

ARTS/ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Gallery At the Center to feature : Mixed Media Exhibits by the West Plains Artists Guild —Aug.1-27, (Reception Aug. 12) and the Ventures in Art Group —Sept. 11-30 (Reception Sept. 21, 5-7 p.m.)
Ozarks Studies Symposium—September 22 and 23
Community Messiah Sing—November 5, 2017

OLD-TIME MUSIC Ozark Heritage Festival

The Old-Time Music, Ozarks Heritage Festival will celebrate its 23rd year Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3. The two-day annual event in downtown West Plains, Mo., celebrates the distinctive music and culture of the Ozarks Highlands. Admission to all festival events is free. Festival hours will be 3 p.m.—10 p.m. both days.

MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS

"The overall mission of the Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival is about preserving traditions, and there are few traditions as close to people's hearts as music," said WPCA president and festival organizer Paula Speraneo. "Our headliner selections this year were chosen for their long-standing artistic excellence, career milestones and legacies that span ages and tradition. It is a combination that will be special for audiences of all ages. These performers truly exhibit that great music rooted in storied traditions transcends generations. We are thrilled to have two outstanding headliners this year at the festival."

JUNIOR BROWN — 8 p.m. Friday, June 2



Known as "The American Original," Junior Brown showed an affinity for music at an early age. With many prominent figures as his inspiration, he spent his nights sharpening his musical skills in small clubs across the southwest. "I played more nights in honky-tonks during the 70's and 80's than most musicians will see in a lifetime."

Struggling through each show with the back and forth switch between the six-string guitar and its steel counterpart, he had a dream one night about the two instruments mysteriously melting into one. The result was Brown's unique invention, the "Guit-Steel", a double-necked guitar combining standard guitar with steel guitar, allowing him to switch instruments quickly in mid-song while singing. There are other Guit-Steel players now, but Junior was the first, and for many years the one and only.



A TRIBUTE TO THE RHODES FAMILY— 8 p.m. Saturday, June 3

The Rhodes Show got its start in the 1930's with Slim, Speck, Dusty and Bea Rhodes. Fast forward 80 years and the musical legacy continues with Sandra and Donna Rhodes, Brenda "Bear" Barnett, Craig Morris, and Donna and Craig's kids, Savannah and Sam. The current family will present a tribute performance to the Rhodes Family.

During The Great Depression, James K. Polk Rhodes began the task of crafting musical instruments for his children. He made an acoustic guitar, 2 upright basses, a banjo and a handful of fiddles. He called his young children in and led them to the back room where he had carefully laid all the instruments on the bed. Once assembled, he simply told them to choose an instrument and that if they learned to play it, it was theirs.

Slim chose the guitar, Dusty and Beatrice, the fiddles, and Speck grabbed the banjo, and The Rhodes Show was born.

During the 1930's and 1940's, they traveled the country playing for tips on street corners and anywhere else that would have them. Over the years, they made regular guest appearances on The Louisiana Hayride, The WLS Barn Dance and The Grand Ol' Opry. For 25 years, they had a weekly television show on Memphis station, WMCT-TV. Speck went on to co-star as the comedian on the Porter Wagoner Show.

THE RHODES SHOW today consists of Sandra Rhodes on guitars and vocals, Donna Rhodes on vocals and percussion, (both, daughters of Dot and Dusty Rhodes), Brenda "Bear" Barnett, on bass guitar and vocals and Craig Morris on keyboards and vocals.

2017 MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE

Old Time Music Festival Main stage performances will take place in the Civic Center theater from 3-6 p.m. both days, and the pre-show and headliner acts will perform on the outside stage on the East Civic Center lawn beginning at 6 p.m. Performance times are as listed below, and full descriptions are listed on the Festival website www.oldtimemusic.org under 2017 Performers.

COLBERT BROTHERS – 4 p.m. Saturday

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.

FIDDLE AND BANJO – 3 p.m. Friday

Roger Matthews and Dan O’Day make up FIDDDLE AND BANJO. Over 15 years ago, they first played together in the group OLD MISSOURI, the WIRES ON WOOD in 2013. That five-piece band performed as far away as the Fingers Lake Area of New York to Bass Pro Shops’ Oklahoma City grand opening, and other venues including Silver Dollar City, Apple Butter Making Days, Crane Broiler Festival, HOBA in West Plains, and The Star Theater in Willow Springs. With Roger’s retirement in 2016, FIDDLE AND BANJO was born.

