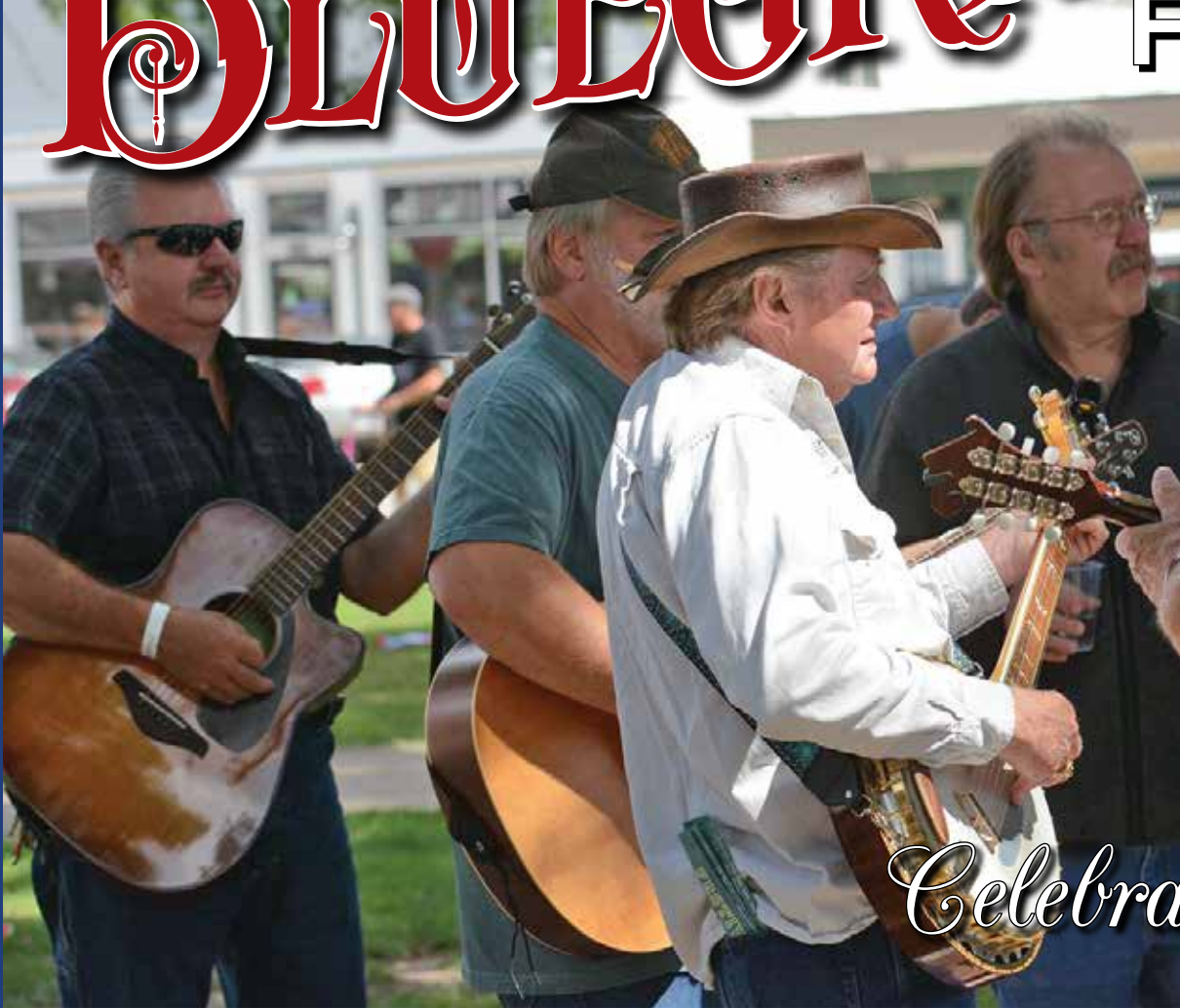
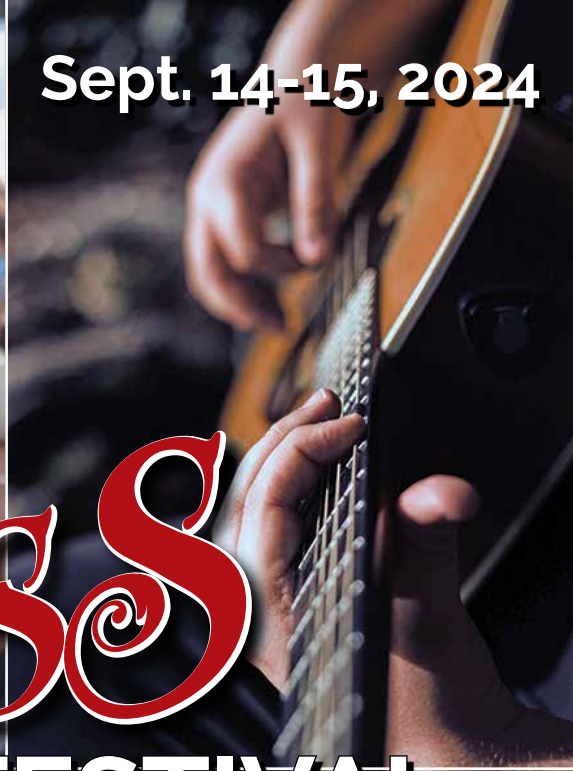


