

**NEWS RELEASE  
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**Blues Festival announces 2017 ticket availability, pricing**

Organizers of the Big Pines Blues Festival announced today that advance sale tickets for the 2017 two-day event are currently available through the festival's website at [www.bigpinesbluesfestival.com](http://www.bigpinesbluesfestival.com).

There will be no admission charge for the Friday night performances. Advance general admission tickets for the Saturday performances are priced at \$20. A VIP package at \$60 allows fans access to upgraded seating facilities on both Friday and Saturday nights.

The outdoor celebration of blues music will be held June 2 and 3 at the Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center in Longview.

Friday performances will feature a younger set of blues musicians, which the festival organizers have styled "Next Generation of the Blues". Topping the evening of free music will be crowd favorites, the Peterson Brothers, along with Kilgore's own Ally Venable Band. The Peterson Brothers were well received when they last appeared in Longview in 2015. Venable's star has been rising nationally since she and her band appeared at the 2016 International Blues Challenge Youth Showcase in Memphis, Tenn.

Saturday's full day of music kicks off at 10:00 AM with the 2017 Junior Showcase for young musicians 18 and under. Admission to those performances are free to the public.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Elvin Bishop and his band will headline the professional performances that begin Saturday afternoon. Also on the schedule are vocalist and Dallas native Darrell Nulisch, Andrew "Jr. Boy" Jones Blues Band featuring Kerrie Lepai, plus AJ Cascio & The Two Tone Blues Band, Johnny and The Night Crawlers, and the Pleasant Hill Quilting Group.

Saturday evening wraps up with all performers participating in the Big Pines Blues Jam led by Jimmy Wallace and the Stratoblasters.

Complete list of performers can be found on the festival's website at [www.bigpinesbluesfestival.com](http://www.bigpinesbluesfestival.com).

The Big Pines Blues Festival is produced by an IRS designated 501c(3) non-profit corporation. Events sponsored by the group are now in their twelfth year, having been staged as the T-Bone-Walker-Blues-Fest for the past three years in Longview, and before that, for eight years in Linden, Texas.

The Big Pines Blues Festival is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Longview.

The festival is a fund-raiser for the non-profit corporation whose mission is to showcase contemporary blues musicians and promote a strong future for 'The Blues' genre.

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