

OCT2010



Cool Issue 195 The Publication of the Linn County Blues Society - lcbs.org October 2010

Spooky October but still great jams abound!

Below, the last band standing at Kaji's pictured left to right; Skeeter Lewis and the All Stars. Danny Johnson, Kevin BF Burt, Craig Erickson, Skeeter Lewis, Dennis "Daddy-O" McMurrin, Butch O'Connel and Eric Douglas.

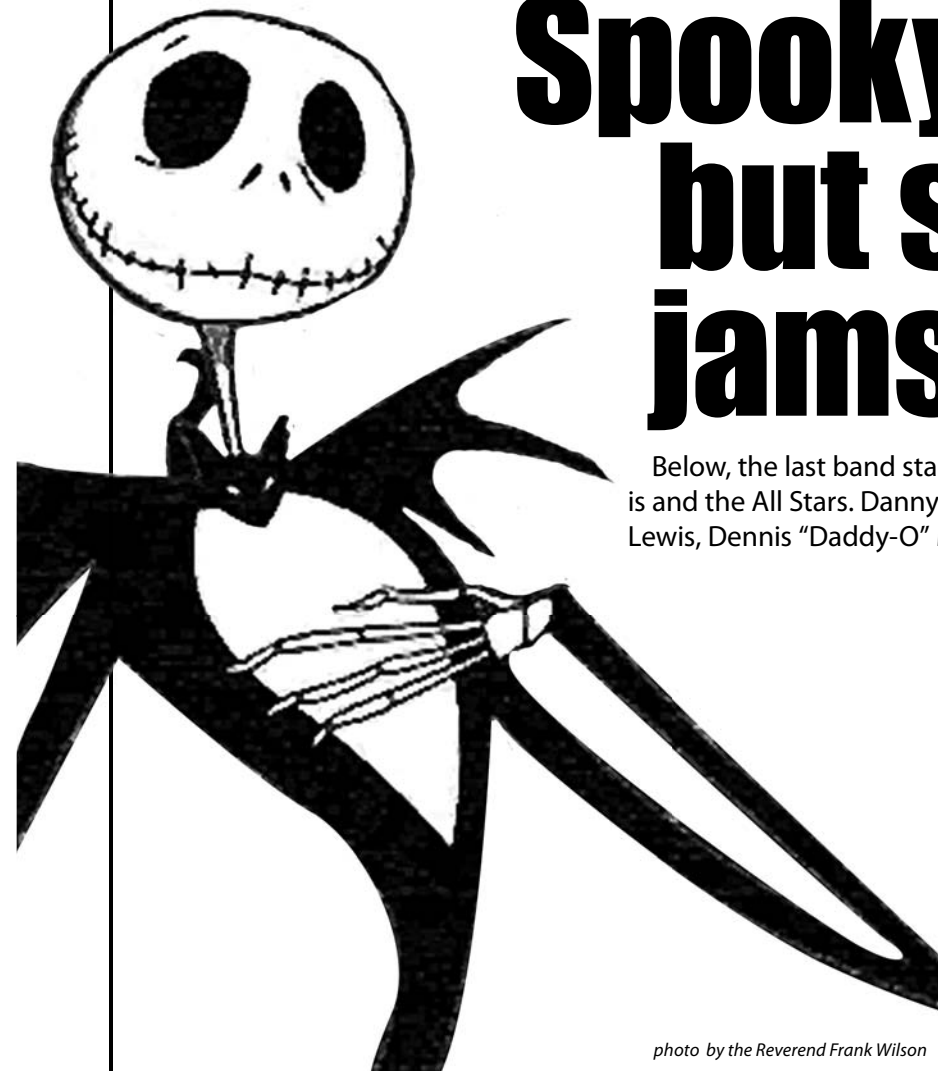


photo by the Reverend Frank Wilson

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Local LIVE music schedules



Be sure to tune in to **Bob Dorr's**
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 - 10-11 PM - Backstage Blues
 - 11 PM to midnight - KCCK Jams
 - Midnight Blues CD
- Saturday Blues -
- 6-10 PM - Da Blues with Bobby D
 - 10-11 PM - The Crawfish Circuit
 - 11 PM -midnight - The Melting Pot
 - Midnight Blues CD

Blues On Grand set to close

October 23- the LAST day

MetroMix

This news has been out there for a bit, but I wanted to hold off on reporting until I heard the news from Jeff Wagner's own mouth. Unfortunately, it's true, Blues on Grand will be closing its doors in October.

