

BRIEFLY
SAGE Center awakens ‘Star Wars’

BOARDMAN — Luke Skywalker, Hans Solo, Princess Leia and the rest of the cast take movie-goers on another adventure in “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” Three decades after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, a new threat arises. If you haven’t seen it yet, be sure to attend a viewing during the SAGE Center Movie Weekend. The PG-13 flick will be shown Friday, May 6 at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday, May 7 at 2:15 p.m. at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. The cost is \$5 per person and includes a free bag of popcorn. In addition, water is available for purchase. The SAGE Center is an interactive visitor center highlighting sustainable agriculture and energy. An on-site store features local art, jewelry, food, wine and gifts. For more information, call 541-481-3257 or visit www.visitsage.com.

Music association offers free piano workshop

PENDLETON — A free workshop for pianists and piano teachers is being offered by a Boston University graduate who studied with the renowned pianist and pedagogue Leonard Shure. Presented by Deborah Cleaver, “The Taubman Approach” is Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. It’s open to anyone who is interested. Pre-registration is not required. After finishing her degree, Cleaver worked closely with Shure as his teaching assistant at New England Conservatory. She also has spent many years studying the performance practice of the Baroque and Classic periods with such luminaries as Sandra Rosenblum, Edward Parmentier and Elisabeth Wright. Cleaver teaches at Lewis & Clark College and Reed College as well as in her private studio. An avid performer, she has appeared with many ensembles and has had performances aired on the classical music program “Played In Oregon.” The free workshop is made possible by the Umatilla-Morrow District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the Nellie Tholen Fund. For more information, contact Sue Nelson at musicdoc3@mac.com. For more about the Oregon Music Teachers Association, visit www.oregonmta.org.

Maryhill offers poetry, art workshops

GOLDENDALE, Washington — The public is invited to get their creative juices flowing during with a poetry workshop with Tim Barnes. Presented at Maryhill Museum of Art, participants will draw inspiration from the Columbia River Highway and historic photographs by Albert Barnes to create poems and a handmade book. The free workshop is Saturday, May 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the museum. Although it’s free, registration is required. Other upcoming workshops include an Evening Art Party with hors d’oeuvres and wine. Participants will explore wet felting with Nancy Skakel Thursday, May 26 from 6-8 p.m., and oil painting with Catherine Rehfeld Thursday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. The evening workshops are \$40 for non-members and \$35 for members. Maryhill is located off Highway 97 at 35 Maryhill Museum Drive, Goldendale, Washington. To get there, drive west on Interstate 84 and take Exit No. 104. To register for any of the events, call 509-773-3733 extension 20. For more information about Maryhill programs, visit www.maryhillmuseum.org. *Contact entertainment editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539*

Art from a hotel room

Thomas Paul’s latest album recorded during Boise music experiment

The title of Boise musician Thomas Paul’s third full-length album, “Singalongs,” is obviously ironic: There is not a single vocal on the entire record (unless you count the light strains of casual conversation picked up by the microphone during the recording session). On Friday, May 6, Thomas Paul, a longtime counselor at Pendleton’s Rock and Roll Camp, will bring his album of impressionistic, art-rock instrumentals together for a rare full band performance at the Pendleton Arts Center. The album production for “Singalongs” was rather unorthodox. The recording sessions were part of Modern Art, a First Thursday event in Boise at The Modern, a boutique hotel. Modern Art, which is entering its tenth and final installment this May, is an annual event where the hotel turns each of its rooms into a makeshift art studio for a night. Each room houses a painter, photographer, performing musician(s), theater troupe, etc., producing their craft. Attendees wander from room to room observing works of art in progress. In Thomas Paul’s case, he decided to go one step further than presenting a live musical performance and turn his hotel room (Room 242) into a recording



J.D. KINDLE
Comment



Contributed photo

Thomas Paul will perform Friday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Pendleton Center for the Arts.

studio. The main bedroom sported Paul on guitar, bassist Bob Nagel, drummer Todd Chavez, and recording engineer Nate Agenbroad, while the bathroom became an isolation booth for saxophonist Eric Dewitt, violinist Jonah Shue, and flautist Jeffrey Barker. Audiences would fill up what little space was left in the hotel room, be hushed while the band knocked out a take, listen to the first 15 seconds of playback, then be ushered out so the next group could observe the recording process. Being an instrumental album, one can’t help but conjure up images to associate with each song. This was certainly by design. “A lot of these songs started with a cinematic idea,” says Paul.

“Some pieces go back as far as the early ‘90s — they’ve been percolating for a long time. There are all kinds of origin stories for each piece. Each was written as a ‘short film.’” Many of songs on “Singalongs” have an ominous, film noir-esque vibe and are indebted to composer Angelo Badalamenti, best known for his soundtracks for the films of David Lynch. Paul is quick to note the influence saying, “The song ‘Thrift Shop Noir’ is dripping with David Lynch. I remember when I was 23 I saw ‘Fire Walk With Me’ and purchased the soundtrack. There are only two songs on that album that have lyrics. The music said so much. It probably helps that I was enamored with the film — at least

