

Around Moab Happenings

Palisade Bluegrass & Roots Festival in western Colorado

By Sharon Sullivan

Ever since “Rolling Stone” named the all-female five-piece string band Della Mae as one of the “10 bands to watch for in 2015,” the Nashville-based group has been busy touring the world.

The Americana bluegrass band performed most recently in Russia, where they’re considered “cultural diplomats,” guitarist and vocalist Celia Woodsmith said. Della Mae is also comprised of Kimber Ludiker on fiddle, Jenni Lyn Gardner playing mandolin, guitarist and banjo player Courtney Hartman, and Zoe Guigueno on bass. All are vocalists, as well.

In June, the group returns to western Colorado to perform at the Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival, June 9-11, in the town of Palisade’s Riverbend Park. Set alongside the Colorado River, amidst shady cottonwood trees, surrounded by views of Grand Mesa and the Book Cliffs Mountains, the picturesque venue adds to the festival’s charm.



Trout Steak Revival

this year include River Arkansas, Ghost of Paul Revere, Masontown, and Kitchen Dwellers.

Trout Steak Revival won best band at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in 2014; Denver’s “Westwood” magazine named the group the city’s “Best Bluegrass band of 2017.”

Guitarist and mandolin player Steve Foltz describes Trout Steak Revival’s music as “new grass” meaning they play traditional bluegrass instruments, like fiddle, bass, dobro and banjo – but write their own songs. The group won an Emmy for a song featured on a Rocky Mountain PBS show.

“The Palisade festival is a blend of all those great Colorado elements about the Western Slope,” Foltz said.

The three-day festival kicks off Friday evening with three Colorado-based bands, followed by a full day and evening of music Saturday, closing out the weekend Sunday with the rootsy Portland, Oregon-based band Fruition.

On Saturday, Junior Brown, known for his guit-steel guitar playing and songwriting, will perform his unique style of country music along with band members Tanya Rae (his wife) on acoustic rhythm guitar, John Tenner on upright bass, and drummer Scott Matthews.

Brown said he expects their latest album “Deep in the Heart of Me” to be released by June. At any rate, “We’ll be doing a lot of new songs from the new album,” he said.

While you can’t bring alcohol onto festival grounds, there’s locally brewed beer from the Palisade Brewery, wine from Palisade wineries, and artisan-crafted cocktails from spirits made at the Palisade Distillery. Drink local! There will also be an array of food vendors, as well as those selling various merchandise.

Camping sites are available at the park, east of the performance area, with showers and shuttle bus service available in the town of Palisade. Campers may want to bring their own musical instruments – jam sessions are known to occur in the campground into the wee hours of the morning.

It’s a family-oriented festival with activities for kids, such as art projects, storytelling, a nearby playground, and fishing.

For more information, including tickets, and to see a full schedule, visit: www.palisademusic.com/schedule/



Della Mae

Della Mae won a Grammy nomination for its album “This World Of Can Be” in 2014. They write most of their own music but have been known to occasionally cover songs by artists such as Dolly Parton, John Prine, and Bruce Springsteen.

“We’re not tied to a genre – we just play songs that we love,” Woodsmith said.

To celebrate the Palisade festival’s 10-year anniversary, music promoter Josh Behrman invited back several of his favorite performers over the past decade – including Junior Brown, Trout Steak Revival, Fruition, Head for the Hills, Rapidgrass, and Wood and Wire. Other musical artists

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