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Business

The wedding DJ - Skidmore specializes in rocking receptions

by Anne Fitten Glenn, CITIZEN-TIMES CORRESPONDENT
 published April 9, 2007 12:15 am

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ASHEVILLE — A lot of children get into music in high school, but not many end up making a career out of their interest. Dylan Skidmore, DJ and owner of Blazin Sounds Entertainment, is living his high school dream and more.

An Asheville native, Skidmore, 27, started working as a DJ when he was a student at UNC Asheville. After transferring to and graduating from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, he started his own business in 2000.



credit: Special to the Citizen-Times
 Dylan Skidmore runs Blazin Sounds Entertainment, a company he started in 2000 after graduating from UNC Asheville. The majority of his business is weddings.

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"I started really small. I'd save up some money and buy a new piece of equipment," Skidmore said. "I kept building and building. I have all the nicest, newest equipment now."

Skidmore worked in clubs and bars around town for a while, but he didn't like the club scene. When he started working weddings, he discovered his true calling.

Now the majority of Skidmore's business is weddings — primarily

receptions, but he sometimes plays music for the ceremonies as well.

"Weddings to me, it's more of a family gathering. It's fun to see everyone let go and have fun and dancing with their family," Skidmore said. "It's a really positive atmosphere."

Skidmore was the DJ for Shelby Fontana's wedding last fall at Rumbling Bald Resort, formerly Lake Lure Resort.

"I couldn't have asked for better. Everyone had a blast," Fontana, now of Vero Beach, Fla., said. "I'd recommend Dylan for anyone who has an event that needs music."

Skidmore has high standards for his wedding work. "There's a lot of risk involved in having a business for weddings," he said. "It's a fragile moment, and you've got to have backup emergency plans. It's not an event you can call in sick for."

Skidmore prices his work by event in consultation with his clients. He is training an assistant DJ to help him.

"Anyone can set up a play list and hit play," Skidmore said. "But to really be a DJ, you have to be able to read the crowd and play what works for them."

He notes that keeping his music up-to-date and catalogued takes a lot of time. Skidmore uses high-end CD players and speakers connected to Apple computers. He emphasizes that he still controls the music.

"When the party's going strong, you've got about three minutes to figure out what song is going to keep it going. Then you have to find the music, load it, and match the beats in your headphones," he said.

Skidmore has been the DJ for several teen dances at the Reuter YMCA.

"He really wants to be part of helping teens have a safe place to be," said Kendra Norton, youth and family director at the Reuter YMCA. "As far as local business guys go, Dylan's at the top of my list."

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About the business

What: Blazin Sounds Entertainment: DJs for weddings, parties and more.
 Where: 429-5987, info@blazinsound sentertainment.com, www.blazinsound sentertainment.com.
 Who: Dylan Skidmore, owner and primary DJ.
 Hours: As booked.
 Quote: "There's a lot of risk involved in having a business for weddings," Skidmore said. "It's a fragile moment, and you've got to have backup emergency plans. It's not an event you can call in sick for."
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