

A jam session



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Marshall Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets – Blake (right) and Brandon McLemore – jammed on stage last year. Bailey will serve as the master of ceremonies again this year.

Colorado Springs band keeps on coming back

High Atmosphere, bluegrass band from Colorado Springs, has been coming to Colby since 2001. Not just because they're asked to but because the band likes coming to Colby. And they like it so much, this is trip number five for them, said Paul Danley, spokesman for the band.

"One of the neatest things about Colby," said Danley, "is that I've met some wonderful people there and have made great friends from Colby. We've seen lots of growth in the last five years, and the bands are all great."

The five-member band has been playing together for 10 years. They are regulars at festivals, churches, fund raisers and different events, including county fairs.

Danley says he plays both guitar and mandolin, Fred Martin plays banjo, Shannon Palmer plays bass, Stan Campbell is a guitarist, and Dave Gleason plays guitar and mandolin.

"Gleason's the string wizard," Danley said, "and he just sort of lets me play.

High Atmosphere belongs to Prayer for

Prisoners International, who they have supported for the past seven or eight years, Danley said.

"One of the most rewarding things the band does is prison ministry," he said. We have played every prison in Colorado several times, and have actually been to Florida prisons three times.

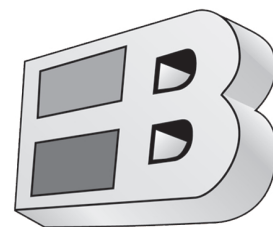
"It is probably the very most heart-breaking and most heart-warming experiences we've ever encountered."

He said there have been times when they just wanted to stay and soak up what they were hearing from those prisoners who have made a turn around.

"When you get to the bottom," Danley noted, "you can only look up. We just try to be an example to others, and we see it all over people's faces when we go to a prison, that they are looking up."

Danley added that his band always looks forward to coming to Colby, are they are ready for the festival.

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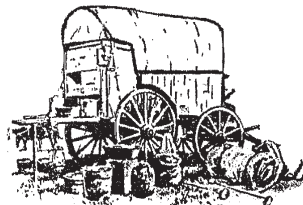
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