



BLUESPAPER

ISSUE 143

The Publication of The Linn County Blues Society

MAY 2006

BLUESMORE 2006 is coming August 5th with headliners Roomful of Blues & Nora Jean Bruso performing on the lawn of Brucemore



Plans are full speed ahead for the annual BLUESMORE festival to be held Saturday, August 5th, on the lawns of the beautiful Brucemore mansion, which is preserved today by the National Trust for Historic



Above, Brucemore as it appears from First Avenue.

Preservation. This Blues festival is sponsored jointly by the Linn County Blues Society and Brucemore, Inc.,

• **Roomful of Blues**, the horn-fueled, jumping, swinging, award-winning band, have just released their latest Alligator Records recording, "Standing Room Only," to outstanding reviews. The great Count Basie called them "the hottest Blues band I've ever heard." *Downbeat* has said the band is "in a class by itself." Without a doubt, following 35 years of performing, Roomful of Blues, is all this and more.



Above, Nora Jean Bruso; above left, the current Roomful of Blues outstanding musicians.

Annually they are nominated for, and collect, multiple Grammy and W.C. Handy Blues Awards with their horn-driven blend of swing, jump, Blues and soul.

In the next several issues of The BLUESPAPER, we'll preview the current band members who have followed founding member Duke Robillard, and Ronnie Earl and Lou Ann Barton who came along later.

• **Nora Jean Bruso**, (above) born in the Mississippi Delta area, the land that produced Son House, Willie Brown, Robert Johnson to name a few, grew up in a family that embraced church music but at the same time ran a juke joint where legends like her hero Howlin' Wolf appeared.

Nora Jean has been named one of the ten great women in Chicago Blues by Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. It has been said that she is ready and poised to take the world by storm, and has what it takes to be the next "Queen of the Blues."

• **The Ellis Kell Band** is set to open BLUESMORE 2006.

Originally formed in 1990, The EKB has performed in the midwest at many clubs, concert venues and festivals. The band plays approximately 50% original material and 50% cover tunes of Blues and Rock selections.

The band's first CD was released in 1993 with "Down on the Levee," (Continued on page 7)

Int'l Blues Challenge winner Joey Gilmore at Mahoney's



By Ric Holmquest, LCBS Staff Writer

2006 International Blues Challenge winner Joey Gilmore will perform at Mahoney's Irish Pub, 1602 E Avenue NE, on Sunday, May 14, from 6-10 PM. Hot on the heels of his impressive Memphis-based Blues Foundation IBC win, Gilmore brings his signature style of Blues and R&B to Mahoney's in the heart of Cedar Rapids' Irish District.

Joey Gilmore's win this past January in Memphis is noteworthy, having now been recognized as the best unsigned band on the planet!

The 22nd Annual International Blues Challenge features Blues music performers from around the world, performing and competing in venues up and down famed Beale Street.

The IBC is the largest gathering of Blues music performers in the world, with over 130 competitors this year. When the dust had settled, Joe Gilmore and his talented rhythm section emerged as champions!

The Joey Gilmore band is a power trio. Florida Blues legend Joey Gilmore has played his guitar for over forty years, performing throughout the United States and Europe.

George Caldwell is large and in charge of the bass, and co-wrote

several of the songs on Gilmore's latest recording "The Ghosts of Mississippi." Cuban percussionist R.D. Hernandez completes the Gilmore band rhythm section from behind the drum kit. Make no mistake about it, these guys are the Blues real deal!

International Blues Challenge entrants are judged on Blues content, talent, originality, and stage presence throughout the week of competition. Most of the performing acts are already regional or state award winners, or have received sponsorship from their local Blues Societies or clubs.

The Linn County Blues Society, Mississippi Valley Blues Society, and the Central Iowa Blues Society have all hosted regional competitions in coordination with the Blues Foundation's IBC, and sponsored Blues music performing artists to Memphis for the annual event.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to see one of the best Blues bands in the world when Joey Gilmore performs at Mahoney's! There is never a cover charge at Mahoney's Irish Pub.



