



Issue 268

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

January 2017

Arnie Erickson

Remembering a
REAL Guitar Hero!



Ellis Kell

1955-2016



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2017 Blues 'n' Buffett Chili Challenge

It's Chili Time Again!

Steve Springer

Won't be long now! The 17th Annual Blues 'N' Buffett Chili Challenge is just around the corner. The date is Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 1 to 4 PM at the Cedar Rapids Marriott (1200 Collins Rd NE, Cedar Rapids). Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Seniors (65 and over) only \$5.

Taste over twenty chili recipes which include at least 6 professional entries along with another great silent auction. There will be celebrity judges, including local television and radio personalities and Blues musicians who will taste and vote on the Overall Best Chili as well as Best Chili in one of four categories. (Understand, however, there are no "losers". All the competitors from both clubs are real winners and the committee appreciates their loyalty, dedication and support). Tickets are available online. Just "Google" Blues and Buffett Chili Challenge.



A big part of the Chili Challenge has always been the terrific silent auction. We have been able to accumulate many unique and one of a kind items which has helped boost donations to our charities. All proceeds go to the H.D. Youth Center and the Community Health Free Clinic of Cedar Rapids. The first year for this event was 2001 and that year the profit divided between the charities was \$537.00. To date, this event has donated over \$94,000. Please attend and help us make this another record year. Again, all profits go to these local Cedar Rapids charities. Please attend the event and help us support our community.

The H.D. Youth Center, a non-profit organization founded by Henry Davison in 1997 in downtown Cedar Rapids, is designed to get young people off the street by encouraging a positive attitude, academic progress and promote a drug-free environment. Community Health Free Clinic of Cedar Rapids, its mission is to provide medical, dental and prescription care for the uninsured and underserved population of Eastern Iowa through the model community partnerships. See you at the event!

Did you hear 'bout this?

(The Blue Trio) Bob Dorr, Jeff Petersen & Doug Norton, from The Blue Band, begin a residence at the new Bryan's On 4th restaurant, for Blues Night, EVERY Thursday 7-10:30pm. Bryan's is located at 320 E. 4th St. in Waterloo.

If you'll notice, there's Muddy Waters songs all through the Allman Brothers records. My brother would play that stuff on acoustic for hours.—Gregg Allman

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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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 schedules, advertising, donuts, cookies, or pie 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.

Danielle Nicole

Performs at Campbell Steele Gallery

article / photos by Phillip Smith



Saturday, November 19, singer/bassist Danielle Nicole gave an exquisite performance to a sold out crowd at Campbell Steele Gallery in Marion, Iowa. Singer/bassist Nicole, previously of the Kansas City band, Trampled Under Foot, is now in command of her own band, consisting of the very talented guitarist Brandon Miller, keyboardist extraordinaire Mike “Shinetop Jr.” Sedovic, and the outstanding Jon Faircloth on drums. This troop of musicians is one of the tightest groups I’ve heard, and hearing them play live is truly an electric experience.



Danielle Nicole

Nicole beautifully performed the tremendous “Give Me Tonight” by Grammy Award winning songwriter and producer Anders Osborne, who also happened to produce Nicole’s 2015 Wolf Den album. Their performance of “Starvin’ For Love” was both joyous and riveting. Miller tore into some lush slide guitar on their deliciously haunting cover of Son House’s “Death Letter Blues.”

The first segment of the second set featured Nicole onstage alone, armed with acoustic guitar instead of her bass.

She captivated the audience with John Prine’s “Angel From Montgomery”, and a poignant delivery of Bob Dylan’s “Don’t Think Twice”, before taking on Dolly Parton’s “Jolene”.

A moment of remembrance for the great soul singer Sharon Jones (May 4, 1956 – November 18, 2016) was taken, as Nicole shared her memories of opening up for Jones at a music festival overseas. This ushered in a most fitting tribute as they broke out the funk in Jones’ “Nobody’s Baby”. Another tribute to a recently fallen musical dignitary was taken later in the evening with a terrific performance of Prince’s “Purple Rain”. Nicole sang this with intensity and heartfelt emotion as Miller played a stellar guitar solo.

