

BRIEFLY

Maryhill opens doors to Morrow Co.

GOLDENDALE, Wash. — Morrow County residents are among those who will receive free admission Aug. 15-16 at Maryhill Museum of Art.

In addition, residents of eight other Oregon counties have an opportunity to explore the world-class museum for free by presenting their driver’s license. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Maryhill features a large permanent collection, rotating exhibits, an outdoor sculpture garden and a life-sized replica of Stonehenge, which is located four miles east of the grounds.

Maryhill Museum of Art is located off Highway 97 at 35 Maryhill Museum Drive, Goldendale, Wash. To get there, drive west on Interstate 84 and take Exit No. 104.

Junkerdash melding at free concert

PENDLETON — Fronted by singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Travis Ward, Hillfolk Noir is a trio of neo-traditionalists playing traditional music for non-traditional times.

They call it junkerdash, and it’s a sound brewed from folk, bluegrass, punk, string-band blues and other influences musical and otherwise.

To experience junkerdash, head to this week’s Wednesday in the Park Concert Series from 6-8 p.m. at Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton. There’s no admission charge.

People are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Also, food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Publisher launches bilingual poetry book

LA GRANDE — Amelia Díaz Ettinger’s debut book is featured in a book launch through Redbat Books.

The publication, which is a collection of poetry in English and Spanish, is the first of the publisher’s “Pacific Northwest Writers Series.” The launch event is Thursday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. at Looking Glass Books, 1118 Adams Ave., La Grande.

The book retails for \$15 and is available at www.redbatbooks.com or by special order through local book stores.

For more information, contact 541-962-7176, info@redbatbooks.com or visit www.redbatbooks.com.

Luke Bryan grows on ‘Kill the Lights’

On the songs “Fast” and “Way Way Back,” from Luke Bryan’s new album “Kill the Lights,” the perpetually upbeat star takes his first steps toward acknowledging the complexities that come with maturity.

Country music’s reigning entertainer of the year, Bryan fills stadiums with rhythm-driven, good-time songs about partying, friendship, love and the rural lifestyle.

At age 39, however, the Georgia native is expanding his themes and sound. Bryan loads the album with seductive love songs: “Strip It Down,” “Love It Gone” and “Home Alone Tonight,” an engaging duet with Little Big Town’s Karen Fairchild, all deal with moving an evening from social to sexual. He also tackles disappointment on “Razor Blade” and nostalgia for his youth on “Fast.”

‘Fantastic’ may be an overstatement

I’ll admit it. About an hour into “Fantastic Four,” the inexplicably plodding and dreary new attempt to adapt the beloved Marvel story, I started thinking about Ethan Hunt from “Mission: Impossible.”

Wouldn’t it be nice, I thought, as I watched these fake young superheroes battle unconvincingly on a fake-looking planet for a reason nobody seemed to care much about anyway, to see Ethan swoop in — a real middle-aged guy hanging off a real plane by his bare knuckles, with a clear and immediate purpose and a real, throbbing pulse?

OK, enough wistfulness. “Fantastic Four,” directed by Josh Trank, deserves to be judged on its own merits. So here goes: It’s not wholesale terrible — just depressingly mediocre, and at a certain point you sort of start wishing it WERE definitively terrible, because that would at least make it more entertaining or give it a certain strange raison d’être. (Let’s amend that slightly: the final scene IS terrible. But we’ll get to that.)

It’s not that the raw materials aren’t there. Aside from the known story — in a few words, science-loving humans experience a cosmic accident while exploring inter-dimensional travel and emerge with formidable superpowers — we have some talented actors on hand. They include the usually very compelling Miles Teller and Michael B. Jordan, along with Kate Mara, Jamie Bell, Reg E. Cathey



Twentieth Century Fox

“Fantastic Four”

★★★★

PG-13, 100 minutes

(“The Wire”) and an expertly creepy Tim Blake Nelson.

It all begins promisingly, with a setup that introduces Reed Richards and Ben Grimm as fifth-graders on Long Island. Reed is a bespectacled science nerd; he tells his class his life goal is “to be the first person in human history to teleport myself.” The unimpressed teacher directs Reed to come back with a more realistic goal.

But the precocious lad has already developed a mini-version of said teleporter. Years later, Reed (now Teller) is back with his invention at the high school

science fair. Here, he and Ben meet Dr. Franklin Storm (Cathey) and daughter Sue (Mara), who realize what Reed has — a better teleporter than their own. Storm gives Reed a scholarship at his science institute to pursue his dream.

