

# ARTS/ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Is There Life after the Old Time Music Ozarks Heritage Festival?

Yes, there is. Check out these exhibits upcoming at Gallery @the Center:

NOW SHOWING, Exhibit of ART By DIFFERENTLY ABLED ARTISTS,

Sponsored by Ozarks Independent Living.

Meet the Artist Reception 1 - 3 p.m. June 1.

ART by JUANITA HARRELL, July 13 – Aug. 18

Meet The Artist Reception 1 - 3 p.m. July 27

## FESTIVAL HEADLINERS TO INCLUDE KING CLARENTZ, FLATLANDERS, FRANZ FAMILY, NORA JANE STRUTHERS

**FRIDAY, 6 P.M.** – Known throughout the Ozarks as a blues musician, sculptor and painter, King Clarentz, aka Clarence Brewer of Springfield, Mo., spent years honing his musical skills in the Ozark hills and the San Francisco Bay area. A photo of one of his torch-cut metal works served as the cover art for his debut album, *King Clarentz*, in 1999.

In 2000, he was invited to the prestigious Blues Estafette in the Netherlands, where he was featured not only as a performer, but also as a visual artist with prints of his metal carvings on display.

His latest album, *Day of the Supermodel* released in 2008, remains true to the Delta blues style that first garnered him attention, but it also branches out into rawer, grungier terrain. His unique punk twist on the traditional genre appeals to rock fans and blues purists, both young and old. He promises to rock the old-timey crowd as well. We'll see.

**FRIDAY, 8 P.M.** – Described by many as the “founding fathers” of Americana music, The Flatlanders – Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Butch Hancock – developed their unique sound on the cotton-growing plains near Lubbock, Texas, in the early 1970s, combining the traditional sounds of country music with their own creative touches.

The life-long friends became known for their poetic lyrics and superior musicianship and quickly developed a cult following, thanks in part to their

1972 appearance at the Kerrville Folk Festival, where they were named one of the winners of the festival's inaugural New Folk Singer/Songwriter Competition.

At the urging of a DJ, the group, which had only performed a few times publicly, made its first album-length recording that same year at a small studio in Odessa, Texas, on reel-to-reel tapes, but for reasons no one remembers, the tracks sat unused for decades.

A couple of months following this first recording session, the group was again asked to lay down tracks, this time for Sun Studios in Memphis, Tenn. Although well known among music fans for its catalog of early performers, including Elvis Presley, the studio was just a shadow of its former glory by that time, and the songs The Flatlanders recorded received little attention and no airplay.

After a few more performances, the group decided to disband, but Ely, Gilmore and Hancock remained good friends. Each went on to have very successful solo careers as singers and songwriters briefly reunited at the Kerrville Folk Festival in the late 1980s.

It wasn't until 1998, however, when they were asked to write a song for the motion picture “The Horse Whisperer,” that the trio began considering reuniting to record new material. The result of that collaborative effort was the release of

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the critically acclaimed *Now Again* in May 2002 and *Wheels of Fortune* in January 2004. They came together again in 2009 to release *Hills and Valleys*.

In August 2012, after 40 years in storage, the tapes recorded at the studio in Odessa were rediscovered, and to celebrate the group's 40th anniversary, *The Odessa Tapes* were released. The pristine recordings of that first session capture without any polish the special blend of country, folk, roots and cosmic energy The Flatlanders pioneered.

**SATURDAY, 6 p.m.** – Familiar faces to festival fans, the Franz Family is comprised of four siblings who grew up playing music together in the Ozarks. Their parents, being musicians, brought them up on the stages of Branson singing and playing their little hearts out.

As they grew, they also developed a deep respect and love for the nature of music – the way it draws hearts together and expresses emotions never uttered in conversation. Their roots are dipped in bluegrass, yet they have created their own style over time, adding touches of the rock and folk genres to create a truly unique sound.

