

AUG2011



# BLUESPAPER

Cool Issue 205

The Publication of the Linn County Blues Society - lcbs.org

August 2011

# BLUESMORE 2011

## Chubby Carrier & The Bayou Swamp Band

## John Lisi & Delta Funk

## Perry & The Pumpers

*August 6! 4PM-10PM*

**Bluesmore post-jam at Longbranch!**



### In this August issue —

#### **BLUESMORE August 6!**

- CR Amphitheater Music Festival
- Gary Gibson brings the blues to Cedar Ridge Winery
- Susan Werner at CSPA for 2 shows!
- Dr. Phil's CD review: Levon Helm
- Joe Ely at the Iowa Arts Festival, Iowa City
- Local LIVE music schedules
- Rev Rants

# CR Amphitheater Music Festival

## Fund raiser on August 20

Brain Stoll

CR Amphitheater Music Fest 2011 is a community concert to raise funds and awareness for the future amphitheater in Cedar Rapids. To be held on August 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Music Fest will raise money for the new amphitheater, slated to be finished in the fall of 2012. Tickets for the Music Fest are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12, and are available at all University of Iowa Community Credit Unions in Cedar Rapids, including the Edgewood Rd SW location next to Westdale Mall, and the Blairsferry Road location west of Edgewood Rd NE. Tickets are also available at [www.ticketnoble.com](http://www.ticketnoble.com). The Music Fest is expected to draw between 3,000 to 5,000 attendees.

The Music Fest features 9 local artists and bands, including The Mayflies, Ben Schmidt, Sarah Cram and the Derelicts, Adobanga, Kevin Burt, The Surf Zombies, Natalie Brown and Craig Erickson, Daylight Savings Account, and The Trollies. In addition, Australian musician Claude Hay (as heard on NPR) will headline the event.

The Music Fest will include several food and beverage vendors, including barbeque, ice cream and Hy-Vee catering. Chrome Horse Saloon and Fleck Sales are providing adult beverages for the event.

A kids' tent will provide activities for the kids from noon to 8:30 p.m., with artists sharing music and other projects focusing on art, music and the environment. Several local non-profits, including Streamline Kids, are helping with the kids' tent activities.

The City of Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department will accept donations for the amphitheater at the event and will be available for Q and

A about the amphitheater.

The goal of the Music Fest is to raise between \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the amphitheater. A large portion of ticket sales will be donated to the amphitheater, along with 10% of all vendor sales. In addition, the Music Fest will hold several raffle drawings with 100% of the raffle money going towards the amphitheater. Donors of raffle prizes include, but are not limited to, Zin's, Cibo, American Skillet, Theatre Cedar Rapids' Tickets, Framed posters from Kyle's Framing & Gallery, and many more.

Local support for the amphitheater and the Music Fest has been wonderful, and we hope to see a great turnout from the Corridor to enjoy a day full of music, food, and fun for the whole family.

For more information, find the Music Fest on Facebook: CR Amphitheater Music Fest. Also find the Music Fest on the web at [www.wix.com/luv2bfishing/cramphitheatermusicfest](http://www.wix.com/luv2bfishing/cramphitheatermusicfest). See ad on back page of the Bluespaper.



## De Forest Painting

Interior & Exterior

All types of paints,  
stains etc.

319-362-6523

Bob De Forest

References

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](http://lcbs.org)

### LCBS Officers

President - Frank Wilson  
Vice President - Evan Vulich  
Secretary - Stephanie West  
Treasurer - Sue Dergo



### Directors at Large

Bob De Forest, Bill Meeks, Janet Evans

### Chairs

Education: Gary Gibson  
PR Chair: Open  
Entertainment - Greg West  
Membership - Kevin Cutsforth  
Merchandise - David Andrews

### The Bluespaper & LCBS folks

Editor - Evan Vulich  
Photographers - see bylines  
Staff Writers - see bylines  
Distribution - Evan Vulich, Bill Meeks  
Parliamentarian - Bill Meeks  
Program - Bob De Forest  
Web Admin: John Shultz

### 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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Gary Gibson Group

## Cedar Ridge Winery has the blues!

Elaine Mattingly



John Mattingly on keyboard, Gary Gibson on guitar and Bob Mays on bass.

