

Wide-Awake Wylie Ready to Rock



In Wylie's early days, its downtown area was a community gathering place on Saturday nights for those wanting to hear some music, shop for groceries and dry goods, and catch up on the latest news. As the railroad infused the town with visitors and commerce, shop owners stayed open extra-late to accommodate the crowds, and the town's nickname—Wide-Awake Wylie—was born.

Wylie will indeed be wide awake July 5 for Bluegrass on Ballard, a free festival featuring top bands, a car show, arts and crafts, and great food. The event, in historic downtown Wylie, breathes new life into the city's longtime moniker and continues the tradition of drawing citizens and members of neighboring communities into the heart of the city.

Slated to perform are such top bluegrass bands as Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band, and Grammy award-winning Brad Davis (performing with Texas & Tennessee).

Davis has performed with such powerhouse artists as Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Earl Scruggs, Emmy Lou Harris, Dwight Yoakum, Johnny Cash and Travis Tritt. He's appeared on national television and, in 2013, he returned to his first love, bluegrass, launching "Walk on Faith," a critically acclaimed bluegrass gospel project that drew massive media attention.

Paisley and his group play music that is powerful, unadorned and intensely traditional bluegrass. With a unique combination of instrumentation and vocals, the members convey the energy and emotion of classic bluegrass and country music. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band features fiddles, double bass, banjo and mandolin, delighting fans with one Beatles tune after another.

If bluegrass music is the star of Bluegrass on Ballard, there are many supporting cast members. First, musicians of any skill level will have the chance to play along as shop and restaurant owners open their doors and welcome folks onto their porches and the street for some good old-fashioned jam sessions. Professional musicians have even been known to join in.

There's a car show, too, featuring more than 125 vehicles and competition opportunities in a variety of classes. More than 75 arts and crafts vendors will have items for sale, and there's a chili cook-off in addition to a wide variety of fantastic food-truck fare.

Great tunes, amazing cars, family fun, lots to eat; Wide-Awake Wylie is open for business July 5.

Judy Truesdell is a communications specialist in the City of Wylie Public Information Office.

BLUEGRASS ON BALLARD

Saturday, July 5 • Downtown Wylie

Chili cook-off: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Arts and crafts: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Car show: 4–9 p.m.

Bluegrass bands: 3–10 p.m.