The Franz Family toured the U.S. full-time for 20 years and in 2011 decided to settle down and start their own families. While no longer touring, the family still holds tightly to their love of music and making it together; if you're lucky

enough to catch an appearance, you're in for a treat.

**SATURDAY, 8 P.M.** – The festival finale features Nora Jane Struthers & The Party Line, described as a traveling “carnival” of acoustic Americana. The high-energy, Nashville-based quintet performs Struthers’ original story-songs with tight, three-part harmonies over a sound bed featuring fiddle, claw-hammer banjo, acoustic guitar, bass and drums.

Struthers and company are touring in support of their new album release, *Carnival*.

The album marks the recording debut of Struthers’ touring band, The Party Line, which takes its name from one of the record’s songs about the early days of rural telephone calls. The group includes Struthers’ long-time collaborator P.J. George; Joe Overton; Aaron Jonah LewisDrew Lawhorn. The band took first place in the 2010 Telluride bluegrass band competition.

Struthers made her own recording debut in 2008 with *I Heard the Bluebirds Sing*. Shortly after taking first place at Telluride, she released *American Story* on Nashville’s Compass Records. The album featured six songs either written or co-written by Struthers; one of them, “Tell Me a Story,” became a top-rated video on CMT. Those first albums featured a number of top Nashville musicians, among them Tim O’Brien. Now, she said, her time is committed to her own band.

### **Notice to the outdoor cooking enthusiast: Get ready for the Festival’s 2nd Annual Dutch oven cooking competition**

For the second year in a row, the art of Dutch oven cooking will be a featured event at the 19th annual Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival. The festival, which is free and open to all, offers the chance to seasoned masters of Ozarks Dutch Oven cookery to try their hand at main dishes and/or desserts made from scratch in this annual event, organizers said. There is no entry fee for participants.

The competition, sponsored by the Ozark Mountain Long Rifle Club, will take place Friday, June 14, in and around the club’s living history area near the front of the civic center. Participants have until 2 p.m. to enter; judging will begin at 4:30 p.m. Winners will be announced about 5:30

p.m. that day at the What’s Cookin’ stage. Prizes, provided by Howell County Outpost, will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place finishers, organizers said. Audience members are encouraged to sample the chefs’ results following the awards ceremony.

The term Dutch oven generally refers to a cast iron pot or kettle with a flat bottom and three legs that hold the oven above a fire’s hot coals. The kettle also features flat sides and a flat, flanged lid to hold the hot coals placed on top, organizers explained.

The versatile, portable cooking tool has been used for more than 300 years, and became the cooking tool of choice in places as far removed as the

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## A Loose Caboose –

Rolling Anarchy. Mobile Chaos. It's the First (and possibly only) Old Time Music Festival Interpretive Bike Ride. Saturday, June 15, 2013 at maybe 7 AM, or whenever you decide to show up. No kidding. It's gonna be Great!

The Ozarks were settled by Old Stock Americans (primarily the Scotch-Irish) who immigrated to America to get away from rules, regulations, and oppression. It is in the Spirit of these people that we offer the very first Old Time Music Festival Interpretive Bike Ride. The cost for this event will satisfy any Scotsman, as it is free. Registration and a signed waiver are required. Registration details are being decided.

This is a non-festival-supported event that attempts to combine place-based experiences with a leisurely ride thru the Ozark Hills. The ride starts at the West Plains Civic Center at 7 a.m., and ends whenever you decide you are done. The ride utilizes technology to deliver each rider as much (or as little) information as the rider wants. The ride is about 25 miles and has maybe 500 feet of climb.

Here is how it works. A general route has been laid out. At selected locations QR codes are posted in an environmentally responsible manner. Scan the QR code with your smart phone, and it will pull up a brief set of facts and history about that location. Want to know more about a topic? Additional links (to existing material) are provided. If you don't have any interest -climb back on your bike and ride on.

