

# Festival to open with pot-luck dinner

By Tomi Miller

Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

The Thomas County Fair Grounds will be the scene for the 16th annual Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival from Friday to Sunday. The community is invited to join the festivities during the three day event.

The festival will kick-off with a free pot-luck, open to the public, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H building. The potluck will be followed by a jam session with members of Driven, Sappa Strings, The McLemores and other featured entertainers. The public is encouraged to bring a covered dish, an instrument if they wish to perform, lawn chairs – and insect spray.

This year, the festival will include new and old bands, youth activities, workshops and a Sunday gospel sing-along. All events are included in an adult advanced weekend pass, \$35, or age 12-16 pass, \$10. Children under 12 are free with a paid adult. Evening passes will be available for \$15; evenings begin at 6 p.m. On Saturday, all day and evening passes will be available for \$25.

While buying tickets or enjoying the festivities, Pickin' on the Plains committee members encourage everyone to support Genesis-Thomas County, the local food pantry, by bringing non-perishable food donations to the ticket booth.

This year's headline bands, Dailey and Vincent and Darin and Brooke Aldridge, are scheduled toward the end of the day.

"Evening is a wonderful time to enjoy the

festival," Jo Booth, Pickin' on the Plains committee member, said. "Evening passes are just \$15 and after the shows, the jamming lasts until the wee hours of the morning."

Passes are available at the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 South Range; Plum Creek in downtown Colby; and Farmers and Merchants Branch Bank at Dillons on South Range.

With the help of sponsors and community support, the Pickin' on the Plains festival is growing, with bigger acts, more activities and more fun every year.

"We really want to thank all of the area businesses who support us," Booth said. "Without them, it wouldn't be possible."

The Pickin' on the Plains committee also had a lot of help from Kathy Leitner of Atwood. Leitner designed the posters and programs for the festival. Since she became involved in the festival, the event has taken on a more professional look.

After much work and preparation, committee members are ready to showcase the anticipated event to the community.

"We want to encourage everyone to come out and enjoy all the action," said Blake McLemore, bluegrass committee member and musician. "We are very proud of the fact that every year we hear so many positive comments from new attendees stating how surprised they are at the exceptional talent of the entertainers,

"If you want to see what bluegrass music really is, this is your year."

# Activities available for youth concert-goers

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In addition to musical entertainment, Pickin' on the Plains promotes many activities for all ages. The weekend will be packed with events for community members to enjoy.

"Families are so important to us," Susan McLemore, bluegrass committee member, said. "We wanted to bring in a lot of things for kids to do,"

At 10 a.m. Saturday the day will begin with an open stage. This gives people who are not scheduled performers at the festival a chance to showcase their musical talent on a stage in front of a live audience. The only requirement is that they play or are accompanied by an acoustic, bluegrass instrument such as the dobro, banjo, autoharp, dulcimer, bass, guitar, fiddle or mandolin. Electric basses are the only electric instruments allowed. If someone wishes to perform, they are to sign up at the

information booth at the festival. Committee members encourage the youth of the community to take part in the open stage.

The Colby Community College art department will be painting faces from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday. Matt and Stella Ziegelmeier will provide horse rides and a petting zoo from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. Friday.

Judy Kleinsorge and Pat Wolf will run make and take crafts from 1 to 3 p.m. Taylor McLemore will be running a kids' tent with games and other fun activities from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 to 1 p.m. Sunday.

Toni Ackerman will be providing horse rides in the arena from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday.

Duane Johnson will be running board games such as chess, checkers and dominoes, all weekend.

Kiwanis, Gem Lions and the High Plains Lions Club have all made donations for youth activities, which are free with admission to the main event.

# Festival Schedule

## Friday Night

6-6:35 Ozark Alliance  
6:45-7:20 KBA Treblemakers  
7:30-8:05 The McLemores  
8:15-9:45 Dailey and Vincent  
9:55-10:35 Driven

## Saturday

10-12:10 Open Stage  
12:20-1 Sappa Strings

1:10-1:50 Larry Booth  
2-2:40 Hootin' Annies

2:50-3:30 KBA Treblemakers

3:40-4:25 Darin and Brooke Aldridge  
4:35-5:15 Ozark Alliance

5:15-6 Supper Break

## Saturday Evening

6-6:40 Hootin' Annies  
6:50-7:30 Darin and Brooke Aldridge  
7:40-8:20 Driven  
8:30-10 Dailey and Vincent  
10-10:50 McLemores

## Sunday

9:30-10:45 Cowboy Church and Gospel Sing Along  
10:55-11:25 Sappa Strings  
11:35-12:15 Ozark Alliance (or Hootin' Annies if Ozark covers Gospel Sing)  
12:25-1:05 Driven  
1:15-2 Darin and Brooke Aldridge  
2:10-2:45 McLemores

## Workshops

10-11 Band – Mark Johnson  
12-1 Bass – Carla Campbell  
Dobro – Jimmy Campbell TBA  
1-2 Vocal – Darin and Brooke  
2-3 Western Guitar – A. Bailey  
Guitar – Alex Vaughn - TBA  
3-4 Fiddle – Jenny Vaughn  
Banjo – Jake Workman

\*\*Mandolin workshop will be held from 2-3 in back half of the 4-H building (behind band warm-up room). Enter where the other workshops are held and follow signs. If clawhammer banjo workshop is held, it will also take place in 4-H building, back half of band warm-up room, from 3-4.



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