

Bluegrass Notes

A Publication of The Backbone Lake Promotion Association
Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076 2025

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Backbone Bluegrass Notes

BACKBONE Bluegrass 44th Annual FESTIVAL

Strawberry Point, Iowa
JULY 25, 26, 27 - 2025



Monroe Crossing
Friday Only



The Grascals
Saturday Only



Free 4 the Haulin' Band
Friday Only



Art Stevenson & Highwater
Saturday and Sunday



The Kody Norris Show
Friday Only



The Andereggs
Saturday and Sunday



Wild River Band
Friday and Saturday



Roe Family Singers
Saturday and Sunday

Festival grounds are located southeast of
Strawberry Point, 2 miles off Hwy 3
on W-69 /Dundee Road.

All bands and times subject to change

Saturday morning workshops
Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin,
Dobro, Fiddle, Upright Bass

Sound by Nathan Gates Open Stage Saturday
Bring Your Lawn Chairs Camping Available on Site



Carolina Bluegrass Style
Friday and Saturday

Tickets Available at Gate

Sunday Morning Gospel Show

Stage Shows Begin

Friday	4:15pm
Saturday	11:00am
Saturday Night	6:00pm
Sunday	9:30am

www.backbonebluegrass.com
www.strawberryjamcamp.com
backbonebluegrass@windstream.net
follow us on Facebook

30April2025

PRICES

Friday	\$25.00
Saturday All Day.....	\$30.00
Saturday Night Only (after 5 pm)	\$25.00
Sunday (9:30 - 3:00)	\$15.00
WEEKEND PASS (Best Value)	\$55.00
13-16 year olds (per day)	\$5.00
12 and under.....	FREE
Tent Camping per day on site	\$25.00
Camper Camping per day on site	\$30.00

Three Days
of Family
Entertainment

BACKBONE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

JULY 25, 26, & 27, 2025



General Information

Camping \$25 per night,
30 amp \$30
No reservations - Campers charged
each night on grounds
No camping before Sunday, July 20th
No alcohol or pets in the stage area

For more information:
☎ 563-608-1056 or 563-608-2613
✉ backbonebluegrass@windstream.net
www.backbonebluegrass.com
www.Strawberryjamcamp.com

Please put out your campfires
when you retire for the evening! 🔥

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Reserve at www.lbocrvpark.com
Old Mission Road House
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Reserve at Airbnb

Emergency phone number
during the Festival only

(563) 927-3135

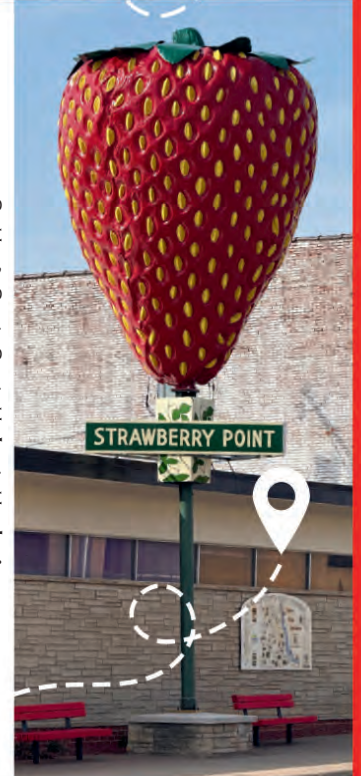
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AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

If Your Dog Poops



You must scoop...
Even If No One Sees You!!

Enjoy the festival!



2025 SCHEDULE OF BANDS

Friday, July 25th

4:00 - 6:00 Jam Camp Bands
6:00 - 6:45 Carolina Bluegrass Style
6:45 - 7:30 Free 4 the Haulin'
7:30 - 8:15 Monroe Crossing
8:15 - 8:30 Drawings & Announcements
8:30 - 9:30 Kody Norris Show
9:30 - 10:15 Wild River Band

Saturday, July 26th

10:00 - 11:00 Workshops
11:00 - 1:00 Kids Stage and Open Stage
1:00 - 1:45 Art Stevenson & Highwater
1:45 - 2:30 Wild River Band
2:30 - 3:15 Grascals
3:15 - 4:00 Carolina Bluegrass Style
4:00 - 4:45 Roe Family Singers
4:45 - 5:30 The Anderegg Family

Saturday Evening

6:00 - 6:45 Wild River Band
6:45 - 7:30 Carolina Bluegrass Style
7:30 - 8:15 Roe Family Singers
8:15 - 8:30 Drawings and Announcements
8:30 - 9:15 Grascals
9:15 - 10:00 The Anderegg Family
10:00 - 10:45 Art Stevenson & Highwater

Sunday, July 27th

9:15 - 9:30 Bluegrass Church
9:30 - 10:00 Steve & Michele
10:00 - 10:40 Roe Family Singers
10:40 - 11:20 Art Stevenson & Highwater
11:20 - 12:00 The Anderegg Family
12:00 - 12:40 Roe Family Singers
12:40 - 1:20 Art Stevenson & Highwater
1:20 - 2:00 Sno' Pig Reunion
2:00 - 2:40 The Anderegg Family

All bands and times subject to change 📅

BMI Licensed ASCAP Licensed



Festival grounds are located southeast of
Strawberry Point, 2 miles off Hwy 3
on W-69 /Dundee Road.

