



Starburst quilt donated to festival

One of the things you'll find this year at the Pickin' On the Plains information booth is a chance to win a Starburst quilt, made and donated by Carla McCoy of the Bottle Gallery and quilted at Colby Sew and Vac.

"I figured that was a nice thing to do," Carla said, "to keep it going." She's been supportive of the festival for a long time.

Carla says she started quilting years ago; in fact her grandmother taught her how. Since starting up again about five years ago, she's made more quilts than she can remember, she said, since she gives so many of them away – in sizes ranging from baby quilts on up.

Her quilts are primarily traditional patchwork designs, with creative elements thrown in such as sports quilts for her kids or a flag quilt.

The quilt Carla's donating to help with the festival started with one she'd seen but had no pattern for.

"It took me a while to work out the pattern," she said, though she has done that in the past and usually has no problem.

Embroidered cross stitch blocks are combined with the pieced starburst pattern, she said.

The quilt will be given away Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Veterans' Gospel Tribute.



Win 'Wagon Wheel Gang'

For the second year in a row, Marshal Allen Bailey has donated his skills as a professional artist to give Pickin' On the Plains a boost. This painting, "Wagon Wheel Gang," is 16 by 20 inches, acrylic on canvas, and was created especially for the festival. Tickets may be purchased at the information booth; the painting will be given away Saturday, with all proceeds going to Pickin' On the Plains.

Come out to enjoy the 19th Annual Pickin on the Plains Bluegrass Festival!!

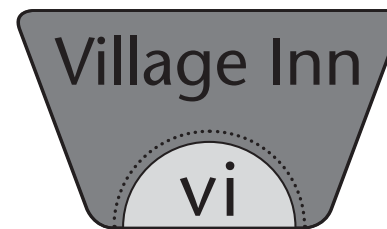


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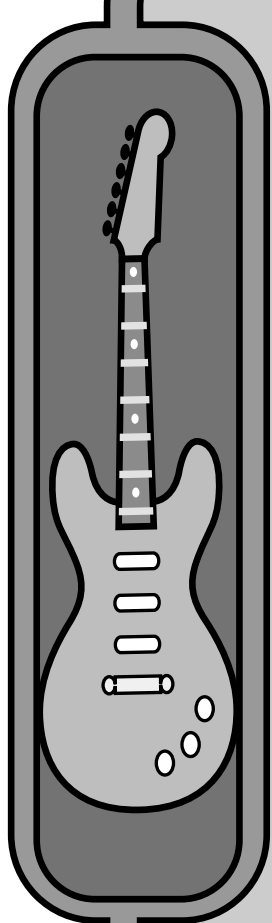
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Pickin' On The Plains

Bluegrass & Folk Festival

JULY 18, 19
& 20, 2014



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Pickin' On the Plains

2014 schedule (subject to change)

Thursday Night, July 17

6:30 Free Pre-festival Kick-off
Potluck & Jam
(Public Welcome)

Friday Night, July 18

6:00-6:30 Larry Booth
6:40-7:10 Sappa Strings
7:20-8:00 The McLemores
8:10-8:50 Triple L
9:00-9:45 Driven
9:55-10:45 Blue Highway

Saturday Morning, July 19

10:00-1:00 Workshops
10:00-11:50 Junior Showcase &
Open Stage
(Sign Up at Info Booth)

Afternoon

12:00-12:30 The McKinney Sisters
12:40-1:25 Triple L
1:35-2:20 Blue Highway
2:30-3:15 Driven
3:25-4:10 Spinney Brothers
4:20-5:05 Doyle Lawson
and Quicksilver

Saturday Evening

5:15-6:00 The McLemores
6:10-6:55 Triple L
7:05-7:50 Spinney Brothers
8:00-8:45 Driven
8:55-9:40 Blue Highway
9:50-10:35 Doyle Lawson
and Quicksilver

Sunday Morning, July 20

9:30-9:55 Sappa Strings
10:00-10:30 Triple L
10:30-11:40 Bluegrass Gospel
Homecoming
11:45-12:30 Spinney Brothers



Cowgirl Janey and Marshal Allen Bailey took some time on stage at the 2013 Bluegrass Gospel Homecoming.

