

ANNUAL WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL TO ADD NEW SOUNDS

FLORENCE — Formerly known as the Winter Folk Festival, this year's popular two-day music fest will see the return of festival favorites as well as introduce what are certain to be some new favorites under its new moniker, Winter Music Festival.

"It's always been Winter Folk Fest," said Rachel Pearson, chairwoman of the Friends of the FEC committee that is organizing the new Winter Music Festival, which Pearson explained will keep an emphasis on folk while expanding the genre and diversity with new headliners like The Shook Twins and Jonathan Edwards.

Ten musicians, singers and ensembles will fill the FEC with music on Saturday, Jan. 16, and Sunday, Jan. 17. The folk-focused festival began in the early 2000s, when a Mapleton-based band called The Singing Loggers put on a concert and showcased some of the area's homegrown talent.

Since then, the festival has mainly featured headliners popular in the folk music scene.

The Winter Music Festival is focusing on the "ABCs" of the folk genre: Americana, Blues and Contemporary music.

Among those performing at this year's festival will be Crow and the Canyon, Cabin Fever NW, John Craige, Ian



COURTESY PHOTO

The Shook Twins are one of the headliners for this year's Winter Music Festival at the Florence Events Center.

McFeron, True North, Bob Haworth and the popular contemporary folk music of Pretty Gritty, who returns for the second year to the festival.

In addition, the stage will welcome local performers, such as up-and-coming singer and Siuslaw High School graduate Billy Jones, who will open the music fes-

tival Jan. 16. Also, local singer/songwriter Molly Hardin, who recently sang at Backstreet Gallery during September's Rods 'n' Rhodies in Old Town, will help open the festival.

The sale of Winter Music Festival tickets has begun and continues through Jan. 15. A full weekend pass includes admis-

sion to the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concerts, along with a Saturday and Sunday pass for \$45.

Individual Saturday passes (10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) are \$12.50; Sunday passes (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) are also \$12.50; and reserve tickets for the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concert (7 p.m.) are \$28.

While some things have changed, others — like the opportunity to introduce students to live music — will remain.

"In 2000, I heard The Trail Band in a concert put on by Florence Performing Arts, which is now SEAcoust. I thought, 'We've got to get the school kids in to hear this,'" Pearson said. "It seemed like a simple thing, but now this is my part-time job. It is my passion, the music and the kids."

The Trail Band, an Oregon-based eight-piece ensemble that features songs from the Oregon Trail era, will be returning to give the traditional kids concert this year on Jan. 14.

After the first successful kids' concert, the music committee decided to combine it with the folk concert by The Singing Loggers.

The kids' concert will also feature Lynn Anderson's students in traditional Native American regalia and dances.

The artisan fair will continue in the lobby with more than 30 booths of hand-

Annual Crab Crack fundraiser to benefit Florence Food Share

FLORENCE — The fifth annual Florence Crab Crack is a sure fire remedy for the dreaded "cabin fever," which threatens to afflict the general populace of the central Oregon coast every winter.

Get your ticket and join the other 399 people who will attend the Crab Crack at the Florence Events Center on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. Get rid of those "cabin fever blues" by enjoying great food and company while aiding the less fortunate in this area.

All the proceeds from this event will benefit Florence Food Share, a local food pantry that provides resources to those facing hunger in West Lane County.

Oregon coast Dungeness crab, along with pasta, coleslaw, garlic bread, sodas, coffee and BJ's Ice Cream for dessert will be served by "crab head" volunteers.

A no-host bar will also be available.

While savoring the delectable crus-



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants in last year's Crab Crack enjoy an endless bounty of crab, pasta, salad and more at the Florence Events Center.

taceans and side dishes, attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase one or many of the special silent auction items.

Tickets to this event are \$35 each, with only 400 tickets to be available. The deadline for ticket purchases is Jan. 25 and will not be available at the door.

Several sponsors are already stepping up to make this event possible. All individuals and companies are welcome to "sponsor a crab" for the event and help Florence Food Share serve those in need in our area.

For more information, arrange group seating, or purchase tickets, contact Bob MacDuffee at 541-997-9599 or by email him at dunes.guy97439@yahoo.com.

Tickets are also available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Florence Food Share, 2190 Spruce St. in Florence, or call 541-997-9110.