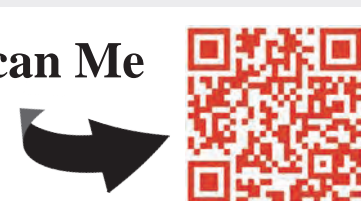
1356 110th Street, Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076

Look for our



CHECKS AND CASH ACCEPTED AT THE GATE.
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.BACKBONEBLUEGRASS.COM

Scan Me



This will take you straight
to our website!

Saturday Workshops


starting at 10:00 a.m.

Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Dobro, Fiddle, Upright Bass, Vocal Harmony,
Instrument Repair & Setup, & Audio (sound & recording)


Beginner and Intermediate Participation
Quality Instructors

ABSOLUTELY NO KEG BEER & NO DRUGS

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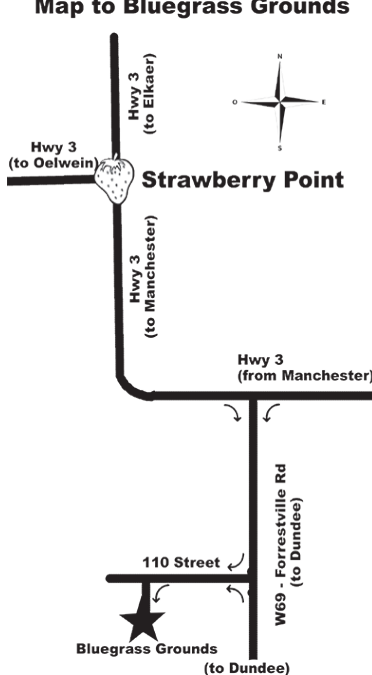
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104 W. MISSION • STRAWBERRY POINT
Phone 563-933-4762

HOURS
Monday - Friday: 9 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday: 9 am to Noon
Sunday: Closed

Pharmacy
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Map to Bluegrass Grounds



Everyone is welcome to join Saturday morning workshops in Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Dobro, Fiddle, Upright Bass, Vocal Harmony, Instrument Repair & Setup, & Audio (sound & recording)

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SEMBA 2025 BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS-33rd Year
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May 16, 17, & 18

The Finley River Boys - MO
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

The Dalton Harper Band - MO
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Roe Family Singers - MN
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

The Mark Hembree Band- WI
Saturday

Singleton Street - MN
Saturday

Cedar Valley - IA, WI, & MN
Friday & Sunday

sembabluegrass.com
Tel. (507) 864-8109

BLUEGRASS INSTRUMENT WORKSHOP
WED. AUGUST 13
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
FREE WITH SEMBA WRISTBAND
Information - call
(507) 251-1884



May 17
Youth
Showcase
of Bands
Sat. 10:30

Bring your INSTRUMENT - Jamming throughout the campground!! **No Alcoholic Beverages or Pets** in the Fest Building or Concert Area *Bring Lawn Chairs* (Low back please) **Food Service by Relay for Life**

Camping Information - Contact - Cushon's Peak Campground, 18696 State Highway 16, Houston, MN 55943 Tel. 507-896-7325, www.camppeak.com
email: camppeak@acegroup.cc
All shows are ASCAP & BMI Licensed

(May)	Tickets ~ Check or Cash or Credit Card	(Aug.)
All shows Inside	SEMBA P.O. Box 93, Rushford, MN 55971	Show Times
Fri. 6:30 - 9:30 pm	Phone: 507-864-8109	Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 1-4:45 & 6:30 - 10:15 pm
Sat. 1-4:45 & 6:30 - 10:15 pm	Website: www.sembabluegrass.com	Sunday Gospel 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Sunday Gospel 9:30 am - 1:30 pm	e-mail: darrbarr1962@gmail.com	No potluck - Food by Relay for Life
No potluck - Food by Relay for Life		

May	Admission	August	WORKSHOP
All three days - \$55 (advance \$53)	≈	All Four Days ~ \$65 (Advance \$63)	Saturday
Friday ~ \$25 Saturday ~\$35	≈	Friday ~ Sunday \$55 (Advance \$53)	9 ~10:00 am
Sunday ~ \$20	16 & under FREE with adult	Thur. \$30 Fri. ~ \$35 Sat. ~ \$35 Sun. \$20	

May -Friday 1:00 ~5:00 & Sat. 10:30~12:30 **OPEN STAGES** Aug - Thurs. 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Fri. 9:30 ~ 12:00 & Sat 10:45 ~ 12:30

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.



CASH OR CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

Aug. 14, 15, 16 & 17

Alan Sibley & Magnolia Ramblers - MS
Thursday, Friday & Saturday5

The Paul Family - MI
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Art Stevenson & High Water - WI
Saturday & Sunday

Kohlrabi Soup - ND
Friday & Saturday

Iowa No Mountain Boys - IA
Thursday & Friday

Amanda Walbridge- MN
Saturday & Sunday

Blue Groove - MN
Thursday

Cedar Valley - MN, IA & WI
Thursday & Sunday.

