

Tillamook Head Gathering comes to Seaside

Songwriter Brian Bovenizer, band New Old Stock headline

By Katherine Lacaze
For the Seaside Signal

From a field trip to watch a national tour performance of “Cinderella” in Portland to workshops and assemblies, arts enrichment opportunities at Seaside High School have become more accessible in recent years thanks to the Tillamook Head Gathering and its annual fundraiser, coming up Saturday, Jan. 13.

“There are so many things in education that are important that you can’t necessarily quantify,” said English teacher Mark Mizell, one of the gathering’s original founders. “Ideally, what schools do when they’re doing their best work is encouraging kids to find things of interest they can access for the rest of their lives.”

The arts, he believes, play a big role in accomplishing that objective. They will be celebrated at the fourth annual Tillamook Head Gathering, a fundraiser to take place at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Featured performers

Each year, the Tillamook Head Gathering features a different performing arts or musical group or person who works in another artistic profession. Songwriter and musician Brian Bovenizer, with his backing band New Old Stock, is headlining this year’s event.

The Astoria-based musical group includes pedal steel guitarist Jamie Greenan, guitarist



COURTESY BRIAN BOVENIZER

Brian Bovenizer and New Old Stock star at the Tillamook Head Gathering in Seaside.

Jeff Munger, bassist Luke Ydstie and drummer Olaf Ydstie. In the past, Bovenizer described the band’s sound as “surf country,” although it’s evolved to encompass more rock ‘n’ roll, he said.

As a teenager, Bovenizer, originally from the Chicago area, worked for Peterson Electro-Musical Products, a music-electronics company that specializes in instrument tuning devices, through which he was introduced to various country artists. Since then, he has remained in the music industry, working a variety of jobs, from booking and marketing to performing.

“The music industry is constantly evolving, and I’m interested in keeping up on it all the time,” he said.

In 2009, Bovenizer “moved to Astoria to launch a songwriting project and started picking up gigs playing drums for bands,” he said, adding drums were his initial instrument of choice. He got connected with Munger, Greenan and the Ydstie brothers

about two years ago.

“Right of the bat, it clicked,” he said. “I’m happy to be writing songs and have a cool band behind me. ... The guys who are with me are all pros.”

When it comes to songwriting, Bovenizer is inspired through random circumstances and situations, like surfing or being in a boat in the middle of a river in a canoe.

“Most of the songs that end up being the ones I perform just come from stream of consciousness,” he said. In general, the people he’s met in Astoria have “opened up the music” for him.

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 in-

clude former Seaside student Max Strozzi, John Mersereau and Jim Stewart.

Giving students a boost During the past few years, 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.



FILE PHOTO

Students at last year’s Tillamook Head Gathering: Hunter Thompson, Will Garvin, Lucy Bodner, Kirsten Lent, foreign exchange student Zeynep Payzanoğlu and Dana Ottem.

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 Sunday, Feb. 4. Overall, they will travel more than 2,000 miles and be exposed to a different facet of culture, Mizell said, adding, “Stuff like that makes your world so much bigger.”

In February, funds also will 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.”

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 a bummer that’s the case.”

Even though funding has faltered, though, 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 a 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 jumpstart 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.

Community Calendar

Friday, Jan. 5

Chamber Breakfast

8:20 a.m., Holiday Inn Express, 34 Holladay Drive, Seaside, 503-738-6391, www.seasidechamber.com, open to the public. Offers weekly speakers and discussions, locations subject to change.

AAUW Walkers

9:30 a.m., 503-738-7751. This low-impact walking group meets weekly at different locations.

RJ Marx Quartet

7 p.m., WineKraft, 80 10th St., Astoria, 503-468-0206, www.winekraftpnw.com, no cover, 21+. Saxophonist RJ Marx leads the quartet in a repertoire of jazz music with John Orr (guitar), Joe Church (bass) and Dave Gager (drums).

