



PRESS RELEASE

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MAYFEST 2016 FEATURES DEATH-DEFYING TIGHTROPE WALKING FAMILY, THE FLYING WALLENDAS

BLYTHEVILLE, AR – The Flying Wallendas take to the skies of Blytheville, Arkansas, for Mayfest 2016 Friday night, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, for three nail-biting shows. Watch the Wallendas navigate their tightrope with no safety net starting Friday night at 6 p.m. in Dixie Line Park near the world-famous Greyhound Bus Station in historic downtown Blytheville.

The Wallendas perform two more shows on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m.

They were first known as *The Great Wallendas*, but the current name was coined by the press in the 1940s and has stayed since.

On March 22, 1978, during a promotional walk in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Karl Wallenda fell from the wire and died. It was between the towers of Condado Plaza Hotel, one hundred feet high. He was 73. Nik Wallenda completed the walk on June 4, 2011, with his mother, Delilah.

Nik Wallenda became the first aerialist to walk directly over Niagara Falls on June 15, 2012, from the United States into Canada. Wearing a safety harness as required by ABC television, he crossed at the river's widest point.

Nik was also the first aerialist to walk over the Little Colorado River Gorge at the Grand Canyon. The event was broadcast live on the Discovery Channel. He used a 2-inch wire and made the journey without a harness or safety net. The canyon is 1,400 feet (430 m) wide and 1,500 feet (460 m) deep.

A VIP tent with food and beverages is available for the Friday night performance. Tickets for the tent are \$15 and can be purchased by calling the Greater Blytheville Area Chamber of Commerce at 870-762-2012.

After the Wallendas perform Friday night, Rockin' Luke Stroud takes over the Music On Main stage next to the Bus Station. If you love the music of Jerry Lee Lewis, you don't want to miss Rockin' Luke. Music On Main kicks off Friday night at 7 p.m. Burgers and hot dogs will be available.

The Gospel Stage this year features some incredible talent, including nationally-known artists Pastor Tim Rogers and The Isaacs. Deep River, Michele Green & The Overflow Band, The True

Gospel Wright Singers and Reverend Terrell Rogers And The Men Of Destiny will also perform throughout the day.

Come spend the day strolling up and down historic Main Street in downtown Blytheville enjoying the crafts, food and fun! And, why not bring your dog for the annual Blytheville Humane Society Dog Show at 11 a.m. on Saturday?

All the fun kicks off Saturday on Main Street at 10 a.m. and runs till 4 p.m.

For more information, email mayfest@mainstreetblytheville.com or call 870-763-2525 Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keep up with everything going on with Mayfest 2016 by downloading the Main Street Blytheville app in your app store! Search for Main Street Blytheville or visit Main Street Blytheville online at www.mainstreetblytheville.com for a complete schedule of events.

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PHOTO CAPTION: The Flying Wallendas take to the skies for their death-defying, nail-biting high-wire tightrope walking performance in Blytheville for Mayfest 2016 Friday night at 6 p.m. and again Saturday, May 7, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

MORE PHOTOS HERE

<http://www.mainstreetblytheville.com/mayfest-2015.html>