

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

Holiday Barrel Tasting

•Dec. 4-6
•Walla Walla Valley wineries
www.wallawallawine.com/holiday-barrel-tasting
Some free. Inspire your holiday spirit during the festive atmosphere of the season. Samples of the future releases straight from the barrel. Wineries participate in unique ways, offering a variety of events including art, music and more.

Music

Groove City Band

•Saturday, Nov. 21, 9 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

James Dean Kindie & the Eastern Oregon Playboys

•Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:30 p.m.
•The Sports Center, 214 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima
www.jamesdeankindle.com
No cover.

Folk Music Concert

•Sunday, Nov. 22, 3 p.m.
•First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave.
www.heidmuller.com
\$10/adults, \$5/ages 12 and under. Heidi Muller and Bob Webb perform original and traditional music on Appalachian mountain dulcimer, guitar, mandolin and electric cello.

24/7

•Friday, Nov. 27; Saturday, Nov. 28, 9 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Night life

Unofficial Reunion Party

•Wednesday, Nov. 25; 7 p.m.
•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

No cover. Home for the holidays, head to the bar and visit with old friends. Features happy hour pricing, flip cup tournament and other games.

DJ music

•Saturdays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Sunday Fundays

•Sundays; 4 p.m.
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla
No cover. Food/drink specials

Whiskey Wednesday Game Night

•Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

No cover. Drink specials and games, including Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 64.

RockKaraoke

•Third Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

No cover. Live band karaoke the third Wednesday of each month through December.

Thursday Night Comedy

•Thursdays, 8 p.m.
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac's Trivia Night

•Thursdays; 8 p.m.
•Mac's Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton

No cover. 21 and older. Trivial Beersuit is weekly through Dec. 17. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest. Live host and prizes.

Stage & film

"Brighton Beach Memoirs"

•Nov. 21; 7:30 p.m.
•Nov. 22; 2 p.m.
•Bob Clapp Theatre, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton
\$10/adults, \$5/students and children 3 and up. College Community Theatre production of Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical play. Includes mature subject matter and language.

"Annie"

•Nov. 21, 28; 7:30 p.m.
•Nov. 21, 28; 2:30 p.m.
•Elgin Opera House, 104 N. Eighth St.
www.elginoperahouse.com

Reserved \$17/\$8. The irrepressible comic strip heroine takes center stage in one of the world's best-loved musicals.

"Mary Poppins"

•Nov. 21; 7:30 p.m.
•Nov. 22; 2 p.m.
•Richland (WA) High School, 930 Long St.
www.midcolumbiamusicaltheatre.org

\$10-\$20 via www.mcmt.tix.com. Mid-Columbia Musical Theatre presents the Broadway musical featuring unforgettable songs, breathtaking dance numbers and astonishing stagecraft.

"Inside Out"

•Saturday, Nov. 21; 2:15 p.m.
•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman
www.visitsage.com
\$5/adults, \$3/seniors, students. Free popcorn with admission. The animated story of Riley, a hockey-loving 11-year-old Midwestern girl whose world is turned upside-down when her family moves to San Francisco.

"Bilbo's Journey"

•Monday, Nov. 23; 6:30 p.m.
•Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.
www.hermistonlibrary.us

Free. Traveling Lantern Theatre presents a story of peril, wonder and daring with a Hobbit on an adventure.

Hot tickets

•Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Tour. Nov. 25 Silva Concert Hall, Eugene. Tickets (\$35-\$75) available via www.tickets.com

•Trans Siberian Orchestra The Ghosts of Christmas Eve Tour. Nov. 28, Key Arena, Seattle; Nov. 29, Moda Center, Portland. Tickets (\$34-\$73) available via www.ticketmaster.com

Want to get your event listed in our calendar? Send information to tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com, or c/o Tammy Malgesini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.

Q&A with Dan Haug

Guitarist puts Baha'i sacred text to music

Dan Haug is a Pendleton-based musician and member of the Baha'i faith. Recently Haug undertook a large recording project; writing and recording musical arrangements of the Baha'i sacred text, "The Hidden Words." The Hidden Words are a collection of short passages — 153 total — meant to illuminate spiritual truths through a poetic use of language.



