

BLUEGRASS ON BALLARD

Wylie bluegrass festival hits downtown

By JUDY TRUESDELL
Contributor

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 or 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 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 5 for Bluegrass on Ballard, a free festival featuring top bands, a car show, arts and crafts and great food. The festival will take place in historic downtown Wylie at Ballard Avenue and Olde City Park.

The event breathes new life into the city's longtime moniker and continues the tradition of



Photo submitted by JUDY TRUESDELL

Community members and visitors gather on the porch of the First Baptist Church Event Center for a jam session at last year's Bluegrass on Ballard in Wylie.

drawing citizens and members of neighboring communities into the heart of the city.

Beginning at 3 p.m., top bluegrass bands take the stage, including Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, Sgt. Pepper's

Lonely Bluegrass Band, Purple Hulls, Phil Ferguson & Texas True, Nickelville Road, and Grammy award-winning Brad Davis (performing with Texas & Tennessee).

Davis has performed with

such powerhouse artists as Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Earl Scruggs, Emmylou Harris, Dwight Yoakam, Johnny Cash and Travis Tritt. He has appeared on national television. In 2013, he returned to his first love, bluegrass music, launching Walk on Faith, a critically acclaimed bluegrass gospel project that drew massive media attention.

Paisley and his group play music that is traditional bluegrass. 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 Beatle tune after another.

If the music is the star of Bluegrass on Ballard, there are many supporting cast members. Musicians of any skill level will have the chance to play along all

day 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.

A Dallas Mopar Club car show from 4 to 9 p.m. will feature more than 125 vehicles and competition opportunities in a variety of classes.

In nearby Olde City Park, arts and crafts vendors will have items for sale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and there's a chili cook-off, sponsored by American Legion Hale-Combest Post 315, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in addition to a wide variety of fantastic food truck fare. North Texas Equestrian Center sponsors pony rides for the kids from 5 to 8 p.m.

Judy Truesdell is a neighborsgo contributor on behalf of the city of Wylie.

AMERICAN ADVERTISING FEDERATION DALLAS CHAPTER

Plano resident named member of the year

By MICHELLE JONES
Contributor

The American Advertising Federation Dallas chapter has awarded the Mark Johnson Member of the Year Award to Sheryl Standifer, a Plano resident, for her dedication to the organization as the American Advertising Awards program chair.

Standifer served as last year's Magazine Day leader and this year as the the American Advertising Awards program chair. She produced an event that set attendance and profit records. As the award recipient, a \$250 donation was submitted to The Boy Scouts of America in Standifer's name. She was presented the award at the June 2014 AAF Dallas luncheon.

The Mark Johnson Member of the Year Award honors the memory of Mark Johnson, deceased past president from 1997 to 1998

who made a tremendous impact on AAF Dallas. The award is given every year to a member who exhibits the greatest commitment to the industry and AAF Dallas through committee involvement, their time and resources invested, as well as their positive impact on the organization. Other nominees for this year included Jodee Bixler and Darynda Jenkins.

"Sheryl plays an important part on our AAF Dallas team. She takes her commitments seriously and is an outstanding ambassador for our club and community," said Larry Brantley, 2013-14 AAF Dallas president. "She and her team created a superior award event — one we were all very proud of in the North Texas advertising community."

Outside of AAF Dallas, Standifer serves as media director at CEC Entertainment, where she manages the national kids' cable



Photo submitted by MICHELLE JONES

Plano resident Sheryl Standifer, second from left, is pictured with the American Advertising Federation leadership team. Standifer was named the AAF Dallas chapter's Member of the Year.

and broadcast programming efforts, as well as moms' digital plans. Over the past year, she has elevated AAF's presence in the Dallas advertising and communi-

cations community by sharing her expertise throughout the club.

"I want to thank the AAF Dallas board and executive team for nominating me, along with Da-

rynda and Jodee, for the Mark Johnson Memorial award," Standifer said. "I accept this for the tireless efforts of the entire American Advertising Awards team and all of our club volunteers."

Founded in 1908, AAF Dallas has nearly 1,000 members and is affiliated with the Tenth District of the American Advertising Federation, part of AAF's national network of more than 200 ad clubs and 40,000 professionals.

"I cannot think of any better way for you to get to know your community and get known for your skills and talents, than through volunteering with AAF Dallas or AD2 Dallas," she said.

Visit aafdallas.org for more information on the organization.

Michelle Jones is a neighborsgo contributor on behalf of the American Advertising Federation.