

HATS OFF TO THE TEXAS GYPSIES

A very appreciative audience swayed to the music of The Texas Gypsies presented at the Florence Events Center on Wednesday, Nov. 13, hosted by SEacoast Entertainment Association.

The award winning recipe for The Texas Gypsies' sound is to perform the vintage jazzy swinging cool hep cat sounds of the 1920s, plus a mix of the Big Band Swing sounds of the '30s and '40s. The band mixes a blazing horn section, a rocking-swinging guitar, slapping upright bass and retro style drumming to harmoniously create their own unique, classy and fun sound.

The group was made up of six accomplished musicians, who were each able to play as featured soloists throughout the evening. Steve Curry, guitar and vocals was joined by Mike Sizer on saxophone and clarinet, Andrew Griffith on drums, Travis Udall on bass, Stan Bock on trombone and Thomas Barber on trumpet.

Some highlights of the evening included "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" composed by Jacob Jacobs, a favorite of the audience.

Another favorite of the audience was Sizer, who played beyond the three

Review of SEacoast By Vickie Kennedy Special to the Siuslaw News

registers of his clarinet. He hit each and every note with panache.

Another favorite of the evening was "Sway," a tune made popular by Dean Martin. One of the attendees commented that she could not sit still in her seat throughout the whole concert because of the "dance-ability" of all the tunes. A couple of other tunes made popular by Martin that sounded just as good in this concert were "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone" and "Mambo Italiano."

The Texas Gypsies performed several songs of their own composition, especially "Just Because." Curry's fingers flew over his guitar. He had a very easy way of talking to the audience between numbers, but reminded the listeners "We tune, because we care," as he took a minute to tune his guitar.

The tunes from a variety of artists that the Gypsies borrowed from included Milton Ager's "Ain't She

Sweet," Django Reinhardt, who is regarded as one of the greatest musicians of the 20th century, with "Exactly Like Me," and Paul McCartney's "When I'm 64."

A very appreciative audience gave The Texas Gypsies a standing ovation, which the band rewarded with its premier tune of the evening, Reinhardt's "Retro Deco Baby," that featured every musician in a solo spot including the bass and the drums. Griffith played not only the heads, but also the rims and the sides of the drums.

At the end of the concert, Curry expressed thanks to the audience for attending a concert performed by a virtually unknown group. They may not be well-known, but they will not be forgotten after the magnificent concert performed on Wednesday night.

SEacoast Entertainment Association will feature Russian-Swiss harpist and composer, Sasha Boldachev at its next concert on Jan. 11, 2020, at the Florence Events Center.

Call the FEC at 541-997-1994 or visit event-center.org and seacoastea.org/ to snag some tickets for that presentation.

Community invited to Thanksgiving Dinner

The Kiwanis Club of Florence presents the annual Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 28, from noon until 2 p.m. at the Florence Elks Lodge, 1686 12th Street.

Food donations for Florence and Mapleton Food Share, as well as cash donations, are gratefully accepted.

Free Transportation to/from the Elks Lodge to destinations within the city limits is provided by River Cities Taxi. Call 541-997-8520 to schedule in advance. The free Thanksgiving Dinner is orga-



nized by the Kiwanis Club of Florence and hosted by Florence Elks Lodge #1858.

For information about volunteering or attending a Kiwanis meeting, visit www.florencekiwanis.org.

Medicare info booths at Peace Harbor

To support local patients during the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center will provide an information table staffed by licensed agents representing PeaceHealth-accepted Medicare plans through Friday, Dec. 6.

The table, in the main hospital lobby, will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will close Nov. 27 to 29 for Thanksgiving.

Agents will be on hand to answer questions and help patients enroll during the remainder of open enrollment, which ends Dec. 7.

As part of PeaceHealth's ongoing efforts to streamline its Medicare partners and provide high quality,

affordable care to our communities, it will be accepting the following plans: Moda Health, PacificSource, Providence, Regence and United.

More info is available at

peacehealth.org/medicare.

Patients may also call the toll-free Medicare Insurance Helpline at 866-391-7750.



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'Empty Bowls' to be held Dec. 6 to 8

In preparation for the 24th annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, local artists are busy creating handmade ceramic bowls as well as unique artwork for the event's silent auction. Area high school students, Lane Community College students, artists, restaurants and sponsors are gearing up for this family-friendly fundraiser that benefits Florence Food Share.

Empty Bowls 2019 will be held at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., on Friday, Dec. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 8, from noon to 3 p.m.

Admission is free and all money goes to help serve

those in need within our community.

From its humble beginnings in 1995, Empty Bowls has expanded over the years to help meet the needs of the community's food pantry serving those in need.

This year's event will include approximately 700 bowls of varying sizes offered to the public. Most handmade ceramic bowls are sold for \$10 each, with some \$5 bowls available as well. With each bowl sold, the purchaser will receive a soup coupon good for a cup



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

of the "soup of the day" at a participating restaurant.

The event also features a silent auction for the original artwork "The Giving Bowl" by Pat Davis, featured on this year's Empty Bowls poster and promotional materials. Many other items donated by local artists and businesses will be available at the silent auction as well.



Florence Charm Trail

The Florence Charm Trail is excited to announce
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