Although the band played for nearly three hours with just a smidge of a break, it was an evening which no one really wanted to end. This is what the blues is all about.



Brandon Miller

lcbs.org



Laurence Jones

Ruf Records - 2016

Take Me High

Take Me High, the fourth album from British blues artist Laurence Jones, is downright spectacular. After being awarded Best European Blues Guitarist in 2015, Jones fines himself nominated again for 2016. Producer-extraordinaire, Mike Vernon, (John Mayhall, David Bowie, Eric Clapton, Fleetwood Mac) puts his magic touch on the album, making sure the energy levels remain high on this fabulous recording. Joining Jones is his band composed of bassist, Roger Inniss, drummer, Phil Wilson, with Bob Frizema on keyboards and Paul Jones on harmonica.

Killer beats and lush keys provide the perfect backdrop for Jones’ razor-sharp riffs on “Live It Up”, a monster song which crushes everything in its path. From the searing beginning to its exciting climax, “Addicted to Your Love” is drenched with emotion. “Take Me High”, stewed in an electric bluesy goodness is dutifully served with true grit and nice tasty helping of slide. It is such a great pleasure to hear Jones let loose on a song, like he does on Stevie Wonder’s “Higher Ground”. This piece de resistance is ear-candy for the music aficionado.

I could listen to Take Me High for hours on end. It is just that good.

For more blues reviews, visit www.phillycheeze.com.

— by Phillip Smith

It was like TNT, man, it just exploded. All of a sudden the world was wrapped up in rock. — Carl Perkins

Ellis Kell

1955-2016



A beloved musician in the Quad Cities, Ellis Kell, has passed away.

In October of 2016, Kell was diagnosed with cancer, according to a blog kept about his condition on GoFund Me. The cancer he was battling was adenocarcinoma of the esophagus. Doctors discovered that his cancer was at stage four and had spread to his lungs and liver. He underwent four weeks of chemotherapy. Ellis Kell is a local legend. This is a devastating loss for the family and the Quad Cities.

Kell's life was surrounded by music, for which he carried an obvious passion. He once said "life without music would just be a cruel joke...I think it's the greatest gift we were ever given."

He used his passion and gift for music to reach out to the community and to get him through tough times.

After the tragic passing of his daughter Karlie, Kell and his wife founded the Karlie Rose Music Scholarship Fund to help young musicians follow their dreams.

His family will be posting funeral details as soon as they are finalized.

**Join the
LCBS
to keep the
music LIVE!**



CENTRAL IOWA BLUES SOCIETY PRESENTS THE 23RD

WINTER BLUES FEST

16 ACTS
TWO NIGHTS!

CENTRAL IOWA
BLUES SOCIETY

FRI & SAT
FEBRUARY 10-11 2017

DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT, DES MOINES, IOWA
TICKETS & MORE INFO AT CIBS.ORG

Ronnie Baker Brooks • Brandon Santini • Davina & the Vagabonds • Toranzo Cannon
Scottie Miller Band • Paul "Mayo" Mayasich • Mark Cameron Band • Jeff Banks Band • Tim Bodig Band • Bare Bones
JC Anderson Band • Shane Johnson's Blue Train • Heath Alan & Justin Appel • Hot Tamale & the Red Hats • Dewey Cantrell • Scotty & the Wingtips

TICKETS \$45 WEEKEND PASS (\$40 FOR CENTRAL IOWA BLUES SOCIETY MEMBERS) - OR - \$20/FRIDAY \$30/SATURDAY SINGLE NIGHTS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Tony Brown with Dan Johnson

Saturday, January 21

6:30PM Wine & Cheese (view Tony's art)

7:30PM Music

First Street Community Center Mount Vernon, IA
Benefit for the the Mount Vernon Area Arts Council

Tony Brown will also have his art on display.