There, Reed meets Storm’s son Johnny (Jordan), a reluctant scientist but expert builder, and the disaffected but talented young scientist Victor von Doom (Toby Kebbell). Soon, they’re a team. And eventually, the full-blown teleporter is ready. One night, the youngsters get tipsy and decide to take a test spin.

Oops! They end up on Planet Zero, aka the other dimension, but we’ll just call it Planet-Very-Bad-CGI. (Are these really the best special effects money can buy? And here’s another question: If the other dimension is so, um,

one-dimensional, why do we want to get there so badly?) The idea is just to plant a flag, but Reed’s curiosity leads him close to a mysterious energy force, and havoc ensues. When the group returns, they’re forever changed.

The best scene is where everyone discovers their new forms. Reed (Mister Fantastic) has limbs that stretch indefinitely. Johnny (Human Torch) is a blaze of flames. Sue (Invisible Woman) can disappear. Poor Ben (The Thing), is unrecognizable, a powerful mass of rocks.

If you know the story, created more than a half-century ago by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, you know that the four must fight their erstwhile colleague, now Dr. Doom, to save Earth. The fight is energetic but feels rather perfunctory. And then there’s the final scene, where the team stands together, and the dialogue suddenly becomes so silly, people erupted in laughter at my screening.

This movie isn’t the first attempt to make this story into a profitable franchise. Previous efforts failed, and the thought here must have been to re-energize things with a young and appealing cast. But these actors — unlike, say, Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone in the recent “Spider-Man” films — are not well used, and their charisma remains largely untapped.

The result? Something much less than fantastic. — *Jocelyn Noveck, Associated Press*

WHAT TO DO

Music

- Fair Kick-off Party**
- Saturday, Aug. 8; 5 p.m.
 - Nookies/Hermiston Brewing Co., 125 N. First St., Hermiston
- Watch the Umatilla County Fair parade while drinking beer and listening to live music with Dallin Puzey Music & Tucker and Shanks Pony! Also it’s the release of Bellingher Farms watermelon beer Rind Wrecker.
- Music on the Lawn-Mandi Miller & Margaret Mayer**
- Saturday, Aug. 8, 6 p.m. All ages No cover
 - Hamley Steakhouse lawn, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
- Pop Rocks**
- Saturday, Aug. 8, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
 - Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.
- Eric Jepsen & John Wambke**
- Monday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m. All ages. No cover.
 - Boardman Marina Park
- Free. Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic for Music in the Parks.
- Hillfolk Noir**
- Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6-8 p.m.
 - Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton.
- Free. Wednesday in the Park Concert Series. Food, beer and wine available for purchase. Bring a chair or blanket.
- Oregon Spirit of ’45**
- Friday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m.
 - Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
- Free. Concert tour celebrating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. Oregon’s Own 234th Army Band will perform. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/OregonSpiritOf45
- Three Legged Dog**
- Friday, Aug. 14; Saturday, Aug. 15, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
 - Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.
- The Outsiders**
- Monday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m. All ages. No cover.
 - Irrigon Marina Park
- Free. Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic for Music in the Parks.
- The Weather Machine**
- Wednesday, Aug. 19, 6-8

- p.m.
- Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton.
- Free. Wednesday in the Park Concert Series. Food, beer and wine available for purchase. Bring a chair or blanket.
- Night life**
- Summer Beer Pong Challenge**
- Saturdays, 10 p.m.
 - Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
- 21 and older. No entry fee. \$100 Mac’s gift card to weekly winning team. Weekly winners compete in finals for all-expenses trip to Las Vegas to compete in the World Series of Beer Pong with a chance to win \$50,000. Get a partner and come up with a team name-best name wins a pizza at Big John’s.
- Thursday Night Comedy**
- Thursdays, 8 p.m.
 - Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.
- Digital Karaoke**
- Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.
 - The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston
- Wine tasting**
- Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
 - Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.
- Open Mic**
- First/Third Friday each month, 8 p.m.-midnight
 - The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
- Karaoke**
- Fridays 8 p.m. (9 p.m. if game on)
 - Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla
- DJ and dancing**
- Fridays, 8 p.m.
 - The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

