

FOLK FESTIVAL: Event set for September 6-8 across Sisters

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for 10 years called La Bottine Souriante before joining Le Vent du Nord.

Le Vent du Nord in French translates to The North Wind: That is, the northern wind of Quebec that sweeps through in the winter months. The band was founded 17 years ago on a college campus after a fire alarm went off and a few guys saw each other holding their fiddles outside and decided to start playing together.

“The founding of the band was just a couple of guys starting out on this adventure of a five-piece band playing traditional music,” said Brunet.

Brunet loves that his role is to keep the rhythm going. He not only plays the fiddle, he stomps his feet and that forms the percussion section, keeping the energy up.

“We try and have as high of energy as possible in our shows adding this stomping for people to stomp along to while we play traditional music,” he said.

They sing traditional songs from Quebec, as well as from the west coast of France that they grew up listening to. They put their spin on it by adding in an Irish traditional sound, creating the upbeat drive.

“We really like to get everyone involved in our songs by having call-and-response songs. In Quebec, dance is very important in conjunction with the songs we are singing,” said Brunet.

The band travels 180 days or more out of the year in order to meet the demands of their worldwide tours.

“When we are able to get together and just able to do the songs that brought us together as musicians, we feel a true soul connection,” Brunet said.

The band loves to perform their traditional songs to their home Quebec audience, playing at least 25 shows a year in that province.

“It is really important to us that our audience and each of the band members understand what each other is doing, we just have a blast on stage,” he said.

Le Vent du Nord has collaborated with a number of bands and musicians over the years and has produced and created 10 albums since their creation in 2002.

Le Vent du Nord will be playing multiple sets at this year’s Sisters Folk Festival. More information, including ticket and schedule information can be found at sisters-folkfestival.org.

Time for back-to-school immunizations

With the start of the school year fast approaching, Central Oregon public health departments remind parents to make sure their children have all the immunizations they need to go to school.

“It’s really important to remember serious diseases such as measles and pertussis still exist and can cause severe illness in children,” said Jill Johnson, immunization program coordinator for Deschutes County Health Services. “High immunization coverage in schools is one of the best defenses we have against these diseases spreading in our community.”

Oregon law requires that children in school, preschool, or a childcare facility need proof that they are protected against measles, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A and B, and varicella. Parents should take note that one dose of Tdap vaccine is required for incoming 7th-graders. Tdap is a tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) booster. Whooping cough is a serious health concern in Oregon with cases in Deschutes County every year.

Parents must have documentation showing proof of immunizations, a medical exemption, or a non-medical exemption on file with their child’s school.

Only those who have a medical reason for not being vaccinated or have completed the education required for a non-medical exemption are exempt.

Parents seeking immunizations for their children should contact their health-care provider, county public health department, or a School-Based Health Center (SBHC) to make an appointment: Deschutes County: 541-322-7499; Sisters – Sisters SBHC 541-526-6623.

For more information about children’s immunizations, visit: www.deschutes.org/immunizations or call 541-322-7499.

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