

“Music in the Vines” kicks off season

Longtime local musicians Tim Wallace, Michelle LeComte and Libby Goines opened for the first-ever Music in the Vines concert series May 21, featuring a fire show, beer and wine and food from Island Girl Coffee owner Lisa Miller.

Deer Creek Vineyard owner Katherine Bryan said about 100 people attended the event, the first of almost-weekly concerts to promote local musicians and businesses through September 24, 2011.

“All concerts proceeds go directly to musicians,” Bryan said. “Basically how we make money is by sales of beer and wine. We want local people to benefit from that, and any local vendors we bring in.”

Featured Deer Creek wines were sold along with beers from Wild River Pizza and Brewing. Lisa Miller, owner of Island Girl Coffee in Selma, is also an avid cook who brought pineapple upside-down cake to the delight of concert visitors.

Bryan said Miller will soon open a restaurant of her own with her cooking background, expanding on the baked goods currently offered at Island Girl.

Bryan said many of the featured musicians are top-rated artists, such as next week’s Broh Taylor Band of Springfield Ore., which Bryan said includes the Rainy Day Blues Society’s best female blues vocalist.

“We want to promote business in this area so when people come through, they’re going to stop at businesses in [the Illinois Valley],” Bryan said. “We think a venue like this is a good way to do that. I encourage locals to come out, hear our music and see what we’ve done for the vineyard.”

The Bryans have recently cleared out noxious weeds and tried to make improvements to the landscape, both to develop the look and function of the vineyard while reducing fire hazards.

“We were told by the Department of Forestry to clear it,” Bryan said. “We had parameters such as how far to clear, what [plant life] is indigenous and what’s not...we want to replace [weeds] with native grasses to enhance the area and reduce erosion.”

Next week over Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, the Broh Taylor Band is scheduled to play, followed by Nattybones on June 4. The latter band was voted the 2010 winner of Best New Blues Act by the Rainy Day Blues Society.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Libby Goines singing to the crowd at Deer Creek Vineyards Music in the Vines Saturday, May 21. Local favorites Tim and Michelle were also on hand to entertain the attendees.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

During the annual Laurel Cemetery clean-up Saturday, May 21, a volunteer is hard at work raking away debris as part of regular maintenance efforts.

Volunteers make Evergreen SMART

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

On Thursday, May 19, Evergreen Elementary honored the many volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to help students during the school year, including an outline of the achievements of the Start Making a Reader Today (SMART) program.

In the traditional “Volunteer Tea,” principal Dave Valenzuela thanked the many volunteers for their dedication in providing a positive, stable role model for students to look up to.

“There are so many [students] who are starving for instruction and a positive model,” Valenzuela said. “That positive interaction is what you deliver on a daily basis.”

Jennifer Staton, a coordinator for SMART, also congratulated local volunteers who are helping get more books to students.

This year, several individuals helped distribute books in classrooms or raise funds and awareness for the program. Just a few examples are I.V. Grange members Kendell and Tammie Phillips, who passed out dictionaries to fourth-grade students earlier in the year. On Tuesday, May 10, Wild River Pizza and Brewing in Cave Junction donated part of its sales that day to the local Rogue Valley program.

A leading volunteer is Willa Gustavson, herself a coordinator, whom Staton recognized for her hours of work with the local SMART program. According to Staton, Gustavson has spent 410 hours helping out with SMART this school year.

“[Gustavson] has been my inspiration,” Staton said.

According to Staton, some 74,000 books were distributed to students in Oregon from the program as of the end of April, and Evergreen is the largest SMART school in Josephine and Jackson counties.

During the Volunteer Tea, students presented their own speeches of thanks for those who have volunteered in and out of the classroom. Two members of the Rogue Valley Harmonizers specializing in barbershop-style music, Ivan Celmak and Denny Hare, serenaded the audience and got them to sing along.

Though volunteers filled the seats in the Evergreen library, Valenzuela pointed out the actual number of volunteers outnumbered Evergreen staff.

“I was born and raised here [in the Illinois Valley],” Valenzuela said. “I swore I would never return. But now I’m back...and I’m totally proud and excited to raise my daughter here.”



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LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Dale Hopper
Saturday, May 28th
5:00pm to 8:00pm
Every Wed - Open Mic Night
from 6-8pm with Jim Nolan

**Waldo
Holland**

**Folk Music from
Crescent City**

Friday, May 27th
5:30pm at Taylor's Country Store

**Deer Creek Vineyards
Music in the Vines
Concert Series**
BROH TAYLOR BAND
www.broh-taylorblues.com
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Contemporary Blues Act and
2009 & 2010 Winner - Joanne
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- Rainy Day Blues Society

SATURDAY MAY 28TH

To add an event to this calendar call 541-592-2541
IT'S ONLY \$5!