the visuals.” That isn’t to say that all of “Singalongs” will make the listener feel like they are about to stumble upon a body in wrapping plastic. “Billy’s Lullaby” was written as a lullaby for a friend to play his twin daughters while “Look!” functions as a rooftop chase sequence. Of the sentimental and pastoral opening track, “East River Road,” Paul says it “was written at my childhood home, out in the country. If you wanted to go into the town of Idaho Falls I would have to walk or bike three miles. At the time, being a younger person, it seemed like an epic journey. It used to be more of a country road — now it is golf courses and subdivisions — but 25 years ago it was very rural.” “I’ve always thought of (Stanley) Kubrick and the way he used music,” says Paul. “It’s very prevalent in his films. I’ve always noticed the music part of movies. I noticed early on that I didn’t care for grand, sweeping Hollywood themes like ‘My Heart Will Go On.’ It seems like with big Hollywood film composers, the music is telling you what you’re supposed to be feeling. I tended to like movie music that asked you what you were feeling, but then maybe I was drawn more to those movies.” ■ *J.D. Kindle is a Pendleton musician and executive director of the Oregon East Symphony. Contact him at jamesdeankindle@eastoregonian.com.*

Festivals

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

•March 18-May 1; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
•33814 S. Meridian Road, Woodburn
www.woodenshoe.com
\$5/person or \$20/carload. 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
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
\$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

“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.

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 April 30.
•“Figuratively Speaking ...”
•Monday-Fridays; noon-4 p.m.
•Nightingale Gallery, Loso Hall
•Eastern Oregon University, La Grande
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.

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
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.

Explore Evolution

•Monday-Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
•Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastslíkt.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.

WHAT TO DO

Music

Razzvio

•Saturday, April 30; 6 p.m.
•Nookies/Hermiston Brewing Co., 125 N. First St., Hermiston
No cover.

Design

•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
\$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.walla-walla.edu

Cinco de Mayo Party

•Thursday, May 5; 9 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston
No cover. Features DJ music, \$1 tacos and drink specials.

Thomas Paul

•Friday, May 6; 7 p.m.
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

www.pendletonarts.org
\$12. Album release event for “Singalong,” an all-instrumental album recorded live at The Modern Hotel in Boise. (see story on this page).

Bart Budwig

•Tuesday, May 17; 7 p.m. All ages, no cover.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

Hillfolk Noir

•Saturday, May 21; 8 p.m. All ages. No cover.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

Night life

80s Party

•Saturday, April 30; 9 p.m.
•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon
\$3 cover. Coyote Ugly-style ‘80s party, dress up in favorite decade attire and party all night long with DJ music and dancing.

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.

Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Fridays, 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
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

Theater, stage & 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
\$5/person. View movie and receive free bag of popcorn with admission.

Hot tickets

•Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. May 10, Windermere Theater, Kennewick. Tickets (\$47-67) available via www.ticketmaster.com
•KISS. July 10, Toyota Center, Kennewick. Tickets (\$39.50-\$125) via 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

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.

MOVIE REVIEW

In Key & Peele’s ‘Keanu,’ the true gangster has paws

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

“Keanu”
★★★★☆
R, 98 minutes

If you dropped a cute kitten into Michael Mann’s “Heat,” would Robert De Niro have gone all soft and goo-goo eyed? Might Wesley Snipes’ drug empire in “New Jack City” been brought to its knees by a cuddly face with whiskers? Could Al Pacino’s rage in “Scarface” have been melted away by a feline “little friend”? Such is the question of “Keanu,” Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele’s satisfyingly ridiculous and consistently funny big-screen debut for the slyly disarming brand of humor they nimbly practiced on their recently ended sketch comedy series, “Key & Peele.” Much of that show’s easy rhythm and skillful unmasking of masculinity have been transferred

intact. “Keanu” was written by Peele and Alex Rubens, a former “Key & Peele” writer, and directed by Peter Atencio, also an alumnus from the show. Whereas some in their leap into movies opt for grander, swaggering personas, Key and Peele have instead chosen a movie centered on a cat named Keanu, who, in one dream sequence, is voiced by Keanu Reeves. This, and this alone, is enough to warrant a Nobel, if not an Oscar. The kitten, formerly a drug lord’s pet, shows up on the Los Angeles doorstep of Rell Williams (Peele) like pint-sized salvation for the recently dumped Rell. But soon

after Rell begins posing him in movie scenes, Keanu is taken from him. Rell pursues Keanu with his cousin Clarence (Key). One is a lazy pothead, the other a nerdy, high-strung father; both are about the furthest thing from “hard.” Their search leads them from their comfortable suburban environs and into a violent crime underworld where the kitten is surprisingly valuable currency. No one, not even Method Man’s drug kingpin Cheddar, can resist him. Clarence and Rell unconvincingly improvise thuggish identities but manage to be mistaken for fearsome hit men. The jokes come out of not just their poor gestures at being tough guys but of the soft hearts within even murderous gangsters. See “Keanu” for its divine absurdities. Do not

see it for its neat narrative or scene-to-scene tonal consistency — things which are, after all, less vital for movies revolving around a kitten named after the guy from “The Matrix.” There also isn’t quite as much of Key and Peele’s trademark social justice satire here, even once the cops show up; the parodies of “Keanu” are more cuddly than biting. But few make better playthings of racial

stereotype than Key and Peele. Take, for instance, the white, hip-hop-loving weed dealer (Will Forte) who cries when his De La Soul albums are shredded. This is Key and Peele’s love letter to 1990s action movies. Driving a minivan and chasing a cat, they enter a movie land populated by Hollywood clichés of black men, and emerge ludicrous, triumphant heroes, kitty in tow.

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