Stops include the destruction of the local court house (three times), the notorious Col. Billy Monks (he invaded Arkansas a couple years after the Civil War & drove out the Ku Klux Klan), a review of how the original settlers influence local politics today (the Scotch-Irish distaste for authority lives on), a visit to a couple of Ghost towns (a discussion of the thousands of acres of Fruit Orchards 100 years

ago, African-American immigration, a fraudulent oil well, a bit of Howell County geology, and the faded glory of Pomona). The ride turns around at Pomona (information about the timber boom & Old Horton located to the west), stops at the Sadie Brown Cemetery, looks west to Siloam Springs (shattered dreams & outright crimes- healing springs, a gold rush, land fraud, and the Pinebrook Inn) and returns to West Plains. In West Plains we will visit the scene of the Dance Hall Explosion (1928), see the lot where Sheriff Kelley was gunned down by the Barker-Karpis gang (1931), and the site of the livery stable once owned by Ferd Owen's family (the king of Missouri Mules) if we can find it (if not you'll see a random location and we'll shade the truth a bit).

The Ozark's first settlers moved here to get away from any kind of authority- we don't question authority- we deny it even exists. The original settlers were self sufficient and independent - we made our own whiskey, delivered our own babies, and still fix our own pickups. Therefore, on this ride, you are on your own. Don't want to start at 7 am? Fine, you can leave whenever, if you can read a map or follow paint marks on the road. Want to ride it backwards? Sure, go for it. Ride half of it twice? Do it if it makes you happy. Have a flat? Be ready to flip your bike and put in a tube. Thirsty? Better bring plenty of water. We realize that this ride isn't for everyone (just like the Ozarks). You'll be riding on the shoulder of a 4 lane highway (watch out for the non-bike-friendly drainage inlets), there are hills, you'll need to be comfortable with a smart phone and code scanners, you'll need to carry

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## Turkey calling contest added to Festival line-up

One of the skills successful turkey hunters in the Ozarks work hard to master will take a featured position at the 19th annual Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival, set for June 14 and 15, in downtown West Plains, Mo.

The first ever Ozarks Wild Turkey Calling Competition will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 15, in the West Plains Civic Center theater, 110 St. Louis St. The event has been officially sanctioned by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and is being sponsored by the NWTF's Carmen Springs Long Beards chapter in Willow Springs, Howell County Outpost and Ozark Outfitters.

"It wasn't that long ago that wild turkeys couldn't be found in Missouri," said festival committee member Kathleen Morrissey. "Today, however, the Missouri Department of Conservation claims that 300,000 wild turkeys call our state their home. The population has improved so dramatically that hunters harvested more than 44,000 birds in 2012.

"The NWTF has invested more than \$421 million to conserve over 17 million acres of habitat," she

continued. "Not only do wild turkeys benefit from this investment, other upland wildlife, including quail, deer, grouse and songbirds, do as well. We are pleased to partner with the Carmen Springs Long Beards chapter of NWTF to host this year's Ozarks Wild Turkey Calling Competition."

The competition will offer three categories – friction, open and youth – with first, second and third place prizes awarded in each. Cash prizes and sponsor products will be awarded in the friction and open categories, and winners in the youth category will receive plaques. First place winners of the friction and open categories will be eligible to compete in the NWTF's National Wild Turkey Calling Competition in February 2014 in Nashville, Tenn.

The registration fee is \$20 for the friction and open categories; there will be no fee for youth. Participants must be an NWTF member. Those who aren't members can join the NWTF that day by paying the membership fee on site. For more information, contact Terry Newton, [417-469-2881](tel:417-469-2881), or Morrissey, [417-293-7751](tel:417-293-7751).

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enough water and snacks for the trip; there are not any porta-potties, no sag wagon, and you will be exposed to the entire spectrum of stupidity that comes with riding a bike in traffic. This ride offers freedom, the ability to ride at your own chosen speed, and the opportunity to experience never before attempted melding of technology and heritage.