Wagner was pretty straight forward when asked why: "Lack of attendance." Wagner set the date because too often blues bands will be out on the road and not find out the club they're supposed to play at has been closed until they get to the door. He didn't want to leave touring acts hanging, so he got the word out early.

The bar's last day is set to be Oct. 23 with a closing bash. Wagner is still firming up the details, and I'll pass them along once he has it all figured out.

This will be a big blow to not only the local music scene, but also the national scene. Fewer venues means it's harder for touring musicians to get a coveted weekend slot. Fewer slots mean bands can't fill dates on a tour. Blues on Grand being closed means one less place for bands to stop on their way to Chicago, Omaha, Minneapolis or Kansas City.

Okay, enough of a downer. You want good blues in the area? Check out some of the shows Blues on Grand is hosting in the next two months. Here's the schedule of acts. Keep updated on the Central Iowa Blues Society, which seems to have redesigned its site in the last few weeks.

The CIBS is hosting the 2010 Iowa Blues Challenge Solo/Duo contest Sept. 12 at Blues on Grand. Gary "Cookie" Anderson, The Lew & Brad Band, Bodley & Cantrell, Two Pony Blues Band, Joel Baker, The Most Handsome Duo in the World, Soulful Security Duo and Bebad and the Bear perform. The winning act gets to compete in the 2011 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Doors open at 1 p.m., admission is \$7 (\$6 for Blues Society members).

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The Linn County Blues Society is a way cool, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations. LCBS is an Affiliated Organization in the Blues Foundation's international network. The BLUESPAPER is a monthly publication of the LCBS. Website: lcbs.org

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Staff Writers - see bylines
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Parliamentarian - Bill Meeks
Program - Bob De Forest
Web Admin: Evan Vulich

Membership

To learn more about the Linn County Blues Society or to join, see the membership form in this Bluespaper or the LCBS website. Your membership includes;

- Discount admissions to many local Blues activities.
- Monthly LCBS Bluespaper.
- Voting rights in the LCBS elections.
- Being a part of the groove!

Bluespaper Contact information

Send news, band or club live entertainment listings or advertising to:
Evan Vulich at: evulich@mchsi.com.

Bluespaper Ad Rates

\$15.00 - Business card size - 2" x 3.5"
\$25.00 - Quarter page ad - 3.5" x 4.75"
\$50.00 - Half page ad - 4.75" x 7.25"
\$100.00 - Full page - 7.5" x 10"

Submission Requirements- All ads, photos or scanned images, either color or black/white, need to be 300ppi. Native Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, JPG, TIFF, EPS, PDF, BMP accepted. Ads created in Word may cause dementia, severe cramping and diarrhea. **Deadline for submissions is the 19th of the month.**

Moving? Send your new address to; LCBS, PO Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672 so you won't miss a single issue of your Bluespaper.

Thank you renewing members!

LCBS bolsters its ranks

Kevin Cutsforth

Bev & Ian Philpott, Bill Keating, Daryl G. Wear, Greg West, Rachael Barrow, Duane T. Boatwright, Mike & Becky Buckman, Kyle & Laura Christen, Bob Dorr, Lorin & DyAnne Dudley, Bob & Deb Erger, Sam Franzenburg, John & Kristin Gavin, David & Marti Gray, Chris Hartwig, Ken Hollinger, Ginger Hull, Ron Jackson, Danny "DJ" Johnson & Theresa Crawford, Gary S. Johnson, Robin Level, Janice Loomis, Bonny Luter, Greg Marshall, Lynn Mead, Jim & Rose Marie Monagan, Dick Mundy, Toni & Giora Neta, Bill Olinger, Allene Pease, Will Perrin, Carol Perrin, Mark Pategas, Tami Peterson & Bill Bennett, Niles & Carol Ross, Mark & Linda Runkle, Lisa Schreihart, Carl & Dawn Schuettpelz, Steve & Connie Spicher, Regina Spurgin, Dan Stanford, Jason Waters, Thomas Werner, Roger & Mary Wetlaufer, Erin Worden, Alan Evan-Schwartz, Otis McGowan, Patly Clarey-Sage, Bill Leferink, Milo Schuler, Kevin Tubbs, Paul & Gail Williams.

