

FESTIVAL: Openings are available at songwriting camp

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of Keith Greeninger & Dayan Kai; the engaging and uplifting music of Ellis; the powerhouse guitar player, songwriter, and harmonica player David Jacobs-Strain & Bob Beach; Wisconsin songwriter and veteran teacher Johnsmith; the deep well of contemplative songwriting and singing of Jeffrey Martin; and the fine guitar-playing and percussive band Sway Wild, featuring Mandy Fer and Dave McGraw.

All these artists will also be teaching at the Americana Song Academy and sharing their music at the festival with patrons. The Folk Fest Family artists have all made significant impact on the development of the festival organization, teaching at the Song Academy, working with youth in the songwriting camp for high school kids, as guest artists in the schools, and investing deeply in the Sisters community—many for more than a decade.

“The Folk Fest Family is about honoring those artists who have made a deep contribution to our community, beyond just the festival and

kids, but who have helped us become who we are,” said Creative Director Brad Tisdell. “These artists care about the health and vitality of the organization and the well-being of all involved in the community. They connect, are at one with us, and we acknowledge their contribution. This year we are inviting these artists back to share with us their talent, heart and exquisite music they share throughout the world.”

Another new offering will be the Founder’s Choice festival artist, so named because the booking is a tip of the hat to Dick Sandvik and Jim Cornelius, who conceived of the original Sisters Folk Festival in 1995 and have helped shape it ever since. The Founders Choice artist this year is the Vandoliers, a rowdy Southern rock band that will bring the energy of their engaging original music to the festival.

There are some rare openings available at the Americana Song Academy, which is held at Caldera during the week prior to the festival. For more information about the academy, Sisters Folk Festival 2019 tickets, festival artists, performance schedules and information on becoming an SFF volunteer, visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org.

BEILER: Student is seeking skill enhancement

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realized she also enjoyed incorporating the firefighting aspect as well, hence she chose to be an EMT/paramedic. Now, she wants to further pursue her career as a full-time paramedic. She has always wanted to take medicine overseas and experience a new world in medicine.

“I want to take a year or two to grow my paramedic skills overseas in a different third-world environment,” she said.

She found out about Project Helping Hands, which takes crews of medical professionals to foreign countries to help those in need. The humanitarian group has established relationships with locals around various countries and comes in and does a variety of procedures and deliveries of medical supplies and medication. The cost of the medication for somewhere like Haiti is especially high.

“Once the cost of the trip is paid for by fundraising, the rest of the money goes towards paying for the supplies and medications to be delivered,” she said.

Hers is a 10-day trip, where they will be making these deliveries and visiting clinics and treating patients.

“There aren’t as many rules there, so they allow you to do a lot more if you have any medical training at all, so it is a chance for me to grow my skills,” she said. “Being a new paramedic, I want to grow my skills as much as I can, while also fulfilling my desire to travel to other countries.”

According to their website, “Project Helping Hands is a non-affiliated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing sustainable healthcare and education programs to



PHOTO BY CEILI CORNELIUS

Rachelle Beiler will hone her paramedic skills while helping those in need in Haiti.

“I want to take a year or two to grow my paramedic skills overseas in a different third-world environment.”
— Rachelle Beiler

people in developing countries, through culturally sensitive adventure.”

Beiler has to do all of her own fundraising to reach a goal of \$5,000 for the cost of the trip and supplies for the country. They bring teams of nurses, doctors and anyone in the medical field to

treat patients and go around the country visiting clinics to help improve the conditions for those in need in third world countries. Beiler has already received support from the Sisters community but will be fundraising through the summer, and her trip is in November.

“I thank the community for the support they’ve already given me, it means a lot,” she said. “I am excited to travel to a new place and have a new experience and potentially do this in the future for a longer amount of time,” she said.

See <http://bit.ly/RachelleHaiti> for more information on how to donate to Beiler’s fundraiser to get her to Haiti.

FOSL scholarship winning essay

By Nancy Montecinos
Correspondent

Traveling around the world was something I was never able to do when I was younger. The closest I was to traveling was to dystopian worlds in books I got from the library. The library was a place I would tread through the snow to after school to check out a sequel to a book I just finished. Sisters Library was, and remains, a sacred place for many of my firsts. From checking out my first book in English to my first book in Spanish. It was a place I felt comfortable being for hours until closing. A place I never got tired of walking to because there was always something new to read about. Whether it was about the students from Little Rock to the current news on the boy-band One Direction. Not only has the library been a big part of my life, but for the community as well.

Our local library has been a safe place for many community members. Especially those who don’t own computers or printers of their own. Here they can come

and without any charge use equipment provided by the library. The library has been a place for our community to become closer because often times we run into people we know. The events the library holds have been a big part of this as well. For example, the cocoa-making party and pumpkin-carving party as well for younger kids. The library has also allowed for inclusiveness, especially with their Spanish collection of books. I was able to learn English by checking out the same Hannah Montana book in each language. Libraries are amazing places to learn, but Sisters’ library is on another level with teaching and bringing our community closer.

Today, I volunteer at the library and have been doing that for a year now. Shelving books every weekend has been an awesome way to give back, but also to get away from technology and schoolwork to a more peaceful state. When families come in to get books and movies it brightens my day that it continues to bring joy to the lives of our community members.

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