

Celebrating community, local music, nonprofits



JON WEIAND — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

George Chadwick, right, sings during a performance by My Stupid Brother at the Redwood Mountain Faire in Felton on Saturday.

Redwood Mountain Faire raises money for 19 organizations

By Calvin Men

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FELTON » Violet Smith grew up in the San Lorenzo Valley attending the Redwood Mountain Faire in the 1980s.

"Being out on the lawn with the band and chit-chatting with people," she said. "It gets the community together."

More than two decades later,

Smith is helping make happy memories for other children and attendees as the director of the festival.

The first incarnation of the festival, organized by the nonprofit group Valley Women's Club of San Lorenzo Valley, ran for 17 years before organizers discontinued it in the 1990s because of rising costs.

But the club revived the festival five years ago, changing its lo-

cation to Roaring Camp in Felton and enlisted hundreds of volunteers to help coordinate the expected 9,000 attendees for the two-day event.

"I remember having so much fun as a kid and it was something I looked forward to every year," Smith said. "I was like we have to bring this back for the other kids."

Proceeds from the festival go to 19 community groups that use

the funds to aid the community, said Linda Moore, a member of the event's steering committee and a cofounder of the original event.

On Saturday, attendees stretched out on the lawn in front of the stage, sat under tents or reclined in chairs. The lineup featured 22 bands with 96 musicians, most local to the county.

"It's a real celebration for the community and brings out a feeling of spontaneous harmony,"

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Moore said.

The event also provided an opportunity for local bands to get paid, put their music out there and build a fan base, she said.

Troy Tano, a member of the band Who's Holdin, is making a second appearance at the fair. The band played several years ago and was invited back by event organizers, he said.

"It's great," said the 43-year-old Boulder Creek

native. "We've been doing this for 16 years so it's nice to have this recognition that we're doing good music."

"I like the music and the people," he said. "It's just a fun time."

Nancy Macy, a member of the club and a member of the steering committee, said the event is a place to discover new music.

"If you come for one of the Latino bands and you end up staying and really enjoying the rock and roll or the rhythm and blues or Americana," she said. "You find out you like other music."

James Henrick, 21, and Chamille Capasso, 18, said they liked the flat grassy field in front of a shaded stage surrounded by craft booths.

"I'm surprised because there are so many vendors here but it still has the feel of a small festival," Henrick said.

Capasso said the deal was too good to pass up, with student tickets \$15 in advance.

"It was like how could we not go to this?" she said.

Irene Wheeler, a Boulder Creek resident, came for the music and atmosphere.

"Everyone is so happy and in a good mood," she said.