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"I always look forward to performing with my talented bandmates and having some time with them at the beach," Morrison said. "My favorite part besides performing is meeting the other musicians and talking about the things they're doing."

"Music festivals seem to be an important unifying force in the world, bringing together so many people and providing a platform and a direction for community and fun," Bondy said. "When a city prioritizes something like this, it speaks loudly to its understanding of the basic human needs for fun and music and community."

Good music, good vibes

Beth Carter-Boyer, executive director and festival founder, began the nonprofit event as a way to honor her oldest son and to connect the community with art and music.

"He loved music," Carter-Boyer said of her son, who passed away in October 2015.

"I think art and music are healing. I'd like to see more of it. That's what I'm trying to do."

The goal of the festival is to bring bands that the community would not normally see and provide a balance of genres.

Carter-Boyer said music connects with people of all ages. The Manzanita Music Festival is a family friendly and multigenerational event.

During the day, there will be an area of activities for children in downtown Manzanita. Face painting, bubble wands, dance parties, coloring and making homemade maracas will be in the Kid's Zone. The evening shows are geared toward people who are teenagers and older.

The festival is intended to provide music therapy. It especially focuses on children to spark their creativity and senior citizens who may feel isolated.

Proceeds will benefit music education in North Tillamook County. So far, the festival has provided \$2,000 to aid the music program for the Neahkahnie School District.

With having a successful event last year and preparing for an even better one this year, Carter-Boyer believes the festival will become a tradition. "The music's good. The vibe is good. I think we'll be able to sustain," she said.

"We just need these kinds of things here, getting the community out and enjoying where we live," she said. "It's absolutely beautiful."

Playlist

Music begins 5 p.m. Friday, July 21, at Rex Champ Field in Nehalem with Scratchdog Stringband, Adams & Costello, Will West & the Friendly Strangers and Paul Chesne Band.

manzanita music festival



PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS

Leslie Mendelson, a singer-songwriter from New York, lists Carole King and Laura Nyro among her musical influences.


The next day, the music starts at 11 a.m. in downtown Manzanita with The Sedona Fire Band, Rhythm Method, Tony Smiley, Leslie Mendelson and Kate & the Crocodiles. It will continue at 5 p.m. at Rex Champ Ball Field with Crackpot Babies, Rainwalkers, The Early Stuff, Leslie Mendelson and Paul Chesne and Strange Tones.

The music festival will conclude Sunday, July 23, in downtown Manzanita with Lauren Sheehan, Bluejug, Jazzati-tude, Countryside Ride, Lauren Sheehan and Patrick Lamb.

Three-day passes are available online for \$25 and at the gate for \$35. Day passes are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Children 12 and younger with paying adults get in free.

Tickets are available at manzanitamusicfestival.org and at The Little Apple Market and Nehalem Food Mart.

Parking will be limited, but a complimentary shuttle will be available in Manzanita and Nehalem from 4:30 p.m. to midnight. Pick up and drop off in Manzanita will be downtown at the corner of Third Street and Laneda Avenue. In Nehalem, it will be at the North County Recreation District parking lot located at 36155 Ninth St.

More information can be found at manzanitamusicfestival.org. 



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scratchdog Stringband blends classic and contemporary Americana and bluegrass.



PHOTO BY ANTHONY PIDGEON

Kate Morrison will bring her genre-crossing band, Kate and the Crocodiles, to perform at the Manzanita Music Festival.