Pete's Pool Hall - MN
Thursday

St. Paul Mudsteppers -WI
Friday

SUBJECT TO CHANGE
RAIN OR SHINE - HAVE BUILDING

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS
MAY AND AUGUST

Eye Spy The Hidden Fiddle!

Win A Weekend Pass & Bluegrass Basket

In this year's edition of the Bluegrass Notes we have hidden a small "fiddle" icon in one of the ads.

When you find the ad with the fiddle icon, e-mail the ad location, example: Business Name - page 2

bluegrassnotesifoundit@gmail.com

by Tuesday, July 22nd by 5 p.m.

Your entry will be entered into a drawing to be held during this year's Saturday night performance (July 26). You do not have to be present to win but we would love to have you. The lucky "eye spy" will receive a 2026 Weekend Pass, a Backbone Bluegrass hat & tee shirt and other goodies from local merchants to be named later.

Pop Up Concerts

Since the advent of the Songwriters Workshop, it has become a tradition for some of the singers and songwriters to appear at different business locations for impromptu concerts. In the past JAKE & Company, Embers, The Franklin Hotel & Rod & Cal's have been gracious hosts. There is no set schedule at this time, so watch for ads from each of the businesses.

On Tuesday evening July 22nd the Wilder Museum will once again host The Anderegg Family at the Band Shell at Inger Park with an early evening start time of around 6:00 p.m. The tradition of the Jam Camp instructors and participants meeting for an old fashion jam session at the Franklin Hotel will start sometime after the Anderegg Concert, which will end around 7:30.

A big thank you to each of the local businesses who have agreed to sponsor and host an event and to each of the performers who graciously donate their time and talent.



Friday & Saturday Night Drawings

Save your receipts the week of the 44th Annual Backbone Bluegrass Festival (7/21-7/26) when making a purchase from one of our *Bluegrass Notes* advertisers.

Write your name on your receipt(s) and turn them in at the Bluegrass grounds to be eligible to win cash prizes. Drawings will be held on Friday and Saturday night.

Thank you for supporting our local businesses.

Wild River Band: Blending Bluegrass Roots with Country Soul

Wild River Band brings together the best of traditional bluegrass and classic country, delivering a sound that's steeped in tradition and full of heart. Formed by longtime musician Gary Wagner, the band is a testament to decades of musical passion and experience.

Gary Wagner, a seasoned performer, has been playing music since his youth and has lent his talents to well-known regional bands such as Possum Trot, First Impression, and Bluegrass Addiction. With Wild River Band, he's assembled a crew of skilled musicians who share his love for authentic, down-home sound. The group includes:

- Todd Owen on bass
- Heath Loy on banjo
- Hal Cottrel on mandolin
- Kirk Brandenburger on fiddle

Together, they form a dynamic ensemble with rich harmonies, tight instrumentation, and a deep appreciation for the musical styles that have shaped American roots music. And while it's hard to put a number on it, if you combined the experience and knowledge of each member, you'd end up with... a whole lot of wisdom and great music.

Whether they're playing a classic bluegrass tune or a country favorite, Wild River Band brings energy, soul, and storytelling to every performance—making them a crowd favorite wherever they go. Audiences can expect a toe-tapping, feel-good show every time Wild River Band takes the stage.

Wild River Band will take the Bluegrass stage Friday and Saturday.

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Bluegrass Weekend
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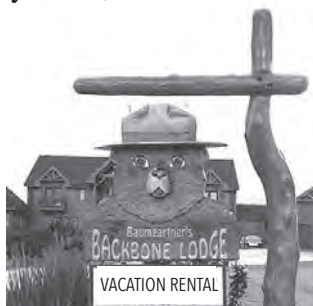
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Free 4 The Haulin': A Bluegrass and Honky-Tonk Revival Tour

The Free 4 the Haulin' band is making waves across the Midwest with their dynamic blend of bluegrass and honky-tonk music. This powerhouse trio features Jay Roussel on vocals and rhythm guitar, Jimmy Welty on vocals and upright bass, and Ray Henaughan on vocals and fiddle—each bringing a unique flavor to the group's unmistakable sound.

Jay Roussel and Jimmy Welty are second-generation musicians from Eastern Iowa, proudly carrying on the musical legacy of their fathers, who once played together in a country band during the 1950s. Jay is known for his high and lonesome bluegrass voice, deeply influenced by genre legends like Ralph Stanley and Jimmy Martin. His heartfelt delivery resonates with both traditionalists and newcomers to the bluegrass scene.

Jimmy Welty is a familiar name throughout Eastern Iowa's music circuit, known for his involvement in various bands over the years. His musical roots are firmly planted in honky-tonk, channeling the spirit of Hank Williams and other country greats with every performance.

