

Local Teen making a name with music- *Jesse Black's interest in music bringing other musicians to county*



With heavy influence on classic rock and folk, as well as some blues and bluegrass, Marion County High School student Jesse Black hopes to pursue a career in music.

By Kyra Inglis
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"I never get stage fright," says Jesse Black. Black, who is a freshman at Marion County High School is no stranger to performing. With recent performances at the Marion County Fair, as well as countless trips out of state such as Russellville Alabama's Watermelon Festival, the Young Artist's Alliance at the Capitol Theater in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Buckshot's

Road House in Letcher, South Dakota, Black shows no signs of slowing down.

When asked what got him started in music, he credits his parents taste in classic rock for his love in music, and a talent show for getting him started in performance.

Jesse Black is your normal teenager - he likes to hunt, fish, and play guitar. In fact it's the hunting trips with his family that has given him the opportunity to jam with musicians. He recently wrote and recorded the song "Next Pass," which is included on an episode of Skullbound TV on the Sportsman's Channel. "I was hunting up in Illinois, at a youth hunt...I brought my guitar, because I never leave home without my guitar, and one of the owner's asked me 'You want to play at supper Saturday night?' and I agreed." The Sportsman's channel was there filming the event, as asked if they could use the song he performed in the show.

It doesn't stop there, though. Black's involvement in 4-H has gotten him in touch with other teen musicians from around the state. In fact, it was a 4-H project that has Black organizing and hosting "Music on Cedar," an open mic at South Pittsburg's Cornbread Festival Stage. These are held on the first Tuesday of each month from April through October. Sign-ups begin at 6 p.m. with music from 7-9 p.m. With friends made from 4-H All-Star Conferences, as well as jam sessions from hunting trips, the connections he's making with other musicians are bringing them to Marion County. "he started it for local folks so that kids and adults have to opportunity to play what they know," says Jesse's father, Mike Black. "It's any level, and music...we've had a lot of kids in the county that don't otherwise get to perform."

When asked if he plays for fun or for a future career, Black replies with a quick, "Both. Definitely both." Black plans to pursue music as a major in college, with plans to be either a studio musician, or a "hired gun," (live performer). Through friends he's made in his travels and 4-H he is working on song writing, and hopes to record soon. But he plans to continue guitar studies from Jerry Don Haynes at New Millennium Music. He has branched out to bass guitar, banjo, and piano as well.