BYOB event if you purchase a \$5 cup at site.

Arnie Erickson

A real guitar hero!

by David Antin

This month we honor the memory of teacher and musician Arnie Erickson who passed away at the age of 90 on November 26, 2016. He devoted his life to teaching music and math, performing jazz guitar and supporting musicians and live music.

Arnie grew up in a musical family of during the Great Depression in the mining town of Grassflat, Pennsylvania but as Arnie himself said "I didn't stay country too long, I was into Duke Ellington by age 12." Per a story about his band in Down Beat magazine, "he didn't start playing until he was 15." A year later he decided that if he thoroughly mastered the guitar he would make lots of money and would really be set. He quit high school and started studying. His brother, Herb, was quoted saying "we thought the kid was nuts. He would practice eight hours a day, seven days a week and would only leave the house for a Saturday night job he played. That went on for four years."

By the age of 22, Arnie was playing guitar with the Max Gordon trio and touring throughout the Midwest. After touring he resumed his education graduating from Lycoming College with honors. He and his wife, Connie, started teaching in Illinois. His son, Craig, said that he came to Cedar Rapids to play on WMT radio and they decided to apply for teaching jobs here. He taught math and special education at Cedar Rapids schools such as Roosevelt and Kennedy and taught guitar to a countless number of students at Hiltbruners and other music stores. His students included the Harris brothers David, Mark and Peter (who played with Bruce Hornsby), Dennis McMurrin, Nick Simmons, not to mention his son Craig and daughter Koreen Brennan. Koreen said of her father "There is something about improvised music that is very, very special. Dad brought this alive for me - the freedom, spontaneity, creativity, the collaborative environment of an improv band."

Arnie was always playing the local



Arnie Erickson with student, Nick Simmons

clubs, including the Piccadilly Room at the Roosevelt Hotel, The Tender Trap, country clubs and private parties. Wednesday jazz at the Greek Place on Mt. Vernon Road was magical.

He opened and ran the Music Loft for 30 years, creating a vibrant, diversified family-oriented scene—an environment for musicians to flourish. He did lots of advertising to support the blues. The Music Loft nurtured a social world where lifelong friendships and bands were formed. There are countless people who are grateful for the education, inspiration and live music provided by Arnie Erickson.

Nicholas Simmons wrote; "I remember that play at Washington High School like yesterday, and how he jumped onto the stage, and on one knee did the flamenco stuff. From backstage he played Impossible Dream solo on electric, I never forgot that, and neither did my mom. We went backstage afterwards and I was just blown away to see him in the makeup. He was my first guitar hero!



Arnie Erickson pictured with Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora.



Arnie Erickson pictured with guitar birthday cake!

Everything comes out in blues music: joy, pain, struggle. Blues is affirmation with absolute elegance. It's about a man and a woman. So the pain and the struggle in the blues is that universal pain that comes from having your heart broken. Most blues songs are not about social statements.