Sept. 14-15, 2024

EAST TROY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



Celebrating 30 years



Hear the music



Throughout the festival, bluegrass music can be heard all over the square as groups prepare to take the stage or get ready for one of the contests happening.

ET BLUEGRASS PHOTO East Troy Bluegrass 2024



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Celebrating 30 years

East Troy Bluegrass Festival 2 days of music

The East Troy Bluegrass Festival is now in its 30th year and will again be run by a group of volunteers – thanks to support from fans, musicians and many others.

It will take place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14 and 15 on the square in the Village of East Troy, 2881 Main St.

Melissa Sherman, one of those spearheading the event now that it's back in the hands of volunteers, talked about what a success the festival was last year.

"We did fabulous! People came out and supported us, showing that this event needs to continue. Donations came without asking and people showed up to help," she said.

Sherman said people coming out and supporting the bluegrass festival will help make sure it continues for years to come.

"This is basically a small-town girl's dream that's carried on," Sherman said.

Sherman, who said she founded the bluegrass festival 31 years ago (there was a year it was not held during the COVID-19 pandemic,) is glad she stayed involved even during the past several years when it was run by the chamber.

Numerous bands will again take the stage and there will be contests, food and drink but none of it would be possible without the help of many throughout the community.

"So many have rallied behind us to make sure East Troy Bluegrass Festival happens," she said.

Sherman said the talent each year for the past 30 has been amazing and this year will be no different.

"Many from this festival have moved onto the national bluegrass arena. It's crazy how much talent comes to play here," she said.

The headliners will be The Grascals, on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.; and on Sunday – The Waddington Brothers, from 3 to 3:45 p.m. and Authentic Unlimited from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Read more about them inside this section.

Initially when the festival started, a hat was passed around for donations and the bands came for free. Over the years, an entry fee has been charged and increased.

The entry fee increased last year so the financial obligations would be easier to meet, but remain the same this year at \$20 for a day, or \$35 for the weekend.

"Where can you go for several hours of music by numerous bands for \$20? It's a great deal," she said.

Note that kids 16 and younger can enter for free. Additionally, there is a special wristband for jammers, who need to have their instrument in hand when entering to get a reduced entry price.



Making music happen

The mission of the East Troy Bluegrass Festival is to preserve and promote the heritage of bluegrass music in America, with a focus on promoting bluegrass music in Wisconsin.

The festival seeks to educate the public about this distinctly American form of music with live performances. We host contests for all ages including Guitar, Banjo, Fiddle and Mandolin.

Since 1994 we have brought this generational music to our historical town square and hope to continue this for many years to come!

In addition, festival t-shirts will be sold as will a variety of food – brisket burgers, hot dogs, Hometown sausage brats, LD BBQ's pulled pork, nachos, vegan burgers and roasted corn as well as soda and water.

All proceeds go back into the festival for the following year.

"We start over every year and have faith we will make it! This festival belongs to you and the person sitting next to you. Our fuel is our dedication to educating

and preserving true, traditional bluegrass music," the website states.

Sherman said they have also secured a rain venue in the event the music needs to move inside. East Troy Bible Church, 2660 North St. will again serve as the backup venue. It's only minutes from the square, offers a lot of parking and is handicap accessible.

She said last year's event was a prime example of how the community pulled together.

"It was true Bluegrass spirit, because you see, this music is more than a few instruments, it's a family! We invite you to come and see for yourself," Sherman said. "We would especially like to thank the attendees. This festival continues because of them."

Attendees are reminded to bring lawn/camping chairs for seating.

For more about the event, visit easttroybluegrass.com or send an email to melissasherma55@gmail.com.

EAST TROY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

A publication of
*Southern Lakes
Newspapers*

1102 Ann St.
Delavan, WI 53115
(262) 728-3411

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above and on the cover:
The annual East Troy Bluegrass Festival is centered around music, families, fun and community. The two-day event, which is on the square, hosts a variety of bluegrass groups from the Midwest.