Linn County boys Gary Gibson and Bob Mays welcomed a Skunk to their party at Cedar Ridge Vineyards & Distillery over the July 4th holiday weekend. John Mattingly of Newton (and South Skunk Blues Society fame) ventured east to kick up his keyboard heels--all for the red, white and blues pleasure of Cedar Ridge wine and spirits lovers. As many of us already know, Iowa has an uncommonly high enthusiasm for the blues. The folks at Cedar Ridge paired their wine and spirits with BBQ and blues and Voila! Let the celebrating begin. Posed on the hilltop under Cedar Ridge's big tent, patrons enjoyed the view, a breeze and comfortable seating also. But the path between Linn County and Skunk-land is well-trod. Look forward to The Gary Gibson Group (4-piece) tearing it up for Whole Lot 'O Blues Fest, a South Skunk Blues-Society all-day event in Grinnell on Saturday, July 23rd and again at the 19th annual Bowlfull of Blues in Newton on September 3rd. Let the good times roll!



## Levon Helm

### Ramble at the Ryman

He's over seventy years old now and still nothing quite gets in the way of Levon Helm's tenacious desire to make music. Arguably one of the two most notable people to ever call such a little place like Turkey Scratch, Arkansas, home. The other being the legendary Robert Lockwood, Jr. Ramble at the Ryman, the newest release from Helm, is a live album. Capturing the essence of the old time medicine shows, he shares the stage with big name talent like Sheryl Crow, John Hiatt, Buddy Miller, and Billy Bob Thornton to name a few. With Helm handling vocals, drums, and the mandolin, Larry Campbell on guitar, and (Little) Sammy Davis on harmonica, it's quite an impressive arcade of musicians.

Six of the fifteen tracks are oldies but goodies written by one of Helm's original band mates from the Band, Robbie Robertson. Kicking off the show is a lively version of "Ophelia". It's such a great song, and sets the mood for swingin' good time. Wrapping up the album, we get to hear a fabulous rendition of "The Weight", recorded with special guest vocalist, John Hiatt. And in between, fabulous performances of "Evangeline", recorded with Sheryl Crow, "Rag Mama Rag" and "The Shape I'm In".

Harmonica aficionados should really enjoy the back to back tracks, "Fannie Mae" and "Baby Scratch My Back". Davis owns the stage with his riveting harp playing. It's just great to listen to. Other great listens include the chilling ballad, "A Train Robbery". Helm sings his heart out on this one. Rounding out the rest of the album, is a very nice cover of Chuck Berry's "Back to Memphis".

This event is also available on DVD, which I plan to picking up sometime soon because I love the CD so much.

— Phil Smith

# Susan Werner

## CSPS comes back from rehab with 2 shows!

Todd Kim

Legion Arts X



*Susan Werner*

**D**ubbed “Back from Rehab,” the grand re-opening of CSPS Hall in Cedar Rapids begins Friday, Aug. 26 with a fundraiser concert and party featuring singer-songwriter Susan Werner. Additional re-opening events planned for that weekend and the month of September include a second concert by Werner on Aug. 28 and a Sept. 9 show by Cajun group BeauSoleil. The completion of the \$7 million restoration and expan-

sion of CSPS coincides with the 120th birthday of the building and the 20th anniversary of Legion Arts, the non-profit group that programs the venue.

Legion Arts has presented cutting-edge art, music, dance and theatre at the historic former Czech social hall since 1991 when it took over the space from a local gymnastics group.

The new CSPS Hall includes updated performance and exhibit spaces on the second floor, in addition to a studio theatre and arts incubator on the first floor. The restored firehouse will feature living and work space for visiting artists. Air-conditioning, an elevator and a new parking lot are also part of the project.

For more information: [www.legionarts.org](http://www.legionarts.org) or 319-364-1580.

Iowa native explores the blues on her new release

Singer-songwriter Susan Werner has made a career of the unexpected. In 2005, the Manchester, Iowa, native released an album of original songs in the style of George Gershwin and Cole Porter. In 2007, a collection of “agnostic gospel” songs was praised by the believers and non-believers alike.

Throughout her career of 10 wildly varied releases, Susan has taken traditional music

and fused it with her unmistakable contemporary worldview, challenging listeners to experience music from a fresh perspective.

