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(Neb.)-Willow Tree Festival This Weekend In Gordon



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/13/2013 10:11 AM

(GORDON)-With fall knocking at our door, the time has come for family fun at this year's 30th annual Willow Tree Festival taking place in Gordon this weekend and offers two days of multiple stages of entertainment, food, crafts and more. Festivities take place in Winship Park beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and running until 5:00 p.m. and again on Sunday from 10:00-4:00 p.m. Come early for a church service on Sunday from 9:00-9:50 a.m. at the Lion's Gazebo.

Other activities taking place at the Lion's Gazebo during the weekend will include professional singers, musicians, and dance groups each performing their acts twice a day each of the two days. This year features traditional and contemporary Irish tunes with the group Miles From Dublin, bluegrass melodies with the Blue Grama Bluegrass band, singer/songwriter Branden Sipes, and Wonder Voice, an all a cappella group singing favorites from the past 70 years.

On the David Sweley Children's Stage, children and the young at heart will be mesmerized by ventriloquist Meghan Casey, circus performer Bekah Smith, and a music and magic show with Michael Casey. Mime artists from the Discovery Mime Theatre will also showcase their talents on the children's stage on Saturday as well as the Gordon Community Stage on Sunday. Also on the community stage, characters portraying Abraham and Mary Lincoln; classical, folk, and popular music pianist Scott Kirby; the St. John's Brass group from Alliance; and Legacy, a three-sister group of strings and vocal.

That just begins to describe all there is to see and do at this year's Willow Tree Festival. Roving mistrels will provide entertainment throughout the grounds, and over 50 arts and crafts booths will be set up displaying everything from quilted items and home décor to popcorn, photography, metal yard art, and more. There will also be a food court featuring 11 different booths with food ranging from Indian tacos, fried chicken, loaded baked potatoes, and cabbage burgers to pizza, deli wraps, elephant ears, and nachos. Wrap up your meal with an ice cream cone, a sundae, or a funnel cake. There are also two museums to browse, the newly remodeled Tri-State Old Time Cowboy Museum and the Scamahorn Church Museum. Both are open to festival goers free of charge.

Says a festival flyer, "The Willow Tree Festival takes its name from the landmark where the town's first settlers built soddies and shanties and for which many years had been a place of meeting for riders over the Plains and through the Sandhills. 'Meet you at the Lone Willow,' they would say as they made arrangements for a future rendezvous." And today, the festival provides the same sort of opportunity for residents in and around Gordon and other locations in the surrounding area to come and meet together for some fun and memories.

Admission to the festival is \$8 for adults and \$2 for students in advance or \$10 for adults and \$3 for students at the gate. Children 5 and under are free. The admission fee provides visitors with a button that serves as an all-day pass that is good for both days.

If you'd like more information on the Willow Tree happenings, visit willowtreefestival.com.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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