GVS hosts Whistle Expo

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By KAYLA VAN DYNE – Staff Writer, Times Leader

BELLAIRE - The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society hosted the Steam Whistle Expo this weekend.

"This expo portion of the event was started as an off-shoot of the Great Stone Viaduct Celebration. This is our second year," said Paul Cranmer, one of the directors of the expo. "This year, we decided to start the Steam Whistle Expo, as our organization is trying to preserve this structure. What better way then to be out here infront of it."

The sound and music of steam whistle could be heard throughout the village of Bellaire on Saturday and Sunday. The American Music Machine, a contraption built by Dana Dolfi, was a popular attraction.

"I inherited my father's steam whistles. He had some when I was a kid and I always liked them and I expanded on the collection," Dolfi said. "I'm a horn collector and I have all these horns and whistles, what am I going to do with them, so I built this contraption, The Great American Horn Machine."

From there, The Great American Horn Machine evolved even further when Dolfi discovered that he could play music on it, which it did, every hour on the hour.

The event started at 9 a.m. on Saturday in the Bellaire Public Library for a celebration event that featured models and displays.

Starting at 1 p.m., the expo event, held at the Bellaire Community Health Center, featured several large whistles. On Sunday, the outside expo event was held.

Also on Saturday, a car show was staged and the East of the River Shawnee Indian Tribe could be seen from noon until 1 p.m. In that hour the East of the River Shawnee Indian Tribe gave a culture lesson as they were dancing and drumming.

The Shadyville Community Band also performed from 6-8 p.m.

Van Dyne may be reached at lvandyne@timesleaderonline.com