The Linn County Blues Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion and perpetuation 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 LCBS. Website: www.lcbs.org Bluesline: 319/399-5105.

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Membership:

To learn more about The Linn County Blues Society or to join, see the membership form printed on page 7. Your membership includes:

- Discount admissions to many local Blues activities
- Monthly LCBS BLUESPAPER
- Voting rights in the LCBS

Contact Information:

Deadline for news, band or club live entertainment listing, or advertising: 2nd Monday of month. Send to Chris Weinbrenner, PO Box 407, Williamsburg IA 52361, phone/fax: 319/668-8113; chriswein@iowatelecom.net or web: www.lcbs.org

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



• Soul and Blues singer Shemekia Copeland to host weekly Blues show on Sirius Satellite Radio

Grammy Award-nominated soul and blues singer, Shemekia Copeland, will host her own weekly Blues radio show exclusively on SIRIUS satellite radio beginning April 22. Shemekia Copeland's Blues Show will air on Saturdays from 1-7 PM ET on SIRIUS Blues channel 74. Copeland couldn't be more excited, saying, "What kind of crazy people are working at SIRIUS to let me loose with a microphone every Saturday afternoon?"

Copeland, the daughter of the late Blues master Johnny Clyde Copeland, burst on the scene in 1997 with her debut CD, "Turn The Heat Up" when she was just 19, and most recently, "The Soul Truth" in 2005.

For her SIRIUS show, Copeland will share stories of her life in the Blues and play Blues songs both familiar and obscure. "I warned them," said Copeland. "I'm taking over the airwaves. It's gonna be great."

• Sopranos stars pay a visit to Guitar Shorty

While performing in Chicago at Buddy Guy's Legends nightclub on March 17, Alligator recording star Guitar Shorty received a visit from cast members of the acclaimed HBO show The Sopranos. Steven Van Zandt, James Gandolfini, Michael Imperioli, Steve Schirripa stayed the entire last set. "Little Steven" (Van Zandt), as he is known when playing guitar with Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, could not resist the temp-tation, and he joined Shorty on stage for an extended, impromptu Jam session.

• Eric Lindell to play Main Stage at New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival

Newly signed Alligator artist Eric Lindell, whose debut release *Change in the Weather* hit the streets on April 4, will perform on the Main Stage at the New Orleans Jazz & heritage Festival May 5. Early press and radio response to his CD is simply astonishing.

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- 10-11 PM: The Crawfish Circuit
- 11 PM-Midnight: The Melting Pot
- Midnight Blues CD

www.kcck.org

New Releases from Blind Pig Records



As reviewed by Jamie Jorecki
LCBS Staff Writer

Blind Pig Records is proud to present their first releases of 2006: a live CD from the Reverend Billy C. Wirtz and a collection of gems from the repertoire of one of the finest guitarists of his generation, Jimmy Thackery.

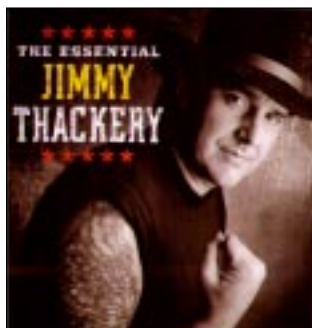
• **Rev. Billy C. Wirtz** is a comic genius and gifted pianist with an eclectic, wide range of subject matter in his "hymns."



Administering a sharp wit and biting satire, Wirtz has his "congregation" rolling in the aisles during his wacky live performances. *Sermon From Bethlehem* is an excellent display of Billy live at his schizophrenic best with non-stop old comic favorites (Grandma VS. the Crusher) and soon-to-be classics (Female Problems and The King & I).

Comedy aside, Billy knocks out some smokin' Blues and boogie woogie piano. Perhaps for the first time, this CD showcases the piano brilliance of a serious musician. There is also a DVD concert of this same live CD.

