

Dukes of Swing band joins 'Save KPLU' fundraiser effort with concert April 15

RAYMOND, Wash. — What's going on in Raymond April 15? For a host of local KPLU public radio fans, the answer is easy: An evening of food, fun and fundraising to help the "Save KPLU" campaign.

A Soup Smorgasbord opens activities from 5 to 7 p.m. at Elks Lodge No. 1292, located at 326 Third St. Then, the Dukes of Swing brings jazz to the Raymond Theater, across the street, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost of the smorgasbord is \$10 per person. Cost of the concert is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

The events are sponsored by the Elks with Thrivent Make a Difference grants and a group of local folks who regularly listen to KPLU.

The smorgasbord promises a variety of soups including a dill pickle soup. How about a bean soup that's political? You'll have to try it to find out. Salad and assorted breads are also on the menu.

Members of the Dukes of Swing have been playing together in the Grays Harbor area since 1948. The band per-



Submitted photo

The Dukes of Swing will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 15 at the Raymond Theater.

forms for community events like jazz festivals, dances and the Montesano Festival of Lights. It's been the opening act for Manhattan Transfer, Four Tops, and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

The group started as an Elks band of 60 musicians. "Over the years it kind of dwindled down to what we have now, the Dukes of Swing — enough for a 18 to 20-piece dance/jazz band," said band director Dave McCrary.

The players come from Aberdeen, Centralia, Chehalis

and the Olympia area. McCrary has directed the band for five years, starting after the former director, a personal friend, died.

"I was asked if I would take the band over," McCrary said. "I'm a real traditionalist. I thought that supporting the arts and music in Grays Harbor was an important enough venture that I wanted to see this go on."

The band's music ranges from the 1940s to modern day. At the Raymond performance, audiences can listen for Duke

Ellington tunes like "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," as well as other familiar songs like "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Moonlight Serenade," "In the Mood" and more.

"We've got probably close to 400 pieces of music in our library," McCrary said. "We also have some wonderful new arrangements and a variety of fine soloists playing songs like 'Skylark,' 'I've Got Rhythm' and 'What's New.'"

The band is donating its services to this event, which is one of many "Save KPLU" activities in the area.

If the "Save KPLU" fund drive succeeds, the station will be purchased from Pacific Lutheran University and become a community licensed radio station. On Nov. 12, PLU announced it was selling KPLU to the University of Washington. But the community group Friends of 88.5 FM has the opportunity to make an offer on the station. The group launched its fundraising campaign Jan. 11 and recently attained nonprofit status. The goal is to raise \$7 million by June 30; \$3.5 million has been raised so far.

For more information, visit kplu.org/save-kplu

Astoria Visual Arts invites artists to join studio tour

ASTORIA — Astoria Visual Arts invites local artists to participate in the 2016 Open Studio Tour, which is set to take place July 30 and 31.

Studios must be open to the public both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and be located within Astoria zip code 97103. Artists are encouraged to share studios and do demonstrations, if applicable.

Registration forms will be available online at astoriavisualarts.org, may be request-

ed via email to AstoriaStudioTour@gmail.com, or may be picked up at Dots 'N Doodles Art Supplies.

The cost to participate is \$25 per artist. The deadline to register is April 30.

AVA will publish a full-color booklet featuring participating artists.

Like the Facebook page Astoria Open Studio Tour to be apprised of updates. Contact Annie at 503-791-2759 for more information.

Cannon Beach Chorus, guest high school students to perform in concert

Ensembles from Spokane are on tour

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Chorus will present a joint concert with choral ensembles from Joel E. Ferris High School from Spokane, Washington, at 7 p.m. Friday, April 15.

The free concert is open to the public and will take place at the Cannon Beach Community Church, located at 132 E. Washington St. Ferris High School's participating ensembles will include the Symphonic Choir; the Camerata Jazz ensemble; the Canterbury Belles, a women's ensemble; and the Saxon Knights, a men's ensemble.

The Cannon Beach Chorus, under the direction of John Buehler, will open the concert with a small portion of the music selected for its spring concerts. Then the Ferris choral ensembles will join the stage. Following the concert, a reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall to greet and welcome the young musicians.

Ferris High School has a large and active music department with over 350 students participating in six bands, three orchestras and six choirs.

The high school singers

will perform in Cannon Beach as one of the stops on their spring performance tour. All of the Ferris ensembles are under the direction of Barbara Tappa. She has taught music at the elementary, junior high and senior high levels, has been a cantor and choir director in numerous Catholic churches, directed festival choirs, and is a respected clinician and adjudicator. She will serve as the choral curriculum officer for WMEA for 2016-18 and was recently honored as the 2016 Washington State High School Music Educator of the Year.

The Cannon Beach Chorus will present its spring concert "Then and Now" at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at the Cannon Beach Community Church and at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 8 at the North Country Recreation District building in Nehalem.

The Chorus is comprised of individuals from Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Manzanita, Nehalem, Wheeler, Rockaway Beach, Tillamook, and Ocean Park, Washington. For more information, visit www.cannonbeachchorus.org, or call 503-436-0378.

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