- ous tribute to the science fiction and horror B movies of the late 1940s through the early 1970s. The musical tells the story of a newly engaged couple getting caught in a storm and coming to the home of a mad transvestite scientist unveiling his new creation, a muscle man named Rocky Horror. Rated NC-17 for gender themes, adult language, content and semi-nudity.
- Movies in the Park**
- Fridays through Aug. 21; dusk
 - McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St., Hermiston
- Free. Family-friendly movie. Bring a chair or blanket. No movie Aug. 14
- Movies in the Park**
- Saturdays through Aug. 15; 8-10 p.m.
 - Community Park, 1000 S.W. 37th St., Pendleton
- Free. Family-friendly movie. Bring a chair or blanket. Concessions available for purchase.
- “As You Like It”**
- Aug. 20-22; 7:30 p.m. Aug. 23; 2 p.m.
 - Power House Theatre, 111 N. Sixth St., Walla Walla
- \$24-\$29/adults, \$9/students. The Seattle Shakespeare Company presents the story of Rosalind and Celia, who are exiled from their homes and disguised as men to avoid attention. Seeking refuge in the secluded Forest of Arden, the witty pair get caught up in the romantic tangles of the locals and find their own love interests as well, although not without complications.

Hot tickets

- Pendleton Round-Up Concert features Scotty McCreery and Jackson Michelson. Sept. 12, Happy Canyon Arena, Pendleton. Tickets (\$40-\$130) available via 541-276-2553, 800-457-6336 or www.pendletonroundup.com/events/2015/concert.
- Gentlemen of the Road Stopover featuring Mumford & Sons, Foo Fighters, Flaming Lips and other national, regional and local bands. Aug. 13-15, Walla Walla. Reserved seats (\$199) via www.mumfordandsons.com.
- Foo Fighters. Saturday, Sept. 12, Gorge Amphitheater, George, Wash. Reserved seats (\$45-\$75) via www.livenation.com.

PENDLETON

Concert tour celebrates WWII anniversary

East Oregonian

Spontaneous celebrations broke out across America in August 1945 as news spread that the most destructive war in history was over.

More than 60 million people lost their lives in World War II, including 413,000 of the 16 million Americans who served. Of the 150,000 Oregonians who served, more than 5,000 made the supreme sacrifice.

In recognition of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Spirit of ’45 is preserving the legacy of ordinary heroes. The focus is to honor the Greatest Generation and inspire today’s youth.

The “Spirit” movement recognizes those who endured the Great Depression, fought to defend democracy in the largest mobilization of manpower since the building of the pyramids and the unprecedented effort to lay the foundations for a better future.

Oregon Spirit of ’45, a statewide concert tour, is planned Aug. 9-15, including a stop in Pendleton. Featuring Oregon’s Own 234th Army Band, the free concert is Friday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton.

The six-city tour aims to honor and celebrate the achievements of the Greatest Generation — a term originating with journalist Tom Brokaw, referring to Americans who grew up during the Depression — highlighting their example of courage, shared sacrifice, “can-do” spirit, and service to others. Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer serves as Oregon’s Spirit of ’45 honorary chairman and national spokesman for U.S. Army Ground Forces. In an effort to inspire today’s younger generation, Oregon youth will join the high-tech musical tour.

In 2013, Oregon mirrored congressionally-endorsed 2010 legislation and became the first state to legislate Spirit

of ’45 Day, the second Sunday of each August. The day recognizes the Greatest Generation for all they did to ensure freedom for Americans and through their example, to inspire America’s youth.

This year, Oregon became a part of the international coalition to reach out to America’s ally countries to participate in an Across the World Tribute. Oregon Spirit of ’45 founder Barbara Jensen, who is the daughter of an English war bride, serves as liaison to the England and France for coordination at each site.

Fort Stevens at Astoria will be Oregon’s lead for the Worldwide Tribute and will celebrate the entire 70th commemorative weekend. The Spirit tribute is expected to be held at nearly a dozen ally cemeteries Sunday, Aug. 16 during the WWII 70th Commemoration Weekend.

For more information about the Spirit of ’45, visit www.spiritof45.org

“OREGON’S OWN”
234TH ARMY BAND
Presents

70TH ANNIVERSARY
OREGON SPIRIT OF ’45 COMMEMORATIVE CONCERTS

2015 TOUR

8/9	3:00	Salem Elmore Theatre Eugene
8/10	7:00	Halt Center Medford
8/11	7:00	North Medford High School Reno
8/12	7:00	Tower Theatre Pendleton
8/14	7:00	The Vert Auditorium Pendleton
8/15	7:00	Camp Williams Oregon Military Museum Park

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

70TH ANNIVERSARY