Joining the group in 2025 is Ray Henaughan, a seasoned musician from Illinois whose energetic fiddle playing and vocals have quickly made him a fan favorite. With a long history of performing at festivals across Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, Ray brings a vibrant energy and stage presence that elevates every show.

Currently on a highly anticipated reunion tour, FREE4THEHAULIN BAND is bringing together longtime fans and new audiences for a heartfelt celebration of musical tradition and camaraderie. Known for their masterful instrumentation, rich harmonies, and deep respect for the roots of American music, the band continues to be a beloved staple in the Midwest bluegrass community.

Whether you're a bluegrass purist or simply looking for a foot-stomping good time, FREE4THEHAULIN BAND promises a performance full of soul, history, and unforgettable music.

Bluegrass...It's a mood. Come Join the fun!

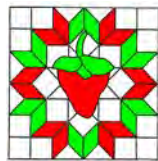


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5 PM until sold out!**Jamming on the Porch**

7 p.m. until close!

Wednesday, July 23rd**Viva Mexico**

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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE BACKBONE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Clayton County

Press-Journal

Strawberry Point, Iowa

Art Stevenson & High Water: Carrying the Torch of Traditional Bluegrass Since 1993

For over three decades, Art Stevenson & High Water have been at the forefront of keeping traditional bluegrass music alive and thriving in Wisconsin and the surrounding states. Formed in 1993, the band has carved out a respected place in the Americana music scene through a dedication to the roots of bluegrass and an evolving sound that embraces both tradition and innovation.

With seven acclaimed CD recordings under their belt, the group has earned praise from media critics and enjoyed regular airplay from bluegrass and roots music radio programs across the country. Their discography features a thoughtful mix of well-chosen classics and heartfelt original compositions, reflecting a deep reverence for the genre while adding their own voice to its story.

At its core, the band's mission is simple yet powerful: to preserve the hard-driving, authentic sound of traditional bluegrass, while drawing on influences from early country, mountain ballads, and contemporary acoustic music. Their diverse repertoire includes the timeless works of Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, and other pioneers, as well as fresh material that keeps their performances engaging for audiences of all ages.

In 2021, High Water emerged from the challenges of the pandemic with renewed purpose—and a new member, marking their first lineup change in two decades. This fresh energy has reinvigorated the group's dynamic sound

and strengthened their commitment to their musical journey.

Beyond performing, Art Stevenson & High Water have made a lasting impact on the bluegrass community through their role as hosts of Bluegrass In The Pines, a beloved annual festival held in Rosholt, Wisconsin, since 2011. The event features a lineup of top national and regional bluegrass talent and continues to grow in popularity among fans and musicians alike.

Whether playing on stage, recording in the studio, or welcoming fans to their festival, Art Stevenson & High Water remain a vital force in bluegrass music—rooted in tradition, inspired by community, and always looking ahead.

Art Stevenson & High Water take the stage on Saturday and Sunday at the Backbone Bluegrass Festival.

Music Runs Deep in the Andereggs Family

Hailing from the small town of Ryan in Northeast Iowa, The Andereggs Family has been sharing their passion for bluegrass, gospel, and classic country music since their children were young. What started as a love for attending bluegrass festivals soon blossomed into a family tradition of making music together.

The group features a talented lineup: Evan on guitar, Graham on banjo, Nathan on mandolin and bass, Jillian on fiddle, and parents Kipp on resonator guitar and Susan on bass. Together, they create a rich, heartfelt sound that resonates with audiences of all ages.

Over the years, the family has performed at a variety of venues, including churches, care facilities, community celebrations, private events, opera houses, and bluegrass festivals throughout the Midwest. Their music is not only a reflection of their talent but also their close family bond and shared love for traditional American music.

Catch The Andereggs Family live on Saturday and Sunday at the Backbone Bluegrass Festival.



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025

4 PM (GATES OPEN AT 1PM)

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Beginner Jam

A Beginner Jam is held on
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Common fiddle tunes include Old Joe Clark (A), Cripple Creek (A), Angeline the Baker (D), Soldier's Joy (D), Arkansas Traveler (D), Boil them Cabbage Down (G), Flop Eared Mule (D), Faded Love (A), and Southwind (G).

We'll also do some traditional bluegrass songs: I'll Fly Away (G), Bury Me Beneath the Willow (G), Mama Don't Allow (C or D). We might even do some 12 bar blues in G, and some silly songs!

Bring songs you're working on and suggest them to the group. You'll find us at the corner of the road near the center of the campground--look for the A-Frame Dielschneider camper and the Olson/Hurst gray pop-up camper. The Beginner Jam is hosted by Gloria and Nile Dielschneider, Steve Hurst, and Joanne Olson.

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Thank you to the Backbone Lake Association for the opportunity to publish the Bluegrass Notes and for your continued support to our businesses and communities over the past 44 years.