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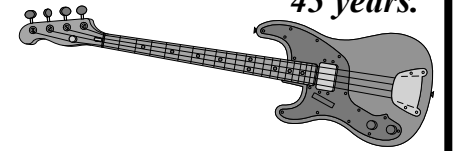
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MISSISSIPPI BLUES TRAIL STRETCHES TO WISCONSIN

112th marker dedicated on site of Paramount Records

On Saturday, September 18 at 3:30pm, the 112th Mississippi Blues Trail marker will be dedicated in Lime Kiln Park in Grafton, Wisconsin, near the former site of Paramount Records.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Paramount Records label recorded many pioneering artists from Mississippi, including Charley Patton, Son House, Tommy Johnson, Skip James, Gus Cannon, Henry Townsend, the Mississippi Sheiks, Willie Brown, the Graves Brothers and others. This is the seventh marker dedicated outside of the state, and like the others, it demonstrates the wide reach and influence of Mississippi blues music.

"Paramount Records was instrumental in bringing Mississippi blues to the world," Gov. Haley Barbour said. "Some of our state's greatest musical legends traveled to Wisconsin to get their start in the music industry. Mississippi may be the birthplace of America's music, however, partners in states across this country have been invaluable in spreading the sound."

The marker is being placed in tandem with the Fifth Annual Paramount Blues Festival. During the weekend, Tommy Johnson and Big Bill Broonzy will be honored on Grafton's Paramount Walk of Fame. Also on Saturday, Johnson's legacy will be celebrated with the Fifth Annual Tommy Johnson Blues Festival at the Cooper's Down Racetrack in Terry, Miss.

Paramount Records was launched in 1917 by its parent company, the Wisconsin Chair Company, which also produced phonographs and phonograph cabinets. The label began recording blues artists in 1922, initially concentrating on female stars of the vaudeville circuit including Ma Rainey. By the mid-1920s, it was the home of leading male artists including Texas' Blind Lemon Jefferson. In the late 1920s, Paramount began utilizing field agents, including Jackson, Miss., furniture and music store owner H.C. Speir, to locate talent across the South.

Among the artists that Speir located in Mississippi was Charley Patton, one of the founders of the Delta Blues, who recorded over forty songs for Paramount. Other Mississippi-born artists who recorded for the label include: Tommy Johnson, the most influential artist in the Greater Jackson area; Memphis jug band pioneer Gus Cannon; Henry Townsend, a leading bluesman in St. Louis; Bentonia's Skip James, one of the most distinctive stylists of early blues; and Son House, who was the mentor of both Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters.

Many of these recordings were made between 1929, when Paramount opened a studio in Grafton, and 1932, when low record sales resulting from the Depression forced Paramount to close its doors. Over the ensuing decades, however, historians and record collectors would hold the Paramount's recordings in the highest esteem.

For more information about the weekend's activities, visit graftonblues.org or tommyjohnsonblues.com/fifthannual.html.

The Mississippi Blues Trail is a museum without walls taking visitors on a musical history journey through Mississippi. The trail started with the first official marker in Holly Ridge, the resting place of the blues guitarist Charley Patton. The trail winds its way to sites honoring B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Son House and more.

For more information about the Mississippi Blues Trail, visit www.msbluestrail.org or explore the official Mississippi Development Authority's Tourism Web site, www.visitmississippi.org. You may also contact Alex Thomas, MDA's Music Development program manager at 601.359.3297 or athomas@mississippi.org.



