

Melonville festival offers plenty of laughter

Annual comedy event is Jan. 25

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY EDITOR

A trio of comics will take the stage during Melonville Comedy Festival.

The annual comedy show features headliner Reno Collier, featured comedian Andrew Rivers and emcee/show opener Thomas Nichols. The 21-and-older event is Friday, Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) at Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center, 1705 E. Airport Road, Hermiston. Advance tickets are \$25 each at www.melonvillecomedy-festival.com, Midway Bar & Grill, 1750 N. First St.; Last Chance Tavern, 240 S.W. 11th St. Premium seats are available for \$35. The event will feature no-host food and bar from Midway.



LEFT: Reno Collier is the headliner for Melonville Comedy Festival. Tickets are now available for the Jan. 25 event at EOTEC. MIDDLE: Andrew Rivers is a featured comic for Melonville Comedy Festival. The Jan. 25 event is at EOTEC in Hermiston. RIGHT: Thomas Nichols is the emcee during the Jan. 25 Melonville Comedy Festival.



Contributed

education teacher, Collier will school audience members in laughter. Bolstered with a six-pack and a unique outlook on life, the funny-man first took the stage at an open mic at Punchline Com-

edy Club in Atlanta where he performed for extra cash. Launching his career as a comedian, Collier began selling out comedy clubs and college campuses. He hit the road with Larry the Cable

Guy in 2004. He's also performed with Jeff Foxworthy, Bill Engvall and Ron White. Rivers is a storytelling comic who earns high praise from fellow comedians. Based out of Seattle,

the comic was featured in the popular "Truth or Drink" web series from BuzzFeed and his DryBar Comedy Special has more than 10 million views. In addition, he's been featured on NBC,

FOX, and the Bob & Tom Radio Show and is a regular opening act for Christopher Titus.

Initially based in Dallas, Nichols now works out of Seattle. Topics include observations about everything from cartoons and broken families to missing pets. With a deadpan and hilarious delivery, Nichols has been featured at the New York Finger Lakes Festival and was a finalist at the Denver Make Me Laugh Festival.

Melonville Comedy Festival began in the early 1990s as a fundraiser for the Umatilla County Fair. When the fair board discontinued sponsoring the event, Warren Smith took on the commitment to bring national comedy acts to Hermiston.

For more information contact Smith at 541-561-7488, melonvillecomedyfestival@gmail.com or search Facebook for "Melonville Comedy Festival."

BRIEFS

IMAC serves monthly breakfast

A hearty home-cooked meal is available during the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center fundraising breakfast. The event is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. The cost is \$4.50 per person. The group is dedicated to preserving Irrigon's 1921 school building and developing a regional art venue. For more information, call Peggy Price at 541-567-3806.

Willow Creek Symphony announces rehearsal schedule

Rehearsals for the spring concerts of the Willow Creek Symphony recently started. The preparatory orchestra of the Inland Northwest Musicians, the ensemble features younger musicians or adults who may have recently picked up their instruments again. No auditions are required to participate. The group is rehearsing each Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. at Armand Larive Middle School, 1497 S.W. Ninth St., Hermiston. The Willow Creek Symphony will perform free concerts Thursday, March 14 at the Hermiston Community Center and Saturday, March 16 at Lone Community School. The performance times will be announced.

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians is committed to providing live musical performances to rural audiences. It fosters an atmosphere of encouragement and assists musicians in developing their talent. For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

Display features zodiac prints

The artwork of Denisia Leon is featured during the month of January at the Hermiston Public Library. While attending Oregon State University, the 2014 Hermiston High School graduate fell in love with printmaking. She created a "zodiac series" by carving out the signs on a piece of linoleum and then using a press to print them. Most of the small prints featured in the exhibit are a result of Leon's senior show. "My goal is to make art that I love and will always be proud of," she said. The library is open Monday through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday/Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's located at 235 E. Gladys Ave. For more information, call 541-567-2882 or visit www.hermistonlibrary.us.

Youth art show accepts entries

All area artists ages 18 and under are invited to enter the 2019 ArtWORKz Junior Art Show & Competition at Tamástlikt Cultural Institute. In addition to showing their work in a real gallery setting, participants will vie for prize awards, which will be presented during a public reception. Also, artists may present their works for sale during the show, with a 30 percent commission going to Tamástlikt. The show includes all art mediums. There is no entry fee. Submissions are due by Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Tamástlikt, located near Wildhorse Resort & Casino. The show runs Feb. 9 through March 30. The artists' reception is Saturday, March 9 at 1 p.m. For more information, including entry forms, visit www.tamastlikt.org. For questions, contact Randy Melton at 541-429-7700 or

randall.melton@tamastlikt.org.

Inland Musicians announce Young Artists Competition

The Inland Northwest Musicians is accepting applications for participants in its 19th annual Young Artists Competition. Instrumentalists and vocalists up to age 25 are invited to compete in four age divisions, including elementary, junior high/middle school, high school and young adult. Cash awards will be presented to division winners. Also, some participants will be invited to perform with the Inland Northwest Orchestra in April. The competition is Sunday, March 10 at Hermiston High School. The deadline to apply is Saturday, March 2. For more information or for an application, visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com. For questions, contact Alice Massey at amassey@wtechlink.us or 541-379-5564.

Online guide offers help to family, caregivers

A free online resource guide for family caregivers and seniors was recently launched by Prestige Care, which has senior care facilities throughout Oregon and Washington. People are encouraged to visit the site, which provides information about changes in daily living that come with age. The Senior Guide

to Healthy, Fulfilled Living covers six different topics that older adults and their loved ones experience. It offers relevant information, resources and advice from senior living experts. Topics addressed include reducing falls, avoiding loneliness, keeping your mind sharp, maintaining a healthy diet, staying safe behind the wheel and managing medications. To view the site, visit www.prestigecare.com/they-deserve-the-best. For questions, contact Hollie Fowler at 360-735-7155 or hfwolter@prestigecare.com.

Alzheimer's Foundation hosts contest

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America's annual Teens for Alzheimer's Awareness scholarship essay contest is offering high school seniors a chance to earn a \$5,000 scholarship. Interested teens should submit an essay (1,500 words maximum) about how Alzheimer's has affected their life and how they plan to make a difference in the fight against the disease. To submit an essay or find out more information, visit www.alzfdn.org. The contest is open to seniors planning to attend college within 12 months of the award date. The deadline to apply is Feb. 15. Although the contest is sponsored nationwide, last year's second place prize went to Eastern Oregon, to Pendleton High School senior Dani Moore.



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