On her latest release, *Kicking the Beehive*, Susan ups the ante with 11 new songs exploring the musical history of the South, especially the blues. She traveled the “Blues Highway,” Highway 61, from her home in Chicago to Memphis and Clarksdale, Miss. before continuing

on to New Orleans and east Texas.

It was definitely a pilgrimage. She ate roadside BBQ, skirted the River and visited juke joints. In Clarksdale, she stood at the crossroads where blues legend Robert Johnson allegedly sold his soul. Best of all, she got to sit in on the Tuesday night jam session at the Ground Zero Blues Club. The only woman on stage that night, she called the experience both nerve-wracking and transcendent.

Though it mixes everything from jazz and country to blues and folk, the music on *Kicking the Beehive* was directly influenced and informed by Werner’s blues pilgrimage. “My Different Son,” is written from a mother’s point of view about a child with autism and evokes the Chicago-style laments of B.B. King and Muddy Waters. On the rocking “I Know What I Want,” Werner calls on the phrasing of the field hollers she studied as part of her blues journey.

On other songs, it’s the subject matter that’s blues-inspired. “Doctor, Doctor” is about getting bad news at the clinic and features killer slide guitar by guest artist Keb’ Mo’. “The Last Words of Bonnie Parker” is a devastating love song from the point of view of Bonnie (of Bonnie and Clyde fame).

The album was recorded in Nashville with producer Rodney Crowell and guest stars Vince Gill, steel guitar legend Paul Franklin and other session greats.

Though Werner’s new songs may leave purists wanting, they do answer the question she set out to ask: “What would the blues sound like if more woman wrote the blues?” Early blueswomen like Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith and Memphis Minnie were distinctive voices that never got the attention conferred on their male counterparts. Werner may not have joined the ranks of women like Susan Tedeschi and Bonnie Raitt who have asked and answered that question for themselves. But she has thrown her hat and heart into the ring of fire that is the blues.

*“Blues is easy to play, but hard to feel.”*  
— Jimi Hendrix

# Joe Ely

“he delivers every time”

Kyle Christen



Joe Ely at the Iowa Arts Festival in Iowa City

I got to experience firsthand on Friday June 3rd, a tumbleweed on fire from Texas that blew into the heart of downtown Iowa City....Joe Ely!

A hot, humid night for the opening of the Iowa Arts Festival with Joe and his band taking the stage at 8 PM. Touring in advance support of his new CD “Satisfied At Last” (released 4 days after this show), we were treated to old and new songs, so never anything wrong with that! Beginning with three off the new disc, “The Highway Is My Home”, “Mockingbird Hill”, & “You Can Bet I’m Gone”, the latter a true story about a guy Joe heard of

On drums was Pat Manske, who also plays in the Flatlanders, and rounding it out on guitar, slide, mandolin, and dobro was the excellent Jeff Plankenhorn. He’s well known in the Austin area, and put out a solo disc in 2003, “Plank”, on Blue Corn Records. I must say that whoever did sound for this show was one of the best jobs I’ve ever heard. The vocals and each instrument were clear and crisp, easy to separate, and the volume was right. It was like listening to a piece of glass.

For 64 years old, Joe is still a dynamic performer, and luckily, he treated us to stories of his songs in between. Even though

who passed away, had himself cremated, and had his ashes loaded into shotgun shells (my late, great father-in-law would be the first to tell you, from personal involvement, “That’s not original”). All new songs went over well with the crowd that numbered a few thousand. Then, it was into some stuff we’re all familiar with, “Laredo”, Billy Joe Shaver’s “I’m Gonna Live Forever”, and a fan favorite, “Me & Billy The Kid”.

Joe is currently backed by a newer band, including long-time bass player Joe Pettit. If you want a very cool 7-song CD, check out his solo release from a few years back “Vegas Hotel” on Bones & Blues Records, through amazon or cdbaby.

the current band hasn’t been together that long, his mates had the music down-pat, and all of them played on the new disc, which also includes legends Lloyd Maines on steel guitar, and Joel Guzman on accordion. He finished his 100 minute set with Ely classics “Maria”, then my favorite “The Road Goes On Forever”, and closed with “Cool Rockin Loretta”, which he turned into a sing-along, much to the crowd’s delight.

Joe has put out quality music since 1977. What I love about him is that he doesn’t change much. Strong lyrics and heavy guitar chords. He’s probably never surprised me, but he’s always impressed me, no matter if it was today or 20 years ago. You know what you’ll get from him, and he delivers every time.

