

Inland Musicians spring into weekend concerts

Free performances feature string orchestra

By TAMMY MALGESINI
COMMUNITY WRITER

It's been more than a year since the Inland Northwest Musicians have presented a concert. And R. Lee Friese, music director/conductor, is looking forward to the opportunity to perform.

"What we do with presenting music is it enhances and enriches people's lives ... something we can all use right now," he said. "By the same token, we want to follow the guidelines."

The Inland Northwest String Orchestra, which includes 18 musicians, has been tuning up its instruments for a pair of concerts this weekend. The ensemble will present "Spring String Orchestra" on Saturday at the Stanfield Baptist Church, 310 E. Wheeler Ave., and on Sunday at the Pendleton Adventist Church, 1401 S.W. Goodwin Place. Both concerts begin at 4 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are gladly accepted.

Friese said one of the organization's ensembles was preparing for a May 2020 performance when Gov. Kate Brown's stay-home executive order was issued — forcing musicians to put away their instruments and rest their voices.

As the 2020 holiday season was approaching, the group's spirits were raised with the possibility of finally presenting a concert. However, their hopes were dashed when an increase in COVID-19 cases resulted in a "two-week freeze," which was immediately followed by restrictions on indoor gatherings continuing into the new year.

"We had four rehearsals and then the county was declared 'extreme risk' so we were shut down," Friese said. "So, here we are again."

During the weekend performances, Friese said the musicians will be wearing masks. In addition, audience members are asked to observe safety protocols, including wearing masks.

The sanctuaries at both venues, Friese said, allows for adequate spacing for social distancing with those living outside people's immediate households.

The program includes "Suite for Strings" by John Rutter, which features a collection of four folk songs: "A-roving," "I Have a Bonnet Trimmed with Blue," "O Waly Waly" and "Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron." Other pieces include "Brook Green Suite" by Gustav Holst, "Bases Loaded" by Car-



Lukes Photos/Contributed Photo, File

Under the direction of R. Lee Friese, the Inland Northwest Musicians String Orchestra will present a pair of concerts this weekend in Hermiston and Pendleton.

rie Lane Gruselle, "Blue-Fire Fiddler" by Soon Hee Newbold, "Shenandoah" arranged by Erik Morales, "Humoresque" by Antonin Dvorak, and "Folk Tune and Fiddle Dance" by Percy E. Fletcher.

"Our last live performance was in February 2020, so this is a very exciting and difficult re-entry into the live performance world amid a pandemic," said Karen Baxter, program manager.

Friese said while some of the organization's membership maintained contact throughout the past year, many typically only connect as a concert nears. The board of directors, he said, sent periodic emails to provide updates for the musicians.

The nonprofit organization also was busy with fundraising efforts. In addition to applying for grants, Friese said they were able to access some programs designed to help organizations impacted by the global pandemic.

Baxter said they focused on diversifying their fundraising efforts. They utilized the creativity of members and donations from others to serve as vendors at area bazaars, including one held outdoors this past winter when the mercury dipped down to 25 degrees.

Friese said the public can provide financial support in several ways, including "...attending a fundraising event or coming to a concert and sharing in the spirit of event and if they choose to make a donation, they can do that."

Founded in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians features several ensembles, including a full symphony orchestra, a chorale and a youth/preparatory orchestra. A classical music organization, they travel throughout the region to provide free music to rural audiences.

For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com or www.facebook.com/InlandNorthwestMusicians.

HERMISTON HISTORY

Superintendent Armand Larive to retire



Hermiston Herald, File

VFW member Helen McCracken, left, pins a poppy on Hermiston Mayor Frank Harkenrider with VFW and American Legion member Aileen Ware, right, to kick off the organization's annual poppy sale.

25 YEARS AGO

May 21, 1996

Anthony Cole picked up the M-16 and took aim at a target next to a tree. The weapon was almost equal in length to the elementary school student. Pulling the trigger back, Anthony blasted off five rounds of blanks in the blink of an eye.

"Whoa," said Anthony. Saturday was Armed Forces Day and the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot held an open house. People came out to look around some military vehicles, take a tour of the depot and learn more about its purpose.

An M-16 shooting range was set up. Under the watchful eye of depot security guard Rick Risinger, visitors shot off blanks out of the automatic weapon.

2) The countdown is on for the first day of construction of a community-built playground at the Hermiston Butte.

Despite being a little short on fundraising and volunteers, Funland Community Playground coordinators say they expect the project to be completed on schedule.

Construction is slated to be completed by June 9.

50 YEARS AGO

May 20, 1971

Superintendent Armand O. Larive of Hermiston School District 8R has decided to retire July 1, School Board Chairman Marvin Lemmon announced at the Monday night meeting of the board.

