

# Marshal Bailey will emcee festival again

By Marian Ballard

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In his 11th year as emcee of the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival, Marshal Allen Bailey says it's one of his favorite things to do.

He got involved in the festival after meeting Bob and Sue McLemore in Garden City, where they were doing a show for High Plains Public Radio. Marshal Bailey (that's his title; he's the marshal of Dodge City) has been host of the program *Western Swing and Other Things* on the station for 24 years. His wife Janey is now in her third year on the program.

Another tie they have to the festival is the band Marshal Bailey and the Silver Bullets, which includes both Baileys and McLemore twins Brandon and Blake. The band plays a few times a year around western Kansas, he said, opening for different acts and playing for things like Farm Bureau meetings and historical societies.

"It takes a little planning to get together with the boys, they live so far apart," he said. They recently did a show for the Satanta arts council, he added.

He said he and Janey do duets and things more often, such as recent programs for the Meade County Historical Society and the Greeley County Farm Bureau in Tribune.

After spending time with the McLemores at another festival, Bailey said, he was a natural person to call 11 years ago when former emcee Trey Allen was unable to come — and the rest is history.

Since their marriage three years ago, his wife, Cowgirl Janey, has joined him on the stage here, where they've made a lot of friends.

Bailey said he's been playing the guitar since he was 11, singing professionally since he was 12. He said he never used to play much bluegrass, though he always enjoyed it. Needless to say, he and his wife are more involved



Marshal Allen Bailey of Dodge City will emcee Colby's bluegrass festival again. As the badge attests, Marshal is not his first name; it is his job title.

in bluegrass these days, with their participation in Pickin' On the Plains.

This year Marshal Bailey is bringing his second career as a professional artist to bear on the festival as well.

For several years he's done Western-style illustrations for magazines and catalogs, as well as paintings. This year he's donated the painting "Winter Farm Ringnecks" for a fund raiser. It has been on display at several places around town and can be seen at a booth during the festival, where tickets can be purchased for a chance to win it. It will be given away on Saturday evening, with all proceeds going to Pickin' On the Plains.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Lisa Wilson was on hand when "Winter Farm Ringnecks" was displayed May 9 at Business After 5, held at the Farm Credit office. The painting was donated to raise money for the Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival.

## Painting donated to raise cash for bluegrass festival

By Heather Alwin

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Colby's annual Pickin' On the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival is offering chances to win a painting, "Winter Farm Ringnecks," depicting pheasants hunkered down by a tractor.

Marshal Allen Bailey, the artist, said he donated the painting to fill the void left when Bill Summers died last year. Summers donated a guitar each year as a fund raiser.

Bailey, who will emcee Pickin' on the Plains for the 11th time this year, said he chose this painting because he felt it was "a theme folks

in this part of the country can relate to."

Bailey has been painting most of his life and has done illustrations for outdoor sports catalogs and *Western Horseman* magazine. This painting, an 18- by 24-inch acrylic on stretched canvas, is featured in a You Tube video that shows Bailey painting it.

Bailey has been Dodge City's official marshal since 2000 and is host of a show on High Plains Public Radio called *Western Swing and Other Things*.

"Winter Farm Ringnecks" will be on display during the festival, and tickets will be available at the booth. It will be given away at the festival Saturday evening.



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