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Annual Springtime Tallahassee festival draws thousands despite bad weather

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Mrs. Tallahassee Beth Anderson waves to spectators in the Springtime Tallahassee Parade Saturday, March 28, 2009 in Tallahassee, Fla.

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Mar 29: "Bears" in IMAX
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Mar 29: "Murderers"
The Dixie Theatre

Annual Springtime Tallahassee festival draws thousands despite bad weather

BY WILL BROWN • DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER • MARCH 29, 2009

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Tallahassee was awash with gray skies, but the weather held off long enough Saturday for Springtime Tallahassee's main event, the Grand Parade.

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Downtown revelers had several more hours of fun before Springtime closed early, about 3 p.m. The weather conditions, including strong winds, were unsafe, Springtime Executive Director Jennifer Naff said.

Weather wasn't the only obstacle to Springtime, Tallahassee's largest annual festival. Naff said the economy made fundraising difficult. In the end, Springtime met its $150,000 goal "but it was tough."

"We have continued to overcome all those obstacles," Naff said. "We knew we would have a successful festival, rain or shine."

And, in fact, thousands of people turned out for Springtime Tallahassee. Here are a few snapshots from the day:

Event draws Tampa visitors

Saturday was still a beautiful day when a community came together, said Tampa residents Jack Thomas and Heather Whitford. The two were members of the Spirit of Cigar City krewe.

"The people are absolutely nice up here," Thomas said.

"It's always great to see the kids out; they are so nice and polite. And it's so beautiful up here," Whitford added.

Although this was the first year Thomas and Whitford participated with the Cigar City krewe, they have made the trip to Tallahassee the past seven years for Springtime.

Couple brings sweet corn

This was the third year Ronald and Janice Dady traveled to Tallahassee from their Bonifay home to sell sweet corn. They've taken their Dady's Roasted Sweet Corn booth throughout Florida, Georgia and Alabama since

The weather could not dampen the spirits at the Springtime Tallahassee parade on March 28, 2009. (Iricka Berlinger)

Mrs. Tallahassee Beth Anderson waves to spectators in the Springtime Tallahassee Parade Saturday, March 28, 2009 in Tallahassee, Fla. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)

SPRINGTIME TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY PARADE WINNERS

Presidents Award (businesses): Wakulla County Senior Center
Runner up: Eubanks, Barrett, Fasig & Brooks
General Chairman's Award (cities and festivals): Spirit of Cigar City
Runner up: Krewe of Bowlegs
Andrew Jackon's Award (nonprofits): Taiwanese Youth Folk
Runner up: Big Dog Rescue
Board of Directors Award (bands): Tallahassee Pipe Band
Runner up: Lincoln High Navy Junior ROTC
Belles And Gents Award (schools and churches): Rattler Battalion Precision Drill Team