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Local Music 2010

October Calendar

Fri. 1 ★	The Pentacrest, IC Ernie's Checkers Tavern Muddy's Waters	Government Mule, 8:30PM FREE McMurrin & Johnson, 6-9PM Triple Shot, 9PM John Resch & Detroit Blues, Bettendorf 9PM
Sat. 2 ★	Fire House Kirkwood Blues Concert Yacht Club, IC Shuey's	Skeeter Lewis hosts jam 4-8PM Billy Janey Band w/ DJ 7:30PM Demolition Band, 10PM Lady Lowe
Sun. 3 ★	Blues On Grand Mahoney's	Charlie Musselwhite, 7PM \$15.00 Morsoul, 6-10PM
Tue. 5	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's Lab Jam, 9PM
Wed. 6	Parlor City Pub	McMurrin & Johnson 8-11PM
Thur. 7	J.M. O'Malley's Shuey's Checkers Tavern	Gibby jams with friends, 9PM Mike & Rob Show Dave Zollo, 7PM
Fri. 8	Java Blend, Iowa City Ernie's	Patrick Hazel 2-3PM Tom Bruner & Dan Johnson, 6-9PM
Sat. 9	Fire House Rumors Parlor City Pub Shuey's Okoboji Grill	Skeeter Lewis hosts jam 4-8PM Bruner & Johnson, 4-8PM JAM McMurrin & Johnson Trio, 9-12 Terry McCauley The Janey's, 8PM Independence
Sun. 10	Tabor Home Winery Parlor City Pub	The Janey's, 3PM Baldwin, IA Perry Welsh & The Pumpers
Tue. 12	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's Lab Jam, 9PM
Thur. 14	J.M. O'Malley's Shuey's	Gibby jams with friends, 9PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM
Fri. 15	Leo's Gen. Lounge Robins Center, Ft. Hays Screaming Eagle	Billy Lee Janey, Oelwein Patrick Hazel, State University, Kansas 4Box O Rocks, Waterloo 9:30PM
Sat. 16	Fire House Screaming Eagle Shuey's	Skeeter Lewis hosts jam 4-8PM Pumpers w/ DJ & Eric Douglas 9:30PM Pawned Scum
Sun. 17	Mahoney's Parlor City Pub	John Wayne & The Payne, 6-10PM Useful Jenkins
Tue. 19	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's Lab Jam, 9PM
Thur. 21	J.M. O'Malley's Checkers Shuey's	Gibby jams with friends, 9PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Jeff Mattison
Fri. 22	Cooter's Checkers Tavern	Bryce Janey w/ Dan Johnson, 8:30-12 The Regulators, 9PM
Sat. 23	Fire House Pitchers, Lindale	Skeeter Lewis hosts jam 4-8PM Bryce Janey, open mic 8:30PM
Sun. 24	Mahoney's Parlor City Pub	Andy Frasco, 6-10PM Big Funk Guarantee
Tue. 26	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's Lab Jam, 9PM
Thur. 28	J.M. O'Malley's Checkers Tavern Lincoln Wine Bar	Bryce Janey Group w/ Dan Johnson, 9PM Mark Moss, 7PM The Blue Midnight Trio, 7-10PM
Fri. 29	Leo's Gen. Lounge Eagles Club Checkers Tavern	Bruce Bearer, Oelwein McMurrin & Johnson, 8-11PM Meerkats, 9PM
Sat. 30	Fire House Shuey's 2 Friends Tap	Skeeter Lewis hosts jam 4-8PM Flaming Camaros Bryce Janey Trio, Laporte City, 9PM
Sun. 31	Mahoney's	The Janey's w/ Dan Johnson, 6-10PM

EVERY

Sat. - The Firehouse- Jam with various players 4-8PM
Sun.- Mahoney's - Various artists-Never a Cover, 6pm
Sun. - Parlor City Rocks New Bohemia District!
Tue. - Gibby's Lab Jam, Parlor City, 8-11PM
Thur. -J.M.O'Malley's-T-Bone Giblin Jam Fest

Funk Daddies, Chrome Horse, October 30

The LCBS meets the 2nd Monday of each month.
See you at the Longbranch on October 11, 6:30PM
for the LCBS general meeting.

Guests are welcome!

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- 16th Avenue Prod.
- KCCK 88.3
- Checkers Tavern
- Home Town Restyling
- Next Door
- Tomaso's Pizza
- Mahoney's Irish Pub



legionarts.org

Levee Town in town Kansas City blues comes to Checkers

Kevin Curtsforth

If you read John "Big Mo" Heim's "Pick of the Month" in the September issue of the LCBS Bluespaper, you know that he gave the newest CD by Kansas-based blues band Levee Town (the self-titled "Levee Town") a great review and ended by saying that he hoped they would come around here sometime. A very prophetic statement as there they were two weeks later on the stage at Checkers Tavern in CR. Their live show includes all the musical elements that Big Mo attributed to their new album of all original material. These guys display a great respect for all blues traditions. During their live performance, you will hear covers

section and Brandon Hudspeth on guitar and Jimmie Meade on harmonica complement each other extremely well. Hudspeth, who wrote most of the songs on the new CD, and Garoutte, who contributed 4 new songs, trade off on lead vocals with Meade taking the lead on "You Mean", a song that he also wrote for the new CD. All of them contribute backing vocals throughout and the harmonies work very well.

