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hammer out a script or figure out their questions if they are having a guest.

"The whole process might take 10 to 15 hours between the two of us for one hour of radio," Nevue said.

Throughout the hour, Nevue and McBride also try to provide information about the artists they feature or the region where they are from. In June, the pair trekked up to Beaverton to attend Gymanfa Ganu, a Welsh hymn-singing festival, at Bryn Seion Welsh Church, the last active Welsh church on the Pacific Coast, and recorded parts of their show on site.

Nevue said there are still moments when she and McBride wonder if anyone is listening when their show airs, but "we look at each other and say it doesn't matter because we get so much enjoyment out of it."

For Mick Hickman, who produces and hosts the show *Northwest Notes*, wondering who was going to be listening got the better of him before he sat down at the mic the first time.

"It was terrifying. The first day I was on there by myself, I was stooped over the garbage can in the alley before the show because I was so nervous," Hickman said. "I'm a musician and I was okay with the sound boards, but it was the terror of public speaking. It turned out okay, though, and now it's a breeze."

*Northwest Notes* features music by artists from the Pacific Northwest in as many genres as Hickman can cobble together in the two-hour program that airs Sundays at 4 p.m.

From the outset, Hickman wanted to be talking with regional musicians and it's one



Clockwise from top: Tara Hathaway in the studio. Beth Nevue (left) and co-host Ann McBride. Mick Hickman at the mic.

part that's gotten easier. "It was really a matter of going to shows and that was something I already did. It's easier now because some of them have even heard the show and are asking if they can come on," Hickman said.

Like Nevue, Hickman spends most of his time poring through his music collection for the songs he wants to play and then listening again to make sure that all the lyrics are Federal Communications Commission-friendly.

"I have a bit of a formula. I try to play every genre and I try to make sure I have something there from before the 1990s and then something brand new, something ultra local and somebody world famous," Hickman said.

Some of his recent favorites emerging from the Salem area are the band Yaquina Bay and singer/songwriters Kylie Burbank and Natalie Laswell.

"The Northwest music scene has a great feel and its always has. If you go back and listen to The Kingsmen and

The Sonics and Paul Revere and the Raiders it's always had its own unique sound here and I wanted to make sure everyone can see the connection. If The Kingsmen and Sonics hadn't happened, then Heart may not have happened and Blitzen Trapper may not have happened," Hickman said. "It's a progression and it's all there if you know how it evolved. I enjoy letting people know their neighbors are making great music and they always have."

The one thing Hathaway and Nevue and Hickman all agreed on was that KMUZ is a family, and the deejays draw as much upon each other as the listeners.

"Everyone there is there because they are passionate about what they are doing. We have a jazz and poetry show, a Russian rock show and everything in between," Hickman said.

Other Keizerites involved in KMUZ are Pete Tosi, who produces *Jazz and Stuff* airing Wednesdays at 5 p.m., and Stella Schaffer, who edits *The Forum*, which airs Fridays at noon.

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There are different age groups for the contest and Storms was watching one of the earlier contests with current mayor Cathy Clark when she casually mentioned there should be a KFD vs. KPD contest.

"She said we had enough pies," Storms said of Clark's reaction. "So I talked to Andrew. We had about 15 minutes of prep time. The prep was finding garbage bags. It was spur of the moment. For those of us in emergency services, that's the story of our lives. We're good at taking things on as they happen."

Storms didn't spend much time figuring out her strategy last year.

"My strategy was also spur of the moment," she said. "They said the person with the least amount of pie left would be the winner. So I decided if I flung it to Copeland's side, it would be his problem. What I did not anticipate is that he would fling a whole blackberry pie at my head. That stuff is super sticky. Every time I washed my hair for the next week, I found a blackberry seed."

Since hands can't be used, Storms quickly scooped out a big mouthful of her pie and heaved it onto Copeland's plate. Copeland retaliated by picking up his entire pie by his teeth. Storms had a split-second notice and tried dodging the flying fruity projectile. Her efforts were partially successful, but her blond hair still got some lovely dark red accents.

While two members each of the KFD and KPD were at the table, two representatives from Keizer CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) were next to the firefighters. When Storms ducked, a good portion of the pie ending up going down the back of CERT member Jerry Wade, who was focused on eating his pie and was thus unaware of the commotion brewing next to him.

"I really didn't notice. I was occupied," Wade said. "I just know someone, maybe Anne-Marie, flung a pretty good chunk of it my way. It rolled down my back throughout the course of the event."

Storms was initially declared the winner, but judges later decided the spirit of the rules had been broken and thus Wade took the crown.

Fast forward a year and only one of last year's protagonists has committed to trying to win this year.

"From what I hear Andrew is bailing out on this year's event due to the fear of being beaten by a girl...again," Storms said with a laugh. "Even with Andrew bailing on the community I will compete with no excuses, unless I don't like the pie options."

Copeland confirmed his absence.

"I am coaching a Hoopla team this year, so I do not think I am going to be able to make the RIVERfair," he said. "And of course, I am definitely scared of being beaten by Anne-Marie."

Storms will be on hand and is trying to arrange the match of all matches.

"I'm trying to get the fire

chief to participate," she said of her boss, Jeff Cowan. "Imagine the mayor, the fire chief and police chief (John Teague) all at once."

Copeland said Tuesday night he'd heard Cowan was down with the idea, but didn't expect his boss to necessarily go along.

That wouldn't be surprising, based on Teague's reaction at Monday's Keizer City Council meeting when asked if he would be in the pie-eating contest.

"I feel like getting into a car wreck that day," Teague joked.

Wade feels there should be some kind of crown to give to the winner each year. He also said he's trying to talk a CERT couple into representing the organization. For sure, CERT will be represented by someone.

"Maybe I'll step into the splash zone again, who knows," Wade quipped.

Storms can't wait to try again, though she realizes the target - and possibly up to five pies - will be on her back after last year's antics.

As long as the pies don't have sticky seeds, she's fine with that.

"We made a mess but we had a good time," Storms said.

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