

CHILIMANIA

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Edgerton – in fact, the band is so authentic, their lead singer once auditioned for the real AC/DC!”

Back in Black is based in Dallas and has performed with Cheap Trick, Foghat, Bad Company, Loverboy, Jackyl, Blue Oyster Cult, Grand Funk Railroad, Head East, Seven Mary Three, Cardboard Vampires, Living Colour, Better Than Ezra, Ted Nugent, Warrant, April Wine, Great White, Night Ranger, Kansas, Quiet Riot, Violent Femmes, Badfinger and Vince Neil of Mötley Crüe.

Warming up the crowd will be Fooz Fighters from southern California. Complete with a Dave Grohl lookalike lead singer, this Foo Fighters tribute band plays at 8 p.m. Nationally recognized as the #1 tribute to the Foo Fighters, expect to hear hits like Everlong, Learn to Fly, My Hero, All My Life, Times Like These, as well as some of the B-side classics that Foo lovers long to hear.

“Very few tribute bands get as close to the real thing as The Fooz Fighters,” according to a review in sdnews.com. “Playing the music of Dave Grohl and company, the band nails not only the Foo Fighters sound but also their look. In fact, the band’s guitarist/singer, Nicky Rich, could pass as Grohl’s twin, making Fooz Fighters shows a must for fans.”

Def Leggend, renowned as the most authentic Def Leppard tribute band worldwide, will play Chilimania for the first time and be on stage at 6 p.m. Based in Texas, Def Leggend

plays venues like House of Blues locations in Dallas, Houston, Cleveland, Myrtle Beach and Orlando, in addition to being a favorite of the casino circuits in Oklahoma and Louisiana. Being referred to as “The next best thing to Def Leppard” is an honor Def Leggend never takes for granted and is a title they work tirelessly to earn show after show.

“We’re really excited to welcome Def Leggend to Chilimania this year,” Reitz said. “This band really has what it takes and nails all of the Def Leppard favorites.”

Chilimania music fans will be excited to hear The Blooze Brothers will be back again this year at 2 p.m. One of Chicagoland’s most in-demand show bands, the Blooze Brothers not only honor the music made by the original Blues Brothers in movies, TV and recordings, but the spirit in which they played – from Dan Aykroyd’s love of traditional blues and soul to John Belushi’s love of classic rock.

“Our crowds go nuts when they hear that Jake and Elwood will be playing, as they are always a show that delivers not just great music but also a great performance,” he added. “We feel fortunate to have them welcome crowds back after a very difficult year.”

Getting the crowd eased into the day will be Bahama Bob Island Music at 11 a.m. Often referred to as the “happiest music on earth,” Bahama Bob will transport event-goers to the islands as he performs island music on a traditional hand-



Darren Caperna, lead singer of Back in Black, an AC/DC tribute band from Texas, belts out a tune in 2015 at Chilimania. Back in Black returns to the Chilimania stage on Saturday at 10 p.m.

File photo

made steel drum from Trinidad.

Without the chili, it would just be chaos

While the live music is always a hot part of the Chilimania festivities, there is, of course, something even hotter: the chili. Chilimania is host to both CASI and traditional chili cook-off contests, as well as a

Best Salsa competition.

All cooks are encouraged to also participate in the CASI Showmanship category, for which they must choose a booth theme, complete with decorations, costumes, a skit and more. This makes for a flavorful and fun event for all ages.

One of the most popular parts of Chilimania is the public tasting beginning promptly at 3 p.m. The public tasting allows attendees to sample as many chilis as they would like (or have time to try) while supplies last. Packets containing a spoon, tasting cup and People’s Choice Award ballot are distributed throughout the grounds during the day. Please note that Chilimania does not guarantee that you’ll be able to taste all of the samples, as lines can be long and the good chili goes fast!

After tasting, attendees are encouraged to turn in their ballots for their favorite chili. The coveted People’s Choice Award comes with a cash prize and hand-carved wood trophy for the winner. Check www.chilimania.com to verify the tasting is taking place as organizers will be following Rock County and City of Edgerton COVID-19 health guidelines and these may change prior to the event.

