

Folk Festival on its twentieth anniversary is still going strong

Local flavor recalls earlier days of event

The Willamette Folk Festival is going back to its roots. Big name performers and the hype that came with them will be lessened on this 20th year of the event. The Folk Festival is hoping to retrieve the community spirit and local flavor it possessed in the early days, said Bill Goldsmith, one of the student coordinators of the festival.

"It started out as a celebration of local folk music," Goldsmith said. "We've decided to take a look backward this year, to make it a little bit less commercial than recent years."

Instead of recruiting national acts to be headliners each night, Goldsmith said no group or performer will be featured over others this year.

"The way I see it, the local performers are our headliners," he said. "One of the ways of enacting strength in the local folk music scene is by valuing your own."

"It's not so important that we get thousands and thousands of people at the Folk Festival," he added. "This year, the theme is a little more related to performance rather than spectacle."



Left: Good N' Country playing at the 3rd Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival. (l. to r.) Bill Gunnip, George Relles, John Averill, Paul Lamb and David Bersch.

Above: Wheatfield performs at the 2nd Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival held at the Music School Amphitheater. (l. to r.) Don Ross, Pete Wolfe and Will Hobbs.



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