J.D. KINDLE
Comment

Haug's recorded interpretations are rather sparse, featuring just his guitar and multi-tracked vocals, but that arrangement suits his source material well considering the text is the main focus. He was kind enough to talk about and perform his compositions for my installment of the EO Audio podcast this month.

Where did the concept for this project come from?

The founder of the Baha'i faith, his title is Bahá'u'lláh which means "The Glory Of God." It's a Persian title. The Hidden Words were written in a traditional Persian style, written as if it is God speaking to you. They are very poetic and use a lot allusion and imagery so they lend themselves very well to be set to music. I got excited about it a couple years ago. I was just wrapping up my other job and moving on to try different things and I decided to try to set some of them to music. Once I got going I kept rolling.



Contributed photo

Dan Haug performs at the Baha'i International Center in Haifa, Israel in October.

Have you performed these songs live?

I've done them a little bit. These are the things a general audience isn't going to be hugely interested in. I attend some Baha'i events. There's a summer school we do in southwestern Washington and last year it just so happened that one of the classes was focusing on The Hidden Words. They brought in a musician named Red Grammer. He's won a Grammy award, he does children's music mostly. He was going to sing a bunch of these Hidden Words and he hadn't been able to compose some so he actually asked me if we could do some of mine. About half the songs we performed were mine.

I also sing in the Pendleton Men's Chorus and in the concert last spring their director Bill Mayclin asked me to sing one. Also, I just got back from a trip

where I went to the Baha'i International Center in Israel. I was asked to sing a song at the opening of a talk somebody did there.

What was the most difficult part about recording process for "Hidden Words?"

In some ways this was a really good process for me because I think anybody who engages in creative activities tends to be rather critical of themselves. Because I was trying to do 71 of these in three months I didn't have a lot of time to be critical. I would compose and record first thing in the morning. It would usually take me 3 to 4 hours to do that and then I would just walk away from it. I did all of them like that before I came back and listened to them and there were about a half dozen I didn't like so I trashed them and did new versions.

I was really lucky that I had



Listen to the full interview on our weekly podcast, EO Audio, available at www.eastoregonian.com/eo/podcasts and iTunes.

the opportunity to do that. I don't have a lot of musical training so it was a real growth experience for me.

You've written other songs before though, right?

Yeah, I started making up songs since I was twelve years old but generally it has just been when I've been moved to do it. Often it's when I have a life-changing event or when I'm struggling with something. I've probably written 50 or 60 songs over the years but I've never tried to systematically do it, so it's a different beast.

Have you tried composing new, original songs since completing "Hidden Words?"

I've written a few, three or four, but I haven't tried to do it systematically. That would be something I'd try to do next. They Might Be Giants write a song every day. They used to have a phone line called Dial-A-Song where you could call up and hear the song they wrote that day, every day. I always thought that would be a cool, challenging thing to do.

Dan Haug's music can be found at DanHaug.net.

J.D. Kindle is the executive director of the Oregon East Symphony in Pendleton and a local musician. Email him at jamesdeankindle@gmail.com.

HERMISTON

Second City comedy tour rings in the holiday season

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

You better watch out, you better not cry, the Second City comedy tour is coming to town.

The famed troupe that has launched the careers of legends like John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Dan Aykroyd, Joan Rivers and John Candy will perform in Hermiston.

The Second City comedy sketches will have you laughing all the way as it presents the hilarious and outrageous Holidazed & Confused. Sponsored by Desert Arts Council, the event is Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. Tickets purchased in advance are \$35 for adults and \$17.50 for students. Tickets bought at the door are an additional \$5.

It's naughty. It's nice. And it's definitely not like any other holiday show you'll see this season, said Mary Corp, Desert Arts past president.

"I love the comedy that comes out of Second City," she said. "They have a long history of bringing up-and-coming comedians."

Corp said Desert Arts is trying to diversify their offerings in an attempt to expand their audience.



Courtesy of Todd Rosenberg Photography

Tickets are available for the Desert Arts Council presentation of The Second City comedy tour, who will present Holidazed & Confused Wednesday, Dec. 2 at Hermiston High School.

The comedy troupe, she said, should appeal to the younger crowd, while still providing entertainment for its regular audience members.

"I think the holidays are something people enjoy and adding the comedy piece poking some fun at our holiday traditions sounded like good entertainment," Corp added.

