

ARTS/ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Gallery At the Center to feature : September 12—October 10 Art Exhibit—"Isolation and Connections in the Ozarks" images by artists of the region.

September 22 (5-7 p.m.)

Opening Reception for Ozarks Studies Symposium

September 23-24

Ozarks Studies Symposium—Isolation and Connections in the Ozarks

OLD-TIME MUSIC Ozark Heritage Festival

The Festival, in downtown West Plains, Mo., will celebrate its 22nd year June 17 and 18. Admission to these performances, and all other festival activities, is free.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL – 8 p.m. Friday, June 17

Now based in Austin, TX, *Asleep at the Wheel* formed in Paw

Paw, West Virginia in 1970. Since their inception, the band has won nine Grammy awards, released more than 20 studio albums and charted more than 20 singles on the Billboard country charts. The release of *Texas Gold* in 1975 brought the band national recognition, with the single "The Letter

That Johnny Walker Read" becoming a top-ten country hit. The band has been awarded "Touring Band of the Year" (CMAs, 1976) and the "Lifetime Achievement in Performance" (Americana Music Awards 2009). In 2010, they earned a Grammy nomination in the newly minted Best Americana Album category for their critically acclaimed *Willie & The Wheel*, on Bismieux Records.

Between 2005 and 2012, Ray Benson wrote, produced and starred in the Bob Wills musical, *A Ride With Bob*. The production sold 70,000 tickets in 18 cities nationwide including the Kennedy Center in 2006. In 2007, Benson performed with Carrie Underwood & Johnny Gimble on the Grammy Awards Telecast in a special Grammy Salute to Bob Wills.

Members include: Ray Benson - Lead Guitar and Vocals, Dave Sanger – Drums, Dave Miller - Bass and Vocals, Eddie Rivers - Steel and Sax, Katie Shore - Fiddle and Vocals, Connor Forsyth - Piano and Vocals, Jay Reynolds - Sax and Clarinet, and Dennis Ludiker - Fiddle and Mandolin.

"We are thrilled to bring *Asleep at the Wheel* to the festival this year," says committee member Emily Gibson. "This group has been long considered one of the best live acts in the business and will be bringing their brand of Western swing to West Plains. Anyone who isn't already a fan will surely leave as one. Everyone who already is a fan knows it's going to be a great night!"

JESSE McREYNOLDS AND THE VIRGINIA BOYS

8 p.m. Saturday, June 18



"As we work to bring generations together, we are excited to pair Colin Elmore, a local favorite who is up and coming on the music scene, with legendary mandolin player Jesse McReynolds and the Virginia Boys. Colin has been a part of our festival in the past and always puts on an excellent show for a hometown crowd. Fans of traditional music and outstanding musicianship have a great

night in store, capped off with *Jesse McReynolds and the Virginia Boys*. This is going to be a great night as we see music passed on stage from generation to generation," organizers added.

JESSE McREYNOLDS AND THE VIRGINIA BOYS—Deep in the mountains of southwest Virginia still stands the white aging farmhouse Jim & Jesse McReynolds first called home. Raised in the small community of Carfax, located near Coeburn, VA, the boys grew up in a family steeped in traditional mountain music. This background made it natural for them to follow in the footsteps of their grandfather Charlie McReynolds, who was one of the first to record for RCA in Bristol, VA in 1927.

Very early in their career, Jesse developed a "McReynolds style" technique on the mandolin, combining his invention of "crosspicking" and "split-string playing," which distinguished his picking from others. Many have imitated, but few have successfully mastered his unique style of fast execution of intricate melodic patterns.

Their numerous honors include induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame's "Walkway of Stars," the Virginia Country Music Hall of Fame, IBMA's Hall of Honor, and Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Hall of Fame. They also received the National Heritage Fellowship Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, presented at The White House, September 23, 1997.—our nation's most prestigious honor in folk and traditional arts.

Since Jim's death from cancer, Jesse has carried on the Jim & Jesse tradition and has since gone on to play throughout the world with the Virginia Boys. The beautiful music that originated from the brothers in the mountains of southwest Virginia back in 1947 remains as timeless as ever.

MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE

Committee members announced that this year all main stage performances will be inside the Civic Center. Daytime acts will be in the theater, and headliners will perform in the Arena. Event organizers say, "This change helps us to enhance the experience of festival goers. Providing comfortable spaces to enjoy the music will allow attendees to spend more time at the festival without feeling rushed or hurried, participate in the activities on the grounds, and have options for relief from mid-day heat or inclement weather. The 2nd Stage which features up-and-coming artists from our local areas will be hosted on the east green during the daytime hours, and will offer the complete festival experience for all attendees."

BRIXEY CREEK – Friday, 3-4 p.m.

Brixy Creek weaves the wonderful harmonies of Linda Stoffel, the golden voice of the Ozarks' own Blackberry Winter Band of Winter's Bone movie fame; Brian Haenke, rock and roll refugee solely responsible for the cultural renaissance of downtown Brixy (Pop.1); and David Haenke, life-long reluctant member of the human race and irrepressibly shameless harmonist. Their two acoustic guitars and three voices bring alive songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's.

