

Chow down before the music starts



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

A good crowd brought out their forks and knives for the pot luck dinner which kicked off the Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass festival last year. This year, the potluck dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at the 4-H building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Workshops to teach music and performance

If you play the mandolin, the guitar or the fiddle, and need help – or just want to sit in on some workshops and get a few tips, then the 4-H building on the Colby Fairgrounds is where you'll want to be on Saturday morning, July 17.

Jenny Vaughn will be conducting a mandolin workshop from 10 to 10:55 a.m. Saturday morning. Vaughn is a member of Ozark Alliance and an accomplished fiddle and mandolin player. Ozark Alliance has appeared at Pickin' On The Plains twice in the past.

From 11 to 11:55 a.m., Dale Martin of The Martins will give a workshop on the guitar. Jeana Martin-

Farris and Vaughn will give helps and tips in a workshop for anyone who plays fiddle, from 11 to 11:55 a.m.

Mark Johnson, expert banjo player and stage performer, will conduct two workshops. The first, Band/Performance will be from 10 to 10:55 a.m. and the second will be on banjo from noon to 12:55 p.m.

The workshops are at no extra cost once you are on the festival grounds, and young musicians needing that special something to make them better or more polished are encouraged to take advantage of these valuable free instructions.



Colby couple holds guitar raffle

Bill and Karen Summers, longtime Colby business owners, will be giving away an acoustic flat top guitar for the fourth or fifth year to some lucky winner at the annual Pickin' On The Plains Festival, which runs Friday through Sunday, July 16 to 18, at the Thomas County Fair Grounds in Colby.

"Colby has been very good to my wife and I over the years," Summers said, "and we just wanted to give back to something that is good for the community."

The instrument is a Blueridge Model 73, a top-of-the-line guitar, Summers said. It is a solid spruce top with abalone binding, and its beautiful guitar, he added.

Five dollars will get you six tickets, or single tickets go for \$1 each. Tickets will be available at the festival, and it will be given away around 10:30 Saturday evening during the festivities.

Summers is a guitarist, and at one time had a little guitar shop just north of Colby Glass.

"We still own Colby Glass," Summers said, "but it is operated by our son-in-law, Rod Rodenbeck, and his son works for him, so is a family business. We give all the profits from the ticket sales of the guitar to Pickin' On The Plains to give them a little help starting the next year's festival."



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