

# Area concerts feature gospel choir, big band music

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

Area residents have an opportunity to enjoy top entertainment during concerts presented by the Northwest Community Gospel Choir and the Walla Walla University Big Band.

In a rare eastern Washington appearance, 20 members of the Portland-based gospel choir will perform Saturday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at the Power House Theater, 111 N. Sixth St., Walla Walla.

The multicultural choir with members of all ages includes singers and musicians from the Gospel Music Workshop of America, churches and other music ministries in the Portland metropolitan area. Since 1999, the choir has performed an annual December concert with the Grammy-nominated Oregon Symphony.



Contributed photo

**The Northwest Community Gospel Choir, under the direction of Pilot Rock native Gary Hemenway, will perform April 30 at the Power House Theater.**

Whitman College jazz professor Gary Hemenway has directed the choir for more than 15 years. Raised in Pilot Rock, the multi-talented Hemenway has also had experience with soundtracks, composing and arranging. According to the Oregon

Symphony website, his work has appeared in Nike and Avia videos and he received a Portland Advertising Federation Rosie award for Best Musical Composition.

Reserved seats for the Northwest Community Gospel Choir performance



Contributed photo

**Directed by local educator Michael Agidius, the Walla Walla University Big Band will present a May 1 concert in the Milton-Freewater Community Building.**

are \$35 and are available at [www.phtww.com](http://www.phtww.com). For more information, call 509-529-6500.

Under the direction of Michael Agidius, the Big Band concert will perform classic and contemporary big band music. The

sounds of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Bublé and more will be featured during the performance.

Agidius, who is the band director in Milton-Freewater schools, is excited to provide

entertainment to local audiences.

The Sunday, May 1 concert is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Milton-Freewater Community Building, 109 N.E. Fifth St. The doors will open at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. Included with the ticket are beverages and appetizers. Cash or checks will be accepted for advance tickets Monday through Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon or Monday through Thursdays from 1-6 p.m. in WWU Music Department Room 104 at South College Avenue and Fourth Street, College Place, Washington.

For more information about the Big Band concert, contact 509-527-2563 or [music.wallawalla.edu](mailto:music.wallawalla.edu).

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

## WHAT TO DO

### Festivals

#### Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

•March 18-May 1; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

•33814 S. Meridian Road, Woodburn

[www.woodenshoe.com](http://www.woodenshoe.com)

\$5/person or \$20/load.

Stroll through 40 acres of colorful flowers. Bring a picnic lunch or purchase food onsite. Catch a ride on the cow trains or enjoy daily wine tasting available from the Wooden Shoe Vineyards. View the website for the current field report and special weekend events.

#### Cinco de Mayo Celebration

•April 30-May 1

•East Main Street, Hermiston

Free admission. Live music, parade, food and family-friendly fun.

#### Milton-Freewater Jr. Show

•May 2-8

•M-F Jr. Show Grounds

[www.mfjrshow.com](http://www.mfjrshow.com)

Free. Area youths compete in home economics, natural science, livestock and other 4-H contests. Also features a youth dance, livestock auction and awards.

#### Eastern Oregon Arts Festival

•May 6-7

•East Main Street, Hermiston

[www.desertartscouncil.com](http://www.desertartscouncil.com)

\$10/Friday; free/Saturday. Regional artists display their work. Event includes live music, art activities and food. Friday evening gathering features meet-and-greet with the artists and juror, live music and light refreshments.

#### Art & Museums

##### “Figuratively Speaking ...”

•Monday-Fridays; noon-4 p.m.

•Nightingale Gallery, Lolo Hall

•Eastern Oregon University, La Grande

[www.eou.edu/art/nightingale-gallery](http://www.eou.edu/art/nightingale-gallery)

Free. Features artwork of graduating seniors Erica Hitzman of Pendleton and Victoria Davis, Sheyenne Johnson, Donni Later and Madeline Royce, all of La Grande. Runs through May 6.

##### “Central Dreams”

•Saturday, April 30; 2-4 p.m.

•Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater

Free. Features Central Middle School student-created artwork communicating their hopes and dreams for themselves, their families and community. Also includes adult artists.

#### Open Regional Photography Exhibit

•Tuesday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

[www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)

Free. Features amateur and professional photographers from across the region. Visitors can cast votes for the \$200 Jacqueline Brown People’s Choice Award. Runs through May 27.

#### Shadows of the West

•Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

•BMCC, Betty Feves Memorial Gallery

•2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton

Free. Features acrylic-over-plexiglass works by Brian Sostrom. Runs through April 28.

#### Explore Evolution

•Monday-Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

•Tamátslikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

[www.tamatslikt.org](http://www.tamatslikt.org)

\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. The exhibit features the work of scientists who are making leading discoveries about the evolution of life. The interactive displays provide visitors with an opportunity to experience how scientists conduct research on evolution. Runs through May 28.