COLBERT BROTHERS – Saturday, noon-1 p.m.

Old-time music has been a family tradition for generations for Colbert Brothers Leon, Van, Vernon and John, all of whom hail from Willow Springs, Mo. "Mom and Dad instilled in us the love of their music, and to this day we play, sing and remember," said Van, who is known for his unique "two-finger" roll style on banjo.

COLIN ELMORE – Saturday, 8 p.m.

Born into a musical family in Willow Springs, Mo., Colin grew up surrounded by an atmosphere of music in the Ozark Hills. He first began writing original songs at the age of 16. Prior to moving to Nashville, Colin earned a significant fan base in the music scene of Springfield, Mo. Colin has worked with Arkansas based sibling band *The Franz Family* and *The Danville Train* out of Franklin, Tenn. Colin continues to perform solo and with friends

DEEP FRIED SQUIRREL – Friday, 5-6 p.m.

This five-piece string band born from the Ozark Mountains (a melding pot of music and cultures for generations), plays acoustic roots music, influenced by nearly every type of music that one can listen to.

DENNIS STROUGHMATT ET L'ESPRIT CREOLE – Saturday, 6-7 p.m.

In the Heart of North America is a story that remains to be told, the story of the French Creoles who founded the Illinois Country over three hundred years ago. Along the Wabash and Mississippi River corridors, today they remain with their songs, stories and language, and one music group continues to carry the torch of this enduring culture ... Dennis Stroughmatt et l'Esprit Creole. Stroughmatt was taught to play fiddle by Missouri Creole fiddlers Roy Boyer and Charlie Pashia in the tradition of their fathers. Dennis will conduct a workshop on French Fiddling at 4 p.m. Saturday.

DUANE PORTERFIELD – Saturday, 4-5 p.m.

Duane Porterfield is a national mountain dulcimer champion, a title he won at the 2014 Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas. He is a former Southern Regionals mountain dulcimer champion

Duane Porterfield (contd.) as well as former Kansas state champion on the mountain dulcimer and banjo. Duane will conduct a workshop on mountain dulcimer 2 p.m. Saturday.

THE OZARK HIGBALLERS – Friday, 4-5 p.m. & Saturday 5-6 p.m.

The Ozark Highballers are a four-piece string band from Fayetteville, Ark. This old-fashioned ensemble features the rolling chords and bass runs of Aviva Steigmeyer on guitar, the rhythmically intricate string tickling of Clarke Buehling on finger-style banjo, and the dynamic melody duo of Roy Pilgrim and Pete Howard on fiddles. Their music reflects the spirit and drive of the rural string bands of the 1920s and '30s, particularly those of the Arkansas Ozarks.

POSSUM JUICE – Friday, 1-2 p.m. and Saturday, 3-4 p.m.

Since 2012, Possum Juice has become well known for their lively interpretations of old-time tunes. The blend of Oakley Smith's precise fiddling and Kai Perry's smooth mandolin style are balanced and playful. Alanna Brewer's powerful guitar back up is impeccable, and her melodious banjo tunes are breathtakingly intricate. Judi Munn, the only member over 16, backs them up on bass.

ROE FAMILY SINGERS – Friday, noon-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

The Roe Family Singers are a Good-Time, Old-Time Hillbilly band from the tiny community of Kirkwood Hollow, Minn. Led by wife & husband Kim Roe (Best Female Vocalist, City Pages/Village Voice) and Quillan Roe (Accident Clearinghouse), the band marries old-time sounds from barn-dances, fiddle pulls, and county fairs with the rock and roll passion of youth. They will conduct buck dancing workshops at 2p.m. Friday and noon on Saturday; and a Bass workshop Friday at 3p.m. Friday.

STRINGFIELD – Saturday, 1-2 p.m.

Stringfield comes in many different variations but always includes the unique sound of the Hammer Dulcimer. The flavor of old time comes through when you hear the fiddle paired with the Celtic strains of the dulcimer. Members include Victoria Johnson, Karl Eggers, Steve Scott, and Lynn Scott. Victoria will conduct a dulcimer workshop at 3 p.m. Saturday.

SWEET JOURNEY – Friday, 2-3 p.m.

Melinda Maxam--guitar, mandolin, percussion, vocals; Kaitlin Bierman--guitar, percussion, vocals; Olivia Woosley--guitar, mandolin, percussion, vocals, piano, bass; and Jodie Forbes--flute, guitar, percussion are Sweet Journey.

2nd Stage Performances will include the special Youth Musical Talent Competition, Josh and Becca, Curb Appeal, Southern Edge, James River Drifters, and more. 2nd Stage emcee is Jennifer Moore.

Emcee—Rick Hamby will once again emcee the Main Stage, incorporating trivia questions and prizes between sets.

More detailed information on all the artists and events is available at the website <http://www.oldtimemusic.org>

—EVENT HIGHLIGHTS—

What's Cookin' Stage celebrates its 12th Anniversary, with a "Come on over to my house" theme. Squirrel Pot Pie will be prepared both days at noon.

