

Community Band Northeast plays live May 31

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — Community Band Northeast musicians are tuning up for their first concert in two years.

The band will play Tuesday, May 31, 7:30 p.m. in McKenzie Theatre on the campus of Eastern Oregon University. Admission is free; contributions are welcome.

Russ Carpenter, who started as the band's conductor in March, said the group includes members from Baker and Union counties, as well as students.

"Our youngest member is in high school, and our oldest is in his 90s," Carpenter said.

He describes it as a symphonic band that includes flutes, clarinets, an oboe, bassoons, a bass clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, French horns, trum-



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer
Community Band Northeast will perform Tuesday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. in McKenzie Theatre at Eastern Oregon University.

pets, trombones, a baritone, a tuba and four percussionists.

The band's season coincides with the school year — rehearsals begin in September and end in the spring. Each season features three concerts.

The group started about 40 years ago.

"It's been a long-term operation," said Martin Birnbaum, who joined about 20 years ago.

Community Band Northeast is now a nonprofit organization, but it maintains a connection with EOU, which provides space for rehearsals and performances.

"We start the first Monday that the college is open," Birnbaum said.

Also, he said students earn a college credit for playing with the band.



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer
Community Band Northeast rehearses May 16, 2022. The band practices every Monday night at Groth Hall on the campus of Eastern Oregon University.

For the musicians who live outside Union County, a grant from the Wildhorse Foundation helps reimburse travel costs.

"That's really very generous," Birnbaum said.

MEMBERS WELCOME

The band is open to new members.

"We're always looking for players," Carpenter said.

Although it is preferred that members begin in September, he said musicians can join at any time. Membership is \$40 for adults, \$10 for students.

Anyone interested in joining can attend a rehearsal, which begins at 7 p.m. Mondays at Groth Recital Hall located inside EOU's Loso Hall. After the May 31 concert, rehearsals will start again in September.

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