• *The Essential Jimmy Thackery* says it all in the title. This great collection of tunes from Thackery's eight Blind Pig releases, dating from 1992-2000, represent what many consider to be his most vibrant and creative period. Special guests include Duke Robillard,

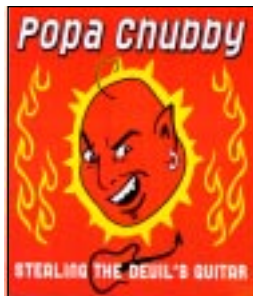


Lonnie Brooks, John Mooney, and Reba Russell. After departing the Wash-

ington D.C. area Blues band, The Night Hawks, Thackery reemerged as a power trio. *Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers* gained the spotlight as an aggressive Blues-Rock guitar slinging band. As a matter of fact, the Linn County Blues Society was proud to have Thackery & The Drivers as our first BLUESMORE headliner back in 1994. Both CDs and DVD are available now.

To be released May 9, the latest studio release from Popa Chubby titled *Stealing the Devil's Guitar* and another dual live CD/DVD release from Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King titled *My Heart's in Texas*.

• *Stealing the Devil's Guitar* is Popa Chubby's most important album to date, offering a breadth of creativity perhaps unexpected from the "King of New York City Blues" who is best known for his signature hard hitting, guitar-driven anthems.



Popa's brand of progressive, lyrically

incisive Blues and roots-rock is still here, only slightly diverse with some slide and acoustic guitar, sitar, mandolin and of course, a healthy dose of hard-rockin' lead guitar. "Young Guns" and "The Devil's Guitar" are a couple of my personal favorites.

Mark your calendar to see Popa Chubby live at this year's Mississippi Valley Blues Festival.

Recorded live December 31, 2005, at an authentic Texas roadhouse, J & J Blues Bar, *My Heart's in Texas* captures Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King's special stage magic and clearly demonstrates what makes this dynamic duo so unique.

Considered by many as long over due, this is Kubek & King's first live



recording. On New Year's Eve, Joe, Bnois and the band tore it up for two sets with their road-tested fan favorites mostly from the two Blind Pig releases, *Show Me the Money* and *Roadhouse Research*.

They also performed two originals especially written for the occasion and a pair of covers never recorded before. Again, there will be a live DVD of this along with the CD and Popa Chubby's May 9.

Remember, for these and a whole lot more, check out the entire Blind Pig catalog catalog at www.blindpigrecords.com

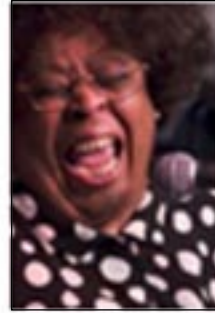


Bob Dorr



Steve George

Iowa Blues Hall of Fame Induction: Class of 2005



Joanne Jackson



Fred Walk

Blues on Grand in Des Moines, Home of the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame, honored the IBHOF inductees - Class of 2005 on Sunday, April 30.

Live music for the event was by Chicago Rick's Iowa Blues Hall of Fame Revue featuring IBHOF members George Davis, Gilbert Davis, and Harlan "Soul Man" Thomas. The four inductees performed with the band, and an All-Star Jam followed.

Eastern Iowa's nominees:

• **Bob Dorr:** Born in Chicago, Bob grew up listening to WLS Radio which inspired him to start singing when he was about 8 with drum lessons at 13. His biggest influence is John Lennon with the Blues of Muddy Waters, B.B., Albert, and Freddie King having a major impact as well. His first paid performance was with Tortoise & the Hair for a 9th grade dance after moving to Davenport.

He became an announcer and music director for KUNI Radio while at UNI in Cedar Falls while also leading the band, The Raggs Revue. Dorr has been the weekend host on KUNI since 1980 and has led the popular The Blue Band since '81 while at the same time forming his own Hot Fudge record label dedicated to recording Iowa talent.

His bands have shared bills with B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor, Bobby Rush, Robert Cray, Roomful of Blues, to name just a few. He has performed at the Mississippi Valley Blues Fest four times, twice at the Kansas City Jazz & Blues Fest, and in Memphis at B.B. King's Blues Club as part of the Bluestock Fest.



Dorr has produced six volumes of the Iowa Blues Compilation discs resulting in Iowa artists getting air-time across the globe, over 20 titles with The Blue Band. The Iowa Blues New Year shows that he organizes have been a fixture since '93.