Sam Chase Duo

7 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, www.mcmenamins.com, no cover. The Sam Chase Duo plays folk, rock and Americana music.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Pacific University Master of Fine Arts in Writing residency program offers free nightly readings by featured authors Judy Blunt, Vieve Francis and John McNally.

Saturday, Jan. 6

Beach Clean Up

9 a.m., meet at Seashore Inn on the Beach, 60 Promenade, Seaside. Join local volunteers for the monthly “Treasure the Beach” community beach clean up.

Watercolor Class

9 a.m., Trail’s End, 656 A St., Gearhart, 503-717-9458, \$180. Debbie Loyd will teach the basics of beginning watercolor painting every Saturday to Feb. 3; limited seating, registration required.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Kwame Dawes, Pete Fromm and Willy Vlautin.

Sunday, Jan. 7

Meditation Class

11 a.m., Tolovana Hall, 3779 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 720-301-3993, \$5. Facilitated by Linda Lawson, the class includes relaxation exercises, guided meditation and silent practice.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Steve Amick, Claire Davis and Scott Korb.

Monday, Jan. 8

Knochlers Pinochle Group

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-3311, www.sunsetempire.com, \$1 per session per person. This is a weekly, regular play card game. Prizes awarded.

Rehearsals Begin

6:30 p.m., Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 Washington St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-0378, www.cannonbeachchorus.org. The Cannon Beach chorus will begin rehearsals for its spring season “All-American” concert, featuring a repertoire of American composers.

City Council

7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-5511, www.cityofseaside.us. The Seaside City Council meets twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Ellen Bass, Frank Gaspar and Valerie Laken.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Cyber Security

8:30 a.m., CCC Seaside Campus, 1455 Roosevelt Drive, Seaside, 503-338-2402, \$20. Clatsop Community College offers a Cyber Security class for small and mid-sized businesses, preregistration required.

TOPS Meeting

9:15 a.m., North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 Wahanna Road, Seaside, 509-910-0354. Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) focuses on healthy lifestyle changes for weight loss, meets weekly.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Mike Magnuson, Mary Helen Stefaniak and Kellie Wells.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Bingo!

12:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-3311, www.sunsetempire.com, 10 cents per card, \$2.40 (in dimes) all games. A weekly game of Bingo fun with friends.

Night of Trivia

6 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-6742, www.seasidepubliclibrary.org. Trivia tournament nights are informal, fun competitions; prizes awarded.

HRAP Lecture Series

7 p.m., Cannon Beach Library, 131 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-1391, www.friendsofhaystackrock.org. Wolfe Wagman of the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife will give a talk on “The Marine



TRAIL'S END

Lou Kister

Lifetime member award for Lou Kister

Seaside Signal

Longtime Trail’s End Art Center member Lou Kister was recently honored for her participation and support of the center by outgoing President Richard Newman during the center’s recent year-end meeting, potluck and announcement of new officers for 2018.

Kister has been a member of Trail’s End since 2003, enjoying a variety of art classes, being part of the center’s celebrations and exhibitions, and volunteering in many aspects of its operations. The Lifetime

Member Award signifies the center’s appreciation for all her efforts.

Kister’s interest in art began following her retirement in 2001 after many years of teaching school and raising her four children. When she retired from teaching, she took a trip to Italy. While in Florence, she realized how little she really knew about art, but definitely wanted to learn more.

Kister took all the two-dimensional art classes she could find at Clatsop Community College, along with art history. She joined Trail’s End Art Association in 2003.

Reserves Research Project” at the next Haystack Rock lecture series.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Chris Abani, Debra Gwartney and Joseph Millar.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Ham Radio Breakfast

8 a.m., Finn’s Fish House, 227 Broadway, Seaside, 503-739-3890. Ham radio operators meet every Thursday; venue changes the first Thursday of the month.

SDDA Breakfast

8:30 a.m., Pig ‘N’ Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914, www.seasideowntown.com. Weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host breakfast.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Noon, Seaside Golf Course, 451 Avenue

U, Seaside, open to the public, www.facebook.com/pages/Kiwanis-Club-of-Seaside-Ore. Features weekly speakers, discussions and a no-host lunch.

