

Celebration

From Page 4

Valentine's Ball, a benefit for WDBX Community Radio for Southern Illinois, is happening on Feb. 13 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center.

Slappin' Henry Blue with Tawl Paul and the SIU Studio Jazz Orchestra will perform. C-Infinity will cater a dinner that includes Marianne's chicken, Cranberry BBQ Pork Loin and a vegetarian gumbo. Alto Vineyards will provide the wine and Tres Hombres is in charge of the cash bar. There will be a silent art auction, too, featuring a wide variety of artwork and crafts created by local artisans.

"The evening is great way to support community radio and have a great time," said Station Manager Brian Powell. "Having the SIU Studio Jazz Orchestra perform their big band music is a wonderful way to kick the evening off. Dinner will be fantastic and our headline act, Slappin' Henry Blue with Tawl Paul, with get everybody out on the dance floor. In addition, the variety and quality of art at our auction can't be beat. It's just a plain fun time for everyone.

"In addition to the usual items in our art auction, we will also have several large

(4 foot by 4 foot) paintings of famous blues musicians created by WDBX's own Eileen Doman," Brian said. "They will serve as decorations for the evening, too, in keeping with this year's theme, The House of Blooze."

Tickets are \$40 each and are on sale now at Arnold's Market, Harbaugh's Cafe, The Neighborhood Co-Op, Longbranch Coffeehouse, Town Square Market and Plaza-Wuxtry Records. All proceeds will be used for general station operations at WDBX.

"We typically receive 5-10% of our annual revenue in this one evening's event, so it's a major part of our fund-raising strategy," Brian said. "Like most people, this past year has been tough financially for us. Not only have contributions suffered, but we also incurred several unforeseen expenses last year, including damage from the May 8th storm and some transmitter repairs. In addition our property taxes increased by over 80% last year. This makes having a successful Ball a real necessity.

"In addition, we have begun to collect money toward the installation of an emergency generator to keep the station on the air in the event of loss of power. After last May's storm, the need for such a capacity has become obvious."



Couples hit the dance floor at last year's WDBX Valentine's Day Ball.

Brian hopes for a full house this year. That means about 200 people, so get your tickets early.

You choose, girls. All we're suggesting is that you help us buck the trend of turning what was supposed to be a celebration of love into just another way to turn us all into consumers. Help us change this misperception that a heart-felt expression of emotion can only be presented in the form of something packaged and purchased.

Choose a cause close to your heart, pick a fundraiser, grab the girls and have a great time!



Coal Train performs at last year's WDBX Valentine's Day Ball.

Briefs

From Page 4

Carter; a wrought iron lawn ornament; two tickets to a St. Louis Symphony Orchestra concert; two tickets to Holiday World Splashin' Safari; a photograph by Al Parr; brunch and a pontoon boat ride on the Lake of Egypt; a FoodSaver vacuum sealing system; and gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses.

Tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations should be made by Jan. 26 by calling 457-4204 or by sending an e-mail to

This event is a fundraiser for LifeSavers Training Corp., a non-profit organization providing peer-support, suicide and crisis-prevention training for high schools in Southern Illinois. For more information on the organization, log on to

Dining for a cure

Area residents can enjoy local flavors during the second annual Taste of Hope event on Feb. 2, which bene-

Heritage

From Page 4

wonderful regions' cultural mix.

Tell me your story!

Tell me about the foods you grew up with, about the stories your grandparents told you about their grandparents, about your favorite heritage spots around home, about anything you want ... there is always a connection to tourism!

fits the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Jackson County Murphysboro.

Dine at any of the following restaurants on that day from 5 p.m. to close of business and 20% of your bill will go to support the Relay For Life. Those restaurants include Annie Mae's Pizza & More, Big Charlie's BBQ, Bottoms Up Family Bar & Grill in Jacob, Cindy B's Café, Cummare's Italian Restaurant, Dairy Queen, La Palmita Mexican, Sergio's Mexican Restaurant and 17th Street Bar & Grill.

For more information on the relay, call Sandra Ripley at 303-2012 or Tiffany Dallas at 998-9898, option 3 or send an e-mail to tiffany.dallas@cancer.org

SIRSS '50s trivia

We're going back to the decade when rock 'n roll made it's debut — a time of poodle skirts, cuffed jeans & rolled-up T-shirt sleeves. Father knew best and every-one loved Lucy. So, swivel those hips, grease back that

Let's stay close to home in 2010 and talk about all the wonderful tourism sites in our own backyard! Send an e-mail to me or, if you dare, follow me on Twitter @Talking Tourism!

Nicole L. Davis teaches hospitality and tourism courses at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and John A. Logan College. She can be reached at ndavis@siu.edu.


hair, and get ready to celebrate the decade that changed everything ... the fabulous fifties!

Help Southern Illinois Regional Social Services celebrate its 50th anniversary at a Fabulous Fifties Trivia Night on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

at the Newman Catholic Student Center in Carbondale. It costs \$160 for a table of eight players. There will be cash prizes, drawings, door prizes, a prize for the best decorated table and a raffle for a trip to Memphis for the ultimate

Elvis experience. Popcorn, soft drinks and bottled water will be available or bring your own. (Alcohol is permitted.)

For more information, contact April Cole at 457-6703, ext. 259, or send an e-mail to acole@sirss.org.




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