Emcees keep things lively, as they do on radio show

For the 12th year, Marshal Allen Bailey of Dodge City is returning as emcee of the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival, joined for the fourth year by his wife, Cowgirl Janey.

Marshal Bailey (that's his title; he's the marshal of Dodge City) got involved in the festival after meeting the McLemores when they did a show for High Plains Public Radio. He has been host of the program *Western Swing and Other Things* on the station for many years. His wife Janey is cohost of the program.

"We have a pretty good good time on the radio," Janey says. "it's a lot of fun." She enjoys taking calls from listeners, saying they hear from a surprising number of regulars.

Janey says that she just kind of joined in when she got together with Allen. The couple has been married for four years.

"I had a little music," she said about earlier years. "He's helped me pick it up."

With his ties to the McLemore family, the band Marshal Bailey and the Silver Bullets, is no surprise. That band will have "Night Rider," a new CD, out soon, which they've been working on for almost two years. Along with Blake and Brandon McLemore and the Baileys, the CD includes Jake and Rebekah Workman, who play lead guitar and fiddle for Driven. Shelby Eicher, a world-class fiddle player who has worked with Roy Clark and was on "Hee Haw" for years, met Bailey at

Winfield and has become part of the mix as well.

Work on the CD is just finishing up, says Bailey, thanks to hundreds of hours of work by Brandon and Blake in the recording studio. "Night Rider" should be available by the end of August, he said.

Though the Silver Bullets are not on the program this year, he says they are always ready to go, in case a hole opens up in the program unexpectedly.

"This whole experience with Colby," he says, "I had no idea when I came years ago how much it was going to change my life." Bailey was called when former emcee Trey Allen was unable to come.

"I have made so many friends" at the festival, he said, he "just grew to absolutely love it."

Though he knew little about bluegrass when he began coming to Colby, he's become a fan of the music as well.

"Bluegrass is family oriented, faith oriented," he said.

That goes along with his role as marshal of Dodge City. "It's the biggest honor I've ever had," he says of the position, now in its 14th year. He says he's always aware of the fact that people will identify him with the city, and treats the position with respect.

He does a lot of history talks on Dodge City, he says, and is currently researching ghost towns in the area for programs next fall.

'Farm team' brings tradition to life

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
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The Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival keeps bringing in mainline bluegrass acts.

Together with his band, Tennessee musician Doyle Lawson has won a long list of awards since the 1980s. These include several Grammys for bluegrass music and Dove awards, a special honor in the world of gospel music, for their albums and songs. The International Bluegrass Music Association and the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America have been recognizing the band both for their songs and as a group for years, according to the group's website.

In his biography on the group's website, Lawson describes his group as the "farm team" of bluegrass, since so many of the members have changed over the last 35 years. The band was formed in 1979 after Lawson decided he wanted a group with his winning sound, and he has tried to preserve that sound over the years. At this time, the lineup includes fiddle player Jason Barie, Joe Dean on the banjo, Dustin Pyrtle on guitar, singer and bass player Eli Johnston and Josh Swift, who plays dobro, among other instruments.

Lawson is one of the genre's best-recognized mandolin players whose experience with the instrument came early in life. Born in 1944 in the Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee, according to his band's website, he has been playing since his early teens. His parents were in church singing groups, and around the age of 12 he borrowed a mandolin from Willis Byrd, one of his father's partners in music. By then his family had moved to Sneedville, home to Jimmy Martin, a famous bluegrass guitarist and mandolin player who he met at the age of 14. He returned the mandolin, then got it back years later at a concert with his band.

Around his late teens, he got a job playing the banjo with Martin. By then, in the 1960s, he had decided to play music for a living, and to learn the guitar and fiddle along with the mandolin.

