

Hermiston High School presents 'Fiddler on the Roof'

By TAMMY MALGESINI East Oregonian

Participants and directors, alike, are excited about staging "Fiddler on the Roof" at Hermiston High School.

"Musicals are a lot of fun," said Sean McClanahan, the school's band teacher who serves as pit director. "It's fun to put the drama aspect with the live music, the lights, the whole process is a blast."

Jordan Bemrose-Rust, Hermiston's choir director, said the show has a lot of good music and was a great fit with the abilities of student actors and musicians. In addition, because the Broadway musical is a classic, she said it should draw a number of people in to see the performances.

"We want to get people in here to see what our kids can do talent-wise," Bemrose-Rust said.



Staff photo by Tammy Malgesini

Members of the cast rehearse a scene during a Feb. 27 dress rehearsal for the Hermiston High School production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Rounding out the cast is a handful of Inland Northwest Musicians members, who are playing in the orchestra pit alongside student performers.

McClanahan and Bemrose-Rust, who are both in their first year at Hermiston,

convinced Dana Mercer, the school's longtime drama director, to stage Fiddler.

It didn't take much prodding, Mercer said. In her 25-plus years heading up the drama program at Hermiston,

it's been Mercer's experience

'Fiddler on the Roof'

•March 3-4, 10-11; 7 p.m. •Hermiston High School •\$10/adults, \$6/youths & seniors citizens

that students come out in droves for musicals.

"They like the singing, they like the dancing," she said. "Also, there are more parts."

A newcomer to Hermiston High School's drama stage is senior Noah Roberts. The talented singer landed the role of Tevye, the musical's lead character.

Roberts said the biggest challenge has been memorizing his lines. The most enjoyable aspect of the production, he said, is working with everyone in the cast.

Mercer said the winter weather caused problems — including a delay in receiving

the scripts. Despite the hiccups, McClanahan said the rehearsals are going well.

"The choir is doing a fantastic job," he said "And, Noah does a really good job as Tevye."

Clarissa Nitz was thrilled to get the part of Fruma Sarah. The senior previously performed in "The Music Man."

"I think it's fun because it incorporates both acting and music," she said about musicals. "It makes me more comfortable with the play."

Bobby Crane, who plays Perchik, also performed in "The Music Man." He said the energy with Fiddler is amazing.

"When we get it right, it's phenomenal," he said.

The storyline centers on Tevye and Golde, who have five daughters. Life in the Russian village of Anatevka in 1905 is said to be as precar-

ious as the perch of a fiddler on a roof.

While attempting to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions, Tevye has to deal with several strong-willed daughters. Despite arrangements by the matchmaker, the older daughters have their eyes on men they wish to marry for love.

"It's fun and it's whimsical and it's sad and lovable," Bemrose-Rust said. "It's all the emotions rolled into one. It hits them all and there's great dancing and singing."

The play will be staged March 3-4 and 10-11 at 7 p.m. in the school's fine arts auditorium, 600 S. First St., Hermiston. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for youths and senior citizens.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

BRIEFLY

BMCC announces powwow workshop on Thursday

PENDLETON — The public is invited to learn about different powwow dancing styles and songs.

Powwow 101 is Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon in Morrow Hall Room 7 at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. There is no admission charge.

The workshop is a prelude to the upcoming BMCC Powwow, which is also free. The powwow is Thursday, March 9 at 6 p.m. in McCrae Activity Center.

For more information, contact Annie Smith at asmith@bluecc.edu or 541-278-5935.

Booster Club offers scholarship

IONE — The Ione Booster Club is offering \$1,500 in scholarships to Ione high school seniors. All seniors with a 3.0 gpa or above are encouraged to apply.

An emphasis will be placed on applicants with school leadership and community service experience. For more information, visit http://www.ione.k12.or.us/boosterclub_scholarship

AAUW to screen student flicks

PENDLETON — Documentary films created by Griswold High School students will be screened during the upcoming AAUW meeting.

The public is invited to attend the no-host gathering Saturday at 11 a.m. at The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

The films, which qualified for the 2016 National History Day competition at the University of Maryland, include "History of the Columbia River Highway," "Primate Pioneers: Chimpanzees on the Mercury Spacecraft" and "The Common Touch: Woody Guthrie and the Bonneville Power Administration."

The American Association for University Women works to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. For more about the Pendleton affiliate, contact Kathy Chaney at cecil296@aol.com or 541-379-9997.

Oldies night highlights 1962

MILTON-FREEWATER — Take a trip through time when "The Monster Mash," "The Flying Circle" and "I Sold My Heart to the Junkman" might tumble out of your transistor radio. BJ the DJ will spin tunes from 1962 during Oldies Night in Milton-Freewater. The free event is Saturday at 7 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. The Frogs will offer light refreshments.

For more information, contact Bob Jones at dubuquer@charter.net or 541-938-7028.

Inland Musicians announce music competition

HERMISTON — The Inland Northwest Musicians is accepting applications for its annual Young Artists Competition.

In its 17th year, the event is Sunday, March 12 at Hermiston High School. The competition is open to young musicians in four categories: Elementary (through grade 5), Junior (grades 6-8), Senior (grades 9-12) and Young Adult (ages 19-25). Instrumentalists and singers will perform for adjudication and the opportunity to receive cash prizes. Some competitors will be chose to perform in concert with the Inland Northwest Orchestra in April.

The deadline for entries is Saturday, March 4. Information and application materials are available at www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com. For questions, contact Alice Massey at amassey@wtechlink.us or 541-379-5564.

VA town halls planned for Morrow County

A pair of Veterans Administration HealthCare Town Hall meetings are planned in Morrow County. Brian Westfield, the Walla Walla VA's medical director, will provide facility updates along with information on the Veterans Choice Program. Linda Skendzel, Morrow County's veteran service officer, also will be in attendance for those who may need assistance.

The gatherings are Tuesday, March 7 from 10-11 a.m. at the Irrigon branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, 500 N.W. Main St.; and from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Port of Morrow, 2 Marine Drive, Boardman. Veterans may also share their thoughts and concerns during the meetings.

For more information, contact Skendzel at 541-922-6420 or mcvets@co.morrow.or.us.

Ione begins planning for July 4 celebration

IONE — Organizers are starting to prepare for the Ione Fourth of July Celebration.

A meeting is set for Wednesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at Route 74 Restaurant, 350 Highway 74, Ione. Organizers are looking for new ideas and activities.

Those who aren't able to attend are asked to contact Heidi Nelson at heidi@hen-online.com or 541-256-0411.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

Wednesday Morning

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

AFTERNOON

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

EVENING

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes A&E, AMC, ANPL, CMT, CNBC, CNN, DISC, DISN, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, FOOD, FREE, FX, GOLDF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, LIFE, NICK, ROOT, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, UNI, USA, WE, WGN, STZ ENC, HBO, HBO2, HBO3, MAX, SHOW, STARZ.

NIGHT OWL

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes FOX, KPTV, CBS, KOIN, KNDU, KGW, KVEU, KATU, KTNW, OPB.