



COURTESY MARK MIZELL

Students at last year's Tillamook Head Gathering (from left): Hunter Thompson, Will Garvin, Lucy Bodner, Kirsten Lent, Zeynep Payzanoglu and Dana Ottem

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One of his influences is country folk singer-songwriter John Prine, who also happens to be a musician Mizell reveres, and they connected over their mutual admiration.

"It's really heartening to see a guy like Brian and his band doing music by people I've idolized for years," Mizell said.

Other regional artists performing at the gathering include former Seaside student Max Strozzi, John Mersereau and Jim Stewart.

Giving students a boost

The funds raised through the Tillamook Head Gathering have completely or partially subsidized events, workshops, field trips and other enrichment activities for high school students.

Last fall, funds went toward hosting two workshops for the high school's Words in Music class. One workshop was led by Peter "Spud" Siegel, Jim Stewart and Michael Shay. The other was led by folklorist Olivia Pepper and singer-songwriter Nick Jaina, a finalist for the 2016 Oregon Book Award.

As for upcoming arts enrichment opportunities, Mizell is organizing a field trip to Elko, Nevada, for the 34th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, an

event he has attended with students "religiously every three years for the past 20," he said. Anyone from the school can join.

The poetry gathering takes place Jan. 29 to Feb. 3, this year, and includes various concurrent sessions featuring singers and songwriters, as well as craft demonstrations and films about the American West, Mizell said. Fifteen students and seven chaperones from Seaside High School will attend part of it, leaving the afternoon of Jan. 31, and taking a train to Sacramento and then to Elko. While at the festival, students will get to see shows featuring Michael Martin Murphy and Wylie & The Wild West. They fly home Feb. 4.

Overall, they will travel more than 2,000 miles and be exposed to a different facet of culture. "Stuff like that makes your world so much bigger," Mizell said.

In February, funds will also help bring Dave Bennett and the Memphis Speed Kings to play at a schoolwide assembly. The music group is a regular at the Seaside Jazz Festival, and Mizell said he hopes "to get the kids out on the dance floor."

A jump-start in art

When Mizell started teaching more than 30 years ago, these sorts of arts-related events and activities

received decent funding.

"Now if you want stuff to happen, like the trip to Elko, you must figure out a way to get the money somehow," he said. "It's aummer that's the case."

Even though funding has faltered, the importance of exposure to the arts for high school students has not, Mizell believes.

Bovenizer echoed that sentiment.

"It's almost not a question of whether we need them or not; I think we'd all be really unhappy if we didn't have art in our lives," Bovenizer said.

Knowing how difficult it is to make a living as an artist, Bovenizer also sees value in providing training and development opportunities for high school students who may be pursuing professions in the industry.

"It takes a while to get where you want to be," he said. "You need that jump-start in your art of trade."

Wine and beer will be available for purchase at the gathering, and The Stand is donating light fare for the event. The event will include a silent auction featuring items donated by local merchants and artists. The cost of admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Seaside Coffee House, Beach Books and the high school's business office. 

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