Through the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, he sang played guitar, banjo and fiddle for several groups, including several stints



Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver have won many awards since the 1980s.

with Martin, as well as J.D. Crowe, and the band The Country Gentlemen. He played for this group for almost a decade, from 1971 to 1979.

The group was originally named Doyle Lawson and Foxfire. It has produced 32 albums, mostly gospel themed. Lawson says that he rededicated his life to God in 1985, and that he hopes his music will lead others in that direction.

The group as it exists now includes a lineup of musicians who had not been born when it was formed. Swift has only been with Quicksilver for about six and a half years. He has been playing instruments since he was 2 years

old, and after his first glimpse of a dobro when he was 16, he fell in love with the instrument. Lawson brought Swift into the band him the same night the young musician played a jam with them.

Barie was born the same year Quicksilver started, and started playing fiddle at about the same age as Lawson learned the mandolin. He started playing in bluegrass bands when he left high school.

Dean will turn 25 during the Pickin' on the Plains festival. He has been playing in Quicksilver for about two years and his career as a banjo player has lasted for about a decade. He was the founding banjo player and base

singer for Daily and Vincent, another famous bluegrass group, which came to Colby's festival in 2012.

Pyrtle, the group's youngest member, will be 24 this summer. Like his fellow band members, he learned his craft early in life, and has played in a long string of bluegrass groups before joining Quicksilver.

Johnston, who grew up in southeast Kansas, has been with the band for a year and a bass player and singer. Before that, he had played for the band Monroeville, according to the *Southern Gospel Journal*.

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Driven has delivered top 20 songs, "Album Of The Year" honors and international acclaim since its spirited performance at last year's Pickin' On The Plains Bluegrass

and Folk Festival in Colby. From left are band members Rebekah Workman, Jimmy Campbell, Blake McLemore, Brandon McLemore and Jake Workman.

Driven moving up world of bluegrass

By R.B. Headley

Colby Free Press
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From lyrics scribbled on Colby pizza boxes to radio stations now playing its songs in nine countries, the Driven band phenomenon just keeps growing as another "Pickin' On The Plains" Bluegrass and Folk Festival approaches.

"Brandon (McLemore) and I are still part of the (planning) committee, so we'll always come back for it," Colby native and Driven bass player Blake McLemore said about Pickin' On the Plains. "Plus it's one of the few chances we get to do a show with Dad (Bob McLemore) and Mom (Susan) since we're so spread out now."

Brandon and Blake will soon be starting their own families, as both brothers are engaged with wedding dates later this year.

Yet back to the Driven success, which has spread greatly since last year's festival. Bluegrass fans at the Thomas County Fairgrounds got a chance to hear songs featured on Driven's new compact disc not released until September.

Titled "You'll Be Lonely I'll Be Gone," this new production drew fantastic reviews from *Bluegrass Today* nationally-known reviewer John Lawless.

"Few things are more satisfying than encountering an artist with whom you are un-

familiar, and finding them to be as a strong a contender for headliner status as anyone currently working the circuit," Lawless wrote. "It's also a bit humbling, as you have to squash the 'why haven't I heard of these guys?' impulse that inevitably arises. The record boast sof compelling, original material, heartfelt performances and a radio-friendly sound."

"He (Lawless) did us a big favor," Blake said. "It (the new CD) got a lot of radio play. He doesn't give everyone great reviews. I wouldn't say he's mean, but he's not always so positive."

Driven's 12 new songs included "49 Gold," a song about the California gold rush that hit No. 13 on *Bluegrass Today's* Top 20 national chart around Valentine's Day.

Yet even before that, voters for the 40th annual Bluegrass Music Awards declared You'll Be Lonely I'll Be Gone "Midwest Album Of The Year" in January.

"That surprised us, considering we aren't even members," Brandon said in reference to the SPBGMA: Society of Preservation of Bluegrass Music in America. "They usually vote for members."

Guitarists/banjo players Jimmy Campbell, Jake Workman and award-winning fiddler Rebekah Workman also continue playing great roles in Driven's success, whether it's instruments or vocals. All sing and play prominent roles on the award-winning CD.



