

BRIEFLY

Oregon East Symphony
cancels weekend concerts

UMATILLA COUNTY — The Oregon East Symphony is canceling both of its performances of “Winters Moons” planned for Saturday, March 14 in Pendleton, and Sunday, March 15 in Hermiston. The cancellation is due to Gov. Kate Brown’s four-week ban on public gatherings of 250 people or more.

OES executive director J.D. Kindle said ticket holders will be notified of the rescheduled concert dates. For more information, contact Kindle at 541-276-0320 or info@oregoneastsymphony.org.

Parks director to be guest speaker at garden club

PENDLETON — Liam Hughes, director of Pendleton Parks & Recreation, is the guest speaker for the upcoming Dirt Dabblers Garden Club meeting.

The gathering is Monday, March 16 at 1 p.m. in the Vert Club Room, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Pendleton. Guests are welcome. For more information about the club, contact Sue Stefancik at slafleur53@aol.com or 541-443-2334.

Chronic absenteeism impacts students

PENDLETON — Oregon Department of Education’s Every Day Matters Team is seeking input on what keeps kids from attending school and how Oregon law should support students.

The public is invited to attend a listening session and provide feedback Tuesday, March 17 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Pendleton City Hall, 501 S.W. Emigrant Ave. Those unable to attend may submit feedback at http://bit.ly/HB2191Feedback.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME, 10 a.m., Weston Public Library, 108 E. Main St., Weston. For babies, toddlers and preschoolers and their parents/ caregivers. xFree.

TODDLER STORY TIME, 10:15-11 a.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave. (541-966-0380)

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St. For babies and children to age 6. Free.

FREE FRIDAY LUNCH, 12 p.m., Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza St. Everyone welcome.

***CANCELED WEE BIT O’ IRELAND**, 12-8 p.m., Main Street, Heppner. Annual St Patrick’s Day event weekend includes a full day of Irish events, green parade, sheep dog trials, fun, food and entertainment for the whole family. (Sheryll Bates 541-676-5536)

STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza. (541-376-8411)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45 W. Cherry St. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. (541-567-6219)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

***CANCELED WEE BIT O’ IRELAND**, 7 a.m.-11:59 p.m., Main Street, Heppner. Annual St Patrick’s Day event weekend includes a full day of Irish events, green parade, sheep dog trials, fun, food and entertainment for the whole family. (Sheryll Bates 541-676-5536)

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.(541-567-2882)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

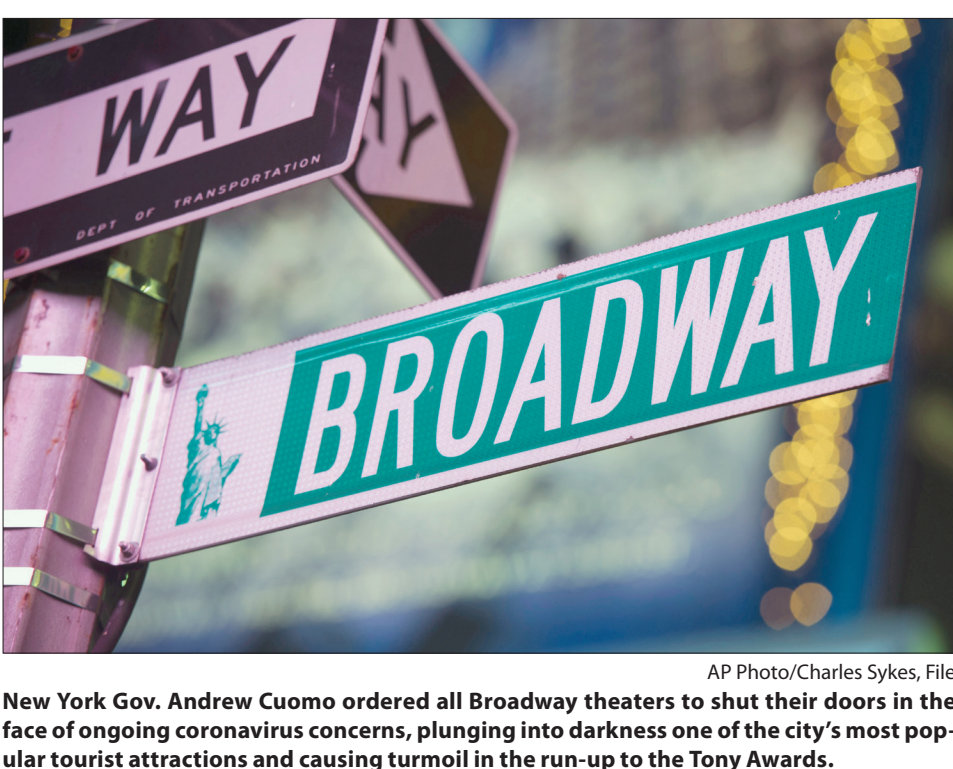
SATURDAY CRAFTS, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. Drop-in craft activities for kids of all ages. Free. (Janet Torres 541-567-2882)

