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Summer Jam courts rock listeners

Eve 6, Sister Hazel to headline at fest

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By [ANDRE SALLES](#) asalles@scn1.com

Dale Hazlewood says he's not checking the weather reports.

Last month, torrential rainfall forced Hazlewood and his co-workers at the Mayor's Office of Special Events to close down the first day of Blues on the Fox. It was a crushing disappointment for everyone involved, and now, as staff gears up for the second Downtown Alive! weekend, Hazlewood is hoping the weather holds out.

This weekend's Summer Jam is the one for the younger folks -- people who were in high school and college in the '90s and remember the heyday of the two headliners, Eve 6 and Sister Hazel.

Eve 6 is best known for late-'90s hits "Inside Out" and "Leech." The guitar-heavy modern-rock band disbanded after their third album, 2003's "It's All in Your Head," but reunited in 2007 and has been touring ever since. They played a festival in Rockford last summer, which Hazlewood said inspired their selection for Summer Jam.

Sister Hazel scored big with "All For You" in 1997, hitting No. 11 on the Billboard chart. They've remained a recording and touring force for 15 years, and in August they will release "Release," their seventh album. They play a mix of alternative and southern rock and have a breezy, down-to-earth sound.

Unlike the other three Downtown Alive! weekends, Summer Jam is squarely aimed at a younger crowd. The rest of the lineup follows suit. There's cover bands Spoken Four and Seventh Heaven, performing rock hits from the last few decades. And there's regional band Painkiller Hotel, which plays original songs with a 1990s flair -- if you remember the music on college rock stations in the '90s, you've got the right idea.

Given that Summer Jam will draw a younger crowd, it makes sense that the Office of Special Events is relaxing the new age restrictions put in place for Blues on the Fox. No one under 18 was admitted to that show without a parent or guardian, and Hazlewood said even with nearly 12,000 people showing up for the Saturday blues festival, the problems were minimal.

"It went well," he said. "There were no long lines or anything. Some people showed up with coolers, but that's not a new rule; we're just able to enforce it (better) now."

So for Summer Jam, those under 18 can come in if accompanied by any responsible adult. All the other changes remain the same -- there will still be five entrances to the Galena Boulevard festival, and while admission is free, those wishing to drink alcohol will need to buy a \$1 wristband.

Summer Jam starts Friday at 6:15 p.m. and Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m.

[Sister Hazel Talks About New Album](#)

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