FOLK ARTS PROGRAM ARTISTS – 5 p.m. Saturday

Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council, Missouri's Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (TAAP) pairs master folk artists with apprentices to pass traditions on to the next generation. Performing as TAAP artists on our stage this year are **John Williams (master) and Jessie Perrigo (apprentice) on fiddle, with Kenny Appleby (master) and Brad Roby (apprentice) on back-up guitar.**

One of the foremost Missouri old-time fiddlers playing today, **John Williams** has played the fiddle for over 20 years. He first caught the “fiddle bug” at age seven inspired by the “fiddling I heard growing up at the local fiddle contests my family would take me to.” He grew up and still lives in northeast Missouri and that area is home to the distinctive regional old time fiddle style known as Little Dixie; generally characterized by long bow strokes, an emphasis on clear notes and melodies, frequent double stops, and accenting; all of which produce a driving quality to the tunes.

John attended Bethel Fiddle Camp when he was young, held in Bethel, Missouri, and learned from “some of the finest Missouri fiddlers to ever draw a bow.” When sixteen, he had “a once in lifetime opportunity” to apprentice with the legendary Little Dixie and contest fiddler Pete McMahan in Missouri’s Traditional Apprenticeship Program.

His current apprentice is Jessie Perrigo of Mexico, MO. Growing up she traveled with her grandparents Norma and back-up guitarist Kenny Applebee. “far and wide to fiddle contests, jams, dances and music gatherings at my grandparents’ home. Nowadays, Jessie has returned to playing the music she loves. As a teacher, she brings her grandfather to her 4th grade class, because she wants her students to know “that right here in mid-Missouri we have music that is homegrown and unique to this area.”

Kenny Applebee has lived all his life in rural Audrain County near Mexico, MO. For over 50 years, he has played old-time rhythm guitar at festivals, contests, dances fiddler conventions, and jams in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Arkansas. For years, he was late fiddler Pete McMahan’s preferred and highly treasured guitarist. Pete was a man extremely particular about his backup musicians. The two developed a partnership and close bond, memories Kenny treasures.

(Contd.)

This year, Kenny is a first-time master artist in TAAP, teaching back-up guitar to apprentice Brad Roby of Columbia, MO. Brad is an experienced guitarist, long active in mid-Missouri old time jams. Brad explained, “I don’t play in a straight old time style and I want to learn Kenny’s particular style of playing in detail and teach others in the future.”

JAMES RIVER DRIFTERS – 5 p.m. Friday

James River Drifters is a Blue Grass/New Grass band from Springfield, MO. Members are Woody Nicely, Curtis Miller, and Jeremy York.

OZARK HELLBENDERS – 4 p.m. Friday

The band called the Ozark Hellbenders was conceived in 2009, and consists currently of members Gordon Johnston, Dr. Mark Johnson, and CD Scott. Their name comes from a rare salamander that only inhabits the Ozark region of Missouri and Arkansas. The band has gone through many transitions and different names since 2002, but always adhered to making good, listenable, fun music. Gordon and CD have played together for 15 years and Mark joined the band 6 years ago. Mark was a definite boon to the band with proficient guitar work and a fine voice. Gordon plays keyboards, sings and is a profound lyricist with many songs being written about his home region, the Ozarks. CD plays guitar, mandolin, and also sings. Together with three part harmonies and sweet melodies, they are a dynamic force. Their tastes in music are very eclectic, playing bluegrass, Celtic, country, folk, rock n’ roll, and their own originals. Get ready to have a foot-stompin’ good time and sing-along.

ROE FAMILY SINGERS – 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Pinecastle Records recording artists the Roe Family Singers are a Good-Time, Old-Time Hillbilly band from the tiny community of Kirkwood Hollow, MN. Led by wife & husband Kim and Quillan Roe, the band marries old-time sounds from barn-dances, fiddle pulls, and county fairs with the rock & roll passion of youth.

Featuring banjo, Autoharp, guitar, and Appalachian clogging, the band and family of fans have been regularly filling Minneapolis’ 331 Club every Monday night since 2005. They’ve shared the stage with Doc Watson, Ralph Stanley, Mike Seeger, Del McCoury, the Grascals, and Jim Kweskin & Geoff Muldaur. The Roe Family Singers mix original music and contemporary takes on old-time, traditional, and gospel tunes into one roiling & rollicking river of fresh yet familiar American music. Every performance raises a ruckus.

Check the website for more details on these performers: <http://www.oldtimeusic.org> 2017 Performers

Old Time Music Festival, contd.

2nd Stage Performances will include the Youth Musical Talent Competition, Curb Appeal, TAAP Storytellers Marideth Sisco w/Pat Hight, Here I Am, Country Connection, and Creek Stink.

