

Charley Simmons up next at Crumb Bros.



THE BRIDGER FOLK Music Society will present an evening with guitarist and songwriter Charley Simmons at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, at Crumb Brothers Bakery, 291 S. 300 West, Logan. Tickets are \$10 and available by calling 757-3468. Seating is very limited, so advance purchase is recommended.

From early days of plinkin' on a \$40 Sears & Roebuck guitar to his present status as a performing and recording artist, Simmons has made a lifetime of entertaining people with his music.

Born in 1950 and raised on a farm near Blackiston Crossroads, Del., Simmons began playing the guitar at age 9. "Pretty much the way it went was, my dad would whistle an old Jimmie Rogers or Hank Williams tune and I'd hunt down the notes on the fret board," said Simmons. "Kind of a primitive Suzuki method, but I guess it helped me develop a pretty good ear. Winters were long and cold there, and living out in the country left you lots of practice time."

By the age of 16, Simmons was earning money traveling and performing throughout the state with a band,

but it wasn't until his move to St. Augustine, Fla., in 1971, and his exposure to the late Gamble Rogers, that he began to develop his own finger-picking solo style.

"I used to watch Gamble perform at the Tradewinds and wondered how he made that guitar sound like there were two players on stage," he said. "So I threw away my flat pick and started to teach myself, with a lot of pointers from Gamble, how to play that style. I think it only took me two years before I'd perform past the bedroom door."

Since that time, in spite of a long hiatus raising a family, his playing has taken him much further. Simmons was the 1992 Utah State Flattop Guitar Champion, the 2002 Wyoming State Fingerstyle Champion, the winner of the 2003 Gamble Rogers Fingerstyle Guitar Competition and a winner in the 2005 KRCL Singer/Songwriter Competition.

Simmons' music is as diverse as his musical influences have been, drawing on folk, blues, bluegrass and jazz. For more information, visit www.charley-simmons.com.

USU science series to explore 'Lives of the Stars'

SCIENCE UNWRAPPED will present "Lives of the Stars: From Hidden Births to Spectacular Deaths" at 7 p.m. Friday, July 31, in the Eccles Science Learning Center auditorium on campus. Featured speaker will be astronomer Stacy Palen, assistant professor of physics at Weber State University and director of WSU's Ott Planetarium. Refreshments and hands-on activities will follow. Admission is free and everyone is invited.



Palen

"No human has ever witnessed the entire lifespan of a star," Palen said. "But we can observe stars at each point in their life cycle and piece together ideas about how their jour-



neys transpire."

Following Palen's presentation, attendees are invited to participate in a scaled cosmic calendar scavenger hunt on the USU Quad and enjoy free refreshments.

The presentation is part of Science Unwrapped's "Windows on the Cosmos" series, which celebrates the International Year of Astronomy and continues through fall 2009. Presentations take place the last Friday of each month.

For more information, visit www.usu.edu/science/unwrapped or call 797-3517.

Celebrate America expands with performance for summer citizens



Utah Jazz Master Larry Smith plays the saxophone with the Larry Smith Orchestra.

IN RESPONSE TO YEARS OF requests, the Celebrate America Show is expanding to include a performance this year especially for Logan's summer citizens. The show is wholesome, patriotic, grand-scale entertainment that includes a fast-paced Broadway-style show and dancing with the Larry Smith Orchestra. Over the past 10 years the show has become the premier big-band entertainment package in the Intermountain West. Comments from audience members rave with appreciation and praise for this extraordinary evening featuring the music and flavor of yesteryear.

While the September dinner shows will remain as usual, this one-night-only event for summer citizens will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1, in the USU Ballroom. Going all out to welcome summer citizens this first year, the show will offer a refreshment buffet along with seating at round tables for maximum socializing. The performance is open to the public. To purchase tickets, visit www.celebrateamericashow.com or call 797-8022.