

From Daily News

Community Band now covers the Palouse

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The Community Band of the Palouse, known until recently as the Pullman Community Band, will bring its blend of marches, light classics, pop and medleys to the Moscow Farmers Market at 9:30 a.m. Saturday

“The Community Band of the Palouse is an ensemble of instrumentalists, brass instruments, woodwind, and percussion instruments,” conductor Denise Snider said. “It’s made up of members from all different walks of life.”

Dave Seamans, who Snider said has been playing an instrument on and off again for the past 70 years, has been a member of the band since it was created in 1974 and plays the French horn.

“I like the people who play in the band. It’s a lot of fun,” Seamans said.

The band is open to anyone high school aged and older. Although some degree of proficiency is required, Snider said, there have been adult beginners who have joined the band. Everyone is welcome to come give the band a try.

“The main thing I want is for people who think it might be too late for them to play their instrument again to find out it isn’t true,” Snider said. “That’s really important.”

Snider, wrapping up her first year conducting the band, said she had taken a 16-year break from playing her trombone to raise her children. When she discovered she could still play it, it lead her to graduate school.

“(Playing) is even more enjoyable and even more valuable now,” Snider said, adding that “the Community Band is an important social aspect too. It’s a great place to make friends, and I think that is part of the experience that needs to be recognized.”

Longtime saxophone player and retired music teacher Tim Price understands the social aspect first hand.

“After I retired, I realized why I got in the business in the first place,” Price said of joining his first community band in Bellevue before moving to Pullman. “The challenge of the music, and the nice people are what I enjoy the most.”

Becky Behre has had five children play in the band at one point or another, praising the band as an activity both she and her children can be involved in.

“A community band has to be a source of entertainment for its local audiences,” Snider said. “It’s a place where we want to do new things, but we also want to recognize the fact that people want to hear familiar melodies.”

The band also will play the Fourth of July at Sunnyside Park and July 11 at Reaney Park, both in Pullman. And the band will continue its tradition of performing in the Lentil Parade during the Lentil Festival in Pullman in late August.