

## 2004 Vandalia contest winners

Fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin contest winners named this evening at 2004 Vandalia Gathering

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the 27th annual Vandalia Gathering. Two categories of fiddlers—those 60 years of age and over and those under 60 years of age—were recognized. The other two contests included all ages.

Winners were announced as part of an awards ceremony and concert this evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

Fiddle - 60 years of age and over

- 1st place (\$400) - Harold Burns, Yawkey
- 2nd place (\$250) - Elmer Rich, Westover
- 3rd place (\$150) - Lester McCumbers, Nicut
- 4th place (\$75) - Terry Vaughan, Cross Lanes
- 5th place (\$50) - Junior Spencer, Frankford

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

- 1st place (\$400) - Jarred Nutter, Meadow Bridge
- 2nd place (\$250) - Meredith Pheasant, Fairmont
- 3rd place (\$150) - Jake Krack, Orma
- 4th place (\$75) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 5th place (\$50) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans

Mandolin - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Mike Melton, Ripley
- 2nd place (\$250) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco
- 3rd place (\$150) - John Putnam, Looneyville
- 4th place (\$75) - Steven Acord, Fairdale
- 5th place (\$50) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

Bluegrass Banjo - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Brandon Green, Beckley
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ben Harrington, Fairdale
- 3rd place (\$150) - Ron Seebaugh, Parkersburg
- 4th place (\$75) - Bruce Jones, Kingwood
- 5th place (\$50) - Dave Douglas, Ivydale

Old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar winners named at 2004 Vandalia Gathering

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 28th annual Vandalia Gathering. Two categories of banjo pickers—those 60 years of age and over and those under 60 years of age—were recognized. The other two contests included all ages. Winners were announced as part of the festival's closing awards ceremony and concert this evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

Senior Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ben Carr, Wilsie
- 3rd place (\$150) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie
- 4th place (\$75) - Eugene Parsons, Orma
- 5th place (\$50) - Charlie Loudermilk, Frankford

### Old-Time Banjo

1st place (\$400) - Andrew Dunlap, St. Albans

2nd place (\$250) - Tim Bing, Huntington

3rd place (\$150) - David O'Dell, West Logan

4th place (\$75) - Adam Hurt, Princeton

5th place (\$50) - Jim Mullins, Charleston

### Lap Dulcimer

1st place (\$400) - Alan Freeman, Renick

2nd place (\$250) - David O'Dell, West Logan

3rd place (\$150) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville

4th place (\$75) - Dave Haas, Cross Lanes

5th place (\$50) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay

### Flat Pick Guitar

1st place (\$400) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco

2nd place (\$250) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar

3rd place (\$150) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville

4th place (\$75) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans

5th place (\$50) - Matt Poff, Dunbar

### State's best "liars" named at 28th Vandalia Gathering

West Virginia's best storytellers competed today for prizes in the 2004 Liars Contest during the 28th annual Vandalia Gathering with the GOLDENSEAL magazine Golden Shovel award going to the best tall tale.

Biggest Liar (first place): Adam Booth, Huntington

Bigger Liar (second place): Mark Howes, French Creek

Big Liar (third place): Rich Knoblich, Wheeling

The Liars Contest regularly draws standing room-only crowds. GOLDENSEAL, West Virginia's magazine of traditional life, hosts the event and publishes the winning stories each year.

The lies must be short stories—humorous, dramatic, supernatural, etc.—of two to three minutes in length. Ribbons and cash prizes are awarded, along with an official Golden Shovel "trophy" for the first place winner.

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a FREE celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Cultural Center and State Capitol Complex grounds plays host to this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend.

The statewide folk festival, named for the proposed 14th colony, creates new memories for the thousands of visitors who flock from across the Mountain State and the entire country to celebrate traditions passed from generation to generation. In addition to offering a sampling of West Virginia's traditional mountain culture by showcasing craftspeople and performers, the Vandalia Gathering pays tribute to the state's ethnic heritage through a variety of exhibitions and programs.