

## Phillips County Arts Council brings in bluegrass band

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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The sounds of classic bluegrass will fill the high school auditorium Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. as the High Plains Tradition band travels to Holyoke for the third concert in the Phillips County Arts Council concert series. Holyoke Marketplace will be sponsoring the event.

High Plains Tradition is a bluegrass band based in Denver. They style their music after the forefathers of bluegrass, with a little Rocky Mountain flair. Their shows are filled with original material as well as the best of the music of the masters including Jimmy Martin, Ralph Stanley and Bill Monroe.

High Plains Tradition has performed extensively from the Pacific Coast through the Rocky Mountains to the High Plains. High Plains Tradition celebrated their 25th year of playing bluegrass in 2012.

They have made regular appearances at the Country Bluegrass Festival in North Platte, Neb., as well as many other festivals throughout the United States.

Each member of High Plains Tradition brings their own unique talents to the group. Doug Elrick, mandolin, is hailed as one of the top bluegrass songwriters in the Rocky Mountain region. Singing his songs in the traditional style has brought him recognition as the "Songwriter of the Year" and "Male Vocalist of the Year" at the Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Awards shows.

Kenny Pabst provides the heartbeat for High Plains Tradition with his rock-solid acoustic bass playing. His abilities earned him the title "Bass Player of the Year" at the Rocky Mountain Bluegrass Awards Show.

Bobbie Vickery is one of the finest fiddle players in the Central part of the United States. He brings a whole new dimension to High Plains Tradition with his innovative fiddling as well as his fabulous singing.

Mark Leslie, banjo, is known as the human metronome. His banjo gymnastics are

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unprecedented. He brings to High Plains Tradition a true bluegrass background in banjo methods, incorporating many inventive solos and stellar back-up work into his playing.

Steve Gilmore is the driving force of the High Plains Tradition sound with his rock solid guitar playing. Steve is a stalwart with his guitar work and his vocal harmonies and leads. He brings vast musical knowledge and a tremendous bluegrass background to High Plains Tradition.

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