Bloody Mary contest

Who makes the Edgerton area’s best Bloody Mary? Find out or even help choose at Chilimania’s annual Best Bloody Mary Contest at 10 a.m. at Two Brothers Pub & Grill in downtown Edgerton (116 W. Fulton St.). Admission is free, but you must be 21 to register to be a judge.

The goal is to have a fun time and find out which local bar can create the best-looking and best-tasting Bloody Mary. The competitors’ Bloody Mary mix will be judged and awarded in two categories.



Def Leggend, a Def Leppard tribute band, will perform at Chilimania beginning at 6 p.m.

Photo from Def Leggend website



The Fooz Fighters, a Foo Fighters tribute band, will perform at Chilimania beginning at 8 p.m.

File photo

Judges will be chosen that morning using a lottery system. Samples from all contestants will be available to those not selected as judges.

The judges will determine the entry with Best Overall Taste via a blind tasting of mixtures, excluding any dressings, condiments and/or garnishes. They also will choose the Best Display via a visual judging of a 16-ounce display drink, with all the fixings included.

The winning bar will receive a “traveling trophy” plaque with the bar’s name inscribed. The trophy can then be displayed throughout the year.

More for your tastebuds than just chili

Not a huge chili fan? No worries, there is a wide variety of food available during both Country Edge and Chilimania. From BBQ to pizza to burgers and sweets, there’s something for every taste and appetite. In the Chilimania bar area, atten-



The Blooze Brothers return to the Chilimania stage on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Photo from Blooze Brothers website

dees 21 years old and older with proper ID can purchase tickets to enjoy a variety of ice-cold canned beers, ciders and other malt beverages.

Admission and location information

•Chilimania and all related activities are held in downtown Edgerton. The Chilimania grounds are located on North Henry Street and the surrounding areas.

•The main gate is located at the intersection of West Fulton Street and North Henry Street. There also are gates located on the north, east and west sides of the grounds.

•The Country Edge and Chilimania Main Stage is located just north of the intersection of North Henry Street and West Canal Street.

•Free, on-street parking is available throughout the downtown area and on adjoining streets. There are some businesses and property owners who charge a fee to park on their property.

•Separate admission is required for Country Edge (Friday) and Chilimania (Saturday). Hand stamps will be available for those who wish to leave and re-enter the grounds on either date.

•Country Edge tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate. Chilimania tickets are \$15 both in advance and at the gate.

•VIP access is available for both events for \$80 each day. VIP tickets are sold in advance only and in limited quantities. These elite tickets have sold out in the past and organizers expect the same this year. See www.chilimania.com for additional details.

COUNTRY EDGE

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Jerrold Nieman, Justin Moore, Lee Brice, Bucky Covington, Chris Cagle, Parmalee, Dustin Lynch, Dierks Bentley, Billy Currington, Joe Nichols, Phil Vasser, Gloriana, Jason Derulo, Little Big Town, Maggie Rose, Chris Young, Blake Shelton and The Oak Ridge Boys.

This fantastic group of performers bring pure talent to every Bella Cain show. What you hear and see is 100 percent Bella Cain and they pride themselves on delivering the best “live” musicianship to the stage each and every night! Original members Jackie Bucher and Judson Brown lead it off with vocals, while Bella Cain’s own Patrick Murphy delivers outstanding male lead vocals.

Tickets

General admission tickets are \$25 in advance and are available at chilimania.ticket-spice.com/country-edge-2021. Note that a processing fee may apply. Advance ticket sales end at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9. Prices are \$30 at the gate. Children 10 and under admitted free with adult (general admission only). BUT, if you’re going to be at the concert already, get the VIP experience for \$80 at IKI’s VIP Garage. VIP tickets are sold in advance only and there is a

limited quantity. These babies sold out quickly in the past so get them while you can!

IKI’s VIP Garage is a fenced-in area prominently located to the right of the stage. Also for your viewing pleasure, a section has been reserved directly in front of the stage allowing an up close, boot-

stomping experience. You get a pre-show party with music, food, drinks, exclusive raffles, VIP-only port-o-potties, and more. On the day of the concert, check in at the main gate where you will be given your VIP PIT CREW ID and then head to the VIP GARAGE START LINE.



Bella Cain

Photo from Bella Cain website

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