

Folk Festival to kick off ticket sales

The early bird may get the worm — but only if they jump on it quickly.

Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) is opening ticket sales for the 2017 festival at 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 1. The festival dates are September 8-10, 2017.

There will be 500 tickets for a three-day weekend pass available at a discounted price of \$125. Patrons are limited to four discounted tickets per purchase. When the early-bird tickets are gone, there will be plenty of full-price tickets available at \$150. Organizers remind patrons that last year early bird tickets sold out in less than five minutes, but full-price passes didn't sell out until June. Once the discounted tickets are gone, full-price tickets will be immediately available.

"Early-bird ticket pricing

is one way we can help those who can't afford a full-price ticket to experience the festival. But you have to be ready — they sold out very quickly last year and we expect that will probably happen again," said SFF Managing Director Ann Richardson.

Tickets will be available for purchase online at www.sistersfolkfestival.org/tickets starting at 9 a.m. There will be no phone sales.

The 22nd annual festival will feature more than 40 acts, 11 stages and three days of world-class music. "All the town's a stage" is not just a tagline, it's a reality for three magical days.

The festival is organized by the nonprofit Sisters Folk Festival, Inc. SFF has also pioneered excellence in music education through the acclaimed Americana Song

Academy, and Song Academy for Youth.

Registration will open December 1 for the Americana Song Academy, September 5-8, 2017. The academy is held at Caldera, an arts camp located in the Cascade mountains just outside Sisters. Select festival artists arrive four days early for an intimate music and songwriting experience that has been described as transformative. Catie Curtis, touring professional singer-songwriter said of her experience, "The Americana Song Academy brought me back to life, artistically. It rekindled the fire I had been looking for for a long time."

For more information about the Sisters Folk Festival or Americana Song Academy, visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org or call 541-549-4979.

Report: Oregon job growth cooling off

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's job growth has cooled off, and with that, the growth in personal income taxes that the state collects has slowed.

The state says in its economic and revenue forecast, published on November 16, that Oregon's General Fund revenue outlook remains stable. Currently, those revenues are expected to land within

\$8 million of the estimate from the close of the last legislative session.

The report says that based on new employment data and withholdings out of Oregonian paychecks, the slowdown is already here. While Oregon's labor market growth is slowing somewhat, the state is at or near full employment.

Bend's sewage plant contractor sues city of Bend

BEND (AP) — A Washington-based construction company that was in charge of expanding the city's sewage treatment plant has filed a lawsuit against the city for unpaid work.

The Bulletin reports that Apollo Inc. filed the lawsuit in Deschutes County Circuit Court while the city was in a mediation session with the company.

The company's lawsuit alleges that design flaws led to delays and unexpected costs

for the sewage plant project. Apollo Inc. did not return a request for comment.

Apollo was awarded a \$32 million contract in 2013 to expand the facility. After problems, the city chose to remove Apollo from the project.

Last month, city attorney Mary Winters said the construction company didn't manage the project properly, which caused delays and a number of changes in the construction plan.

First Interstate to acquire BOTC

First Interstate, parent company of First Interstate Bank, will acquire Cascade Bancorp, parent company of Bank of the Cascades, in a cash and stock transaction valued at approximately \$589 million. The transaction creates a regional banking franchise that extends from the Mountain West to the Pacific Northwest and provides First Interstate with a presence in several high-growth markets, including Bend and Boise.

After completion of the acquisition, First Interstate will have approximately \$12.1 billion in total assets, \$10.1 billion in total deposits, \$7.6 billion in total loans and 131 banking offices.

"We are very excited to announce this transformational acquisition that leverages our significant investment in people, processes and technology. This opportunity is a good fit for us geographically, strategically, financially and culturally. Cascade's operating philosophy, commitment to community banking and corporate responsibility are similar to ours, allowing for a seamless integration of our two companies," said First Interstate President and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Riley. "We are pleased to welcome Cascade's employees, customers and shareholders and look forward to continuing the good work that Cascade has been doing. Both of our banks have very strong, relationship-centered cultures and this is an ideal extension of First Interstate into markets

we have been evaluating for several years."

"We believe First Interstate is an exceptional banking partner for Cascade," commented Terry Zink, president and chief executive officer of Cascade Bancorp. "Strategically they intend to grow Cascade's branch network, as well as our metropolitan commercial banking

centers across the Northwest. It follows that they highly value the many Cascade bankers who are on the front line with our customer relationships and are committed to ensuring our loyal customers will benefit from this combination."

First Interstate and Cascade expect to close the transaction in mid-2017.



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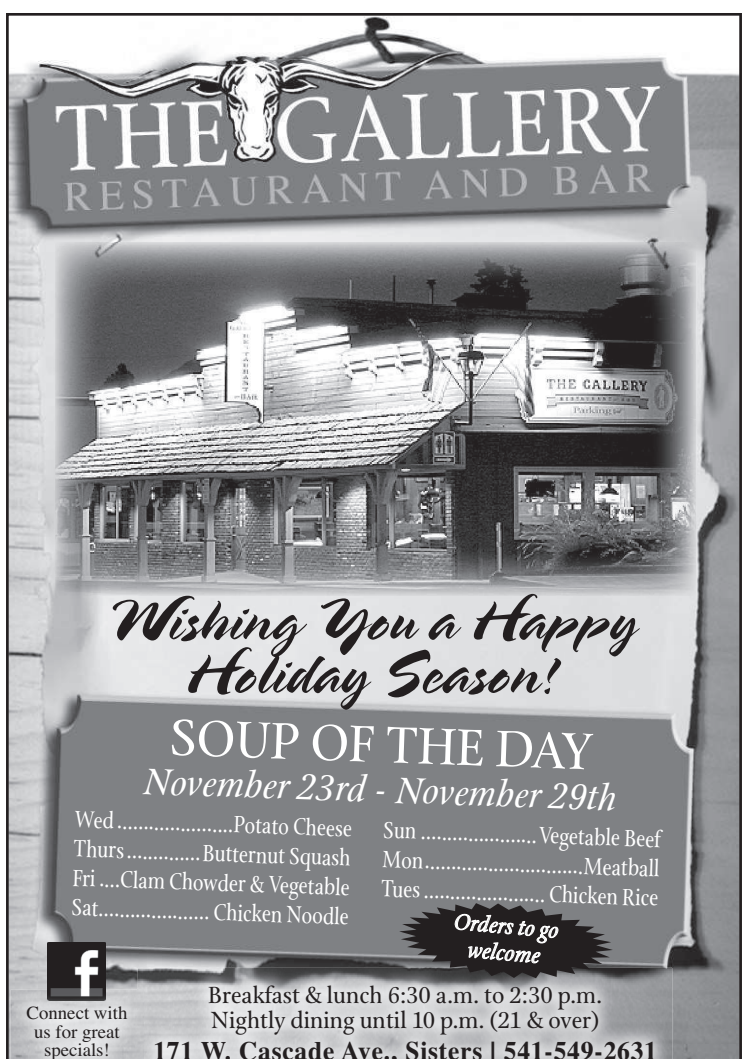
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