#### Debbie McIntosh

•Monday-Fridays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

•Saturdays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

•Pendleton Art + Frame, 36 S.W. Court Ave.

Free. An exhibit featuring the Pendleton photographer’s images will be on display and for sale through the end of April.

#### Music

##### “Cathedral of Sound”

•Saturday, April 23; 7:30 p.m.

•Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton

[www.oregoneastsymphony.org](http://www.oregoneastsymphony.org)

\$20/adults, \$15/students, seniors, \$45/family. Presented by the Oregon East Symphony, features Anton Bruckner’s “Third Symphony” in memory of the late Dr. Al Baxter.

##### Jessie Leigh

•Saturday, April 23, 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

##### Rock Bot (live karaoke)

•Sunday, April 24, 8:30 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

#### James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys

•Monday, April 25, 9 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

#### Design

•Friday, April 29; Saturday, April 30, 8 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

#### Brass Fire

•Saturday, April 30; 5-7 p.m.

•Sweet Productions Restaurant & Bakery, 233 N. Main St., Heppner

No cover. All ages event features regional brass band playing jazz, blues and rock.

#### Northwest Community Gospel Choir

•Saturday, April 30; 7 p.m.

•Power House Theater, 111 N. Sixth St., Walla Walla

[www.phtww.com](http://www.phtww.com)

\$35. Directed by Pilot Rock native Gary Hemenway, the culturally diverse Portland-based group performs a rare concert in eastern Washington.

#### Corey Peterson and Linderstrom

•Saturday, April 30; 9 p.m. No cover

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

#### Walla Walla University Big Band

•Sunday, May 1; 6:30 p.m.

•Milton-Freewater Community Building, 109 N.E. Fifth St.

\$7/advance, \$10/door. Under the direction of Michael Agidius, the concert will perform classic and contemporary big band music. For tickets, contact 509-527-2563 or [music.wallawalla.edu](mailto:music.wallawalla.edu)

#### Night life

##### DJ music

•Saturdays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

##### Whiskey Wednesday Game Night

•Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

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

##### Thursday Night Comedy

•Thursdays, 8 p.m. No cover.

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

April 28: Rick Pulido & Julia Fretwell

##### Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

#### 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

[www.facebook.com/groups/pendletonopenmic](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pendletonopenmic)

##### 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

##### ’80s Party

•Saturday, April 30; 9 p.m.

•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon

No cover. Coyote Ugly-style ’80s party, dress up in favorite decade attire and party all night long with DJ music and dancing.

#### Theater & film

##### “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”

•Friday, May 6; 7:15 p.m.

•Saturday, May 7; 2:15 p.m.

•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman

[www.visitsage.com](http://www.visitsage.com)

\$5/person. View movie and receive free bag of popcorn with admission. Water is available for purchase.

#### Hot tickets

##### •Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

May 10, Windermere Theater, Kennewick. Tickets (\$47-67) available via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

##### •KISS

July 10, Toyota Center, Kennewick. Tickets (\$39.50-\$125) via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

##### •Umatilla County Fair Main Stage entertainment

A Thousand Horses (Aug. 9), The Bellamy Brothers (Aug. 10), Brothers Osborne (Aug. 11) Baile (Aug. 12), Creedence Clearwater Revisited (Aug. 13). Festival seating free with fair admission; reserved seats are \$12. (541-567-6121).

##### •Hunter Hayes

Aug. 26, Benton-Franklin Fair, Pasco. Also Salt N Pepa (Aug. 23). Tickets (\$15) available via Kennewick Ranch & Home or [www.bentonfranklinfair.com](http://www.bentonfranklinfair.com)

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

## BRIEFLY



Contributed photo

**Brass Fire, a regional group, will perform jazz, blues, funk and rock April 30 at Sweet Productions Restaurant and Bakery in Heppner.**

### Horn band fires up in Heppner

HEPPNER — A nine-piece horn band will perform jazz, funk, blues, rock and swing during an all-ages show in Heppner.

Brass Fire has been making the rounds in Eastern Oregon since being founded in 2013 by Brad Rozema of Hermiston. The band includes area music teachers and other musicians. Their unique sound covers the songs of Chicago, Earth, Wind & Fire, Tower of Power and more.

The free performance is Saturday, April 30 from 5-7 p.m. at Sweet Productions Restaurant & Bakery, 233 N. Main St., Heppner. The doors open at 4:45 p.m. and dinner service is available.

For more information, call Jodi Segraves at 541-626-1440.

### Grand opening of Milton-Freewater gallery features ‘Central Dreams’

MILTON-FREEWATER — An exhibition entitled “Central Dreams” is featured in the grand opening of the new Arts Portal Gallery in Milton-Freewater.

The exhibit, in partnership with Central Middle School Art teacher Jenny Hegdal, features submissions by both her students and adult artists. Students have created artwork communicating their hopes and dreams for themselves, their families and their community. Youths from the community and beyond will be particularly interested in the works of their peers.