Larive, absent because of illness, sent word that if his health permits he will return to his duties before the retirement date. He will be retiring one year early at 64.

Lemmon expressed appreciation for Larive's service as superintendent, which began here in July 1948 after six years of service as superintendent of Wallowa schools. Dr. Wendell Ford, vice chairman of the board, said it will be a sad thing for the district to lose such a leader.

Larive, who suffered a heart attack five years ago, is reported not to have had another one. He became ill about three weeks ago but is now at home and is said to be improving.

75 YEARS AGO

May 23, 1946

Forty-two seniors will receive diplomas tonight at the commencement exercises at the high school auditorium, having completed their



Hermiston Herald, File

Hermiston High School students examine photos of a wreck involving a drunken driver during an educational program in 1996.



Hermiston Herald, File

Carolyn Bozeman checks her weapon before firing blanks at the shooting range at the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot at an open house in 1996.

high school education with sufficient credits. Miss Lucy Hollomon is valedictorian and Miss Betty Jean Hartsook has been named salutatorian. David Pierson has the highest grades of any boy in the class.

In this year's class, 27 graduates are girls and 15 are boys.

2) Eighteen students and two faculty members from the school of agriculture at Oregon State College were guests Saturday at the Umatilla branch experiment station to observe the agricultural practices there.

The Farm Crops club members and their advisors, Dr. D.D. Hill, head of the farm crops department, and Dr. R.E. Fore, professor of farm crops development, were on a four-day tour of the important agricultural areas of Eastern Oregon.

100 YEARS AGO

May 20, 1921

Last Saturday, Mr. T. Hall's house caught fire and flames covered the roof before the alarm was given. The house would have been completely burned but for the quick work of the

fire department. Within three minutes from the time the alarm was given, water was on the fire and the flames were quickly extinguished. The house was not insured. Mr. Hall has begun to rebuild his house and will soon have it completed.

2) The Commencement season is at hand and the Hermiston High School graduates a class of seven girls and two boys this year. These are the first boys to graduate from the school since 1918.

The commencement festivities began last Friday when the junior class gave the annual reception to the seniors, the details of which will be found in another column. Miss Dorothy Briggs entertained the members of the class at the faculty at a dinner party at the home of her parents Tuesday evening. On Friday, May 29, the class night exercises will take place in the school auditorium, when the class history will be reviewed, the prophecy given by "Old Man Warriner," the final will of the class read, and a chalk talk by the class artist along with songs and stunts will vary the program.

BY THE WAY

Sen. Merkley to hold town hall on Wednesday, May 19

Sen. Jeff Merkley will hold a remote town hall for Umatilla County residents on Wednesday, May 19.

Merkley will provide updates on his work in Washington, D.C., and take questions and suggestions from participants who can chime into the town hall via computer, mobile device or telephone, according to a press release.

The town hall will start at 4 p.m. Attendees can join a Zoom chat through computer, smartphone or tablet, the press release said.

They can also call in to the meeting by dialing 669-254-5252. The meeting ID for the call is 161 984 8513#, the participant ID is # and the passcode is 48529251#.

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Results for the Tuesday, May 18, election can be found online at www.hermistonherald.com, in next week's *Hermiston Herald* and in Thursday's *East Oregonian*.

The *Hermiston Herald* must print by 5 p.m. on Tuesdays to accommodate the schedule for all of the other newspapers printed by the same press, while election results in Oregon, including Umatilla and Morrow counties, are not posted until after the ballot drop-off deadline at 8 p.m.

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Morrow County Sheriff's Office is reminding drivers they will be conducting extra enforcement during the national "Click it or ticket" campaign from May 24 to June 6.

The sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies will be on the lookout for drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts, and writing tickets.

According to the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**, there were 9,466 people killed in traffic crashes who were not wearing their seatbelts in 2019, with about 60% of victims of traffic fatalities that took place at night not wearing a seatbelt.

"We want the act of buckling up to become automatic to all drivers and passengers," **Undersheriff John Bowles** said in a statement. "It's not just a safe thing to do — it's the law. ... We see the results of not wearing a seatbelt all the time. We see the loss of life. So often, it could be prevented."

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The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for Thursday, May 20, is baked fish, coleslaw, veggies and dessert. The menu for Tuesday, May 25, is Swiss steak, potato wedges, salad and dessert.

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery in Hermiston, call 541-567-3582 before 10 a.m. to place an order.

To pick up a meal from the center at 255 N.E. Second St., call the same number before 11 a.m. Meals are \$4 and can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

The **Boardman Senior Center** is now providing meal delivery. Meals are \$4 paid upon delivery. Call 541-481-3257 to order.