



Violinist Viet Block and cellist Zach Banks drove to a beautiful spot near Tollgate to record a piece for the Spring Chamber Music Virtual Concert.

Symphony offers virtual concert

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Bill Mayclin and Murray Dunlap often warm up audiences before Oregon East Symphony concerts. The tuxedo-clad pair steps onto the brightly lit Vert Auditorium stage and gives humorous preludes to performances.

For Saturday’s concert, however, Mayclin and Dunlap (known by OES regulars as Bill Murray) did their intro from Mayclin’s living room. Because of COVID-19, this would be a virtual concert. Wearing their signature tuxedos, they settled into chairs by Mayclin’s fireplace to record. The pair will be the first faces people see when the virtual concert goes live on the Oregon East Symphony website at 6:30 p.m. on April 18.

The Spring Chamber Music Virtual Concert was the brainchild of OES Executive Director J.D. Kindle, who approached the symphony board with the idea during its March meeting. The board approved. The last concert of the season would unspool online, a collection of pieces recorded especially

for the concert.

Performances include OES violinist Viet Block and cellist Zach Banks who filmed themselves performing “Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7,” by Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly. The two musicians (and partners in life) recorded themselves outdoors on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Tutuilla Flats and also near Tollgate. Banks said they had cabin fever and saw this as an opportunity to get themselves outside and also to provide scenery for the audience to look at while listening. For one of the recording sessions, Banks and Block took off in the car with no particular destination in mind.

“We headed north on Highway 11, took a hard right at Weston, and then took an old logging road,” Banks said. “We found a place not on private property overlooking the foothills of the Blues.”

They set up a tripod and filmed using Banks’ cellphone. The wind interrupted them a couple of times, but eventually, mission accomplished.

OES conductor and artistic director Beau Benson filmed himself at home play-

ing classical guitar. Benson, in the middle of self-quarantining at his Texas home after a trip to Pendleton, performed a selection of classical guitar pieces from 16th and 19th century Spain.

OES violist Aurora Torres contributed “Two Rhapsodies for Oboe, Viola, and Piano” with Ryan Klein on oboe and Chad Spears on piano.

Mezzo-soprano Alexis McCarthy performed “Mon cœur s’ouvre à ta voix,” an aria from Camille Saint-Saen’s opera “Samson and Delilah,” accompanied by Rachel Pariseau on piano.

Pendleton-born Hollywood composer Chris Thomas provided what Kindle called “a film scoring performance.”

In lieu of the after-concert wine and hors d’oeuvres, the board compiled recipes for dishes that can be made, and then enjoyed during the performance, along with wine and beer pairing suggestions from Great Pacific Wine & Coffee and Prodigal Son Brewery.

“We live in unprecedented times,” Kindle said, “so we put together an unprecedented concert.”

Greater Hermiston Community Foundation awards first grants

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Greater Hermiston Community Foundation awarded its first grants this week, totaling \$10,000.

The charitable foundation was established in 2018, gathering donations from people and businesses to be used on projects for the betterment of western Umatilla County communities. The founders planned to begin giving out grants from interest on the fund once it reached \$200,000, which it did in mid-2019.

After taking applications in January, the foundation is awarding grants to six local nonprofits and cities.

“Today is a special day for the Foundation and all the donors who have contributed to the endowment fund,” Greg Harris, president of the Greater Hermiston Community Foundation, said in a statement. “With their help, in just over two years, we are now able to assist many great projects in the greater Hermiston community.”

The grants were:

- Domestic Violence Services received \$3,500

toward sheltering victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

- City of Echo received \$2,500 for a structure and reader board to increase awareness of community activities and services.
- Eastern Oregon Mission received \$1,500 in support of Martha’s House, a Hermiston shelter for families experiencing temporary homelessness.
- The committee to rebuild Funland Playground received \$1,000

toward rebuilding the Hermiston playground that burned down in 2019.

- City of Stanfield received \$1,000 to install an 18-hole disc golf course around the city.
- TruCare Pregnancy Resources, which works to create a “culture of life” by supporting expectant mothers in Hermiston, received \$1,000.