If there is sufficient interest, an expanded ride of about 50 miles that will include Hutton Valley, the original site of Willow Springs and Burnham will be offered. This is a tough ride (the first three hills coming up out of Willow Springs will drop you out of the big ring and make you wish for a compact), but it is rideable

if you have 120 ounces plus of hydration capacity on your bike, monster legs, a few snacks, and a willingness to pee in culverts under the highway. Bad judgment is definitely a plus on this ride. This isn't for novices. A couple of pit bulls and/or stock dogs occasionally are encountered on this route. You'll also want a spare battery for your smart phone. E-mail the contact below if you have interest in the extended ride.

The ride (dis) organizer can be contacted via e-mail at [TOTMFBikeRide@GMail.com](mailto:TOTMFBikeRide@GMail.com)

Here is a map & details of the bike ride route: <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/182702716>

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## Hand-crafted guitar to be given away at Festival

A guitar hand crafted in the Ozarks once again will be given away on the *2nd Stage* at the 19th annual Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival. In 2012, *2nd Stage* organizers gave two guitars away, one to an active military service member and another to a veteran of the armed services, as part of the performance and ministry of featured performer Wichita Sam. This year, in recognition of the role youth play in preserving the Ozark spirit and heritage, the guitar will be given away to an aspiring musician between the ages of 12 and 22, organizers said.

The giveaway will take place at 7 p.m. June 15 at the Stage set up for up-and-coming performers, located at the west end of East Main Street near Court Square. Entry forms will be available at the venue each day of the festival. Only youths age 12 to 22 are eligible to enter, and the winner must be present to win, organizers said.

The story of the guitar to be given away mirrors the Ozarks experience, organizers said. "The materials that make up this guitar represent deep roots, hard choices, heartbreak and second chances. The core of the body is made from wild cherry grown, harvested and kiln dried in the Missouri Ozarks. The body is capped with locally grown walnut and nicely figured quilted big leaf maple," the maker said.

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American West and the South African coast, organizers pointed out. George Washington's mother bequeathed several of them among her iron kitchen furniture to her heirs. Native Americans also were captivated by the ability of the pot to cook food literally inside the fire, organizers said.

In the Ozarks, the Dutch oven became a mark of civilized living and lifted the chore of providing meals for a family from drudgery to art. Those arts will be challenged this year for contest entrants,

"The walnut was initially intended to be a finger board, but was flawed in the fret sawing process, and in true Ozarks tradition was saved and re-purposed as part of the top. The maple was provided by renowned Ozarks author Ron Marr. He gave away this piece of lumber when he was preparing to leave the hills for a lady in New Jersey. In the end, Ron was forced to choose between this lady and his dogs." This story can be found in Missouri Life magazine at <http://www.missourilife.com/articles/on-living-in-the-present/> .)

"The neck came from a boutique luthier and bears the rare 'Williecaster' logo," the maker said. The guitar also includes a small circle of red Ozarks chalk rock just below the bridge. The instrument's hardware consists of a set of locking Grover-style tuners, roller string trees, a graphite nut, a pair of humbuckers, a wrap-around bridge, selector and tone switches, and amber knobs. It will be finished with a spirit-based aniline dye and 100 percent tung oil.

who will be asked to bring their own cookware and ingredients, organizers said.

Area residents curious about Dutch oven cooking are encouraged to arrive early and claim their seat.

For more information about the event, including entry information, contact Harry McKee at [417-372-3275](tel:417-372-3275) or e-mail the West Plains Council on the Arts at [info@westplainsarts.org](mailto:info@westplainsarts.org).

# WPCA NEWSLETTER

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## DON'T MISS IT!!

### **19th Annual Old Time Music Ozark Heritage Festival, June 14 and 15, 2013**

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. Admission is free.

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

For more information about the festival, visit [www.oldtimemusic.org](http://www.oldtimemusic.org) or the City of West Plains' festival site, <http://www.westplains.net/tourism/otherpages5.php>.

Facebook users are encouraged to like the Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival page for up to the minute information.