

Currents

Navigating the Arts and Music of The Valley

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(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Maelagh Baker, Carol Valentine and other Illinois Valley residents couldn't resist dancing Saturday, June 11 at American Music Fest sponsored by IRVAC.

IRVAC rocks American Music Fest

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

Popular Illinois Valley bands, local authors, food and fun lit up the night Saturday, June 11 during American Music Fest held at the Siskiyou Field Institute Deer Creek Center in Selma.

Three talented acts, musicians Tim Wallace and Michelle LeCompte, the East Fork Band and Altered States headlined the event, which was sponsored by the Illinois River Valley Arts Council.

Local authors Jim Lettis and Dianne Moeller featured two newly published books, the children's book "The Squire and the White Dragon" by Lettis and "What a 'Free' Horse Really Costs." Moeller is a professional horse trainer and Lettis a retired teacher.

Barbeque catered by Bev Thomas and River Valley

Restaurant didn't last long, as guests quickly ate up pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs and brisket.

According to IRVAC president Judy Hoyle, American Music Fest brought in more people than the last two years, despite intimidating storm clouds. After three years of the event, Hoyle said IRVAC is considering an indoor theater event in the future, instead of dealing with unpredictable early summer weather, but she was pleased with how guests responded to the local musicians.

"I have to say this was by far our most successful concert," Hoyle said. "This was the first time we've had East Fork [and] Altered States, and obviously the crowd responded."

The bands played jazz, bluegrass and classic pop favorites that got guests, especially children, dancing on the lawn.

Hoyle credited many volunteers who spent hours of their time preparing for the event, helping with ticket sales, directing parking, cooking, cleaning and more. Evergreen Federal Bank

and SOFCU Community Credit Union also supported the concert.

Hoyle also said two dollars from each book sold by Lettis and Moeller was donated to IRVAC's Learning Through Art program.

"I'm really grateful to the three bands, who charged us very little for their time," Hoyle said. "Our wonderful volunteers were so resourceful and helpful. They are just so willing and wonderful, and the ladies who worked in the kitchen were tireless."

Hoyle said future IRVAC events include the next Second Friday Artwalk August 12 and the new event "Fall Ball." Though plans are still in the early stages, Hoyle said the event will feature a masquerade ball October 29 at the Selma Center, with a band from Eugene making the trip.

"What we try to do for the Arts Council are family-friendly events that are affordable and accessible," Hoyle said. "I think each of the bands lent their own unique talents to the concert."

Little Leaguers continue car wash fund-raiser

By Darcy Wallace
IVN Staff Writer

The two I.V. Little League softball teams mustered up all their resolve to try to beat the boys' teams in the bake sale and car wash Sunday, June 12, at the Cave Junction Subway.

According to Little League president Shelly Davis, they tied with the boys' juniors at \$420 — but they went beyond the allowed 2 p.m. end time, "losing" on a technicality.

"The boys did end up winning that competition, but it was a very

close one," Davis said.

Several Little League participants held up neon orange signs encouraging drivers to get their cars washed, including the coaches. Volunteers also sold baked goods on a donation basis.

Some inclement weather might have caused a brief lull around 1 p.m., close to the end of the fund-raiser. But according to softball coach Jenna Larkin, the girls didn't have much downtime, especially in the morning.

"The busiest time was when we first started," Larkin said. "From about 10 to 12:30 it was really

busy; we were pretty much washing nonstop."

The I.V. Big League softball teams were in competition with the boys' junior baseball teams to see who could raise the most in weekend carwash and bake sale fund-raiser. The winning teams will receive special recognition during Volunteer Appreciation Day and closing day ceremonies at the end of the season.

Davis said closing day celebrations are currently set for 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 17, at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction.



(Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

Little league softball players car wash net \$420 Saturday June 11.

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