Bob Dorr was inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 2000 for his work with KUNI.

• **Fred Walk:** Fred's life was never the same after hearing "Mystery Train" by Elvis Presley when he was 11. But hearing Blues artists like John Lee Hooker and T-Bone Walker on the radio set forth his musical direction. When 13 he obtained his first guitar and later played trumpet in school bands, playing bass at his first paid gig in eastern Iowa.

Walk joined The Prophets, a band based out of Cedar Rapids, that also included singer/keyboardist Stephen Miller, also a member of the IBHOF. They expanded their fan base, performing in large Midwest cities, which led to an offer to become the house band at Mother's

Blues in Chicago. Deciding to pay tribute to their home roots, they became the Linn County Blues Band. During their stint in Chicago, they shared the stage with Buddy Guy, James Cotton, Junior Wells, Howlin' Wolf.

Shortening their name to Linn County, they went to L.A. in '68 to record "Proud Flesh Soothseer," an album of almost all original tunes by the band. The band went on a cross-country tour performing with Albert King in Chicago, Led Zeppelin in Detroit, Eric Burdon & the Animals in New York.

Miller left the band to join the Elvin Bishop Band but eventually reformed the band back in Iowa in '74 with current IBHOF member Ron DeWitte on guitar. Tom "T-Bone" Giblin (also an IBHOF member) took over on keyboards after Miller joined the band Grinderswitch.

In 2004, Fred Walk had the proud honor of being part of the ceremony that inducted Linn County into the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame.

• **Steve George:** Steve is currently the featured vocalist with the Bob Pace Band operating out of Des Moines. He has performed with name artists Son Seals, Otis Clay, Kenny Neal, Bob Margolin and Preston Shannon.

• **Joanne Jackson:** Singer Jackson comes from a rich musical heritage in her family and she first sang in public at the age of four. She has appeared in musicals here and abroad and sang with the Count Basie Band. Her hometown is Newton, Iowa.

Who's Playing Where & When

CALENDAR

Every Sunday: Checker's Tavem: BLUE SUNDAY, 8 PM (no cover)
Every Sunday: Mahoney's Irish Pub: Various artists (no cover)
Every Tuesday: Rumour's Jam: T-Bone Giblin/Dan Johnson, 8-11
Every Wednesday: Fajita Factory CR: McMurrin & Johnson, 5-8
Every Wednesday: Checker's Tavem: Kevin B.F. Burt Solo, 6-9
Every Wednesday: Mahoney's CR: D-Licious Vinyl w/Bob DeForest, 8-12
Every Thursday: J.M. O'Malley's: T-Bone Giblin Jam Fest

MAY

Thu.	4	Chrome Horse	Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute Band w/Dan Whymys of Washington state, 9 PM
Fri.	5	Chrome Horse	Sonic Holiday
		Coralville Davenport	John Shultz/Bob Dunn at Confusions Cafe River Music Experience, Courtyard concert, Bob Dorr & The Blue Band, 6-9
Sat.	6	Chrome Horse	3 Musicians and a Drummer
		Coralville	Gary Gibson at Confusions Cafe, 6 PM
		Chappy's Safari	Tomadoes, 9-1
Sun.	7	Checkers Tavem	Jim Suhler Band
		Mahoney's Pub	Everwonder
Fri.	12	Chrome Horse	O'Connell Brothers Band
		Homestead	Tomadoes at Zuber's, 7-11
		Coralville	Gary Gibson Group at Confusions Cafe
		Des Moines	Moe Band at Raccoon River Brewing, 10:30
Sat.	13	Chrome Horse	Funk Daddies
		Coralville	Gary Gibson at Confusions Cafe, 6 PM
Sun.	14	Checkers Tavem	Pat Ramsey Band
		Mahoney's Pub	Joey Gilmore
Fri.	19	Hilton Inn, DM	2006 Iowa Blues Challenge Finals
		Chrome Horse	The Blue Band
		Coralville	Big and Easy w/Heim & Shultz, Confusions
Sat.	20	Chrome Horse	All That
		Fifth Gear Bar	Grand Opening Outdoor Party featuring Eric Sardinias
		Coralville	Kevin "BF" Burt at Confusions Cafe, 6 PM
		Blend, CR	John Shultz Organization w/Bob Dunn & Tim Crumley, 7:30 PM
		Des Moines	Michael Burks (BLUESMORE 2005 headliner) at Blues on Grand, 1501 Grand Ave.
Sun.	21	Mahoney's Pub	Soul Fusion
		Tuscan Moon	Tomadoes, 6-9
Fri.	26	Chrome Horse	Emie Peniston Band
		Coralville	Easy Does It w/Shulz/Bob Dunn, Confusions
		IC Ped Mall	Tomadoes at Friday Concert, 6:30-9:30
Sat.	27	Coralville	Kevin "BF" Burt at Confusions Cafe, 6 PM
		Coralville	Tomadoes at Gus's, 9-1
		Dubuque	Bob Dorr & The Blue Band at Busted Lift
Sun.	28	Mahoney's Pub	Daddy O's Funky Posse
Mon.	29	Waubeek	Bob Dorr & The Blue Band at FB & Co. Summer Kick Off Blowout

