Idaho tribe: 'Mrs. Swing' was Indian

By JOHN MILLER **Associated Press**

BOISE, Idaho — Mildred Rinker Bailey was known to fans as "Mrs. Swing," whose slight, throaty voice won acclaim as one of the great white jazz singers of the '30s and '40s.

But the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe is now hoping to set the record straight: Bailey, who died impoverished in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1951, was an American Indian who spent her childhood on the reservation near DeSmet, Idaho.

This week, the tribe introduced a resolution honoring Bailey in the Idaho Legislature, in part to convince the Jazz at Lincoln Center Hall of Fame in New York City to add her to its inductees — on grounds she helped blaze a trail for better-known singers like Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday.

"Mildred was a pioneer," said Coeur d'Alene Tribal Chairman Chief I. Allan. "She paved the way for many other female singers to follow."

Though Bailey's Coeur d'Alene ties may not have been common knowledge among her fans, it clearly wasn't a secret.

"Part Indian, she was born Mildred Rinker on a farm near Spokane," reads her Associated Press obituary, dated Dec. 13, 1951.

Still, in jazz history books, Bailey has gone down largely as a white female jazz stylist.

The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz hails her as "the first white singer to absorb and master the jazz-flavored phrasing...of her black contemporaries."

''Hunger G<mark>ame</mark>s''

Jennifer Lawrence **Josh Hutcherson**

PG-13, rating not yet available

In a future where teens fight to the

washed up mentor to survive.

Gateway: Thurs. midnight

R, rating not available

Adepero Oduye

Kim Wayans

"Pariah'

death on live television. Katniss Ever-

deen must rely on her instincts and a

A teenage lesbian struggles with con-

flicting identities and risks friendship,

heartbreak and family in a desperate

A mismatched pair of cops go undercover

Gateway: Daily 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20

A man's life is bound to a magical tree

Gateway: Daily 1, 3, 5, 7 (9 Fri.-Sat.)

Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud develop

Gateway: Fri.-Wed. 3, 7:15 (9:15 Fri.-

A Civil War veteran is transplanted

to Mars in the midst of a civil war

Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 4:30, 7:05

Liberty in 3D: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

(9:15 Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 1, 3:45, 6:30

Mirage: Fri. 6:30, 9:30; Sat. 3:30,

6:30, 9:30; Sun. 4, 7; Mon.-Thurs. 7

(9:40 Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 1:55, 4:30, 7:05

the field of psychoanalysis through a

that sheds a leaf for every word he

at a high school to bust a drug ring.

Gateway VIP: Daily 4:30, 7 (9:20

"A Thousand Words"

"Dangerous Method"

beautiful but manic patient.

Mirage: Daily 6:30 (1 Sat.-Sun.)

search for sexual expression.

"21 Jump Street"

R ★★★ 1/2

Channing Tatum

(9:40 Fri.-Sat.)

Fri.-Sat.)

PG-13 ★

Eddie Murphy

Cliff Curtis

speaks

 $R \star \star \star$

Kiera Knightley

Sat.); Thurs. 3

"John Carter"

PG-13 ★★

Taylor Kitsch

Lynn Collins

(9:40 Sat.)

(9:15 Sat.)

between alien races.

Michael Fassbender

Jonah Hill



AP photos

Mildred Bailey in New York City.

Howard Koslow, the illustrator who created Bailey's likeness on a 29-cent U.S. Postal Service stamp based on an image by iconic jazz photographer William Gottlieb, said he had only that brief New Grove entry as a reference.

But his depiction of Bailey's dark complexion and black hair, for the stamp issued in a series honoring jazz and blues musicians, appears to capture her complex heritage.

"She has that look about her," Koslow recalled.

Bailey was born Feb. 16, 1900, in the Washington farming town of Tekoa, near the Idaho border. Her mother was a Coeur d'Alene tribal member, her father of Swiss-Irish stock.

At 13, she moved from the reservation to Spokane, where a neighbor destined to become world famous as "Bing" Crosby joined Bailey and

her brother, Al Rinker, at the family's piano. Al Rinker and Crosby formed the group "The Rhythm Boys."

By the mid-1920s, all three were singing in California; in 1929, Crosby recommended to famous orchestra leader Paul Whiteman he add Bailey as a regular.

"I was lucky in knowing the great jazz and blues singer Mildred Bailey so early in life," Crosby wrote in his 1953 autobiography. "I learned a lot from her."

So has Julia Keefe, a 22-year-old jazz singer from Spokane. Keefe, a member of Idaho's Nez Perce Indian Tribe, discovered Bailey as a student at Spokane's Gonzaga Prep, while researching Crosby's own time at the Catholic high school.

In 2009, Keefe performed a musical tribute featuring Bailey's songs, including "Old Rockin' Chair" and "He's Not Worth Your Tears," at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

A year later, Keefe was touring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Hall of Fame, pondering the greats on its 18-foot video wall when she asked herself, "Where's Mildred?"

Thus began her quiet effort to elevate Bailey's profile in the modern jazz world, a push the Idaho Legislature hopes to assist.

"It's sad to think she died penniless, or nearly penniless, after all the things that she accomplished," said Rep. Bob Nonini, a sponsor of resolution. "But it's never too late to recognize somebody."

An important question remains: How important were Bailey's Indian



Jazz singer Mildred Bailey performs at Carnegie Hall in New York in 1947.

roots to her art?