They played a number of songs from their latest CD including "I'm Not Broke", "Three Sides", "Etta" and "Why Why Why", all very strong material that will get your feet tapping. I've always been a big fan of Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson (both of them), Junior Wells and James



Levee Town, L-R: Jacquie Garoutte on bass, Brandon Hudspeth on lead guitar, Jimmy Meade on harp and Jan "Big Show" Faircloth on the drums.

and originals in a wide range of genres: Kansas blues (of course) along with delta blues, Chicago blues, country blues and jump blues. They played a killer version of Jimi Hendrix' "Little Wing" with Brandon Hudspeth on a hollow-body Gibson, a Cream-inspired version of "Spoonful", a great version of Freddie King's "Hideaway" as well as a number of other covers that showcased their amazing musicianship and vocals. The blues influences I heard throughout the night included Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Freddie King, Jimmy Reed and the list goes on.

Jacquie Garoutte on bass and Jan Faircloth on drums are a solid rhythm

Cotton so I especially enjoyed the very authentic blues sound from Meade's harmonica. Their sense of humor comes out in their live performance with songs like "All Over But The Paperwork" (about divorce) as well as a fun version of "Yakety Sax", the theme song to the Benny Hill show translated to guitar. These guys are a lot of fun to see live with great sound and great energy. A big "Thank You" to Checkers for bringing them to town! I hope they get back to this area sometime soon. If they do, I know I will be there and, if you are a blues fan, do yourself a favor and check them out. You won't be disappointed!



Craig Erickson
"New Earth Blues"

Grooveyard Records

Featuring nine original songs, three covers, and a hidden "Jam Session" track, New Earth Blues, the newest album from Craig Erickson, is funky, heady and psychedelic at times.

Fans of Chris Whitley should really enjoy "Indian Summer", an exceptional cover from Whitley's 1998 album, Dirt Floor. Also covered on this album, are Free's "Be My Friend", and "World Keeps on Turning" by Fleetwood Mac.

A slower, somber ballad, "Drowning Down Here", is beautifully constructed and at times reminiscent of Big Brother and the Holding Company's version of "Summertime". as his guitar seems to just break down and cry.

My two favorites tracks from New Earth Blues are "Political World" and "Titanic Planet". "Political World" is pure Seventies blues-rock, but with more poignant lyrics. However, "Titanic Planet", stands out as one of the best new songs I have heard this year. I absolutely love it. It's got such a captivating groove to it, I often listen to this song multiple times in a row. I would love to hear this one live with a full band, stretching it out to at least a ten minute jam. I've had this disc on heavy rotation lately, and it just seems to get better with each listen.

Rating = 5/5

myspace.com/craigerickson1

— Phil Smith



Jasco's Jive

Check out Jasco's jive. Always something fun to read

jascoguitar.com

At gigs, I often get asked about how whatever band I'm playing with was formed. Some bands I've been in were intentional creations. Some just kind of fall together accidentally. I've also noticed people interested in how bands break up.

One band I was in was the product of 4 musicians intentionally trying to form a band that could play outside of the small town we live in. The first gig that band got was a 60 day overseas tour that had us playing in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Germany, Greece, Italy, and Spain. That band lasted twelve years, and was finally done in by personality conflicts after over 600,000 miles on the road together.

Another band I had formed via a connection on craigslist. The singer and I then met for a coffee shop jam and found rhythm section players on craigslist as well. That band lasted a few years, before the members naturally drifted different ways musically, and I still occasionally work with the singer when she needs a substitute guitarist.

I got called once as a last minute fill in for a group which then continued to hire me for the next four months. I got fired from that group, along with the bass player, for refusing to go to rehearsals wherein we played "shuffle in E" for several hours.

There was one band of mine that formed from an acoustic gig at the Budweiser Events center in Loveland, Colorado. It had a lot of promise, but character flaws outweighed the talent potential and tanked that project in less than a year.