- THE PRESS JOURNAL

Classic Roots, Modern Fire: Monroe Crossing Keeps Bluegrass Thriving

Monroe Crossing performs an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, original bluegrass and some surprising selections outside the bluegrass genre. Named in honor of Bill Monroe, the Father of Bluegrass Music, Monroe Crossing's superb musicianship and on-stage rapport have entertained audiences throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

For over 20 years this Minnesota based band has averaged over 100 shows a year performing in intimate rooms, community theaters, major venues and outdoor festivals. They are favorites among bluegrass connoisseurs and non-bluegrass audiences alike. They love introducing newcomers to bluegrass music!

The Monroe Crossing band consists of four distinct personalities with differing musical backgrounds. When combined, their individual histories make for a unique sound. The three original members are: Mark Anderson (bass), Lisa Fuglie (fiddle & lead vocals) and Matt Thompson (mandolin & harmony vocals). Derek Johnson (guitar & lead vocals) joined in 2011 and also handles the booking duties for the band. The group utilizes a cadre of very talented banjo players, all of whom are alumni of the group including Benji Flaming, David Robinson and Graham Sones.

In 2007, Monroe Crossing was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. They have been selected twice to showcase at the annual World of Bluegrass convention hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA). They have also made two appearances at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2016, Monroe Crossing had the honor of being the first Minnesota bluegrass band to perform in South Korea.

Monroe Crossing has released 17 albums to date. The band's diverse discography consists of traditional bluegrass, original bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, a tribute to Bill Monroe, classic country, Christmas music and two collaborations with the award-winning choir Vocal Essence. Whether playing bluegrass or material outside the genre, Monroe Crossing is one of the most entertaining acts in bluegrass today!

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He Said No. She Said Yes. Now They're One of Americana's Most Unstoppable Duos

The Roe Family Singers is a husband-and-wife duo made up of Quillan and Kim Roe. They've been making music together for 15 years, starting as a tribute to the then-recently deceased Johnny & June Carter Cash.

Kim grew up surrounded by music—singing along as her dad played guitar, performing in choir as a teen, and later belting out karaoke tunes as a young adult.

Quillan comes from a colorful lineage: Kentucky horse thieves and Appalachian/Ozark fiddlers on his mother's side, and evangelists, poets, and writers on his father's. He's been active in the music scene for nearly 30 years, launching his first professional band, Accident Clearinghouse, in 1992.

Kim and Quillan were married in the spring of 2003, and soon after Kim was asking Quillan if they could start a band together. Quillan said, "No. Husbands and wives shouldn't be in bands together. It's a terrible idea!" Kim kept bringing up the idea of starting a band, but Quillan always said, "No." Then, later that same year, both June Carter and Johnny Cash passed away, and a local bar — Lee's Liquor Lounge — planned a tribute show in their honor. Quillan wanted to take part

in the tribute show, but his band at the time was on hiatus. So, while on the phone with the event's promoter, he turned to Kim and asked, "Do you still want to start a band?" Thinking he meant someday — not right then — she excitedly said, "Yes!" Quillan jumped on it. "Put us down as the... uh..." He hadn't planned that far ahead. "Put us down as the Roe Family Singers," he blurted out. Just like that, their first gig was booked — and Kim didn't even know it!

Though they both had full-time jobs, the Roes threw themselves into making music as often as they could. They started a weekly residency at the 331 Club which they maintain to this day, and by 2010 they were maintaining a full-time band's workload, while still working full-time day jobs, and raising one baby daughter with a second on the way.

In 2011, they won the prestigious McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians, which comes with a substantial monetary award. The Roes talked it over and decided that they would try life as full-time musicians—using the McKnight Fellowship to help fund their first year—and have been making music their full-time work ever since.

Like any recording artist, Quillan has wanted a recording con-

tract since the beginning, so the opportunity to partner first with bluegrass powerhouse Pinecastle Records, and their new subsidiary, Bonfire Music Group, is very exciting. "Back when I first started I thought a record contract meant all the crazy stories you hear when you're a huge music fan growing up: the million-dollar advance, the fame, the fortune, the mansions, the cars... I thought it was the ticket to being the next Elvis Presley or Hank Williams," Quillan said. "But these days, with peer-to-peer sharing, streaming internet music services, and the fact that any lap-top computer can be a recording studio and distribution hub, all that's changed."

Partnering with Bonfire means, most importantly, having someone to share the workload and the costs of promotion and distribution," Quillan said. "Running a band is tough, constant, and expensive — and we're doing it while also being spouses and parents." Kim added, "It also opens up new opportunities to reach audiences we might not access otherwise. Being on a label brings a level of respect — it means that someone professional, with a long history of releasing music like ours, believes in what we do. It helps us grow our career, take it to the next level, and sustain it longer than we could on our own. We're incredibly thankful to be working with Bonfire Music Group to make it all happen."

Backbone Bluegrass Festival: Big Electric Upgrades Coming in 2025

Exciting news is sparking at the Backbone Bluegrass Festival campground — and it's electric! If everything goes according to plan, festivalgoers in 2025 will enjoy major upgrades to the site's electricity infrastructure, just in time for a smooth and enjoyable camping experience.

