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## First Friday marks its first milestone in Durango

Monthly events at the Summit fuse music and art

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Photo by: Courtesy of Kimberly Beal

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Success takes on a whole new meaning and requires a different measuring stick when it comes to Durango.

So in considering the one-year anniversary of First Fridays at the Summit, think dog years because getting through a year here is like seven anywhere else.

"I just wanted to help provide something different for the community, and we're carrying it on because the artists and the community are making it happen," said Travis Pollock, who organized the first First Friday on June 5, 2009.

First Fridays are not a unique idea - Pollock freely admits to stealing the idea from Phoenix, where he was living last year before returning to Durango full-time. And it's a regular event in cities nationwide. He helped get First Fridays under way in several other Colorado towns but has resettled here after opening Nature's Own Wellness Center on Colorado Highway 3.

The events are a combination of music and a bevy of artists who create their pieces throughout the night. That can mean painting, body painting, sculpting, tattooing and anything else interpreted as "live art."

"For the most part it's been successful, and we've kept up a great array of artists exposing themselves who probably don't get that opportunity very often," said Summit owner Scottie Sindelar.

"After 12 months, I'm pretty satisfied with whole concept. Travis does all the booking, so I just supplied the spot and the openness to cater to the event."

Sindelar said First Fridays inspired him to launch a summer artists' market, although he's still working out the details.

He plans to open the Summit on Saturday afternoons to allow artists not represented in local galleries to sell their work on a regular basis, riding the coattails of the downtown crowds drawn by the Farmers Market and the summer tourist season.

As for Pollock, First Fridays and running a new business keeps him plenty busy and never more so than for tonight's anniversary edition.

This time out there are four musical acts - Drunken Immortals, The Insects, Diabolic Sound Platoon and Dj B-Side. And there has never been anything close to the 17 artists Pollock's lined up, who will add glass art, charcoal sketching and who knows what else to the regular lineup of live art.

"Time kind of flew, and since we've started it, we're seeing events like it quite frequently around town at places like the (Durango) Arts Center, Ponga's, the Lost Dog and the Derailed (Saloon)," Pollock said.

"That's part of what I wanted to do - bring something modern and different to the local art scene, and it's great to see that happening."

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