Youth Musical Talent Competition—Friday—ages 6-10, 12-1:30 p.m., and ages 11-18, 1:30-3 p.m. Entry forms available at West Plains Music Store on the Square or the website oldtimemusic.org

9th Annual Mule Jump— demonstrations at 9 a.m. Saturday, with competition at 6 p.m.—New Miniature category!

Dutch Oven Workshop at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Brush Arbor on the Cooking Stage.

Square Dancing—7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday in the Civic Center Theater.

Bob Holt Old-Time Jig Dancing Competition— 2 p.m. Saturday, in the Civic Center theater.

Bucket Brigade— 10 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m.—East Main

Children's Activities for all ages—East Main, next to Grisham Properties.—2-5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.— 2 p.m. Saturday.

Fiddlers Frolic—6 p.m. Friday in the Civic Center theater.

Treadle sewing machine demonstrations added to the quilting exhibit on the Civic Center mezzanine. JudyJo Protiva will demonstrate noon-3 p.m. each day.

Pioneer Saddle Club—horse demonstrations and rides.

Events (contd.)

Quilt Show in the Magnolia Room, upstairs at the Civic Center, and **"Bed Turning" demonstrations** will take place on the mezzanine.

Street performers from the Fine Arts Academy of the Avenue Theatre.

Outdoor Skills Workshops—On the lawn of the Civic Center.

Last Stage to Matador—stagecoach on the West lawn of the Civic Center.

Artisans/Demonstrators will include:

Country Heritage Spinners and Weavers Guild - Ava, MO

Southern Belle Grandmothers Club - Quilt Show - West Plains

Ozarks Older Iron Club - West Plains, MO

Lyn Barnes - Quiet Lady Enterprises - Native American Beadwork - Elijah, MO

Bill Rhodes Turkey Calls—Sheridan, AR

Cindy McLean – Quilter – Pomona, MO

JudyJo Protiva – Treadle Sewing Machine demonstrations - Peace Valley, MO

Alan Flood, Don Reed, Bobby Walker – Flint Knappers

West Plains Area Farmers Market Members

Leslie Ives – West Plains - Fabric Arts

Dan Keller – West Plains – Outdoor Skills

Kevin Smith – West Plains – Blacksmith

Pioneer Saddle Club – Pomona

Trissi Callahan—soapmaker

Missouri Department of Conservation—casting tips

Workshops will be held each day and will include:

Friday presentations :

12-1 p.m. Accompanying Guitar – Alvie Doods

1-2 p.m. Fiddle – David Scrivner

2-3 p.m. Buck Dancing – Kim Roe of the Roe Family Singers

3-4 p.m. Bass – Roe Family Singers

4-5 p.m. Banjo – Van Colbert

Saturday's workshops:

12-1 p.m. Buck Dancing – Kim Roe of the Roe Family Singers

1-2 p.m. Finger Picking Guitar – Dennis Crider

2-3 p.m. Mountain Dulcimer – Duane Porterfield

3-4 p.m. Hammered Dulcimer – Victoria Johnson

4-5 p.m. French Fiddle – Dennis Stroughmatt

Site maps will be available at the information booths.

The Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival is the signature event for West Plains. The two-day festival seeks to celebrate, preserve, pass on and nurture an appreciation of the old-time music and folk life traditions distinctive to the Ozark Highlands.

Festival Partners include West Plains Council on the Arts, City of West Plains, Ozark Heritage Welcome Center, West Plains Civic Center, Charles and Pam Drago, and Missouri State University-West Plains. Partial funding for this event was provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

WPCA NEWSLETTER

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OLD-TIME MUSIC

Ozark Heritage Festival

LOOK FOR THESE EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL:

Youth Musical Talent Competition—Friday on the 2nd Stage, 12-1:30p.m. for ages 6-10; 1:30-3p.m. for ages 11-18

Dutch Oven Cooking Workshop—Sat. 2 p.m. on the Cooking Stage, presented by the Ozarks Dutch Oven Group

Miniature category added to the Mule Jump Competition—Sat. 6 p.m East Main at Curry St.

Bucket Brigade featuring Fire Chief Joe Auffert—East Main—10 a.m., 2 and 5 p.m. both days

Firestarting demonstration—TBA

Stagecoach—final public appearance before returning to Silver Dollar City

Special items available for purchase:

"Roots—the Music of the Ozarks" - special 20th Anniversary 2-CD set of classic Festival performances re-mastered in high definition and produced by the West Plains Council on the Arts. This CD was compiled from live recordings made at the 2003 Old Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival, West Plains, Mo.

"How the Cow Ate the Cabbage" —these CD's by the late Don Buedel and Frank LeBlanc have been donated to support the Festival in memory of Don by Lori Buedel, and will be available for purchase at the information table inside the Civic Center.

West Plains Council on the Arts board members include Cathy Proffitt-Boys, Carol Bruce, Kathy Campbell, Terri Combs, Judy Harden, and Paula Speraneo, and Arts Administrator Kathleen Morrissey.