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February 17, 1999 Section: Community

Southern Standard returns to the Daily Grind

Friday night, the East Tennessee bluegrass band Southern Standard returns to the Daily Grind in historic Jackson Square. The band has made several appearances at the Grind since 1997. Music will be from 7:30 to 10.

Based in Rockwood, the five-member band plays traditional bluegrass, jazz and gospel. Southern Standard has a combined level of experience spanning more than 65 years. Its members are Bryce Galen of Oak Ridge, Sam Locke, Jim Locke and Don Wyrick, all of Rockwood, and Bill Kelly of Harriman.

The band members have played both competitively and professionally throughout Tennessee and neighboring states and appeal to audiences of all ages.

In addition to playing at area bluegrass festivals, Southern Standard performed at fund-raising events such as for radio station WDVX in Clinton and has been featured on the station's "Live Licks at Six" show. The band recently recorded a live performance at the Musician's Friend in Knoxville.

The band's fiddler is Bryce Galen, a sophomore at Oak Ridge High School. He has played classical violin as well as alternative styles for 10 years and has studied under Susan Gunning and Mark O'Connor. He is a fourth-year member of the Knoxville Youth Symphony Orchestra and the SpryeRydge String Quartet of Oak Ridge and has won several competitions at festivals. This past summer, Bryce studied chamber and string music under scholarship at Shenandoah University Conservatory of Music.

Sam Locke, a ninth grader at Rockwood High School, is 14 and began studying mandolin at age 7. He studies under David Neidig, a teacher at Linden Elementary who is also a member of the Roane County bluegrass band, Avery Trace.

Sam has competed and placed in many area bluegrass competitions, including first place in the Young Musicians category at the 1997 Maryville Smoky Mountain Bluegrass Festival, and second place at the 1997 Smithville Fiddlers Jamboree Country Music Beginner Musicians Competition. Sam also marches in the Rockwood High School Band.

Jim Locke, Sam's father, is the banjo player and is also a member of Avery Trace. For 15 years, he played with the band, Gold Rush. He is employed in the Plant Security Division of Lockheed Martin Energy Systems.

The band's bass player is Don "Smoky" Wyrick, who has played with several bluegrass bands, including Lester Crick in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He also played with Gold Rush for 15 years.

Guitarist Bill Kelly is well known throughout East and Middle Tennessee for his flat-picking style and his work as a country and rock musician with the bands Blackwater, Cheyenne and the Wes Bryant Band. He is employed with Lewis Electric in Oak Ridge.

Southern Standard plays at area festivals and churches throughout the year. For information on its 1999 schedule, call Bryce Galen, 483-8439.

Friday night will feature a wide variety of bluegrass tunes. There is no cover charge at the Daily Grind.

Band members are, from left, Bill Kelly, guitar; Don "Smoky" Wyrick, bass; Bryce Galen, fiddle; Sam Locke, mandolin; and Jim Locke, banjo.

Photo submitted

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