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# **Thousand Springs Festival brings money, visitors to Magic Valley**

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By Michelle Costa  
September 26, 2010

The Thousand Springs Festival of the Arts wrapped up today, with close to four-thousand people attending during its two days. It was the festival's 18th year.

It seemed like a picture-perfect day in September, with thousands pouring onto tiny Ritter Island. As the sound of a band playing may intrigue some, others relish at the wonderful smelling food, or enjoy the beautiful artwork.

Paul DiFrancesco is a blacksmith from Salt Lake City, but today, he's showcasing his goods.

DiFrancesco said, "This is work. It's not a video game. This is the real thing."

Ilse Hylton is out of Twin Falls, as she demonstrates putting two single strands together, she explains, this event gives her exposure.

Hylton said, "I think it's the recognition, really, oh, I have a scarf so yeah it does help."

Many vendors are out here, like Idaho Guide Service, whose giving canoe rides for 20 dollars. Yesterday they raised \$600, all of that money goes back into preserving the island.

Idaho Guide Service official Shelley Garnder said, "We have brochures here so it does help us with that we can pick up a lot of business."

The festival is not only fun, it raises a lot of money.

Southern Idaho Land Trust, Inc. official Ben Collins said, "It's regional. It's not just local people come in from Boise and we had people from McCall."

Volunteer Amber Moore said, "It looks like we're having more people this year than last year so it should be positive for our area."

The economic impact for the Magic Valley is \$200,000.