Colby Free Press

Veteran singer/musician Jimmy Campbell (left) has joined Colby brothers Brandon (center) and Blake McLemore (right) to help form a great Driven combination.

Now Driven has plans to make an even larger impact this fall during the International Bluegrass Music Association's "Bluegrass Ramble" arrives at Raleigh, N.C.

Driven will be one of several showcase bands performing for three days leading into the annual awards.

Top musicians and representatives from major record labels will be in attendance throughout the event.

"It's one of the biggest events on our calendars for sure," Blake said. "We're still approaching this as a hobby. We all still have full-time jobs doing other things." But we'll

McLemores mean it's time for Pickin'

Singing started dad, mom's musical love

Since the beginning of Pickin' On the Plains, the McLemores have been a familiar sight at the bluegrass festival.

Bob and Susan McLemore got interested in bluegrass music when they were in their 20s and even before, before they knew how to play. Both sang in choirs, and Bob is an alumnus of the Sunflower Singers, while Susan sang in a Sweet Adelines quartet at Colby Community College.

It was a spring variety show in high school, Susan said, that first got her interested in bluegrass music.

"A couple of guys asked me to do a bluegrass piece with them," she said.

She enjoyed the music, and was really taken with the banjo one of the boys played.

Those boys told her about the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, but it was eight years before Bob and Susan went to camp out and see it for themselves — along with Jo and Larry Booth, Wayne and Millie Lauritsen and John and Mary Lewis, and Bob and Ruth Gallaway.

Jo had heard the Bennett Brothers at Cowtown in Wichita a few weeks earlier, and when she realized they were at Winfield invited them to the group's campsite.

That hooked them on Winfield, and it became the model eventually for Colby's own festival.

It was at Winfield as well, that they began to learn the instruments they play now.

"I bought that banjo when I was 23 or 24," said Susan. "That banjo sat in the closet for three years, and I started carrying it with me when we went Winfield."

Mark Johnson, a tremendous banjo player, was a member of the Bennett Brothers, and began helping her learn.

He still coaches her whenever they get together, she said.

He and his wife and son will be at Pickin' On the Plains this year, helping out, coaching and as emcee and organizer for the Sunday morning gospel homecoming.

Two years after they helped start Pickin' On the Plains, the McLemores' twin 10-year-old



The McLemore family has been playing Pickin' On The Plains since its third year of what's now been a Colby tradition for nearly two decades. From left are mom Susan, sons Brandon, Blake and dad Bob McLemore.

sons Brandon and Blake began playing and the group was born.

Of course, change comes to all families, and their sons, now adults, have their own lives, live out of the area, and play in multiple

other bands.

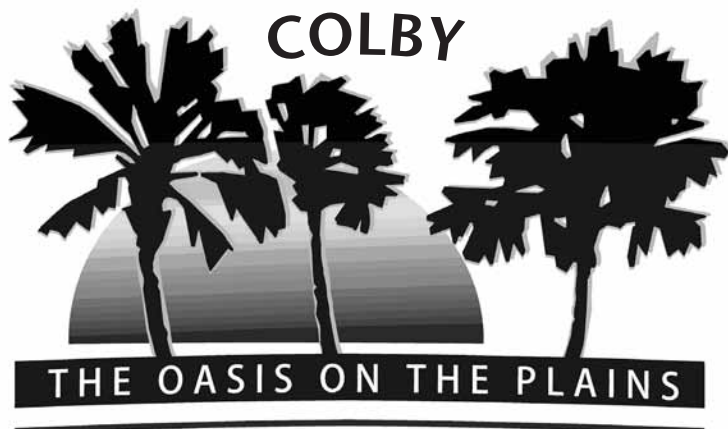
It's harder to get everyone together, and getting on stage together has become a rare treat.

Now the family group plays mostly at Pick-

in' on the Plains, Susan said.

The McLemores will perform this year from 7:20 to 8 p.m. Friday and 5:15 to 6 p.m. Saturday, an early element of the evening show.