An undated quotation, attributed to her by the U.S. Postal Service in 1994, hints at an answer.

"I don't know whether this

(Indian) music compares with jazz or the classics, but I do know that it offers a young singer a remarkable training and background," Bailey reportedly said.

> Theater contacts: Gateway, Liberty cinemas:

Junction Cinema: 548-6684 Ruby Theatre: 682-5016



PG-13 ★★ 1/2 **Nicholas Cage**

A boy sets off in search of a Trufula tree and discovers the story of the Lorax, a When the devil tries to take human grumpy creature bent on protecting his world from over-consumption.

Gateway: Daily 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40 (8:40 Fri.-Sat.) Gateway in 3D: Daily 12:45, 4:55 (9

Gateway in 3D: Daily 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10

"Dr. Suess' The Lorax"

Zac Efron

Taylor Swift

Omak: Fri. 6:30, 9; Sat. 4, 6:30, 9; Sun. 4:30, 7; Mon.-Thurs. 7 **Junction:** Fri. 3, 6, 9; Sat. 12, 3, 6, 9; Sun. 12, 3, 6; Mon.-Thurs. 4, 7

"The Vow"

PG-13 ★★ 1/2 Rachel McAdams

Channing Tatum

A husband tries to win his wife's heart after she suffers severe memory loss in a car accident. **Gateway:** Daily 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:25

(9:35 Fri.-Sat.)

Ruby: Fri.-Mon. 7

"Project X"

Thomas Mann Oliver Cooper

Three high school seniors throw an epic party to improve their social status, but the situation spirals out of control. Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 5:30, 7:35 (9:40 Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 1:20, 3:25, 5:30,

7:35 (9:40 Sat.) Mirage: Daily 8:45 (4 Sat.-Sun.)

PG-13 ★ 1/2 **Amanda Seyfried Daniel Suniata**

When her sister disappears, a woman is convinced that a serial killer who kidnapped her two years ago has returned.

Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 5:15 (9:35 Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 3:15, 5:15 (9:35

"Act of Valor" $R \star \star 1/2$

Alex Veadov

Roselvn Sanchez

Inspired by true events, an elite team of Navy SEALs recovers a kidnapped CIA agent and discovers a terrorist plot against the U.S.

Gateway: Daily 2:30, 4:45, 7:05 (9:25 Fri.-Sat.)

Gateway VIP: Daily 6:40 Mirage: Fri. 6:30, 9:15; Sat.-Sun. 3:30, 6:30 (9:15 Sat.); Mon.-Thurs. **Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of**

Violante Placido

form in a young boy, it's up to cursed motorcycle rider Johnny Blaze to stop

Fri.-Sat.)

"Safe House"

 $R \star \star \star$ **Denzel Washington**

Ryan Reynolds

A rookie must look after a fugitive CIA renegade in a safe house, which is attacked.

Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 4:30, 7 (9:25 Fri); Sat.-Sun. 2, 4:30, 7 (9:25 Sat.)

"Wanderlust"

Jennifer Aniston

Paul Rudd

An unemployed couple from Manhattan tries living in a rural commune. **Gateway:** Daily 1:15, 5:15, (9:20 Fri.-Sat.)

"The Artist"

PG-13 ★★★★ Jean Dujardin Bérénice Bejo

A silent movie star faces new film technology and sparks with a young dancer on the rise to fame.

Gateway: Daily 12:30, 3:15, 7:15 Gateway VIP: Daily 4:35

"Chronicle"

PG-13 ★★★ Michael B. Jordan Dane DeHaan

Three teens acquire supernatural powers and begin to lose control. **Liberty:** Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 5:30, 7:30 (9:30 Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 (9:30 Sat.)

Daniel Radcliffe Janet McTeer

'The W<mark>oman in Black'</mark>'

A widowed young lawyer discovers the vengeful ghost of a scorned woman inside an old, creepy house. **Liberty:** Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 7:20 (9:25

Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 3:15, 7:20 (9:25 Sat.)

"The Grey' $R \star \star \star$

Liam Neeson Dermot Mulroney

A survival story about a group of oil rig workers whose plane crashes in the remote Alaskan wilderness. Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 7:15; Sat.-Sun. 12:55, 7:15

"This Means War" PG-13 ★★★

Reese Witherspoon **Chris Pine**

Two spies wage war against each other over a woman. Gateway: Daily 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 (9:30 Fri.-Sat.)

Gateway VIP: Fri.-Sat. 9

Journey 2: The Mysterious

PG ★★ **Dwayne Johnson**

Michael Caine

A sequel to "Journey to the Center of the Earth," a family embarks on an search for their grandfather. Gateway: Daily 1, 5

Gateway in 3D: Daily 2:45, 6:55 (9

"Iron Lady' PG-13 ★★★ 1/2 Mervl Streep

Jim Broadbent A portrait of Margaret Thatcher, the United Kingdom's only female prime minister.

Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 5:15; Sat.-Sun. 1:10, 5:15

Elizabeth Olsen

Adam Trese

A young woman trapped inside a

secluded lake house panics and tries

Liberty: Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 5, 7 (9 Fri.); Sat.-Sun. 1, 3, 5, 7 (9 Sat.)

Omak, Mirage theaters: 826-0860

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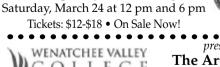
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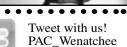




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