



PHOTO BY ISAAC KANZIG

Flor de Toloache, an all-female mariachi band from New York, wow the crowd with stylings that took off from the Mexican tradition to incorporate everything from a touch of Motown to “reggaeachi.”

FOLK FESTIVAL: Event showed power of musical connections

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— and backgrounds, the shared experience at the Sisters Folk Festival seemed to draw everyone involved closer together.

Friday evening Pharis Romero, from northern British Columbia, expressed her appreciation for the experience she and her husband, Jason, were having while playing at The Open Door.

“I feel like I’ve died and gone to folk heaven,” she said.

“The sense of community is what causes artists to want to return and why we have so many ticket-holders and sponsors coming back year after year,” said SFF Creative Director Brad Tisdell.

Much of Tisdell’s work as creative director for SFF is focused at bringing the community together.

“I view the Sisters Folk Festival as a model of economic development, community engagement, schools partnership, and community-building through music that is unique and dynamic. I see how it helps folks to feel they are contributing and engaged in something bigger than themselves,” he said.

Martyn Joseph, who has played in Sisters a number of times, put it this way: “If Oregon is a cathedral, then Sisters is a chapel on the hill.” He added, “Coming to Sisters is like revisiting, remembering and rediscovering true America. The great thing about all this (the festival) is that it reminds us of the greater good and the bigger picture.”

After her final performance Sunday, Wood described how the SFF is different than most festivals in that the audiences come not just to listen, but to actively take part.

“The active engagement from the audience creates a circular, reciprocal communication between the audience and the artist, which forms that connectedness that makes the Sisters Folk Festival special,” she explained.

Susan Gibson reflected on the week before the final song Sunday morning and thanked those who had come “from far away and also those from right down the street” and urged everyone to remember what had been shared over the three days. She told the audience that “the artists come to see you, not the other way around” underlining the mutual interplay between performers and listeners.

Many artists touched on the notion that there has never been a more important time than now to foster community, not just in Sisters, but everywhere we go. Beth Wood pointed to this year’s poster by Dennis McGregor and alluded to the ripples that come off the canoe as being “like the ripples of the magic and connectedness that were experienced that can be taken out into the world as everyone goes back to their regular lives.”

Mandy Fer of Sway Wild said, “This week has been such a wonderful reminder about the power of music and human connection.”

Keith Greeninger, known for his thought-provoking lyrics and concern for others, closed things out for the morning with a song he actually wrote as a teenager that comes from the perspective of a homeless man. In an interview afterwards he said, “We can talk all we want about community, but let’s not leave anybody out.”

He added, “Sisters has such a magical community and it’s so strong. You all treat each other so well and treat your youth so well. I find that the whole way Sisters and the folk festival are doing things just radiates out into your community.”

NO NAME: Lake has seen a recent spike in visitors

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lake are made up of a glacial moraine composed of rock and gravel, which is not conducive to the digging of waste disposal “cat holes” or to the organic decomposition of the waste.

“Day hikers are not affected,” said Nelson-Dean, “but everyone needs to adhere to appropriate backcountry behavior.”

Inappropriate user behavior has been an increasing problem in local wilderness areas, as evidenced by sweeping new wilderness trail restrictions slated to be imposed on a wilderness-wide basis next year. The No Name Lake area is one of the many areas slated to require limited-entry fee permits starting next year.

The term “No Name

Lake” is actually something of a misnomer. Although the lake has no officially designated name, it actually has several names. Some have referred to it as Bend Glacier Lake; it sits beneath the snout of Bend Glacier on Broken Top. Others refer to it as Broken Top Lake, and it’s also been called Iceberg Tarn.

“Day hikers are not affected, but everyone needs to adhere to appropriate backcountry behavior.”
— Jean Nelson-Dean

The character of the lake is such that the glacial meltwater escapes through a deep gash in the relatively “fresh” moraine that Bend glacier pushed up in the not-too-distant geologic past.



PHOTO BY CRAIG EISENBEIS

This view of Broken Top from “No Name Lake” is one of the top scenic views in Oregon.



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