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Having Fun Again

Country Star Ty Herndon's Life Is About Music Again – And He Brings His Story To WJ Ranch For A Sept. 6 Concert

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For country music star Ty Herndon, life has been a roller coaster of chart-topping hits, rehab and, now, back to releasing new music and touring. But now he said, "It is time to have some fun."

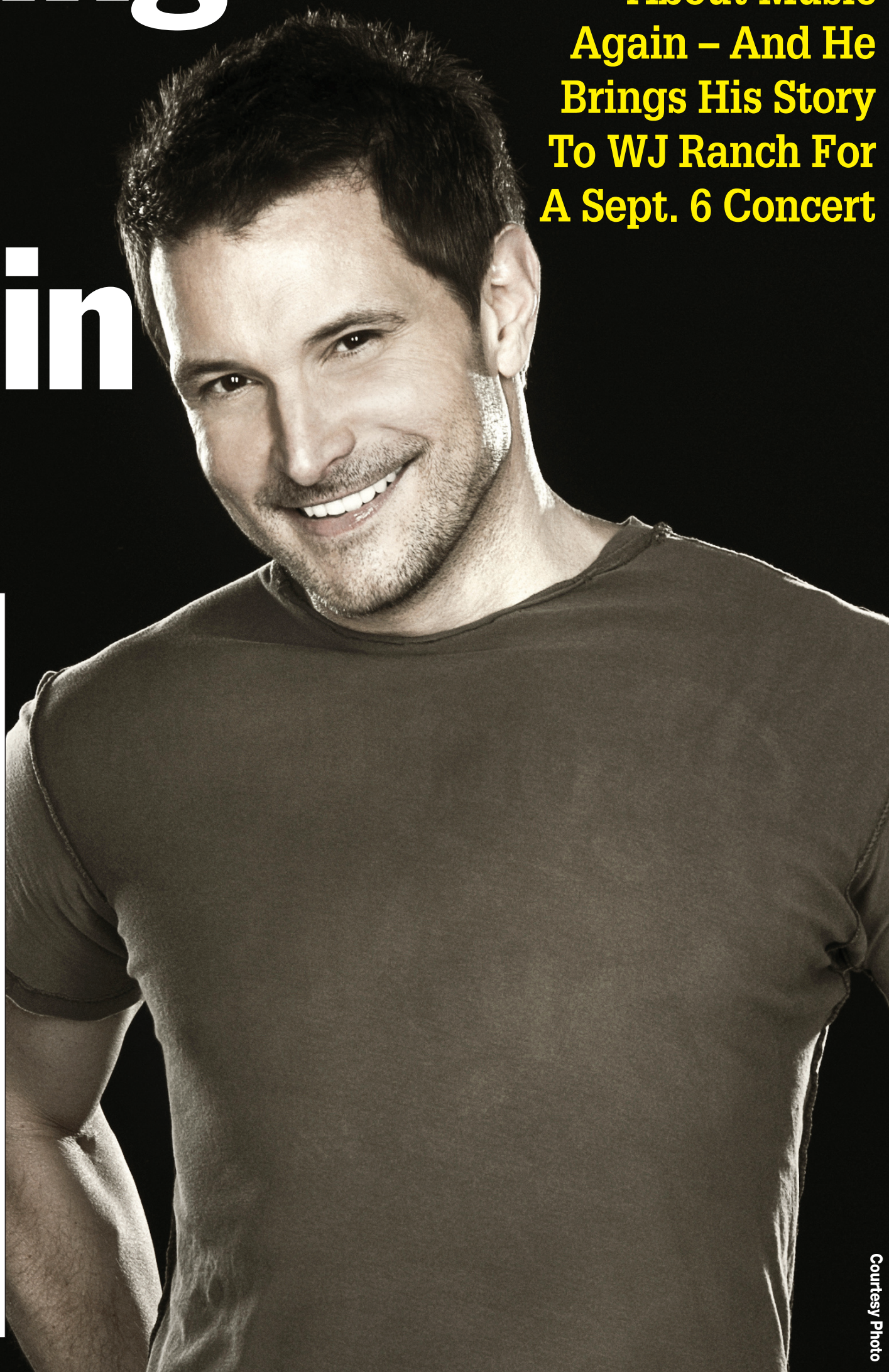
Herndon is headlining the Schiferl's WJ Ranch 11th annual concert on Saturday, Sept. 6, and he knows that it will be a celebration of music that he hopes the public comes out and enjoys.

"I have just been on such a journey over the past 14 years," he said in a phone interview with the Press and Dakotan. "Recently, it felt like everything has been so serious that I decided it was time to have fun and lighten up. That is the plan anyway. Sometimes music doesn't always go where you plan it to."

Herndon shot to forefront of country music as one of its top new artists during the mid-1990's. Two of his singles ("What Mattered Most" and "Living In A Moment") reached number one on the Hot Country Singles charts. He had an additional 13 songs that reached the top 40.

"I have always been about writing and singing songs that touch people," he said. "I have a lot of fun making music. That said, any time a song lands on the charts, it is a blessing and it takes a lot of work."

He added that when a song makes the charts, it is almost like having to win the lottery twice — you have to get the song out there for people to hear it with a great team helping you, and the fans have to like it and want to listen to it.



Courtesy Photo

However, in the late 1990s, Herndon's life began to unravel as he battled substance abuse. He eventually entered rehab for the second time in 2004.

After that, Herndon said he began to rebuild his career.

He released "Right About Now" in 2007, and then in 2010 he stepped out of country music, releasing Dove- and Gramm-nominated contemporary Christian album "Journey On."

"You know, you can't plan where an album is going to go," he said.

"When you are working on it, you just have to let it take you where it will."

"At that time in my life, I was going through a lot of lifestyle changes, taking care of myself and finding my real body."

Herndon jokingly referred to losing nearly 60 pounds as something that just happened when he started taking care of himself.

"I had to grow up real fast," he said. "I was on the fast track to death. Now I have become a walking testimony. In that, I knew I needed to teach or sing, and God gave me the specific talent that I can do both."

Following "Journey On" Herndon returned to his country roots, releasing "Lies I Told Myself" in the fall of 2013.

"It is just a great collection of songs," he said.

Unlike his past country albums that were released on Epic records, "Lies I Told Myself," was released with the help of a Kickstarter campaign.

"I am now on a small label out of Nashville

and money is less available," Herndon said. "They told me anything I raised, they would match. My good friend Jo Dee Messina told me about her campaign she had done on Kickstarter, so I gave it a go."

And go it did. He raised nearly \$60,000 with pledges from more than 300 fans.

"It is just humbling," he said. "I didn't know if the fans would still be there for me after all of the trials I have been through. But they were and still do continue to show up for me and others."

As for what to expect at the concert on Sept. 6, he said it will be a great acoustic show.

"I am bringing a special guest with me — Anita Cochran. When we get on stage together it is like the Sony and Cher of country music," Herndon said. "She is just a dear old friend and we love performing together."

In addition to Herndon and Cochran, fiddle player

Jackson Lawrence will provide the opening act.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. concert are available at www.schiferlswjranch.com or by calling 402-357-2102.

"Ticket sales are going very well," said Jen Schiferl. "We just want to remind people we do still have a few limited tickets left for our meet-and-greet and wine tasting with Ty Herndon, so if people are interested in that, they do need to either call or go to the website."

The concert will begin at 8 p.m.

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