Every trailer campsite is set to be outfitted with 30-amp electrical outlets. That's right — no more frantic dashes or splitter struggles. Every camper will have access to dedicated 30-amp service, ensuring a reliable power source for your home-on-wheels. Reddy Kilowatt will be "standing by" to help keep the good times rolling with dependable electricity.

But the improvements don't stop there. The campground will also see enhancements to:

- Lighting throughout the grounds
- Electrical systems in the kitchen
- Upgrades to the shower house power

These changes are all designed to boost the festival experience for Strawberry Jam campers, festival campers, vendors, and attendees



alike.

Of course, progress like this doesn't come without a cost. The Backbone Lake Promotion Association — the dedicated 501(c)(3) non-profit behind the festival — welcomes donations of any size to help fund these vital improvements. Contributions are tax-deductible and go directly toward making each festival year better than the last.

To help raise funds for these upgrades, Backbone Bluegrass will be holding a fundraiser breakfast during Strawberry Days weekend - Saturday, June 14 at the Civic Center from 7-11 AM. Come enjoy a great meal and support a great cause!

Enjoy the festival, and see you at the Backbone Bluegrass Festival July 25 - 27, 2025.

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20 Years Strong: The Grascals Unite Tradition and Innovation on Bluegrass's Biggest Stages

Great musicians can always find a way to make good music—but to make truly great music, they must form a bond that often goes beyond the musical and into the personal. For The Grascals, that bond has been forged at the intersection of personal friendships, shared professional resumes and an appreciation for the innovative mingling of bluegrass and country music that has been a hallmark of the Nashville scene for more than forty years.

Their cutting-edge modern bluegrass is delivered with a deep knowledge of, and admiration for the work of the music's founding fathers. Timely yet timeless, The Grascals create music that feels entirely relevant in the moment while remaining rooted in the traditional values of soul and musicianship. It's a unique sound that has earned three Grammy® nominations and two Entertainer of the Year awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association, as well as national media attention that seems to perpetually elude acts entrenched in niche genres. Such appearances include The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Fox & Friends, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and CBS' The Talk. Honors also include performing twice for President George W. Bush and at President Barack Obama's inaugural ball at the Smithsonian. The Grascals have over 200 guest appearances on the Grand Ole Opry to their credit and have

also performed on the revered stages of Radio City Music Hall, the Ryman Auditorium and the Kennedy Center as well as music festivals such as MerleFest, Stagecoach, and the CMA Music Festival. In addition to performing across the United States and Canada, the award-winning band has traveled the world to take bluegrass music to Japan, Greece, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, and Belgium.

The Grascals have recorded and performed with country legends like Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Vince Gill, Hank Williams Jr., George Jones, and many more.

As their recordings prove, The Grascals' rare musical empathy gives them an unerring ear for just the right touch to illuminate each offering's deepest spirit—whether they're digging into one of their original songs or reworking a bluegrass classic or a pop standard. Take for instance, fan favorite, "Last Train to Clarksville." Non-bluegrass listeners enjoy a new take on a familiar song, while diehard bluegrass audiences who may have never heard the Monkees classic, respond in-kind, not even realizing that the song has been Grascalized.

As they approach their 20th anniversary, The Grascals embody the best of both worlds—veteran confidence and fresh drive. With renewed energy and a passion for pushing musical boundaries, there's much more to come.

Join Us for Free Workshops on Saturday at the Bluegrass Festival



Once again, the Bluegrass Festival is proud to offer a series of complimentary workshops on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Led by experienced instructors from the Strawberry Jam Camp and talented members of performing bands, these workshops cover a wide range of instruments and topics.

Participants can expect instruction and insights on guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, bass, and dobro. Additionally, there will be a workshop on instrument setup and repair conducted by Kenny Fox, along with last year's favorite harmony singing session, and an audio workshop led by Nathan Gates.

Access to these workshops is included with a Weekend or Saturday Pass, making it a valuable addition to your festival experience. Simply bring your instrument and enthusiasm to join us for what has become a highlight of the entire weekend. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Evan Anderegg to Emcee 2025 Backbone Bluegrass Festival

The Backbone Bluegrass Festival is thrilled to announce Evan Anderegg of Strawberry Point, Iowa, as this year's emcee. A familiar face in the Midwest bluegrass scene, Evan brings a deep love for the music, a warm stage presence, and a wealth of festival experience to the role.

Evan attended his first bluegrass festival in 2010 at just nine years old and made his first appearance at the festival in 2011. Inspired by the music and the community, he attended jam camp in 2015 and soon after began performing alongside his family. Since 2016, Evan and his family have traveled across the Midwest playing at festivals, sharing their talent and passion for bluegrass.

In 2021 and 2022, Evan and his family band competed in the KSMU Youth in Bluegrass competition at Silver Dollar City, gaining recognition for

their musical skills and stage presence. Evan has also taught at various bluegrass camps, passing on his love of music to the next generation.

A gifted vocalist, guitarist, and natural entertainer, Evan brings an infectious enthusiasm to the stage. As emcee, he'll guide audiences through the weekend's performances, engage the crowd with his energy and humor, and help make this year's Backbone Bluegrass Festival a memorable celebration for all.