Membership Discounts Save You \$\$\$\$!

The following merchants have graciously offered discounts to members of the Linn County Blues Society that flash their membership cards and the coupon below.

- **Save at...Dublin City Pub**
Get your discount drinks at Dublin City Pub.
- **Save at...Tic Toc Restaurant**
Buy one, get one 1/2 price, on any regular breakfast entree or sandwich
- **Save at...Genghis Grill**
10% off entire ticket anytime
- **Save at...Papa Juan's**
10% discount on meals only
- **Save at...Hamilton Mortgage**
\$250 off closing costs (ask for Jessica)

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LCBS meeting 1st Monday of month!
See you at The Longbranch on June 5, 6:30 PM,
for the LCBS June Meeting. Guests are welcome!

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

- ★Chappy's Safari Lounge
- ★16th Avenue Music
- ★J.M. O'Malleys
- ★Muddy Waters
- ★Longbranch
- ★Dudley Bros. Company
- ★Ralston Foods
- ★Watson's Auto Body, Inc.
- ★CRST
- ★Cedar Brewing Co.
- ★Chrome Horse
- ★Mahoney's
- ★KCCK 88.3
- ★Checker's Tavem
- ★Ron Schantz Construction
- ★Home Town Restyling
- ★Dublin City Pub
- ★Stars Guitars

Just Blues News...

BLUESMORE Continued

• The Ellis Kell Band:
(Continued from page 1)



and its second CD in 2000 with "Ellis Kell Band &

Friends - 2000." The band currently features Ellis Kell on guitar and vocals, John Burchett on bass, Rick Stoneking on keyboards, 'Detroit' Larry Davison on harmonica, and Terry Hanson on drums.

BLUESMORE Sponsors signed up

Thanks to Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust (CRBT) for being sponsor of the Main Stage; Homestyle Restyling signing up for the third year as Back Porch sponsor; and great old standbys, The Gazette and KCRG, as media sponsors. We couldn't do it without you!

Alligator recording artist Michael Burks, BLUESMORE 2005 headliner, is coming to Blues On Grand in Des Moines on Saturday, May 20. He'll be promoting his latest release "I Smell Smoke," featuring Burks' feral guitar playing and gruff, soulful vocals.

**Saturday, May 20
Grand Opening Outdoor Party!**

Fifth Gear Bar & Grill

4617 J Street SW

366-2177

Featuring...

Eric Sardinas...

also playing:

**Mitch Smith, Shakin' Jake, Dan Bodicker,
Bruce Kaiser Band & Justin Case!**

Doors open at 3 PM

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Annual Membership Dues: \$20

Blues Booster/Corporate Sponsor: \$100

Check below if you would like to share your talent with LCBS from one of these areas:

Membership Newsletter Advertising Entertainment Concerts Merchandise Public Relations

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

Contact us at www.lcbs.org or 319-399-5105, the Blues Hotline. Thank you for helping to keep the Blues Alive!