MARCH LUNCHEON AND BINGO PARTY, 11:30 a.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under at the door, at the parish hall in advance or by phone. Proceeds benefit the Marilyn Harris Memorial Scholarship fund. (Kristi Smalley 541-571-0997). *People with health conditions may contact Smalley for a refund or make a donation.*

COUNTRY HOEDOWN, 1-4 p.m., Milton-Free-water Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St. Live music, dancing and singing. Admission \$2, refreshments available for purchase. (541-938-3311)

SPRING FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER, 2 p.m., Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395. Fashion show, silent auction, raffles and door prizes. Tickets are \$10, available at the city of Hermiston website. (541-667-5018) *See the Hermiston Parks & Recreation Facebook page on Friday for any updates.*

***CANCELED “WINTER MOONS”**, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Blue Mountain Community College Bob Clapp Theater, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton. *OES executive director J.D. Kindle said ticket holders will be notified of the rescheduled concert dates. (541-276-0320 or info@oregoneastsymphony.org).*



AP Photo/Charles Sykes, File
New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered all Broadway theaters to shut their doors in the face of ongoing coronavirus concerns, plunging into darkness one of the city’s most popular tourist attractions and causing turmoil in the run-up to the Tony Awards.

Broadway shuts its doors over ongoing coronavirus concerns

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York’s governor ordered all Broadway theaters to shut their doors in the face of ongoing coronavirus concerns, plunging into darkness one of the city’s most popular tourist attractions and causing turmoil in the run-up to the Tony Awards.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Thursday banned gatherings of 500 or more in the city, effectively forcing the hand of Broadway producers who had previously said that Broadway would be “open for business” unless advised not to by the government.

Shows will resume the week of April 13, only 10 days before the official cut-off for eligibility for the Tony Awards. Cuomo said venues of under 500 can only be filled to half their capacity.

On Broadway, would-be theater attendees were turned away, some shaking their heads in disbelief. “I had been hoping to catch one but it’s all canceled,” said Quinn Heath, 24, who was visiting from Boston.

Closing all Broadway theaters for a month is unprecedented, said Laurence Maslon, an arts professor at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. “Nothing comes close to this amount of time ever.”

The move comes a day after Broadway’s two largest theater chains revealed that a part-time usher and security guard who worked at two theaters in recent days tested positive for COVID-19 and was under quarantine.

Actors’ Equity Association, which represents more than 51,000 actors and stage managers nationwide, called the governor’s decision “important” and urged lawmakers to come to the

Con, Coachella and Major League Soccer.

Actors took to Twitter to share their sadness. “My heart is with all my friends and colleagues,” wrote Tony Award-nominee Judy Kuhn. “This is really bad for everyone who depends on the theater for their livelihoods.” Kerry Butler, a Tony-nominated star of “Beetlejuice,” said the shuttering “is the right move to keep everyone safe.”

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

Other theaters far from Broadway have closed their doors, including the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in California, which canceled or postponed all productions and programs through March 31. The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle closed its doors, citing the state’s mandated cancellation of public gatherings. The 1,600 seat Curran Theater in San Francisco decided to scrap performances of “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.”

“TODAY’S DECISION MEANS TREMENDOUS UNCERTAINTY FOR THOUSANDS WHO WORK IN THE ARTS.”
– Actors’ Equity Association

aid of workers in the arts.

“Today’s decision means tremendous uncertainty for thousands who work in the arts, including the prospect of lost income, health insurance and retirement savings,” the group said in a statement. “For every middle-class actor you see onstage, there are dozens of other workers behind the scenes and in an administrative capacity.”

The pressure on Broadway to go dark steadily increased as other entertainment hubs shuttered, including Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, the NBA, NHL, Cinema-

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