In addition to his emcee duties, Evan will also take the stage with The Anderegg Family, performing live on Saturday and Sunday on the bluegrass stage—don't miss the chance to see this talented family share their music and story.

Join us in welcoming Evan Anderegg as the official emcee for the 2025 Backbone Bluegrass Festival!



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Carolina Bluegrass Style: Blending Generations, Genres & Good Vibes

Carolina Bluegrass Style is a unique blend of young and old, past, present, and perhaps the future of bluegrass music. When Tommy Thomas asked Tyler Chasteen, Don Ashley, and David Prosser to get together and play some music, they had no idea they would be creating a new group. Yet, the popularity of the group has surpassed all expectations.

While all the members of the band live in the Columbia, South Carolina area, they have been honoring their sound in restaurants, clubs, and other venues around Asheville, North Carolina. The band's eclectic mix of members has brought about a fusion of both musical styles and musical selections, featuring a little of everything from old Western

Swing music to Jazz, Reggae, and, of course, Traditional and Contemporary Bluegrass.

Let's Meet the Band

Tommy Thomas – The “foundation” man for the band, Tommy has played Jazz, Big Band, and Classical before getting into bluegrass and playing with several local bands. He brought Carolina Bluegrass Style together, and his rock-solid beat moves the sound with his walking lines. Inspired by legends like Tom Grey and Edgat Meyer, Tommy is a key component of the band's rhythm section.

Don Ashley – Don plays the fiddle and serves as the Master of Ceremonies for the band. His charm, wit, and easygoing manner engage the crowd, making them feel part of the

performance. With a career spanning several bands, Don's powerful double-stop fiddle style and strong baritone lead voice make him a fun and captivating performer.

Tyler Chasteen – Holding down both rhythm and lead guitar, Tyler is the youngest member of the group. His talent is immense, inspired by icons like Tony Rice, Clarence White, and Billy Strings. Tyler is not only an exceptional guitarist but also a strong singer, with his lead and tenor voice fitting perfectly over the music that Carolina Bluegrass Style creates.

David Prosser – Rounding out the ensemble is the banjo and dobro player. David has been playing since he was 17 years old and loves the music he plays. Whether it's swing of hard-driving bluegrass, David is always having a great time. With influences ranging from Earl Scruggs and Don Reno to Bela Fleck and Tony Trishka, David is constantly learning and evolving his craft.

That's the band, or as we like to say...This is CBS!

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BLPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Instrument or cash donations accepted and appreciated.

QUIZ TIME

1. What is the correct name of Ralph Stanley's band?

- a) Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Clan
- b) Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys
- c) Ralph Stanley and Clinch
- d) Ralph Stanley and the Weekend

2. What is “Little Cabin Home on the Hill”

- a) A real place in western Kentucky
- b) A euphemism for a house of ill-repute
- c) A song co-written and recorded by Bill Monroe & Lester Flatt
- d) Featured on the show *Love It or List It*

3. Fox On the Run was written and first recorded by?

- a) The Lovin' Spoonful b) Tony Hazzard and Manfred Mann
- c) Bill Emerson and Cliff Waldron d) Tom T. Hall

4. The mandolin strings are timed.

- a) In pairs b) In fifths c) infrequently d) all of the above

5. In the mid-1950s, What instrument did Flatt & Scruggs add to their lineup which had never been used in Bill Monroe's band?

- a) Snare drum b) Octave banjo c) Oboe d) Dobro

6. Finish the song lyric, “Honey You Don't Know My Mind”...

- a) Or anybody else's mind for that matter
- b) I'm lonesome all the time
- c) You've climbed up the wrong pine
- d) And I don't know my mind, does anybody here know my mind?

7. Before Mac Wiseman played with Flatt & Scruggs or Bill Monroe, he played bass for which country female vocalist?

- a) Peggy Lee b) Patsy Cline c) Molly O' Day d) Sandra Day O'Connor

ANSWER KEY: 1) b 2) c 3) b 4) d 5) d 6) b 7) c

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The Kody Norris Show Isn't Retro—They're the Future of Bluegrass, Rhinestones and All

Whatever you do, don't call The Kody Norris Show 'retro'. While the reigning SPBGMA Entertainers of the Year are known for the rhinestones that shine from their lapels and the fringe that hangs from their collars seem to conjure up memories of times gone by, The Kody Norris Show are very much directing their gaze forever forward.

The talented group, made up of frontman Kody Norris, Josiah Tyree, Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris, and Charlie Lowman, finds themselves with a growing legion of fans craving the comfort that comes from their "retro" look, but equally craving dynamic instrumentation and thought-provoking lyrics – all of which can be heard throughout their epic new album, *Rhinestone Revival*.

"There is a whole chapter of country music that's just kind of faded away," The Kody Norris Show's frontman once said. "I believe The Kody Norris Show has been instrumental in bringing back some of that nostalgia and some of that classic look that country music and bluegrass music used to have."