The exhibition is part of a city-wide initiative called “Talk Play Dream — Hablar Jugar Soñar” to create bilingual family-friendly arts programming.

The gallery opens Saturday, April 30 at noon at 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. The grand opening reception is from 2-4 p.m. and will feature ice cream sundaes and family-friendly live music. Admission is free and all ages are welcome.

Arts Portal Gallery is funded in part by the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, the Oregon Community Fund, the Collins Foundation and public donations. It will be open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. April 30 through Dec. 18.

Managed by the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance, it will feature stimulating art in an inclusive setting by local artists from all backgrounds and points of view. It seeks to provide opportunities for those with limited access to the arts. A featured artist’s reception is planned the second Saturday of each month.

For more information, contact [artsportalgallery@msn.com](mailto:artsportalgallery@msn.com), 541-938-3727 or visit [www.facebook.com/artsportalgallery](http://www.facebook.com/artsportalgallery).

### ‘Blade Runner’ sequel release moved up

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The future is coming sooner than expected.

The sequel to Ridley Scott’s neo-noir dystopia “Blade Runner,” is now set to hit theaters on Oct. 6, 2017 — months ahead of its originally planned February 2018 release.

Alcon Entertainment announced the plans Wednesday.

Scott will executive produce the film, which begins principal photography this summer with “Sicario” director Denis Villeneuve at the helm.

Harrison Ford will reprise his role as Rick Deckard in the sequel, which takes place a few decades after the events of the first film.

The sequel also stars Ryan Gosling, Robin Wright and Dave Bautista.

## ‘The Jungle Book’ is a dazzling visual experience

LINDSEY BAHR  
AP Film Writer

You can practically feel the beating heart of the jungle in Jon Favreau’s stunning adaptation of “The Jungle Book,” which is easily the most visually dazzling movie to hit theaters this year. Like “Avatar” before it, this CG and live action interpretation of Rudyard Kipling’s classic tale of the boy raised by wolves feels like a momentous occasion in the technical advancements of big budget cinema.

From the thrill of a distant waterfall to the terror of a mudslide or stampeding buffalo, Favreau and his visual effects maestros have created artificial living things that truly look and feel real.

Even the animals’ ability to communicate in English seems as natural as their breathing and emoting. They have not been sanitized to be cute or less threatening either.

They still look like wild animals and, for the most part, act like wild animals, too. At first, this actually makes their close interactions with the human boy Mowgli (newcomer Neel Sethi) even more disarming. Eventually your nerves calm and you



Disney via AP

**In this image released by Disney, Mowgli, portrayed by Neel Sethi, right, and Baloo the bear, voiced by Bill Murray, appear in a scene from “The Jungle Book.”**

submit to the magic of this world.

The story follows the same beats as Disney’s animated feature from 1967, but Favreau and his team made sure to up the intensity a few notches — the hyperrealism of the animals necessitates it. The tension created by the fact that they all have claws and teeth and instinct to contend with is always there.

You’re already on edge by the time the tiger Shere Khan (Idris Elba, in a truly stunning vocal performance that’s both terrifying and relatable) enters the picture. He adamantly believes that humans should not be living among them and is prepared to use whatever intimidation

tactics are necessary to rid their world of Mowgli. This sends the young boy on a journey to the human village with the stoic panther Bagheera (Ben Kingsley). Anyone with the vaguest memory of “The Jungle Book” will remember the characters the boy encounters on the way — the snake Kaa (Scarlett Johansson), the bear Baloo (Bill Murray) and the orangutan King Louie (Christopher Walken).

Although it is somewhat distracting to have such famous voices overwhelming every scene, each does a fine job — especially Murray, who brings a much-needed comedic lightness to the story with his affably conniving

### “The Jungle Book”

★★★★☆

PG, 105 minutes

Baloo in the second act. Sethi is energetic and enthusiastic as Mowgli — an adventurous kid who’s as unfazed by a handful of bee stings as he is a gargantuan snake. But for all the attention to detail, there’s an unnatural modernity to the dialogue he’s given that can be trying at times. For the most part he blends in as well as the sole human among wild CG animals could possibly be expected to.

Much of the third act feels more like a check list than plot advancement, and the emotional arc neither lives up to its source material nor the beauty of the visuals. Still, it is one of the stronger of Disney’s live-action adaptations and executed with such sincerity and technical prowess and inspiring ingenuity that it’s more promising than anything else — a true family-friendly adventure that’s smart and often thrilling.

## Be a Part of Walla Walla’s Wine Future!

### Become a Winery Owner

Groundbreaking Celebration May 15th.

Preferred Stock at an offering price of \$4.35 per share earning a 5.1% annual dividend. The minimum purchase is 200 shares (\$870). Traded on the NASDAQ as WVVIP.

To obtain a Prospectus, please call 503-588-9463 or visit [www.wvv.com/ownership](http://www.wvv.com/ownership).

Jim Bernau, Founder/CEO • Willamette Valley Vineyards

