

## ★ Lavallette ★

# Local aspiring musicians rock out at Upper Shore's Battle of the Bands

By Katy Slinger

First-time participant Definite No, a band from Holmdel, defeated six other Jersey Shore musical groups at Lavallette's Battle of the Bands this past weekend. The competition took place outdoors at the Upper Shores Branch of the Ocean County Library in the beautiful weather on Saturday afternoon.

All six members of Definite No are in ninth grade at Holmdel High School in Monmouth County. Despite their young age, the musicians have already performed in venues like Asbury Park's Stone Pony.

All the bands played outside on a stage in the library's parking lot, competing for the first-place prize of four hours of recording time in a music studio. Second place went to A House Apart, another new participant that won \$100 toward custom band T-shirts.

According to June Schneider, who works at the Upper Shores Branch and helped organize the concert, over 200 people attended Battle of the Bands this year. Families and friends of the band members came out in support of the music, but the outdoor setting encouraged others to stop by and enjoy the performances.

"Some people just heard the music playing and wandered over," Ms. Schneider said.

Point Pleasant Borough High School junior John Caliendo, who was nominated for a Rising Star Award for his recent work in the school's production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," was the master of ceremonies, providing



Photo Courtesy of STEPHEN PICONE

**Local bands gathered at the Upper Shores Branch of the Ocean County Library on Saturday for the annual Battle of the Bands competition.**

commentary and introductions in between set changes. According to Ms. Schneider, John was "very entertaining" in his role.

Other bands that fought it out musically were Lost Intentions, Reveche, Dear Night Sky, The Funky Sons, and last year's winner, Axis. While the majority of the performers on Saturday afternoon were male musicians, both Reveche and Dear Night Sky exhibited the talent of female singers and guitarists.

Stephen Picone, from the Upper Shores Branch, who was in attendance on Saturday afternoon, said he enjoyed all the bands, though some were particularly skilled.

"Some of the bands just had really good showmanship, especially Lost Intentions and Axis," said Mr. Picone. "The lead singer of Lost Intentions was great as an all-around performer."

Judging the musical abilities of the battling bands were Lavallette Councilwoman Anita

Zalom, local Ricky Gettis, who went to school in Los Angeles for music production, and Ali Gleason from Metro Music in Wall Township. Metro Music is a recording studio that sponsored the competition and provided the first-place prize.

Local organizations and businesses were also involved in Saturday's concert, according to Ms. Schneider.

The Lavallette Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary set up a tent where they sold food during the concert, and Lenny's Pizza in Lavallette donated water, soda and ice. The Borough of Lavallette allowed the Upper Shores Branch to use its outdoor stage and a drum set, which Ms. Schneider said helped, because "each band didn't have to drag their own around."

Ms. Schneider added that she was grateful for the work of Mike Visco, who set up for Battle of the Bands and doubled as the afternoon's sound man.