The Second City is celebrating 55 years of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and continues to launch the careers of comedy superstars,

including Stephen Colbert, Steve Carrell and Tina Fey. The show may contain mature and adult content.

The Desert Arts season continues after the new year with the third installment of Dancing with the Hermiston Stars. Teaming up with professionals from the Utah Ballroom Dance Company, a handful of local citizens will waltz, salsa and swing for their favorite charities. The popular event is Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016.

MOVIE REVIEW

Game over in the dreary 'Mockingjay Part 2'

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

"The Hunger Games" movies have unfolded in a relative blitzkrieg — four movies in four years — and in a fan-fueled fever that has masked some seriously silly political allegory with the thrill of survival games and the awesome star power of Jennifer Lawrence. In the final installment, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2," the game is over.

Having left behind the "arena" — a wooded realm where teenagers from across the districts of the totalitarian Panem are set against each other in a televised kill-or-be-killed death match — at the conclusion of 2013's "Catching Fire," "Mockingjay" moves into a greater war, where Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), the reluctant participant plucked out of the mining region of District 12, discovers a wider network of like-minded rebels.

In part two, the march toward the Capitol takes on an air of inevitable victory as the revolution, led by President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore), contemplates power after the expected fall of the dictator Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland). Wary of replacing one corruption with another, an increasingly grave Katniss discovers the truth of that old maxim: revolution is easy; democracy is difficult; and



Murray Close/Lionsgate via AP

This image shows Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen in a scene from "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2."

stretching the thin conceits of "The Hunger Games" into four films is even harder.

The pop pleasures of the early installments (the best of which was "Catching Fire") are gone in the gray-and-gloomy part two of "Mockingjay." All the color and vibrancy of the series has been drained away; a sizable chunk of action takes place in the sewer as Katniss and a band of rebels, navigating various traps, stealthily storm toward Snow, with plans to assassinate him.

From the start, though, it's clear "Mockingjay Part 2" is neither

intended for critics nor newcomers. It's for the fans of Suzanne Collins' books, to which the franchise has slavishly sworn its fidelity. "Mockingjay Part 2" picks up where the last film left off, with barely a glance backward.

That, perhaps, is as it should be. "The Hunger Games" is for its passionate fans and — certainly in its final films — not anyone else.

At the heart of the phenomenon is Collins' clever rendering of passage into adulthood as survival through the (literal) slings and arrows of a cruel system that pits teenagers against one another in a

Holidazed & Confused

WHEN: Dec. 2, 7 p.m.
WHERE: Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St.
TICKETS: Advance: \$35 for adults, \$17.50 for students
At the door: Additional \$5.

A perfect prelude to Valentine's Day features Barrington "Bo" Henderson, former lead singer of the Temptations, with A Temptations Revue. The evening with unforgettable Motown hits and choreographed dance steps is Friday, Feb. 12, 2016.

The season finale is the Eastern Oregon Arts Festival May 6-7, 2016. In its 12th year, it features regional artists as well as music, festival food and kids' activities.

Ticket packages or single show tickets can be purchased at www.desertartscouncil.com. In addition, people can buy Second City tickets at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 415 S. Highway 395, or Hermiston Parks and Recreation, 180 N.E. Second St.

For more information, visit www.desertartscouncil.com, www.facebook.com/desertarts or call 541-567-1800.

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2"

★ ★ ★ ☆

PG-13, 137 minutes

competition that, for some, is barely more cutthroat than high school. Katniss' ascent comes not through her mastery of the game, but her rejection of its rules.

Unfortunately lacking much screen time are two of the most lively and gaudy characters of the films — Stanley Tucci's master of ceremonies and Elizabeth Banks' chaperone — who always gave things a kick.

Instead, the film is, well, dull. If Donald Sutherland is the most bubbly thing in your teenage sci-fi dystopia, you may have stretched the seriousness too far.

Instead, a feeling of time passing "The Hunger Games" by pervades. What should have been one movie was stretched into two. Philip Seymour Hoffman, who died nearly two years ago but remains here as the rebel leader Plutarch, is a ghostly, abbreviated presence.

And Lawrence, still the magnetic center of the saga, can elevate the material only so much. Four years clearly wasn't fast enough for "The Hunger Games." Lawrence outgrew this stuff long ago.