



# SOY

## SPRINGTIME OF YOUTH

### ROCKIN' THE LOT

What do Ross Lynch, bubble tea and crochet earrings have in common? They were all part of this year's Springtime of Youth festival, where students gathered at the Baum Walker Stadium parking lot, on April 12 for an afternoon of live music, local vendors and weekend fun.

U of A Headliners plans and hosts "SOY" each year. The 2025 event featured local openers Pura Coco, Malibu Moon and The Belladonnas, leading into performances by headlining artists The Driver Era, Teezo Touchdown, bbnof and Trevor Daniel.

Tickets were free for students through the app HogSync and \$37 for the public. Attendees enjoyed local food trucks such as Swag Banh Mi and Sweet Scoops, plus local vendor booths such as Hunnibun Collective and SIEWVTG.

Anniston Anderson, senior public health major, attended SOY for the first time this year. Although Anderson mainly recognized the band The Driver Era, she said she joined in for the overall experience.

"I enjoy live music, so when my friends asked if I wanted to go, I was down," Anderson said. "I am definitely a Driver Era fan because I was a Ross Lynch fan when I was younger. 'When You Need a Man' is probably one of my favorites, but the crowd was by far the loudest for 'On My Own' from the Teen Beach Movie."

Student Abbie Petersen experienced SOY from two different perspectives, as a performer and a planner. Petersen is a bassist in The Belladonnas and a committee member of Headliners. Outside of house shows, The Belladonnas had only performed at a small venue in downtown Fayetteville.

"We have our close circle of friends that come to all our shows, but it was strange to look out in the crowd and see acquaintances that I have," Petersen said. "It's like 'oh, they're seeing us up on that stage playing our songs, this is crazy,' but it's nice to see that support and familiar faces when you're doing something that's so out of your comfort zone."

Petersen said that planning for SOY typically starts near the beginning of summer and while choosing the headliners is a group effort, her specific role was centered around managing the local artists.

"The most exciting and rewarding part of it was getting to see all of the local artists up on stage and having fun," Petersen said. "They worked so hard, and now they can say that they opened for The Driver Era. It's awesome to see them uplifted in that way."

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