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Pickin' on Plains is back in town

There's something for just about everyone as folks gather for the Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival. One fan last year was wearing his autograph book, it seems, as he got a souvenir from a performer. Heads got together at right for a sound check before Driven took the stage. Later on, headliner Rhonda Vincent took off on some fancy pickin'.

The picking really got serious at a Saturday morning workshop for the banjo, below.

Blue Highway tuned up with some sweet harmony last year; they'll be back for an encore this year. Jeff Scroggins and Colorado had fun with an afternoon crowd.





SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Blue Highway is coming back to Pickin on the Plains for their second year after they performed at 2013's festival. The band consists of Jason Burleson, left, Shawn Lane, Wayne Taylor, Tim Stafford and Rob Ickes. Before that show, Taylor pointed out has band works together well, without anyone's ego getting in the way.

Big bluegrass act back for second year

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

One of the biggest acts in bluegrass is scheduled again this year for the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival.

Blue Highway celebrated its 20-year anniversary this January by releasing its 11th album. Tim Stafford, guitar player and singer, Jason Burleson on the banjo, Rob Ickes on the dobro, Wayne Taylor, singer and bass player, and Shawn Lane, who plays mandolin, fiddle

and guitar, make up the band.

"We're a complete democracy," Taylor said before last year's festival. "There's no boss, and there's no out-of-control egos that have to be fed."

He and Stafford formed the band in 1994 after they met in Nashville. The first step was to come up with a list of musicians to form the band. All the musicians had been in different groups, and had been part of the small world of bluegrass long enough that they knew each other.

Taylor did not become interested in blue-

grass until he saw a band called Seldom Seen in Washington, but like many of the others, his family had played or listened to the music.

They each live in the Appalachian region where the music genre started. Tom Adams took Burleson's place for several years, but other than that the band's original members have stayed the same throughout its 20 years.

In that time, the group has become a recognized name in bluegrass. They have been nominated for two Grammys and won a Dove Award, one of the most prestigious in gospel music.

They are coming back to Colby for its second year in a row. Last year, they played to a packed audience Friday and Saturday night. Word of Pickin' on the Plains made its way to the band's booking agency, but they had never played with musicians from Kansas until last year.

Blue Highway will be performing at 9:55 Friday night, 1:35 Saturday afternoon and 8:55 Saturday evening.

Longtime performer beat his illness

Larry Booth of Colby was one of the originators of Pickin' On the Plains, and he's still involved in every festival.

Booth grew up in a family that loved music, both at home and church, and majored in vocal music in college, he said. He went on to become a full-time pastor, but never left music behind. In his 30s, he began playing the guitar, after a time venturing to try his hand at performing.

"I was in Pittsburg on a business trip," he remembers, "and I asked the bartender to let me sing just two songs."

He said he promised to put his guitar back in that case and close it up. Only if someone asked him to play more would he get it out again.

Before he could get the guitar back in its case, he said, someone came up to him with a request. He kept his promise, put the guitar away and closed the case, and the fellow asked again. He wound up playing two or three hours that night.

That proved to be just the beginning of a career as a musician that put him on the road for about 20 years.

In recent years, Booth said, he's about half musician and half pastor and consultant — laughingly admitting that there's no such thing as pastoring half time. He is starting his sixth year as "half-time" pastor at the Congregational church in Grant, Neb., though he's thinking about a change there.

"I'm beginning to think it's time to slow down," he said. He had heart surgery last year, and the blood thinners he was taking resulted in a brain bleed in January.

"It's like being back in first grade," Larry said, about the speech therapy he's taken to help him recover reading skills. He doesn't feel it's affected his music too much, though he sometimes needs a sheet of lyrics to help out his memory now.

"The doctors said, 'You've dodged some big bullets this year,'" he said, "And I think that's true."

Though he's usually performed alone, that's not to say Larry only plays by himself. In fact, the origins of Pickin' On the Plains were rooted in the jam sessions he

used to have with the McLemore family.

About Pickin' on the Plains, Larry says, though he's been less involved with the planning this year, he's happy with the way the festival has developed.

