



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Wayne and Millie Lauritsen, better known as Sappa Strings, perform each year at Pickin' on the Plains. The husband and wife duo also perform at other local events such as Colby's Picnic in the Park.

## Local couple still return after moving to Colorado

By Tomi Miller

Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkanas.com

Perennial favorite Sappa Strings will perform again at the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival at 12:20 p.m. Saturday and 10:55 a.m. Sunday.

Wayne and Mille Lauritsen make up this familiar duo. Formerly a farm family from Colby, the couple now lives in Divide, Colo.

The Sappa Strings have been entertaining at festivals, community gatherings, churches, rest homes and senior centers for nearly 25 years. After all this time, the couple still plans on attending events to entertain their loyal fans.

The band performs a soft style of bluegrass, gospel and cowboy tunes. Wayne sings lead and plays guitar while Millie backs him up with harmony and accompanies on the dobro and autoharp.

The sweet style and old-time sound of the couple keeps bringing Bluegrass Festival goers back to watch their performances on the Pickin' on the Plains stage. The duo is also featured during the Cowboy Church and Gospel sing-along at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

**WELCOME to the 2011  
16th Annual Bluegrass Festival!**

**TARBET**  
INCORPORATED  
**REDI-MIX**



1055 PLAINS AVENUE • COLBY, KANSAS • 785-462-7432

## Colby family back together for Friday, Sunday shows

Even though they don't play much any more, Colby band The McLemores is still around and will play several times at this year's Pickin' on the Plains.

Made up of Bob on guitar, Susan on banjo, Brandon on mandolin and guitar and Blake on bass, the local bluegrass family will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 2:10 p.m. Sunday.

Susan said the band doesn't get to play much any more. Brandon and Blake have

been busy with their own careers as well as their new band Driven, which they founded two years ago. However, the McLemores still do a few shows a year besides Pickin' on the Plains. They released their latest album in December of 2009.

All four McLemores help organize and run the Colby festival, handling sound and logistics for the other groups.