

McLemores still taking the stage

The McLemores, a founding group of the Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival, will perform here again this year.

Bob and Susan McLemore have been playing as a group with their sons Brandon and Blake since the twins took up instruments at the age of 10, two years after Bob and Susan helped to start Pickin' On the Plains.

The McLemores will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 12:40 p.m. Saturday.

Susan said the family has not played many venues recently because the boys are busy with their own band, Driven. In the past, the family played at Silver Dollar City along with bluegrass festivals across Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado. Now, they play mostly at Pickin' on the Plains and occasional festivals elsewhere in the state.

The couple's interest in bluegrass began in their 20s, before they even knew how to play. At the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, they

formed friendships with others in the crowd.

"Our camp became like a family down there," said Susan. "We fell in love with the music."

Their experiences at Walnut Valley inspired them to start a Colby festival, and Pickin' On the Plains was born.

But the McLemores didn't stop there. They've also helped bluegrass fans from other areas start festivals in their hometowns.

Susan said her favorite things about Pickin' On the Plains are the family atmosphere and, now, the quality acts the festival attracts.

"In addition to the top-quality entertainment," she said, "we try to have lots of activities for the families."

She said she feels the price of admission is a great value for families. Kids 12 and under get in free, and activities for kids attending the festival include horse rides, crafts, washable tattoos, a petting zoo and games.



Colby Free Press File Photo

The McLemore family's still going strong and ready for Colby's 18th annual Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival. They were the founding family for this extravaganza. Musicians (from left) are brothers Brandon and Blake McLemore, mom Susan McLemore and dad Bob McLemore. They will perform three times this weekend, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Come out to enjoy the 18th Annual Pickin on the Plains Bluegrass Festival!!

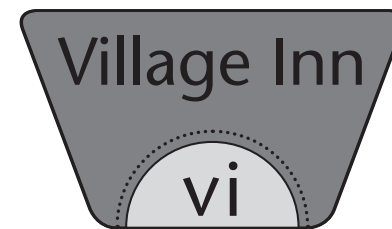


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