Donations to the foundation are tax-deductible. For more information, including donation options, visit www.GreaterHermiston.com.



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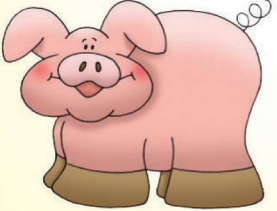
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BOX INCLUDES:

- 4 Pork Chops
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E.O.M.S.

EASTERN OREGON
MOBILE SLAUGHTER



Thank a trucker



A truck passes by a #ThankATrucker sign at the Arrowhead Travel Plaza in Mission on Friday afternoon. In a press release about the banners, Arrowhead Travel Plaza said the banners were to show appreciation for truck drivers and encourage the public to thank truckers for their continued work amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

BRIEFLY

Umatilla County up to 24 COVID-19 cases

UMATILLA COUNTY — Umatilla County Public Health announced two new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Friday, bringing the county total to 24.

One of the individuals was identified as a contact of another confirmed case, while the other had no connection to a previous case. Both individuals are self-isolating at home, and Umatilla County Public Health is identifying and reaching out to their close contacts.

As in previous announcements, no demographic information was provided about either individual, such as sex, age range or where in the county they reside. The county released a “locations trends map” on Tuesday, but it is only updated weekly and doesn’t reflect cases confirmed since then.

According to the release, three individuals diagnosed with the virus are now recovered. Currently, 12 of the county’s cases are considered active and the other 12 are considered recovered. Only one person remains hospitalized, and no deaths have been reported.

As of Friday, 481 tests have been conducted on samples from county residents.

In Washington, a Friday press release from the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health announced a confirmed case from Umatilla County is linked to an outbreak at Tyson Fresh Meats. Umatilla County Public Health Direc-

tor Joe Fiumara later confirmed two local cases are currently connected to the outbreak.

Between Walla Walla County, the Benton-Franklin Health District and Umatilla County, 50 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been linked to the beef production plant.

Pendleton man arrested after alleged domestic dispute

PENDLETON — A Pendleton man was arrested early Thursday morning after police responded to a report of a domestic dispute.

The Pendleton Police Department arrested Joey Martin Helsley, 26, on six charges, including one felony count of strangulation and another of first-degree criminal mistreatment.

Helsley was also charged with two counts of probation violations and two counts of failure to

appear in court.

According to Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts, police received a report of a domestic dispute on Northwest Third Street around 1:13 a.m. Helsley had three outstanding warrants for his arrest and police brought him into custody at the scene for allegedly strangling a woman, and then assaulting her 16-year-old son when he intervened.

Strangulation is charged as a felony when it takes place in the presence of a minor, and Helsley’s criminal mistreatment charges stem from his alleged assault on the 16-year-old boy.

Helsley is currently lodged at the Umatilla County Jail in Pendleton on \$117,500 bail.

— EO Media Group



Helsley



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4th Street Speedwash

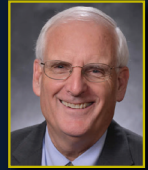
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AN ADVOCATE FOR AGRICULTURE



Senator Hansell’s family has farmed in Eastern Oregon for generations. He has a strong understanding of the issues facing Oregon’s farmers and ranchers

In the Legislature, Hansell has secured funding for vital irrigation projects throughout the district and secured funding for the FARM II Project at Blue Mountain Community College.



Additionally, Hansell was able to pass Wildfire Legislation unanimously to give farmers and ranchers civil immunity when fighting wildfires. He also stood up to proposed tax hikes, including an ill-conceived carbon tax. Hansell will not be afraid to stand up for one of Oregon’s longest and most significant industries.



“Senator Hansell has been a strong advocate for Oregon’s agricultural community in the Legislature. His leadership in Salem has been outstanding and I am pleased he is running for another term.”
-Bryan Wolfe,
Hermiston area rancher

**REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR BALLOT
BY 8PM ON MAY 19TH!**

Paid for by Friends of Bill Hansell