Take your skills to the stage

FESTIVAL TO FEATURE A VARIETY OF CONTESTS FOR MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES

Banjo, Mandolin and guitar contests will each have one open division for people of any age.

The fiddle contest will have three divisions – children (ages 8 and younger,) junior (for kids 9 to 16 years old,) and an open division for people of any age. Fiddle contestants can only enter one division.

One accompanist is allowed and there is no piano available. Note that contests are restricted to acoustic instruments only.

Two tunes are to be played from memory with both songs subject to judging. There is no warmup time on stage and contestants are advised to vary their selections to provide the judges with the best overview of their abilities.

First place winners in the contests may be asked to play a brief encore if time permits.

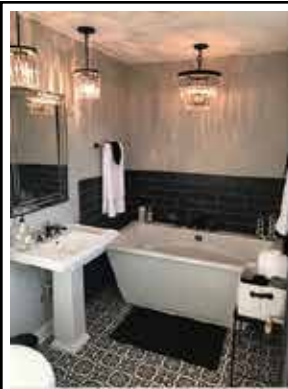
Applications will be taken up until 15 minutes prior to the start of the contests, which are to take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 15.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three in each division, as follows:

Fiddle contests: first place – open \$100, junior \$25; children \$15; second place – open \$50, junior \$15, children \$10; third place – open \$25, junior \$10, children \$5.

Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar contests will each pay \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.

For more details including judging criteria, visit easttroybluegrass.com.



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Bringing the bluegrass to the festival

HEADLINERS, GROUPS FROM THE MIDWEST SURE TO GET TOES TAPPING

East Troy Bluegrass Festival will celebrate its 30th anniversary on the square the weekend of Sept. 14 and 15.

Here are some details on the headliners as well as other bands performing that weekend.

Eleven bands will entertain the crowd including three headliners, one on Saturday and two on Sunday.

Headliners

The Grascals

Saturday, Sept. 14

Great musicians will always find a way to make good music, but for great musicians to make great music, they must form a bond — one that, more often than not, goes beyond the purely musical to the personal, the band's website states. 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 make music that is entirely relevant to the here and now yet immersed in 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.

They've also had the opportunity to record and share the stage with several country music legends including Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Vince Gill, Hank Williams, Jr., George Jones, Kenny Rogers, Brooks & Dunn, Patty Loveless, The Oak Ridge Boys, Steve Wariner, Tom T. Hall, The Jordanares, and 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.

The Grascals can truthfully say they have the best of both worlds — the steadiness of a veteran group that knows who they are and where they're going, and the excitement and energy of an ensemble that knows it still has something to prove.

The Waddington Brothers

Sunday, Sept. 15

The Waddington Brothers, a band of four brothers from rural North Dakota, perform what they live: music that is real to them, that takes listeners on a journey through the heart of the American West, according to the band's website.

Seth, Ethan, Jacob, and Job Waddington skillfully blend cowboy and bluegrass music, creating a style that's timelessly classic and yet refreshingly new and unique. With their rich, stirring vocal harmonies and instrumental versatility that ranges from hard-driving bluegrass to more mellow acoustic tones, this quartet has developed a sound that is truly as strong as it is special.

And their gift for captivating an audience comes naturally to these men. Whether they're singing about cowboys or cabins, hunting or horseback riding, ranches or Indian reservations, The Waddington Brothers share heartfelt songs that evoke



THE GRASCALS



THE WADDINGTON BROTHERS



• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

AUTHENTIC UNLIMITED

feelings of warmth, appreciation, and a genuine connection to the way life was lived by our country's pioneers.

This group shares their music as a well-polished craft: one that's been cultivated by four siblings who have been playing and singing together their entire lives. While their performing experience together traces back to 2004, the band officially came together as The Waddington Brothers in 2019.

Their musical inspiration today is drawn from many pools of influences. Their sound might be described as a mixture of traditional bluegrass, gospel music, and Western strains reminiscent of The Sons of the Pioneers. Even more accurately, though, it can be described as something brand new – something powerfully different – a breath of fresh air to their audiences, that could only be created by four brothers with such an authentic synergy and blend. And it's been proven: in 2023 at the annual Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, The Waddington Brothers took first place in the International Bluegrass Band Competition.



BREW CITY DRIFTERS

**Authentic Unlimited
 Sunday, Sept. 15**

The website shares the following backgrounds about the group's members.

John Meador is from Great Tennessee. John is the son of Marty Meador and Jenice Harper. He plays guitar and is one of the lead and harmony vocalists. John says he began singing before he was walking. His father began teaching him to play the guitar when he was 12 years old. John joined his first band (Kentucky Just Us) at the age of 14, along with his younger brother. When he was 16, he was offered a scholarship in music that he completed while he was still in high school. John is married to wife Grace and they have a daughter, Betsy.

