

Tunesmith Night to showcase original music in livestream

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA COUNTY — Now in its 15th season, the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance will present the Saturday, April 10, episode of Tunesmith Night, a livestream showcase of original music that will begin at 7 p.m.

Three songwriters sharing their original work in an intimate round-robin format takes on another dimension in the virtual format by allowing each performer to be safely situated in their own location. The show will be streamed live to YouTube and the Music Alliance website and on other social media. Viewers will be encouraged to show their support for the program via online donations.

Tunesmith Night will feature songwriters Belinda Bowler, Bill Davie and Larry Murante.

Bowler grew up singing. Some of her earliest memories are of the songs her dad sang on family vacations. When she was in the third grade, her sister taught

her three chords on a guitar their dad had brought home from a thrift store. Fifty years and a few guitars later, she is still telling stories with her songs. Her latest music project is called The Keeper, a collection of 15 songs for children that adults can enjoy as well. Many of the songs come from her years as an educator. She used music in her classroom to create interest, support learning and encourage creativity with her students.

Davie has been playing and singing since he was 3 years old. He began writing songs at age 11. He has produced seven recordings of his original songs, five self-published books of poetry, and continues to be an active writer and performer at clubs, coffeehouses, colleges, concert halls and festivals, mostly in the Pacific Northwest.

Murante is well known



Bowler



Davie



Murante

for his soaring, mellifluous tenor, strong rhythmic guitar style and engaging stage presence. His award-winning original songs feature beautifully woven stories about everyday folks. They combine compassionate, socially conscious lyrics with an upbeat, joyful folk-rock style. In the past 10 years, Murante has won more than 18 awards in U.S. and international competitions for songwriting and performance, including grand prize winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest. His fourth CD release, Patch of Sky, has garnered critical acclaim and radio airplay in both the U.S. and Europe.

For more information, contact Janis Carper, Alliance executive director, at www.wvmusicalliance.org or 541-426-3390.

Youth Arts Fest opens April 10

Joseph Center to host it daily

Chieftain staff

JOSEPH — The Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival opens Saturday, April 10, at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph, and runs through April 17.

The exhibit will be open from noon to 5 p.m., according to a press release.

“The Youth Arts Festival is a great way to celebrate Wallowa Valley students’ artwork, and we want to show off all the talents in the safest way possible,” said Cheryl Coughlan, executive director of the center. “Last year, we had to cancel the event due to COVID-19 closures, but with caution, I think we can make the event fun.”

“Kiddos are really excited to have the Youth Arts Festival back so they can show off their works and see what others are creating and what kid doesn’t love getting a ribbon,” said Pamela Beach, the center’s art instructor. “It’s a long time coming and I’m thrilled to see what kids have been creating.”

With COVID-19 restrictions, the gallery will be limited to 30 visitors. All visitors must wear masks while in the building. Art bags will be given out to visitors, and as is done every year, awards will be given to the artists and the artwork they present. Refreshments and snacks will be available to visitors.

The Youth Arts Festival has always been under the umbrella of the Wallowa Valley Arts Council. In the fall of 2019, the council



Jennifer Hawkins-Connolly/Contributed Photo

A young artist shows a sculpture she made during art class at Joseph Charter School. Artwork of area students will be on display at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture starting Saturday, April 10, 2021, during the Youth Arts Festival.

merged with the Joseph Center and this year’s festival will be the center’s first official festival under the combined auspices.

“We are so honored to take over this program, we want to make this a special annual event where the community can come together and celebrate the talented art students we have in this county,” said Megan Wolfe, program coordinator

at the center.

Youths in grades K-12 will show one piece of personal artwork in the exhibit. The event features a display of artwork, many awards ribbons, hands-on activities and musical performances by area youths.

The center is located at 403 N. Main St. in Joseph. For more information, contact Coughlan at 541-432-0505 or www.josephy.org.

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County FFA students do well at state

Joseph, Enterprise have 28 earn state degrees

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — FFA students from all over Oregon participated in the 88th Oregon FFA State Convention, held virtually March 18-21, from Oregon State University in Corvallis. This year’s convention had to be held remotely due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Chelcee Mansfield, FFA adviser at Joseph Charter School, said the chapter received a Superior Chapter Award, as well as a Gold National Chapter Award during the event. The chapter’s beginning parliamentary procedure team placed second, and Anabelle Russell placed fifth in advanced public speaking.

Joseph had five proficiency finalists who were state winners: Anabelle Russell in ag education, Jonah Staigle in agricultural mechanics fabrication, Josey Wearin in beef pro-

duction placement, Brianna Micka in equine production entrepreneurship and Ian Goodrich outdoor recreation. Maggie Zacharias placed second in equine production placement.

One of the highlights of the FFA year for Joseph was that Russell was able to get grants to purchase six tower gardens to help educate the school and community about vertical farming. She is currently growing salad greens, kale and basil with plans to grow cucumbers and tomatoes in this aeroponic system within the school’s greenhouse. She will be providing the school lunch with salad greens to be used in the Cobb salad. She taught lessons to the high school and eighth-graders and will also work with the elementary students. The food science class made gourmet salads with the greens and chicken basil pizzas.

Of the 240 Oregon FFA members who received their state degrees, 28 were from Wallowa County. The State Degree is the highest degree of FFA membership. The recipients include:

• Addie Royes, Alex

Albanez, Alona Yost, Andy Huwe, Bailey Vernam, Carin Yaw, Caylynn Beck, Destiny Weeks, Dylan Jennings, Flynn Nave, Gaven Winn, Gideon Gray, Grace Collins, Gracie Ellis, Hunter Harvey, Jada Gray, Kasey Duncan, Landon Green-shields, Lannie Stonebrink, Liz Rowley and Rilyn Kirkland of Enterprise.

• Anabelle Russell, Destany Moore, Hayden Hite, Ian Goodrich, Jonah Staigle, Maggie Zacharias and Trace Collier of Joseph.

Wallowa High School’s FFA chapter was largely unable to compete this year, said Jeremy McCulloch, the school’s FFA adviser. He said scheduling conflicts prevented participation in many of the qualification events in the virtual convention.

Wallowa had about a dozen students receive their State Degrees last year and McCulloch expects another large group next year.

“Hopefully they’ll be able to go to a normal convention next year,” he said. “We were kind of on the outside looking in ... but our program’s strong.”

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