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Amber and Erin Rogers of Scenic Roots

- Special to the Leader & Times

For those into old-time mountain melodies, bluegrass drive, Irish traditions and down-home humor, come down to the Liberal Memorial Library and enjoy a performance by Scenic Roots at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Scenic Roots is the sister duo of Amber and Erin Rogers from Concordia. The Kansas duo has been performing together for more than 10 years. Tight arrangements and consistent performances are the result of Erin and Amber growing up making music. Erin plays mountain dulcimer and piano, Amber plays fiddle and clawhammer banjo, and both women sing.

They will take you on a scenic journey as they weave their many musical influences together to

create a unique blend of roots music. People will feel like they've gone back in time to the days when folks gathered on front porches to play and sing together.

Erin began playing mountain dulcimer when she was just 7 years old, after receiving one as a birthday gift. Ten years later, in 2004, she won the prestigious National Mountain Dulcimer Championship. At the time, she was the youngest person to receive the honorable award.

Erin went on to study classical piano for three semesters at Sterling College in Sterling before pursuing a degree in commercial music, with an emphasis in bluegrass and acoustic jazz, through South Plains College in Levelland, Texas.

Erin graduated in 2010 with her associates of applied arts, becoming the first mountain dulcimer player to complete the program; and began touring full-time with Scenic Roots.

During college, Erin went through a difficult struggle as she battled Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2007. She played her mountain dulcimer through every chemotherapy treatment. She firmly believes that her music and faith were paramount to her healing. Erin is currently writing a book which documents her journey through cancer and publicly speaks about her experience.

Amber has been immersed in bluegrass and old-time American music since she was a little girl, beginning her music training with fiddle and piano at age 4. By high school, she had learned to play most stringed instruments and even tried her hand at bagpipes for a few weeks.

In 2010, Amber graduated from South Plains College's renowned bluegrass music program with an associates of applied arts in commercial music, plus a Certificate of Music Business. There she honed her skills as a bluegrass fiddler, studied traditional Irish music and learned about music business.

She played in many ensembles, including the bluegrass audition- performance ensemble known as "Pickin' on the Plains." She was awarded Female Vocalist of the Year and Bluegrass Instrumentalist of the year during her time there.

She has also placed in the Top 5 in the prestigious Walnut Valley Fiddle Contest (2010, 2011) and took 1st place in the Kansas State Fiddle Contest (2011).

Since 2010, Amber has toured extensively with Scenic Roots. She has taught art camps and private lessons, as well as managed the booking and record keeping for Scenic Roots Music LLC. She even found time to nanny for a family of five and train for a triathlon.

She says her life mission is to “inspire others and conquer the world like a true Kansas girl.”

For more information, contact Memorial Library at 626-0180 or check out the web site at www.lmlibrary.org or Facebook page.

Learn more about Scenic Roots at www.scenicroots.com or on Facebook.

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