, the Grateful Dead, Lynyrd Skynyrd and, well, whoever else they want.

"We, for the most part, are a party band," Jones said. "We play our own music but we also know half of every song written before 1975. We don't take

ourselves too seriously. We love music and we're serious about executing the music we play, but we do like to have fun."

Jones and Powell, alongside the Travers Brotherhood, are two of more than a dozen bands that will fill Long Creek with music this weekend.

With a contingency plan in place with the recent rainy weather, festival producer Mike Stockton said he has a few attendees coming early for the sole purpose of attending the pre-party. The rest are coming for the blend of rock, blues, country, funk and jazz artists performing throughout the weekend.

"It's about music and arts and crafts," Stockton said. "We have kids' activities set up. We have a beautiful venue out here. We have three stages and 34 acres of camping, and Long Creek flows through all the campsites."

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