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CITY OF PALMDALE *NEWS RELEASE*

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Hall of Famers “The Whispers” Perform This Saturday

PALMDALE – The legendary R&B group “The Whispers,” members of the Vocal and R&B Halls of Fame, will take the stage at the Palmdale Amphitheater this Saturday, July 26.

Gates open at 6 pm and the concerts begin at 8 pm rain or shine. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Carry-in food, beverages, coolers, alcohol and pets are not permitted. Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Tickets are on sale at www.cityofpalmdale.org/TheAmp. General admission tickets are \$10 and may also be purchased the day of the show at the gate.

One of R&B music's most beloved and consistently popular vocal groups, The Whispers began their legendary and timeless career in 1963. Twin brothers Walter and Wallace Scott joined with friends Nicholas Caldwell, Marcus Hutson, and Gordy Harmon to form a local singing group. They perfected their tight harmonies on the street corners in the Watts section of Los Angeles and in nightclubs in the in the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area.

They began singing together as "The Eden Trio" created by Nicholas Caldwell and Marcus Hutson. Later, they were renamed "The Whispers" by Lou Bedell of Dore Records. The group recorded nine singles for the Dore label between 1964 and 1967. Their fame grew in the Bay Area while performing in a series of what was known as

"The Battle of the Bands" where they competed against other local acts for their fans appreciation and affection. In 1969 they released "The Time Will Come" for a small L.A. based label Soul Clock Records, and subsequently recorded their first Top 10 R&B hit, "Seems Like I Gotta Do Wrong," in 1970 when the group switched to Janus Records. By 1971 Gordy Harmon decided to leave the group and was replaced by Leaveil Degree who had previously sung with "The Friends of Distinction."

The Whispers produced a string of hits over the next two decades and emerged as the leading romantic singers of their generation, racking up one gold album after another and charting numerous R&B hits throughout the seventies and eighties. The Whispers were the first artists featured on the newly formed Soul Train label (co- owned by the TV show's creator and host Don Cornelius and entrepreneur Dick Griffey). They gained national attention with their seventies albums, "One For The Money," "Open Up Your Love," and "Headlights" producing two singles that graced Billboard's Top 20 R&B Charts: "(Let's Go) All the Way" and "(Olivia) Lost and Turned Out." Other notable hits include "Rock Steady," "And the Beat Goes On" and "It's a Love Thing."

Wrapping up the summer concert series will be **Banda Machos** on August 2.

Since their formation in 1990, **Banda Machos** (or "La Reina de las Bandas" as they're commonly known) have been blazing a trail in the Mexican Regional market. Their unique blend of Banda, Quebradita and Ranchera sounds have led to #1 singles, platinum albums and countless awards from their musical peers. Now 22 years into their career, this 13-piece ensemble is going strong and kicking off the most exciting phase of their career as the creators of Quebradita with their techno banda style. On the social networks, **Banda Machos** are a dominant force as well. Their smash single "No Hay

Problema” has earned nearly two million YouTube views and videos for “Sangre De Indio” and “Al Gato y El Raton” (their all-time biggest hit) are well into the millions.

The summer concerts are generously sponsored by American Medical Response, AV Furniture & Mattress, Antelope Valley Mall, BJ’s Restaurant & Brewhouse, Claim Jumper Restaurant, Double D Cupcakes, Hilton Garden Inn, Lancaster JetHawks, Lockheed Martin, Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable News, Valleywide Dental, and Ventura Graphix.

Previous performers at Palmdale Amphitheater include Blake Shelton, The Beach Boys, Air Supply, En Vogue, Lonestar, The Spinners, The Four Tops, Loverboy, The Temptations, The Guess Who, America, SheDaisy, The Rascals, Styx, REO Speedwagon, Chaka Khan, Mercy Me, War, Euge Groove, The Rippingtons, Jeff Golub, The Village People, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas, Pam Tillis, Bill Medley, Blind Boys of Alabama, Sugarland, Peter Noone and Herman’s Hermits, Tracy Lawrence, Josh Kelly, Blue Oyster Cult, Clay Walker, and Morris Day and the Time.

Following the concert series will be the popular “Family Movie Nights,” coming to The Amp on four consecutive Friday evenings beginning Aug. 1.

The movies are: **Despicable Me 2**, Friday, Aug. 1; **The Blind Side**, Friday, Aug. 8; **Harry Potter & The Sorcerer’s Stone**, Friday Aug. 15; and **Finding Nemo**, Friday, Aug. 22.

