

2010 NedFest

Nederland music festival weekend

by **Dave Gibson**

Spring Creek with Benny "Burle" Galloway kicked off Nederland's music festival last Saturday with the high lonesome sounds of Appalachian bluegrass. The Lyons group performed a mixture of standards and originals that got the crowd dancing and the toes tapping. The "tweener" act Moonshiner followed with what they call "White-Knuckle Bluegrass." Frantic fiddle and mandolin playing accompanied by confident male vocals, that had a hint of "holler" in them, made me want to stomp my feet and break into a Jed Clampett jig. The neo-acoustic "Transcendental Folk" of local string quintet Elephant Revival brought cheers and "hoola-hoopers", along with a chance to settle-in to their magical blend of soothing melodies and rhythms. A hard-working traveling band, their tour bus is powered by recycled vegetable oil. Fireweed's blistering acoustic excursions kept the fans rollicking, followed by American Taxi with Vince Herman (previously of Leftover Salmon). American Taxi's blend of swampy blues and progressive bluegrass has made them one of the most popular acts on the jam band cir-

cuit. Hot Buttered Rum put on a great performance as a prelude to the singing and guitar playing child sensation Jayden.

Jayden Carlson has been playing guitar for one third of her life, which may sound like a lot until you consider that she is only nine years old. Classically trained, she quickly moved on to acoustic and electric rock, perfecting her favorite cover tunes from artists such as Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, and John Lennon. Also the creator of her own material, she possesses an amazing "ear" for music and the sweetest voice you've ever heard. "I get excited that I get a chance to make people happy," says phenomenon Jayden, whose beaming smile during her act confirmed it. Her version of the Beatles "Come Together" not only brought down the house, it rocked.

A familiar sound emanated from the festival grounds when I approached on Sunday. "Brown-eyed women and red grenadine. The bottle was dusty but the liquor was clean." If I didn't know better, I would have sworn that the Grateful Dead was in town. Even though Jerry Garcia is no longer with us, he has left a legacy that was being carried on, at that moment, by Billy Nershi's Blue Planet. Their rendition of "The House of the Rising Sun" by the Animals with its stirring 1960s organ solo was a highlight.



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Excellent tunes filled the rest of both days with the party spilling over to the Black Forest Restaurant Sunday night with performances by Elephant Revival and Mountain Standard Time.



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