The Iowa Arts Festival is one cool little weekend gathering that’s gaining steam every year. Set right downtown in Iowa City, dozens and dozens of artists have their products available in their booths, and the food.....so many choices, so many different cultures, quality music, and it’s free! Over 30,000 passed through here this weekend, and reports are that the beverage garden tripled their receipts from the previous year. But don’t be concerned, this isn’t a beer-bash-free-for-all. To tell you the truth, if I hadn’t notice the beer tent, I wouldn’t have known it was there. What I saw was many people of all ages having a good time, no matter what they were there for. I’d like to say a special “Thank You” to Shane Schemmel, Asst. Exec. Director of the Fest, who allowed me access for photos.

In meeting briefly with Joe afterwards, I found him to be a super nice person, who was genuinely interested in talking with his fans. So much in fact, that I just meant to say a few words and head out, but he continued to engage me in the conversation! Joe, you are a true road warrior, your CD “Live At Liberty Lunch” still kicks my butt to this day, and thank you!

*“You can’t play anything on a horn that Louis Armstrong hasn’t played”— Miles Davis*

# Local Music 2011

## August Blues Calendar

Tue. 2	The Fire House Parlor City Pub	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends, 4-8PM Gibby's lab jam, 8-11PM
Wed. 3	Beaver Creek Shuey's Parlor City Pub	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends Beer Tasting! BF Burt 6:30PM-8:30PM McMurrin & Johnson, 8-11PM (Every 1st Wed)
Thur. 4 ★	*J.M. O'Malley's Shuey's Jazz Under Stars	Gibby jams with friends, 8-12 Mike & Rob, 7-10PM Ariel Pocock, 7-9PM, Noelridge Park
Fri. 5	Estes St. IA Falls Ernie's	Blue Band, 9-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 6-9PM (Every 1st Friday)
Sat. 6 ★	Brucemore The Fire House Parlor City Pub	<b>BLUESMORE 18</b> , 4-10PM Skeeter Lewis jams with friends, 4-8PM Skeeter Lewis All Stars, 9PM
Sun. 7	Beaver Creek Chrome Horse Parlor City Pub	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends Jason Christianson w/ DJ-Blues Duo 4-7PM Brainchild, 6-10PM Jazz/Funk
Tue. 9	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's lab jam, 8-11PM
Wed. 10	Shuey's	Beer Tasting! BF Burt 6:30PM-8:30PM
Thur. 11 ★	*J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Jazz Under Stars	Gibby jams with friends, 8-12 McMurrin & Johnson, 8-11PM Funk Daddies, 7-9PM Noelridge Park
Sat. 13	The Fire House Shuey's Parlor City Pub	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends, 4-8PM Bad Girl No Biscuit w/ Mike Williams EMC, 8:30-12:30
Sun. 14	Beaver Creek Riverside Casino Parlor City Pub	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends VibraCats, 5-8PM Jamie Kent & The Volunteers, 6-10PM
Tue.	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's lab jam, 8-11PM
Wed. 17	Shuey's	Beer Tasting! BF Burt 6:30PM-8:30PM
Thur. 18	*J.M. O'Malley's Shuey's Jazz Under Stars	Jason Leroy w/Dan Johnson, 8-12 Lafy Lowe Dennis McPartland & Jazz Underground 7P
Fri. 19	IA State Fair Wild Hogs	Blue Band, AE/TV8 stage 7-9PM VibraCats, 9PM, Walford
Sat. 20	IA State Fair The Fire House Shuey's	Blue Band, AE/TV8 stage 7-9PM Skeeter Lewis jams with friends, 4-8PM Two Bit Maniacs
Sun. 21	Beaver Creek Parlor City Pub	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends 6-10PM Porch Builder, Blues/Funk 6-10PM
Tues. 23	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's lab jam, 8-11PM
Wed. 24	Shuey's	Beer Tasting! BF Burt 6:30PM-8:30PM
Thur. 25 ★	Jazz Under Stars *J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub	Blue Band, 7-9PM Noelridge Park, CR Gibby jams with friends, 8-12 McMurrin & Johnson, 8-11PM
Fri. 26	Ernie's Rumors	Bryce Janey & Dan Johnson, 6-8:30PM VibraCats, 9PM
Sat. 27	The Fire House The Red Frog	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends, 4-8PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM
Sun. 28 ★	Beaver Creek Parlor City Pub Shuey's	Skeeter Lewis jams with friends Heath Alan Band, Blues 6-10PM 3rd Annual Blues Festival. BF Burt & friends
Tue.	Parlor City Pub	Gibby's lab jam, 8-11PM
Wed. 31	Shuey's	Beer Tasting! BF Burt 6:30PM-8:30PM