Despicable Me 2 features Gru, his adorable girls, and the mischievous Minions with a cast of unforgettable new characters in the blockbuster sequel to the worldwide phenomenon. Just as Gru has given up being super-bad to be a super-dad, the Anti-Villain League recruits him to track down a new criminal mastermind and save the

world. Partnered with secret agent Lucy Wilde, Gru, along with the wildly unpredictable Minions, must figure out how to keep his cover while also keeping up with his duties as a father. Assemble the Minions for laugh-out-loud comedy in one of the funniest, most enjoyable movies ever.

The Blind Side, starring Academy Award® Winner for Best Actress Sandra Bullock, is based on an extraordinary true story that features Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), who knows little about family, and even less about football. What the homeless teen does know are the streets and projects of Memphis. Well-to-do Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock) knows little about his world. Yet when she and Michael meet, he's found a home. And the Tuohys found something just as life-changing: a beloved new son and brother. This real-life story of family and of Michael's growth into a blue-chip football star will have you cheering with its mix of gridiron action and heartwarming emotion as it unveils the remarkable journey of a college All-American and first-round NFL draft pick who was a winner before he ever stepped onto the playing field.

In **Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone**, an enchanting, three-time Oscar nominated film adaptation of J.K. Rowling's delightful bestseller, Harry Potter learns on his 11th birthday that he is the orphaned first son of two powerful wizards and possesses magical powers of his own. At Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. He learns the high-flying sport Quidditch and plays a thrilling game with living chess pieces on his way to face a Dark Wizard bent on destroying him.

Finding Nemo features Nemo, an adventurous young clownfish, who is unexpectedly taken from his Great Barrier Reef home to a dentist's office aquarium. It's

up to his worrisome father Marlin and his friendly but forgetful regal blue tang fish Dory to bring Nemo home — meeting vegetarian sharks, surfer dude turtles, hypnotic jellyfish, hungry seagulls, and more along the way.

Tickets for Family Movie Nights are \$2, with kids 12 and under admitted free. The gates will open at 6:30 and movies will start at dusk. Moviegoers are allowed to bring a picnic dinner and non-alcoholic beverages to Family Movie Nights.

Family Movie Nights are sponsored by American Medical Response, Lockheed Martin, Time Warner Cable News, and Valleywide Dental.

For more information on the concert series and movies, please visit www.cityofpalmdale.org/amp or call 661/267-5611.

About Palmdale Amphitheater ('The Amp')

The Amp at Marie Kerr Park is the Antelope Valley's premier outdoor entertainment venue, providing audiences with a blend of high energy concert performances and community-based programming. Its convenient location, great sight lines and comfortable, grassy seating areas are complemented by Saturday evening concerts and Friday evening Family Movie Nights presented during summer months.

For many years, the City of Palmdale hosted the Starlight Concert Series on a baseball field at Marie Kerr Park, and guests would come as early as 3 am to set out their blankets and stake their spots to watch entertainers perform on a portable stage. There were often smaller events held prior to the concerts, like Family Western Days,

Taste of the Valley and the Fourth Saturday Cruise. Soon, however, the concerts were bursting at the seams with guests, and it became clear that a larger venue was needed.

In 2005, after Palmdale residents voted for a bond measure to provide funds for the construction, the Palmdale Amphitheater was opened at the newly expanded Marie Kerr Park site, ushering in a new era. The new amphitheater featured amenities that were not available at the old site, such as permanent restrooms, areas for food vendors, and even a “real” green room for the entertainers.

This year, The Amp will host several events in addition to the concerts and movies including:

GraceFest AV

Dating back to August 2007, GraceFest AV has become the Antelope Valley’s Premier Music and Message festival. GraceFest returns to the Palmdale Amphitheater in Sept. for two amazing nights of music and fellowship. Tickets and info will be available at www.gracefestav.com. For more info, please call 661/722-6112.

G-Com Benefit Concert

The second annual G-Com Concert benefitting will be held on Oct. 4 to benefit the Wounded Warrior. It is a family friendly event that will include food and great live music. Info: gcomservices@outlook.com.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K Walk

Saturday, Oct. 18. Registration begins at 7 am. Walk starts at 8 am. Hundreds of walkers are expected to gather for the national crusade to raise awareness and funds to fight against breast cancer. To learn more about the American Cancer Society or how to form a team for the event, call 1/800-227-2345 or contact Marissa Toth at AntelopeValleyCAStrides@cancer.org or 951/300-1208.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall for the AV

Point Man Antelope Valley and the City of Palmdale will present the Mobile Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall for the Antelope Valley (AV Wall) on display in Nov. around the Veterans Day holiday. The public will have 24 hour a day access to the AV Wall while it is on display, and a series of events surrounding the display. For more information, please call 661/524-6408 or visit www.avwall.org.

To learn more about The Amp, please visit www.cityofpalmdale.org/TheAmp, or call 661/267-5611.

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