

BRIEFLY

Henry leads 'Hamilton' national tour in San Francisco

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Award-nominee Joshua Henry, who has been playing Aaron Burr in the Chicago production of "Hamilton," will take his character on the road in the show's first national tour.

Henry will play Burr alongside Michael Luwoye's Alexander Hamilton and Rory O'Malley's King George III when the tour starts in San Francisco this March. The tour then goes to Los Angeles.

Luwoye has been an alternate Alexander Hamilton on Broadway and O'Malley, Tony-nominated for his work in "The Book of Mormon," will reprise his work as King George, which he plays on Broadway through Jan. 15.

The trio will be joined by Solea Pfeiffer as Eliza Hamilton, Emmy Raver-Lampman as Angelia Schuyler, Isaiah Johnson as George Washington and Jordan Donica as Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson.

Billy Joel to hit baseball stadiums on 2017 tour

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Billy Joel will play Dodger Stadium for the first time in May in a return to the city where he first gained attention.

The May 13 show was announced in a news conference at the iconic baseball stadium. The Dodgers will be on a seven-game road trip when Joel takes over their home.

The Dodger Stadium show is part of Joel's 2017 tour that will take him to SunTrust Park, the Atlanta Braves' new stadium, on April 28. He also is set to play in other baseball stadiums, including Cleveland, Wrigley Field in Chicago, Fenway Park and Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.

The 67-year-old singer-songwriter from New York first became known as a piano player and lounge singer at the Executive Room on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, where he played for six months in 1972 under the name Bill Martin. The characters from his hit song "Piano Man" were based on staff and customers at the bar. Joel has an ongoing residency at Madison Square Garden, having played one show a month there for the last three years.

Obama plans final White House bash before term ends

WASHINGTON (AP) — Before his farewell address, President Barack Obama plans a farewell bash Friday night to celebrate the end of his presidency.

While the White House isn't saying who's on the guest list, Chicago-based hip-hop artist Chance the Rapper said Wednesday on Facebook and Twitter that he was about to fly "21 hours to DC to bid farewell to the greatest president in US history. God bless you @Potus." Chance had been touring in Australia and New Zealand.

Many other celebrities are expected to attend what's shaping up to be the Obamas' final party before the Jan. 20 hand-off to President-elect Donald Trump.

Beyonce was among the celebrities who attended Michelle Obama's 50th birthday party at the White House in 2014.

J.K. Rowling updates 'Fantastic Beasts' book

NEW YORK (AP) — J.K. Rowling is not done with the story of "Fantastic Beasts."

The author's Pottermore website announced Thursday that a new edition of the Harry Potter spin-off "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" will come out in March. The book, which arrives four months after the hit film adaptation, will include a foreword by Rowling writing as Magizoologist Newt Scamander, new artwork and a batch of new beasts. Proceeds will be donated to Comic Relief and Lumos, Rowling's charity for children placed in institutions.

The original book came out in 2001.

Budwig studio in OK Theatre offers laid-back vibe

By STEVE TOOL
EO Media Group

While many Wallowa County music aficionados may know Bart Budwig as a fine alt-country musician on the center stage, one of his passions is working behind the scene.

Budwig, who attended the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences in Arizona in the mid-2000s, has always enjoyed the process of music recording.

After much experimentation in northeastern Idaho, where he resided as a musician and sideman, Budwig picked up stakes and moved to Enterprise. He made the OK Theatre his home base, residing in an apartment at the rear and recording in the theatre proper. Budwig invested in a reel-to-reel recorder as well as a digital ensemble, first recording and producing two albums of his own.

As time passed, he built a solid reputation as a musician as well as a sound engineer. Musicians started coming to Budwig's yet-unnamed studio in the back of the OK Theatre, often using its stage as a convenient recording area.

Budwig is currently recording Lewiston singer/songwriter Nevada Sowle's (pronounced soul) album "The Great American." In keeping with his laid-back persona and retro taste, the album was recorded live on the stage with only sound baffles around the drum kit.

Unlike some producer/engineers, Budwig doesn't tinker digitally with every note, or like to record tracks in isolation booths.

"I prefer to record live," he said. "It's more fun. I've just found that you have to have fun with music to be productive."

Outside of the fun, Budwig said that recording live tends to move more quickly.

"Maybe not everything is perfect, there's a little more creative element," he said. "You can make more albums instead of spending 10 years getting everything perfect on one."



The many faces of Bart Budwig: Local musician, recording engineer and producer Bart Budwig poses next to his TEAC reel-to-reel recorder in his OK Theatre apartment.

