FOHP Hosted 2 Events at the 2019 Cowboy Festival

- by Tim Murphy, director

On Friday, April 12th, the Friends of Hart Park hosted **Cowboy Dance with Cow Bop.** It was well attended and Cow Bop (who have performed for FOHP before) was great. After the show was over, the lead singer told the crowd to come and take some CD’s and pay whatever they wanted. They were so nice and very talented. The horn player on one song played two saxophones at the same time! (How do you do that??) Fantastic. Can’t say enough about how fun and professional they were.

Also featured that night were line-dancing lessons by championship Country Two-Step and West Coast Swing dancer Michael Eads before the performance. Wolf Creek Brewery sold beer and wine. It was a very successful event.

On the 13th, the **National Cash** band performed at the outdoor stage on Saturday night. The band was brightly lit, and the songs were performed well in a rousing tribute to Johnny Cash. There were breaks between the tunes where the lead singer Danny Fletcher (as Johnny Cash) changed from acoustic to electric guitars, and Danny’s wife Brandi (as June Carter Cash) read stories about the evolution of Johnny Cash’s career. The audience was given a rare insight into what was going on at the time the songs were written or about the personal struggles in their lives. Bass guitar player, Bob Wright actually grew up in a house rented from Cash’s parents in Ojai!

They performed all the classic Cash songs like “Ring Of Fire”, “Boy Named Sue”, "Walk The Line", Bob Dylan’s “It Ain’t Me Babe”, and many, many more ending with a rip-roaring version of "Jackson”.

They also played songs by Nirvana and Depeche Mode, done in Jonny Cash style, and a great rendition of the Nine Inch Nails cover, “Hurt” from Johnny Cash's last album. All in all, it was a fun night of legendary music.