

Pickin' after dinner



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

One popular event each year at Pickin' on the Plains is the jam session, which is always held on Thursday after the potluck dinner. Professional and amateur blue-

grass musicians alike gather after the dinner to jam while fans sit comfortably under the trees and listen.

All-woman bluegrass band has a 'hootin' good time

A unique all-women group, the Hootin' Annies, will make their first appearance at Pickin' on the Plains this year.

The Annies have headlined at clubs around Kansas City as well as Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo. They perform at 2 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Fiddle player Stephanie Hope grew up as a classical violin player. She also sings for the Hootin' Annies and the Sweet Adelines barbershop chorus. Patti Nance plays Dobro, mountain banjo and guitar as well as singing.

Karla Campbell plays bass fiddle and sings. In 2009 she won Bass Player of the Year from the Midwest Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass in America. Cynthia McKechnie plays guitar and sings. She started out as a rock and blues guitarist.

Mary Bliefnick plays banjo and sings in addition to writing songs for the group. She is also on the board of directors from the Heart of America Bluegrass and Old Time Music club.

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