"I prefer to record live. It's more fun. I've just found that you have to have fun with music to be productive."

— Bart Budwig, musician, recording engineer and producer

The live recording facilitates the many-album approach of some of Budwig's musical heroes, namely Willie Nelson and Bob Dylan.

"They've made a lot of records that way," he said. "Some are awful and some are the best records of all time. I think productivity is important."

The Nevada Sowle recording that Budwig is currently working on is the singer's first solo album. Budwig tries not to lay a heavy hand on the musician's vision.

"I leave that up to the musician," he said. "Since it's a live recording, I'm just trying to catch it the best way possible."

Gesturing at the stage setup, Budwig said everything is arranged for a more polished, clean sound.

"It'll be live; but it'll sound like it's well-produced," he said. Sowle's album was recorded with the digital setup. While Budwig enjoys the simplicity of the reel-to-reel, he said the digital setup offers more flexibility in recording multiple instruments.

James Dean Kindle of the Pendleton group James Dean Kindle and the Eastern Oregon Playboys said his band recorded their upcoming album "Roaming Charges May Apply" with Budwig.

He thought it was the most accessible of the studios he considered, and he enjoyed the ambiance of the OK from previous shows at the theatre. The Playboys did some

analog recording on the TEAC reel-to-reel, too.

"I wanted to work with (Budwig) one-on-one to see what our work relationship would be like — see if we could communicate properly and if he was the right fit for the band," Kindle said.

After praising Budwig's good ear for recording, Kindle noted other positives.

"He can work quickly. Some of his methods are unorthodox, which I kind of like. Overall, it was an enjoyable recording experience. I'd definitely go back and record if it was for the right project," he said.

Budwig laughed when asked about what he charges for his recording services.

"I normally just kind of figure it out with people I work with," he said. "I can be kind of flexible, because I really don't record people who don't know me at all."

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

The Big Read Kick-off

•Thursday, Jan. 12; 7 p.m.
•Hurricane Creek Grange Hall, Joseph
www.fishtrap.org

\$5/adults, free/students. A screening of "Dick Cavett's Vietnam" kicks off The Big Read in Wallowa County — this year's book is "The Things They Carried," a work of fiction by Tim O'Brien. The documentary film examines the war and its impact on America through interviews conducted on "The Dick Cavett Show." The event continues each Thursday (free admission, except Feb. 9 — \$5 for screening of "Good Morning Vietnam") at various locations in Wallowa County. The event finale (\$10) is Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Joseph United Methodist Church. It features a '60s Fashion Show, potluck dinner and dance party.

Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race
•Jan. 18-21
•Joseph, Enterprises, Fergi Ski Area
www.eaglecapextreme.com

Free, except banquet, which is \$20/adults, \$8/ages 5-12, free/4 and under. People can watch the race, meet and visit with mushers during vet checks and a meet-and-greet, and buy merchandise. The banquet, which is a fundraiser, includes an auction and live entertainment.

Robert Burns Supper
•Saturday, Jan. 28; 2 p.m.
•Elks Lodge
\$30/couple, \$17/single. In its 20th year, the event celebrated the poet Robert Burns with food, fun and a toast to the Scottish national poet.

Art, Museums & Authors

"Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race"
•Saturday, Jan. 7; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Last day.
•Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastlikt.org

\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. Travelling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which examines how Nazi leadership used science to help legitimize persecution, murder and, ultimately, genocide.

St. Distaff's Day Spin-In
•Saturday, Jan. 7; 1-4 p.m.
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
Free. As part of the First Saturday Spin-In, fiber enthusiasts celebrate St. Distaff's Day, which according to tradition marks the time when women resume normal household chores after the holidays. Bring a project to work on or visit with others. Coffee, tea and work space provided.

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•Thursday, Jan. 12; 4:30-6:30 p.m., opening reception

New Year 2017
•Tuesday-Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
•Peterson's Gallery, 1925 Main St., Baker City
www.petersonsgallery.net

Free. Features a collection of some of the most sought after and requested artists represented at the gallery in 2016. Runs through Jan. 31.

First Draft Writers' Series
•Thursday, Jan. 19; 7 p.m.
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

Hamley's hosts Chamber Winds

PENDLETON — A chamber ensemble of wind instruments will perform works by Gaetano Donizetti, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Charles Gounod during Chamber Winds.

Conducted by Beau Benson of the Oregon East Symphony, the concert opens with Donizetti's "Sinfonia for Winds." It's followed by Mozart's "Serenade No. 11 in E-flat Major," which was composed for the purpose of currying the favor of a court musician of Emperor Joseph II. It was written at a time when wind instruments were beginning to be manufactured with higher degree of accuracy. The evening concludes with Gounod's "Petite Symphonie," a work composed for French flute virtuoso Paul Taffanel in 1885. Pendleton-based principal flutist Cathy Muller will fill the role of Taffanel.