Matinee Thursdays

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393. Enjoy popcorn and a movie on senior matinee Thursdays.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Marvin Bell, Jack Driscoll and Christopher Merrill.

Friday, Jan. 12

Chamber Breakfast

8:20 a.m., call for location, Seaside, 503-738-6391, open to the public.

AAUW Walkers

9:30 a.m., 503-738-7751, locations vary.

Dave Stamey

7 p.m., private home, Arch Cape, 503-717-2997 or 503-436-1718, \$20. Cape House concert series features cowboy entertainer and songwriter Dave Stamey playing country, western and Americana music; location given at time of ticket purchase.

Junebugs

7 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, no cover. The eclectic style of the Junebugs range from turn-of-the-century Americana to modern hip-hop.

Reading Series

7:30 p.m., Best Western Ocean View, 414 Promenade, Seaside. Features Sanjiv Bhattacharya and Laura Hendrie.

Saturday, Jan. 13

PBL Tournaments

8 a.m., Seaside, Warrenton, Astoria, 503-717-4308, www.seasidebasketball-tournaments.com, \$2 to \$7. It’s that time for the annual Pacific Basketball League tournaments, held at schools in Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria.

Author Reading

1 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-6742, www.seasidepubliclibrary.org, free. Linda Eddleston, author of “My Three Friends” will be featured, followed by Q&A, book sales and signings.

Artist Reception

6 p.m., Cannon Beach Gallery, 1064 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 503-436-0744, www.cannonbeacharts.org. Artists Jani Hoberg, Lisa Wiser and Jan Rimmerman will be represented in the new show “3 Squared: Line, Light, Layers.”

Sunday, Jan. 14

Meditation Class

11 a.m., Tolovana Hall, 3779 Hemlock St., Cannon Beach, 720-301-3993, \$5.

NAMI Meeting

2 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-6165, www.nami.org. The National Alliance on Mental Illness welcomes individuals and caregivers of anyone who suffers from mental illness.

PBL Tournaments

7 p.m., Seaside, Warrenton, Astoria, 503-717-4308, \$2 to \$7.

Monday, Jan. 15

Knochlers Pinochle Group

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-3311, \$1 per session per person.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

TOPS Meeting

9:15 a.m., North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 Wahanna Road, Seaside, 509-910-0354.

Smart Basketball

5:30 p.m., Broadway Middle School, 1120 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-3311, www.sunsetempire.com, \$55 to \$75. Start Smart Basketball is a developmentally appropriate introductory program for ages 3 to 5; sign up required.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Bingo!

12:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-3311, 10 cents per card, \$2.40 (in dimes) all games.

Thursday, Jan. 18

Ham Radio Breakfast

8 a.m., Finn’s Fish House, 227 Broadway, Seaside, 503-739-3890.

SDDA Breakfast

8:30 a.m., Pig ‘N’ Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside, 503-717-1914.

Kiwanis Club Meeting

Noon, Pig ‘N’ Pancake, 323 Broadway, Seaside.

Matinee Thursdays

1 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

Writers at Work

6 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-6742, www.seasidepubliclibrary.org. This group is designed for writers to meet and share ideas with local authors.

Friday, Jan. 19

Chamber Breakfast

8:20 a.m., call for location, Seaside, 503-738-6391, open to the public.

AAUW Walkers

9:30 a.m., 503-738-7751, locations vary.

Lifeguard Training

4 p.m., Sunset Pool, 1140 Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-3311, www.sunsetempire.com, \$150. This is a three-day lifeguard training program based on the American Red Cross lifeguarding format.

Eric Kaiser

7 p.m., McMenamins Sand Trap, 1157 Marion Ave., Gearhart, 503-717-8150, no cover. French troubadour Eric John Kaiser crosses musical cultures blending traditional French stylings and American rhythm, rock, hip-hop, roadhouse blues and reggae to his repertoire.