"We just keep having better and better groups," he said. He and his wife Jo Booth, who is a major organizer, say the festival couldn't do as well as it does without the support of local businesses and individuals who step forward to make donations and help keep ticket prices down.

Booth will be on stage at 6 p.m. Friday.



Larry Booth

Many years later, musical couple still delights

"I've seen people from Fresno, Calif., come out exclusively to hear Wayne and Millie," says emcee Marshal Allen Bailey.

Wayne and Millie Lauritsen first sang together before they were married and this musical duo who together form Sappa Strings has a history with the Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival which goes back to the beginning.

While they had sung together before, Millie said, they didn't really turn into performers until Picnic in the Park started up in downtown Colby a few years ago. They began singing for

the picnics, as well as at church. After they had been singing for a few years, they adopted the name Sappa Strings, for the Sappa Creek where they farmed for many years. They now live in Divide, Colo.

They made music their pastime, she said, after their family was grown and away from home.

"It's something we can do together," she added.

Their musical style is easy-going, featuring "the good old gospel and bluegrass people love." Wayne plays the guitar and Millie

plays the dobro, which she said she took up in place of the autoharp after she had carpal tunnel surgery. She said she enjoys it so much she seldom plays the autoharp now. She said the dobro, a forerunner of the electric steel guitar, has undergone a revival in recent years.

Wayne hurt his shoulder last year, which kept him from playing the guitar for a while, but he's back to playing this year, according to organizer Susan McLemore.

Sappa Strings plays at 6:40 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday.



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Canadian brothers making Colby debut

Band brings unique style of bluegrass

By Heather Alwin
and Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press

colby.society@nwkansas.com

Big-time bluegrass acts regularly come through Colby from parts east, but few of them have come from as far north as this one. "We're looking forward to our first trip there, for sure," said Alan Spinney.

The Spinney Brothers, a four-man ensemble coming to Colby from Nova Scotia, Canada, will bring their energetic and distinctive sound to Pickin' on the Plains this year.

The group is scheduled to perform at 7:05 p.m. Saturday and 11:45 a.m. Sunday.

Brothers Allan and Rick Spinney debuted their band in 1992, blending a sound of traditional, southern bluegrass brother duets with their own original material.

Allan Spinney said Nova Scotia has been home to bluegrass fans for decades.

The music drifted up from the United States and found an audience among Nova Scotia's rural population, who have a lot in common with the first bluegrass musicians.

But the style of bluegrass in Canada is very different, Spinney said.

The style of music shows heavy Scottish and Irish influences, and despite the fact that the Spinney Brothers do not have a fiddle player, that instrument is much more important for Canadian bluegrass performers.

As for their band, Allan Spinney said, they rely heavily on the vocal harmony between the two of them.

Along with the southern influence, the bands tries to put on a high energy show whenever they play.

They have also been influenced by classic country music, he added, adding a dimension to their playing which is well received by their fans.

"Any time we get into a new market, any opportunity to break down the barriers between us and the audience is good," Spinney said.

Home recordings show Allan Spinney's vocal abilities as early as age 6.

A few years later, he bought his first guitar and started down the road to performing on stage.

He studied the guitar works of Smiley Bates as well as Bill Monroe and Flatt & Scruggs.

The vocal harmonies of the Stanley brothers appealed to Allan, and he strongly encouraged his brother Rick to explore music, too.

Rick Spinney, who performs on banjo and vocals, was born exactly one year after brother Allan.

He did not spend much time on music in his early school years, he says, but he began to study banjo in 1987, learning from Canadian musicians Roy Thompson and Vic Mullen.

Gary Dalrymple, the group's mandolin player, isn't related to Allan and Rick but he,



Brothers Rick and Allan Spinney from Nova Scotia are bringing their four-man ensemble to Pickin' On The Plains for the first time this summer. Their musical style features plenty of Scottish and Irish influences.

too, grew up in a musical family. His father was a local country and bluegrass musician. Dalrymple bought his first mandolin at age 15.

