

MUSIC: Festival was a hit with locals and visitors

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are doing. We are really interested in the public's take on who they are excited to see or maybe just discovered."

On Thursday morning a group of more than 10 Heart of Oregon YouthBuild and young volunteers from AmeriCorps put their labors to use by helping build the stage and fencing for the Sisters Rhythm and Brews Festival.

Heart of Oregon YouthBuild is a Central Oregon non-profit that engages local opportunities for youth, ages 16-24. The youth are working toward completing their GED, high school diploma, or college credits while also learning work readiness skills through construction.

YouthBuild program director Kara Johnson noted, "AmeriCorps volunteers are young people who have graduated high school or college that will receive scholarships after serving with us for a year."

The volunteers work directly with YouthBuild youth helping them build houses or are in the classroom assisting as a teacher's aide.

AmeriCorps volunteer Sonya Templeton, a graduate from Oregon State University, manned the booth along with Johnson.

Templeton said, "My long-term goal is to go back and get my master's degree in teaching. That's the reason I applied for this position to be a teacher's aide helping the kids at YouthBuild. It's on the job training and I'm getting a feel for what it's like to be teaching."

Habitat for Humanity had a unit of lumber at the festival and asked people to pay \$5 a stud to help build the next home. Folks could write a message of encouragement on the wood.

This year's event had a couple of last-minute changes. Sassparilla was unable make it Friday night and Oregon Blues icon Walker T. Ryan stepped up to open the Festival in their stead.

Ryan said to the crowd, "Three days ago I was retired sitting by my pond communing with herons.

The legendary White Buffalo returned to Sisters with a potent set on Saturday.



PHOTOS BY JERRY BALDOCK

Music lovers danced and lounged at the Village Green venue for the Sisters Rhythm and Brews Festival.



Larkin Poe turned in a fiery performance on Saturday night at Sisters Rhythm and Brews Festival.

that you'd be surprised about."

Jacobs-Strain has appeared at festivals from British Columbia to Australia. He has been a regular on the blues circuit since he was 11 years old, but he's really come into his own on recent albums. Also known for his fierce slide-guitar playing, he plays acoustic blues in the tradition of musicians like Bob Brozman and Dave Van Ronk.

Jacobs-Strain will be returning to the Sisters Folk Festival with Bob Beach in September.

The event welcomed back last year's festival

favorite, Castro Coleman, AKA Mr. Sipp.

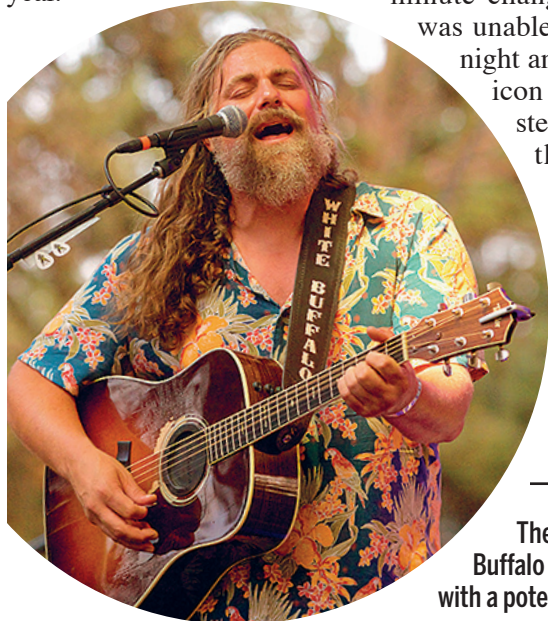
"Mr. Sipp is what brought me back to Sisters," said Laura Ludlow from Portland.

Mr. Sipp, a native of McComb, Mississippi, was the winner of the 2014 International Blues Challenge (Band), the Albert King Gibson award, BMA Best New Artist Album winner 2016, and The Spirit of Little Walter Award 2016.

Artist Joanne Shaw Taylor was unable to close out the show Friday night because of visa difficulties.

Joe Rambo noted, "Luckily for us, after joining Phil Lesh & Friends for a night dubbed 'Dead Blues' and releasing his

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Then my friend David Jacobs-Strain called and asked me to play at a really cool gig and I've been practicing ever since."

Artist Jacobs-Strain, from Eugene, who was in the lineup to play on Saturday, told *The Nugget*, "I learned the blues from Walker. I was 9 years old and saw him play when my parents took me to see him live at a local theater. He became my teacher."

He added, "I really enjoy spending time in Sisters with friends and tell people about how Sisters has a music scene

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