

Cultivating crowds



Photos by GABRIEL CHRISTUS | The Courant

ABOVE: Jen Pedersen fills her bag at the Miller Farms booth during the Idaho Springs Farmers Market on Friday at Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park. **BELOW:** Wally Brodtman flips a hot dog at Troia's.

Farmers Market has fresh produce, wares and great ambience

By IAN NELIGH
Courant Editor

From wooden frogs to steaming hot dogs — all manner of colorful wares were on display during the Idaho Springs Farmers Market on June 14.

The Idaho Springs chamber runs the market at Courtney-Riley-Cooper Park every Friday through September from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chamber treasurer Deborah Lamberti said that with 25 vendors, the market is bigger than ever.

"The vendors say this is one of their favorite markets, even if they don't sell as much as they do at other markets, just

because the venue is so great: the trees, the grass, the river. You know, you're not in a parking lot," Lamberti said.

Lamberti added the chamber initially was concerned that work on the Twin Tunnels would affect attendance at the market, but so far, she said, it hasn't made a dent.

"We're very happy about that," Lamberti said.

The event was started four years ago as a money maker for the chamber and a way to draw tourists to the community, while giving locals the opportunity to buy fresh produce.

Lamberti said the money goes to other chamber events, such as the upcoming Dynamite Days on Aug. 24.

"We're trying to put it back toward the business owners and trying to get them more involved in what we're doing to support our community," said Arika Zittlosen, chamber vice president.

Chamber secretary Lisa Highly added



that the market also gives local residents a place to buy fresh vegetables other than a

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SWAT team deployed as music crowd turns rowdy

Police investigate death of man found in tent at Sonic Bloom

By IAN NELIGH
Courant Editor

Police are investigating the death of a 35-year-old Boulder man whose body was found in a tent Sunday during the four-day Sonic Bloom music festival at Shadow's Ranch in Georgetown.

Police also responded on Friday to a man with a suspected drug overdose, and on Sunday they subdued and Tasered a naked man, and then assembled the combined Clear Creek/Gilpin SWAT team to deal with a "rowdy" crowd that was feared to be on the verge of rioting.

Event organizers agree that this year the event ran smoothly until Sunday. An event spokeswoman said much of what occurred on the last day of the festival was due in large part to emotions running high.

The 8-year-old music festival has been held at Shadow's Ranch for the past three years, and this year it drew between 3,500 and 4,000 people.

Police don't suspect foul play in the death of the Boulder man, but an autopsy is being performed in the next few days and a toxicology report could take four to six weeks.

Clear Creek sheriff's Capt. Bruce Snelling said: "We don't think anything suspicious (happened)."

A perfect storm

On Sunday afternoon, after police investigated the dead body, a microburst of wind hit the I-70 corridor, knocking out power to the festival and flipping over several tents. Power was out for a few hours.

Police then were called to respond to an agitated and possibly intoxicated naked male.

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“Sometimes, it’s busy, sometimes it is not quite as busy, but I’m happy, no matter what happens, because I’m in a beautiful place.”

—Tammi Cohen
America’s Best Co.

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grocery store.

In back of a wild smorgasbord of fresh vegetables, David Patterson, Miller Farms operations manager, said the majority of the people at his stand seemed to be county residents. Patterson added that he’s busy selling vegetables an hour before the market officially opens.

“It’s a good little market,” Patterson said.

Tammi Cohen of America’s Best Co. sells wooden frogs made by tribes in northern Thailand. She said she discovered the Idaho Springs market last year through word of mouth.

“It’s a beautiful, beautiful location to be, that’s for sure,” Cohen said. “We’re right here by the creek. We watch the rafters go by. ... Sometimes it’s busy, sometimes it is not quite as busy, but I’m happy, no matter what happens, because I’m here in this beautiful place.”

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*Photographs by
Gabriel Christus,
Photo Editor*

ABOVE: Deb Jones and her daughter Reilly Jones, 9, look at jewelry during the Idaho Springs Farmers Market on Friday at Courtney-Ryley-Cooper Park.

RIGHT: Miller Farms was selling all the vegetables you could fit into a bag for \$10 at the Farmers Market.



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“They have a large number of security staff down there, so the security staff was trying to wrangle him up, (and) deputies got on scene fairly quickly,” Snelling said. “A small scuffle ensued. They ended up Tasing him multiple times to get him under control again.”

Ami Heinrich, Sonic Bloom’s event publicist, witnessed the Taser incident. “The cops did what they felt they needed to do to contain the situation. I think it was an unfortunate

response by the local authorities, but I can also attribute that ... to having a very tough day on site, with the microburst, mini-tornado that hit; there was a lot of different emotions,”

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—Clear Creek sheriff’s Capt. Bruce Snelling

Heinrich said. “So my feeling is their response may have been harsh but also understandable as they were dealing with quite a bit on site already.”

Snelling said after the man was subdued, that incident combined with the lack of power caused the crowd to become upset.

“So we rolled out our combined SWAT team with Clear Creek and Gilpin. State Patrol lent a few cars. We had people from Idaho Springs and Georgetown come up and give us a hand, and we got things restored in pretty short order,” Snelling said. “Really, it was probably a handful of folks that were upset creating most of the problems, but things calmed down rather quickly, and we had order restored in short order.”

Heinrich said that by the time police arrived in force, the crowd with “pre-riot

energy” was pretty much broken up by the event promoter’s security team.

“Admittedly, you don’t really Taser a hippie in front of 700 hippies and not expect a response on some level, because it is very much against the entire ethos of the community,” Heinrich said. “I don’t know if the SWAT team was necessarily needed at that point, but I understand that the police felt they needed to protect the situation in case it got out of hand.”

Snelling said a handful of summonses were issued, but there were no arrests. The music was turned back on by about 10 p.m., and the festival resumed without incident.

“Once they got their music back up and electricity restored, they started playing music. People got back into the groove of being there and having a good time,” Snelling said. “Finding a person in the campsite who had passed away, the microburst that had

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—Ami Heinrich, Sonic Bloom publicist

gone through, the time of day — I think everything lined up that people started getting rowdy, a little fired up about some of the issues that had gone on during the day. It just kind of set a tone for the next couple of hours.”

Heinrich said the majority of the festival was without incident.

“We had our largest crowds on Saturday. We had no incidents or issues on any level, so it just seems that Sunday was an act of God on some level,” Heinrich said. “I think event organizers did the best they could to quell the situation and keep everything on track and keep the community moving forward and enjoying the event.”