Friday Workshops will include Buck Dancing, Fiddle and Back Up Guitar. **Saturday Workshops** include Bass and Banjo.

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

—EVENT HIGHLIGHTS—

What's Cookin' Stage celebrates its 13th Anniversary, with a Going Dutch theme.

Youth Musical Talent Competition—3 p.m. Saturday

10th Annual Mule Jump— Competition 7 p.m. Saturday

Square Dancing—7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Bob Holt Old-Time Jig Dancing Competition— 3 p.m. Saturday, in the Civic Center theater.

Kennel Club Demonstrations—4PM Saturday at E. Main and Curry

Bucket Brigade— 3 and 6 p.m. both days

Children's Activities for all ages—East Main at Curry, 3-6 p.m.

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

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

Artisans/Demonstrators will include:

Country Heritage Spinners and Weavers Guild - Ava, MO

Dan Crinklaw, Saddle Maker—West Plains, MO

Ellen Homes, Pottery—West Plains, MO

Missouri Department of Conservation—West Plains, MO

Tena Redfield, Soap Maker—West Plains, MO

Southern Belle Grandmothers Club - Quilt Show - West Plains, MO

South Central Missouri Kennel Club—West Plains, MO

West Plains Area Farmers Market—West Plains, MO

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, and Missouri State University-West Plains. Partial funding for this event was provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

Site maps will be available at the information booths.

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 Artists Guild

West Plains Council on the Arts (WPCA) will host a mixed-media exhibition of pieces produced by the **West Plains Artists Guild** of West Plains. The exhibit will be displayed at the Gallery at the Center, West Plains Civic Center from August 1-27, 2017.

West Plains Artists Guild is a diverse group of artists and art enthusiasts interested in promoting an awareness of art, encouraging and uplifting fellow artists through events and activities of common interest, and providing opportunity for learning new skills and fresh understanding through workshops, classes and exhibits.

The Guild welcomes artists of all skill levels to join them. Although art is an individual activity, creativity is fed by fellowship. We meet once a month on the third Tuesday at noon at the Harlin Art Museum located at 507 Worchester Street, West Plains, MO.

Artists participating in this exhibit include:

Angela Bullard

Anna Cluck

Barbara Willey Elgin

Joyce Heddy

Gladys P. Morris

Ginny Thomason

Regina Willard

Velma Wilson

Ventures in Art

West Plains Council on the Arts (WPCA) will host a mixed-media exhibition of pieces produced by the **Ventures in Art** group of West Plains. The exhibit will be displayed at the Gallery at the Center, West Plains Civic Center from September 11 – 30, 2017.

The "Ventures in Art" group's mission is to encourage and support members in their artistic interests. The group meets weekly to discipline themselves to paint on a regular basis, and presents a monthly art activity geared toward developing skills.

Membership is open to those interested in developing their artistic skills in a social setting. They meet Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to noon at the First Christian Church, 422 West Main Street in West Plains, MO. Contact Karen Canby via myventuresinart@yahoo.com for more information.

Artists who will be participating in this exhibit include:

Kathy Achloss

Connie Benson

Karen Canby

Joyce France

Angelika Hughes

Robert Moore

Judy Norton

Barbara Robinette

WPCA NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 339

West Plains, MO 65775

**WPCA receives funding from the
Missouri Arts Council, a state agency,**

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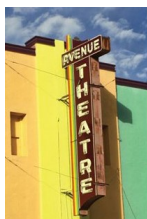


Or Current Resident

UPCOMING EVENTS IN WEST PLAINS

Harlin Museum—Photography Show through May 19 and Broadfoot Collection Exhibit May 23 – June 16

Check their calendar for other events! <http://harlinmuseum.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Harlin-Museum-of-West-Plains-108170035891469/>



The Avenue Theatre - Hello Dolly – June 23- July 2

Details on their calendar at: <http://theavenuetheatre.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheAvenueTheatre/>

Missouri State University
WEST PLAINS

Eleventh Annual Ozarks Studies Symposium “Marginal Voices of the Ozarks” — September 22 and 23

Opening Reception and Artists Reception, sponsored by West Plains Council on the Arts—Sept. 21, 5-7 p.m.

Community Messiah Sing—Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2:30 p.m.

West Plains Council on the Arts board members include Carol Bruce, Kathy Campbell, Terri Combs, Judy Harden, Paula Speraneo, and Arts Administrator Kathleen Morrissey. Website: <http://www.westplainsarts.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westplainsarts>