One of my current bands, The Mighty Jivesters, came into being when AC happened down to a jam I was hosting at Ziggies. He was just

too talented with his singing, harp, and piano chops for me to ignore. So I had to turn on my faux charisma and convince him to form a band to gig with. Luckily he didn't need much convincing.

My newest band, The Symbols, was formed unintentionally during a rehearsal I was having with some rhythm section players I use for my instrumental trio gigs. A young lady named Mer Sal was watching the rehearsal, as her boyfriend was the bassist. I'd met Mer a few weeks prior and had written her off as a cute, talkative, possibly stoned, airhead. Just the type of girl I'd have been looking for 20 years ago.

Between songs, she made a claim that she could sing a lot of the songs we were playing. "Yeah right," was my first thought. Over the years I've encountered so many people who think they can sing, (or play harmonica) well, that I'm naturally a bit skeptical when I hear such claims. But, since it was a rehearsal, and since her boyfriend was playing bass, I decided to humor her and give her five minutes on the mic. I was pleasantly surprised to say the least. Even more surprising to me was the fact that no one had Mer in a gigging band already. Once again, time to turn on my faux charisma and convince her to join a band with me. Luckily, once again it didn't take much convincing, as I've now learned that she is far more serious about music than my initial impression had led me to believe.

The Symbols will be doing our first gig in Denver tomorrow night (Tuesday Sept 14) at Ziggies as the host band for their open jam, so if you're in the Denver area, come on down to listen to us.

So what will become of either band I'm in at the moment? How long will they stay together? What level of success will be attained? Perhaps great

things will come. Maybe a band breakup is only a month down the road. Maybe I'll get killed in a car-wreck on the way home from Tuesday's gig. No one really knows. And the not knowing, for me, is possibly the most exciting part of the whole game. "It's not the kill, but the thrill of the chase."

Bonus question: Anyone who emails me the correct names of all four defunct bands I spoke of in this newsletter will receive a free download code for a tune from my website.

Musically,
Jasco

Nominations Open for LCBS Board of Directors Positions

The LCBS Nominations Committee is currently seeking candidates for Linn County Board of Directors positions to be filled in the October Board election. The election will be held at the October Board meeting on Monday, October 11, 2010 at the Best Western Longbranch Restaurant in Marion at 6:30 pm.

The following LCBS Board positions will be up for election for the term of November 2010 through October 2012: President, Treasurer, Merchandise Chair, and two Director-at-Large positions.

Nominations for office will be accepted from any LCBS members in good standing for one year. Nominations are being taken now and will continue to be accepted up to the election. If you are interested in running for an LCBS office, please contact Bill Meeks, Nomination Committee Chair, at 319/364-8035 to express your interest and to request information on what is involved.

LCBS is always open to new ideas and we encourage your active participation in your Blues Society! Volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Perry Welsh and the Pumpers

Parlor City Pub, October 10 - just be there!

Ric Holmquest



Perry Welsh makes a return to the Iowa music scene with the Pumpers at Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 1125 3rd St. S.E. on Sunday, October 10 from 6-10pm. The talented singer and harmonica player is a 2004 Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and is an alumnus of both the Linn County Band and the Elvin Bishop Group.



Perry Welsh

The Nashville based Welsh makes a return to his hometown of Cedar Rapids to unite with his Eastern Iowa band mates, in support of their 2009 release "Pumpers". The Pumpers lineup includes Tom T-Bone Giblin on keyboards, Bryce Janey's lead guitar and vocals, Dave Bader's bass guitar and vocals, with Troy Harper on the drums.

Welsh's soulful vocals and tough harmonic style have been honed from years of gigs with a virtual who's who list of Blues artists, having performed for years in Cedar Rapids, the San Francisco bay area and then Nashville.

Of his longtime friend and band mate, Tom T-Bone Giblin informs "Without Perry's influence, I would



From left to right; Tom "T-Bone, the great one" Giblin on keyboard, Troy Harper on drums, Bryce Janey on lead guitar, Perry Welsh vocals and harp and Dave Bader on bass.

not be playing the music I do today" adding "Perry is one of the few singers I've ever heard that has truly improved with age".

Perry Welsh and the Pumpers performance at Parlor City is part of the pub's ongoing Sunday music series. There will not be a cover charge for the Pumpers performance at Parlor City Pub.



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