Jerry Cole was born in 1974 and raised in Sharps Chapel, Tennessee. He has been around music his entire life. He is the son of Jerry Lee and Nancy Cole. He has two older siblings and two younger. At the age of 6, his father taught him to play guitar. Jerry Lee sang with The Betterway Quartet for nearly 30 years. During Jerry Lee's practice sessions at home, young Jerry learned to sing lead and harmony. He began touring with Cody Shuler and Pine Mountain Railroad, recording two albums with the band. He later joined Russell Moore and IIIrd Tyme Out where he stayed for three



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years. In December 2018, Jerry joined Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver where he stayed until Lawson's retirement in December 2021.

Eli Johnston was born near Branson, Missouri to parents David and Alycia Johnston. He was raised in southeastern Kansas after his father had taken a job at the hospital there as a surgical nurse. He has two younger brothers, one a musician and the other a police officer. Eli's grandfather, Joe Riker, bought his first guitar when he was 11. Seeing that his son had a love of music, David would drive Eli all over the country, attending festivals. Eli joined his first band, 'Nothin' Fancy' while he was in high school. Later, he became a member of Pine Mountain Railroad. In 2013, Eli joined Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. During his time there, two of Eli's songs were recorded by the band. Eli is married to wife Keasley and they have two children, 3 year old Huxley and a newborn named Boone.

Jesse Brock is the son of C.W. and Starre Brock who hails from Kentucky. He grew up in a musically inclined family and began singing at the age of 7. At 8, he learned to play the fiddle but soon decided that he was better suited for the mandolin. His first experience as a band member was with his family. Since then, he has performed with some of the top acts in the industry. His efforts were recognized in 2009 and again in 2015 as he was awarded IBMA Mandolin Player of The Year. Jesse is married to wife Kristine.

Stephen Burwell is the son of Edwin and Cheryl Burwell of Lake Jackson, Texas. At age 4, the family moved to Washington. He learned to play fiddle when he was 8. In 2014, he moved to North Carolina where he auditioned for Doyle Lawson only a few days after the move. He was made part of Quicksilver on October 1, 2014. He describes Lawson as "the best boss ever" and contributes much of his dedication to the craft to the years spent in Quicksilver. Stephen is also a recording engineer and has a studio located at his home. Stephen is newlywed, married to wife Haley in September 2021.

Rounding out the bands

Here is the schedule of music for the two-day festival:

Saturday, Sept. 14

- 11-11:45 a.m., Squirrel Gravy
- 12-12:45 p.m., The Mark Hembree Band
- 1-1:45 p.m., Falkner, Chesney & Hoggatt
- 2-2:45 p.m., Band Scramble
- 3-3:45 p.m., Genesee Ridge
- 4-5:30 p.m., The Grascals

Sunday, Sept. 15

- 10-10:45 a.m., The Siegmans Family (gospel service)
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m., contests
- 1-1:45 p.m., Brew City Drifters
- 2-2:45 p.m., Blue Eagle (Reunion)
- 3-3:45 p.m., The Waddington Brothers
- 4-5:30 p.m., Authentic Unlimited

As a bonus, below are some highlights on a couple of the other bands

Genesee Ridge

The Genesee Ridge Bluegrass band finds their home in the Lake Country area of Waukesha County stretching a bit into Milwaukee County. Every one of its members is dedicated to moving bluegrass and old-time music forward and keeping strong the acoustic instrumentation of the genre. All four of these musicians had been



SIEGMANN FAMILY



GENESEEE RIDGE

playing for many years in other bands but when they joined together back in 2012, they found heartfelt and genuine vocals were well balanced and provided a sweet traditional blend. Their style focuses on a mix of contemporary and traditional bluegrass covers with a few unparalleled originals. Enjoy the hard-driving instrumentals and tight four-part harmonies of Genesee Ridge.

The Genesee Ridge Bluegrass Band is available for all types of occasions: concerts, fundraiser, parties, festivals, special events, etc.

Siegmans Family

Filled with beautiful family harmonies, skilled musicianship and a love for bluegrass & acoustic gospel music, the Siegmans Family will leave you feeling charmed, moved and inspired!

This love for music goes back to their childhoods growing up together on the family farm in Rubicon.

Beginning in 2001 up until 2009, the family toured and performed all over the state of Wisconsin, originally it was all eight children along with their

parents.

In 2011 they regrouped in order to continue bringing their honest, life-changing songs and messages to people everywhere through their concerts.

Their style is described as bluegrass, southern gospel, acapella and acoustic music with a Christ-centered message, along with inspirational speaking tucked in to help encourage change and victorious Christian living.

They hope guests enjoy their music and look forward to meeting new fans at an upcoming concert.

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