The foundations of the electrifying four-piece band can be found within the roots of Kody Norris himself, a once inquisitive youngster from Mountain City, Tennessee who would spend hours sitting in the passenger seat of his Uncle Jack's Chevrolet El Camino listening to the entirety of The Stanley Brothers 16 Greatest Hits tape, wondering if he would ever be

able to match the sweet harmonies coming through the speakers. It was those very harmonies that Norris also would recognize wavering through the rafters of the Baptist church he attended as a kid. There was a bluegrass quartet that would play in the Free Will Baptist Church, and soon Norris became infatuated with the music that could materialize from a banjo and a guitar. So, at nine years old, he picked up the mandolin. And he never put it down.

It was a similar love affair of music for Mary Rachel Nalley-Norris, who started playing classical violin in the fourth grade, but by the fifth grade, she knew it wasn't for her. Instead, in a quest to differentiate herself from her musical counterparts in her grade school orchestra, she took up the fiddle. She began playing the festival circuit alongside the likes of the bluegrass legend, Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers, and soon became one of the most dynamic females on those festival stages.

It was on that stage she eventually met her husband Kody, who had already gone on to play alongside the likes of Ralph Stanley, Ralph Stanley II, and Joe Isaacs throughout his already impressive career. In 2017, banjo extraordinaire Josiah Tyree signed on with The Kody Norris Show, and soon his old-time clawhammer style fit right into the bluegrass style that the band was becoming known for across the country. And when bass player, Charlie

Lowman, joined in on the fun, armed with a giddiness and love for the music that he plays, that soon became infectious. The Kody Norris Show, as we now know it, was complete. It was musical magic at its finest.

It's this easy-going nature that became downright illuminated on their 2017 album *When I Get the Money Made*, which was named Bluegrass Album of the Year by the National Traditional Country Music Association. The Kody Norris Show followed it up with an album in 2019 *All Suited Up*, which debuted at #7 on the Billboard charts. Now playing over 100 dates a year across the country and around the world, The Kody Norris Show have been part of the University of Chicago Folk Festival and are part of two weekly programs on the acclaimed RFD-TV's network, The Cumberland Highlanders Show and The Bluegrass Trail.

With the release of *Rhinestone Revival*, there's a sense that listeners are just beginning to witness The Kody Norris Show's own musical rebirth—as the band sprinkles their iconic rhinestones across multiple genres to cement their place in today's music scene.

Fueled by a loyal and ever-growing fanbase, The Kody Norris Show is quickly becoming one of the most dynamic acts in bluegrass today. With standout songwriting on *Rhinestone Revival* and a style all their own, they're not just honoring tradition—they're redefining it.

Envisioning a bright tomorrow for Clayton County

Submitted by Emily Sadewasser, Executive Director
Clayton County Foundation for the Future

Since 2004, the Clayton County Foundation for the Future has cast the spotlight on building vibrant communities: Thriving downtowns; strong, sustainable nonprofits with the capacity to improve our county; and leaders who collaborate to find solutions to our greatest challenges. We have helped realize this vision by:

- Providing grants to nonprofits, like the Backbone Bluegrass Festival, that make our county a great place to live
- Supporting the creation of over 100 local funds, which have distributed nearly \$3 million to local organizations over the past 20 years
- Convening leaders around issues like clean energy, engaging newcomers, early literacy, brain health and child care

Today, we continue to shape this reality through the Clayton County Vision for Tomorrow Endowment. We're just a few thousand dollars short of our goal to raise \$375,000 and capture a \$100,000 match for the endowment. With your help, we can secure this match and support the most important community needs and projects – forever.

The Vision for Tomorrow Endowment will provide an additional \$20,000 annually to improve quality of life here – from grants for music, arts and culture to historic preservation and education. This effort would nearly double the impact of our annual grant cycle.

Every dollar invested today helps ensure that Clayton County remains a place where future generations can thrive. You have an important part to play. Gifts can be made over multiple years for greater impact. Please consider how you can make a meaningful contribution that will support Clayton County for generations to come. Visit dbqfoundation.org/vft.

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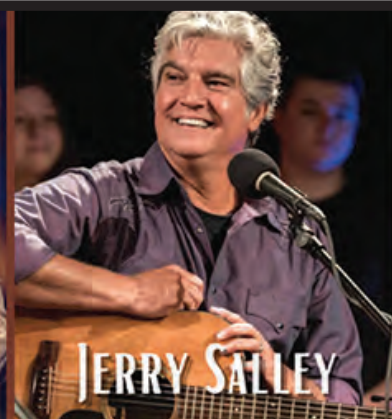
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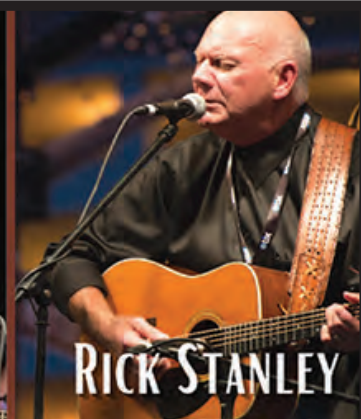
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