With the early inspiration of bluegrass pioneers, he developed his own style of traditional bluegrass, playing in local bands until 1993 when he joined the Spinney brothers.

The group's upright bass player, Terry Poirier, had been playing in his own family's band since age 5.

As a youngster, he appeared several times on the Canadian television series, "Up Home Tonight."

Poirier is in demand as a studio musician and audio engineer, and he works in several roles for WorldWideBluegrass.org.

In 1993, the group released its first recording and opened for country star Ricky Skaggs when he performed in Nova Scotia.

The next year brought their first American booking in Maine, and over the next decades they performed around Canada and the U.S.

Their tenth recording, *No Borders*, was released in 2013 and reached the top spot on the Bluegrass Unlimited National Survey Top 15 Albums.

The Spinney Brothers have won numerous Eastern Canadian Bluegrass Music Awards, including Most Promising Band in 1992,

Recording of the Year in 1993, 2005 and 2008, Band of the Year in 1995,

Entertainer of the Year in 2005 and Vocal Group of the Year in 2009 and 2010, along with multiple awards for singing and banjo, bass, guitar and fiddle playing.

They were inducted into the Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

Their performance at Pickin on the Plains Bluegrass Festival will be the first time they

have played in Kansas.

"It's going to be great, we're excited," Spinney said.

In fact, Spinney said, Pickin on the Plains has become known as one of the premier festival in the bluegrass world.

The Spinney Brothers learned about the festival through word of mouth on their way around the Bluegrass circuit, and confirmed they have been planning to play here for several years.

Part of the reason the band has stayed together, he said, is that the music itself has had a hold on the musicians.

"We decided this music, it's embedded in our soul now," Spinney said. "Once you go to a bluegrass festival, once you go to a live festival, there's something about it that's capturing and it's certainly captured my brother and I."

Sisters bring great gospel blend to Festival

By Heather Alwin

Colby Free Press
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Daryl, Randyl and Mikyl McKinney, also known as The McKinney Sisters, will share their homey blend of bluegrass and gospel music at this year's Pickin' on the Plains.

The group is scheduled to perform for a half hour starting at noon Saturday.

From their home in Moundridge, the young sisters play at festivals and events around the region.

Their music is a mission, and much of their music is gospel songs.

This is their third year of performing together, singing and playing the guitar, banjo and dobro.

They also participate in a monthly jam session held in a McPherson church basement.

Already this summer, they have won first prize at the Bluegrass on the Lake competition in Marion, taking home a cash prize and the honor of an encore performance.

"We love the old-fashioned sound of bluegrass," 20 year-old guitar player Daryl told the *Hillsboro Star-Journal*. "And the Christian message. The gospel is important to us."



The McKinley sisters will bring a great blend of gospel and bluegrass music to this year's Pickin' On The Plains.

Triple L family band coming back to Colby



Mom Amy Miller, center, gets into the Bluegrass fun with two of her sons during a previous Pickin' On The Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival in Colby.

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
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Triple L Band, one of the bands headed to the Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival, has been to Colby before.

The group, a family band from New Mexico, played here for the first time in the 2012 festival, at the request of Colby's best-known family of bluegrass musicians.

Triple L is comprised of Len and Amy Miller, and their sons Lance, Landon and Levi. Formed 17 years ago, their name comes from the brand used on their ranch at Portales, N.M.

The sons used the brand on cattle and horses, and it was the only thing that came to mind when it came time to think of a name

for the group.

Len plays the dobro and his wife plays bass. Landon plays banjo, Levi plays guitar and mandolin, and Lance mainly plays guitar, but can perform with a variety of instruments. Each of the boys also take turns with their mom singing for the band.

Len Miller described their last appearance here as a chance to catch up with the family.

Before coming here two years ago, he said the band's songs have to be something that move the group, otherwise they won't move the audience.

His family plays traditional music, with a southern gospel influence on their songs.

Their goal, the family says, is to encourage people to live for God. The family attends Faith Christian Family Church in Clovis, N.M.

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