**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!  
Sun. - Beaver Creek - Skeeter Lewis Jams  
Tue. - Gibby's Lab Jam, Parlor City, 8-11PM  
Thur. -J.M.O'Malley's, T-Bone Giblin Jam Fest, 9PM



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The LCBS now meets on the 1st Monday of each month. See you at the Longbranch on August 1, 6:30PM for the LCBS general meeting.

Guests are welcome!

90 Twixt Town Rd., Marion • 377-6386.

**A very special THANK YOU to these businesses who have signed up to help us Keep the Blues Alive!**

- C.R. Bank & Trust
- Chappy's Safari
- Chrome Horse Saloon
- The Longbranch
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- J.M. O'Malley's, 9-1
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- KCKK 88.3
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- Tomaso's Pizza
- Mahoney's Irish Pub



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# Rev Rants ranting on cool stuff

Frank Wilson



## Good Deeds

Part of your LCBS annual dues supports our charitable efforts. We often support the HD Youth Center for disadvantaged youth. Our Education chair, Gary Gibson, has put together a series of events that also target disadvantaged youths. The start of this series was publicized in the June 2011 Bluespaper.

Also, LCBS member Bob Dorr and Jeff Petersen performed at Sub City on May 7 to support two Cedar Rapids non-profit organizations to help THE FOOD CHAIN of Linn County and TAKE BACK THE STREETS. THE FOOD CHAIN of Linn County is dedicated to the proposition that there is no reason for anyone to be hungry in the greater Cedar Rapids area by "rescuing" good, usable food otherwise headed for disposal and distributing it to food pantries and feed-

ing sites. TAKE BACK THE STREETS Art Initiative installs galleries and hangs shows in places for people who don't like to go to art galleries. Featuring the work of regional artists deserving broader exposure and national and international artists whose work would not otherwise be seen in Cedar Rapids, the Wizzard Gallery located in the Sub City sandwich shop has bi-monthly opening nights and sells prints of the work displayed to raise funds.

If you'd like to contribute or volunteer to help THE FOOD CHAIN please call Greg Stokeberry at 319-364-2393, drop an E-mail to [takebackthestreets@mchsi.com](mailto:takebackthestreets@mchsi.com) or regular mail to P.O. Box 23, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

## Bluesmore

Bluesmore tickets are now at our ticket outlets. An advance purchase gets you a discount off the gate price. Insiders know about the post-Bluesmore jam, which will be at the Longbranch again this year. The jam gives you an opportunity to see the Bluesmore musicians let their hair down a little and jam with the other musicians. The jam starts right after the headliner finishes at Bluesmore.

## CR Amphitheater Music Fest

The CR Amphitheater Music Fest will be held at Green Square Park on August 20. See the article about this on page 2 in this issue of the Bluespaper. See the CR Amphitheater ad on our back cover.

This month, go out to see some live music, and remember to say hi to the Rev when you see him.

*"Country music is three chords and the truth."*  
— Harlan Howard

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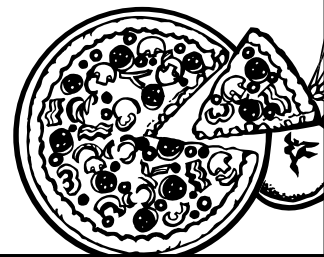


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## Linn County Blues Society Membership Application

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e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Dues - \$20

Blues Booster/Corporate Sponsor - \$100

Check below if you would like to share your talents with the LCBS in one or more of these areas:

Membership  Bluespaper  Bluesmore  Merchandise  Public Relations  Other

Please mail application and check to: Linn County Blues Society, PO Box 2672, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2672.

Contact us on the web at [lcb.org](http://lcb.org). Thank you for helping to keep the Blues Alive!

Scan for LOBS web info



Linn County Blues Society  
PO Box 2672  
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