The concert is Saturday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Hamley's Slickfork Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students/seniors or \$45 for a family. They can be purchased in advance at

•Monday-Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., gallery hours
•Betty Feves Memorial Gallery, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.

Free. Features collage art of Cory Peeke, director of Nightingale Gallery and art professor at Eastern Oregon University. Gallery also open by appointment by calling 541-278-5952. Runs through Feb. 9.

Biennial Faculty Exhibition
•Friday, Jan. 13; 6-8 p.m., opening reception
•Monday-Fridays; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

•Nightingale Gallery, Loso Hall
•Eastern Oregon University, La Grande
www.eou.edu/art

Free. Gain an in-depth look at the recent studio practices of exhibiting professors Jaime Gustavson, Nathan Prouty, Michael Sell, Jessie Street and Kerri Rosenstein. Runs through Feb. 10.

Student art display
•Monday-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn St., Baker City
www.crossroads-arts.org

Free. Features art created by students of Baker County. Runs through Jan. 28

Chamber Winds
•Saturday, Jan. 14; 7:30 p.m.
•Hamley Slickfork Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

the symphony office, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton Art+ Frame or www.oregoneastsymphony.org.

Linfield professor to share at First Draft

PENDLETON — Joe Wilkins, author of "The Mountain and the Fathers: Growing Up on the Big Dry," will read during the upcoming First Draft Writers' Series.

A memoir, the publication is winner of a 2014 GLCA New Writers Award. Also, his most recent full-length collection of poetry, "When We Were Birds," was selected by Billy Collins for the Miller Williams Poetry Prize Series. Wilkins also teaches writing at Linfield College in McMinnville.

The event is Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. There is no admission charge.

After Wilkins' presentation, audience members are invited to read short excerpts from their own works.

First Draft meets the third Thursday of each month. For more information, call 541-278-9201 or visit www.pendletonarts.org.

Music
•Wednesday, Jan. 18; 7 p.m.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton
www.ericjohnkaiser.com

Free/all ages. Known as Portland's French Troubadour, Eric John Kaiser comes through Eastern Oregon for a CD-release show for his fifth album, "Made in Gaspésie." It charted at No. 14 on the Billboard World Chart the week of its release this past summer.

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Full Zoo
•Saturday, Jan. 7; 8 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

Thrillride
•Friday, Jan. 13; Saturday, Jan. 14; 8 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

Cabin Fever
•Saturday, Jan. 14 and 21; 5:30 p.m., doors open for Dutch oven dinner; 6:30 p.m., show only
•Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395

\$38/dinner show, \$15/show only. John Wambeke & Friends present a musical variety show. Tickets available at Cottage Flowers, 1725 N. First St., Hermiston.

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

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

Digital Karaoke
•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.

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

LOL Comedy Jam
•Thursdays; 8 p.m. No cover.

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

No cover. Jan. 12: Ryan Reeves, Nick Theisen; Jan. 19: Travis Nelson, Chase Mayers

Zerba Cellars Wine & Chocolate Tasting

•Friday, Jan. 20; 4-7 p.m.
•Alexander's Chocolaterie & Vino Bistrot, 363 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. Stop in and sample the award-winning wines paired with chocolates.

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 w/DJ David
•Fridays; 8 p.m.

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing
•Fridays, 8 p.m.

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

Cimmi's Late Night Martini Lounge

•Fridays; 9 p.m.-midnight
•Virgil's at Cimmiyotti's, 137 S. Main St., Pendleton

No cover. Features martini, mixology and music.

Theater & film

Dancing with the Hermiston Stars

•Saturday, Jan. 14; 7 p.m.
•Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St.

www.desertarts council.com

\$20/adults, \$10/students (additional \$5 at the door). Presented by Desert Arts Council, it features a new lineup of community stars who hit the dance floor with members of the Utah Ballroom Dance Company.

Melonville Comedy Festival

•Saturday, Jan. 28; 8 p.m.
•Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395
www.melonvillecomedyfestival.com

\$35. Features a trio of funny men, Dwight Slade, Gabriel Rutledge and Chase Mayers. No-host bar and food available. Tickets available at event website or the Hermiston chamber.

Hot tickets

•Roots & Boots Concert: (features Sammy Kershaw, Aaron Tippin and Terri Clark) Feb. 10, Wildhorse Resort & Casino. \$49.99-\$125 via www.wildhorseresort.com

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