

Local news

Chamber president asks for local business support

By CASEY MCCARTHY
Sports Writer

MOSES LAKE — Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce President Debbie Doran-Martinez discussed how the chamber is working to keep the community informed and safe amid COVID-19 concerns, while asking the community to continue to support local businesses during the coming weeks.

“The focus is trying to keep everybody safe, keep them educated, but, most importantly, keep them calmed down,” Doran-Martinez said. “No hoarding, just wash your hands, and if you think about it, wash them again.”

Doran-Martinez emphasized the importance of people keeping their distance during the closures related to COVID-19, and she said they won't do any good if everyone is still out and socializing.

Safety is at the forefront of the chamber's focus, which includes sharing information through social media as the situation develops.

There are ways community members can assist local businesses while still practicing social distancing.

“If you go to dinner every Friday night, go get carry-out at that restaurant,” Doran-Martinez said. “We are encouraging, for product services that had to be

canceled, due to salon closures, things like that, reach out to your stylist, see if you can prepay for that service even though you're not getting it for two weeks, maybe.”

These small acts might help these local businesses make it through the next few weeks, Doran-Martinez said. She also shared advice regarding staff reductions if they become necessary.

“For businesses, layoff is the better option so those people can go get emergency unemployment,” Doran-Martinez said. “Reducing their hours just puts them more in a pickle.”

Doran-Martinez said the chamber is also asking landlords, that have the ability, to work with their tenants in the coming weeks regarding rent payments.

She said all utility companies have said they won't shut off anyone's power or gas.

“Nothing like that is going to happen,” Doran-Martinez said. “People can just take a deep breath, and we'll figure it out. But they don't need to add that to their stress level.”

Doran-Martinez said the chamber is encouraging everyone to think outside the box and work with others to navigate these uncertain times.

“Once we're over this hump, it's still not going to be an ideal situation,” Doran-Martinez said. “It's kind of like a slow start. Once that engine gets turned off, getting it turned back on, there's going to be some sputters.”



The Spokane Jazz Orchestra is now scheduled to perform in late May or July.

Courtesy photo

Columbia Basin Allied Arts reschedules performances

Spokane Jazz Orchestra still coming to town

By CHERYL SCHWEIZER
Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — The last concert of the 2019-20 season for Columbia Basin Allied Arts and the first concert of the 2020-21 season are being rescheduled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Allied Arts Director Shawn Cardwell said the children's drama camp originally set for the week of March 30 also is being rescheduled.

The opening concert for 2020-21 will be the Seattle Rock Orchestra. They're scheduled to perform in October, and still will, but on a new date, Cardwell said. The SRO is a symphony orchestra that combines the classical and rock repertoires in its performances.

The final 2019-20 concert will be the Spokane Jazz Orchestra. Originally scheduled for March, the concert will be moved to late May or July, depending on

the availability of the soloists, Cardwell said. The concert will feature the works of George Gershwin, legendary contributor to the Great American Songbook. Gershwin and his brother Ira wrote many of the classic popular songs of the mid-20th Century, from “Someone to Watch Over Me” to “Summertime.” Jody Graves is the guest soloist.

“I do believe it will be cultural events, sports events, that will start pulling people out of their homes again,” Cardwell said.

The date for the drama camp, “The Hit or Miss Adventures of Watson and Holmes,” hasn't been announced, but Cardwell said CBAA is considering mid-to late June. The week-long camp is produced by local actor and playwright Jeff Ames, who has had original works produced by Masquers Theater.

Schools across the state closed this week by state order, along with many businesses and entertainment venues.

The CBAA production of

“Hamlet,” by the Seattle Shakespeare Company, came off as scheduled on March 6. The company received a grant that allowed it to provide free tickets to high school students, and about 50 high schoolers took advantage of them, Cardwell said.

Allied Arts also sponsored the visit of Bright Star Theater, which pushed its performance dates forward and toured the Columbia Basin the week of March 9. Bright Star Theater's “Upcycled Cinderella” used everyday materials like a mop to tell the classic fairy tale. The theater group performed in Ephrata, Moses Lake, Warden and Odessa.

Columbia Basin Allied Arts is also conducting its annual membership drive in March.

“We have such a cool season coming up next year,” Cardwell said. The annual CBAA fundraising drive also is underway in March.

Cheryl Schweizer can be reached via email at education@columbia-basinherald.com.

Easter

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