— Wynton Marsalis

Local Music 2016

January 2017 Blues Calendar

Sun. 1	Cooter's	Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30P
Tue. 3	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 4	QDogs BBQ Checkers Tavern	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Live Music!
Thur. 5	J.M. O'Malley's Limestone Room Parlor City Pub QDogs BBQ	Bryce & Gibby's birthday jam!, 8-12 The Blue Trio, Bryan's, Waterloo 7-10PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM BillyLee Janey, 6-8PM
Fri. 6	Checkers Tavern QDogs BBQ	Live music! Ben Schmidt, 6-9PM
Sat. 7	Village Meat Market Wild Hogs QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis & Johnson Duo, 11-2PM The Agency Band. 3-7PM Walford Robert "One Man" Johnson, 6-9PM
Sun. 8	Parlor City Pub Cooter's	The Spread, reggae, blues, soul. 4-8PM Slide Williams w/ Dan Johnson, 4-7:30PM
Tue. 10	Parlor City Pub	Ryan Phelan hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 11	Checkers Tavern QDogs BBQ	Live Music Bryce Janey, 6-8PM Marion
Thur. 12	J.M. O'Malley's Limestone Room Parlor City Pub QDogs BBQ	Kevin Burt Band & Dan Johnson, 8-12 The Blue Trio, Bryan's, Waterloo 7-10PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM Laid Back Band, 6-9PM Marion
Sat. 14	Village Meat Market QDogs BBQ	Tony Brown & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Zach Freedom Duo, 6-9PM Marion
Sun. 15	Parlor City Pub Cooter's	Miles Over Mountains, bluegrass. 4-8PM Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30PM
Tue. 17	Parlor City Pub	Tom Bruner host jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 18	QDogs BBQ Checkers Tavern	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Live Music
Thur. 19	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Limestone Room QDogs BBQ	Craig Erickson, 8-12 McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM The Blue Trio, Bryan's, Waterloo 7-10:30PM BillyLee Janey, 6-8PM
Fri. 20	Checkers Tavern QDogs BBQ Jumpin' Jimmy's	Live music! Ben Schmidt, 6-9PM Marion The Blue Trio, 7-10PM Montezuma, IA
Sat. 21	Village Meat Market 1st St. Comm Center	Kevin Burt & Dan Johnson, 11A-2PM Tony Brown & DJ. Benefit Arts Council. 7:30P
Sun. 22	Parlor City Pub Cooter's Baxa's Tavern	Way Down Wanderers. Alt folk. 4-8PM Slide Williams hosts jam, 4-7:30PM Doug Ducey's VibraCats, 3-6:30PM Sutcliffe
Tue. 24	Parlor City Pub	Bob Dorr & Jeff Petersen hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 25	QDogs BBQ	Bryce Janey, 6-8PM Marion
Thur. 26	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Limestone Room	Matt Panek, 8-12 McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM The Blue Trio, Bryan's, Waterloo 7-10:30PM
Fri. 27	QDogs BBQ	Craig Erickson, 6-9PM Marion
Sat. 28	Village Meat Market Parnell Comm Center	Doug Ducey & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM The Blue Band, fundraiser. Stay tuned!
Sun. 29	Parlor City Pub Cooter's	Jumbies, Caribbean funk/reggae. 4-8PM Slide Williams w/ Dan Johnson, 4-7:30PM
Tue. 31	Parlor City Pub	Matt Panek hosts jam, 7-10PM

*There's good timing, bad timing, and Junior Wells' timing!
- Albert Castiglia*

Be sure to CHECK this out!

EVERY

Sat. - Dan Johnson Blues Duo, Village Meat Market
Sun. - Rumors Popcorn Jam, 4-7PM **NEW!**
Sun. - Cooter's. Jam w/ Slide Williams. 4-7:30PM
Tues. - The Famous Parlor City Jam. 7-10PM
Wed. - Checkers Tavern. acoustic jam. 7-10PM
Thur. - Bryan's On 4th. Bob, Jeff & Doug, 7-10:30PM **NEW!**
Thur. - J.M.O'Malley's, T-Bone Giblin Jams, 8-midnight
Thur. - CR VFW, Wild Bill & Pony Express, 5-9PM **NEW!**
Thur. - Dennis "Daddy-O" McMurrin at Parlor City 7-10PM
Fri. - Checkers Tavern, LIVE MUSIC! 7PM



THE LONGBRANCH HOTEL

Local favorite for family dining since 1968. Nightly we feature mid western USDA choice steaks, slow cooked & tender prime rib of beef (Friday & Saturday nights), award winning "falling off the bone" Bar-B-Q pork ribs, Gulf shrimp, blackened red snapper, honey mustard chicken breast, king crab legs and many other entrees, salads and pastas to choose from. Most meals include a trip to our deluxe salad bar, a choice of potato, and fresh baked bread.

The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month!
See you at the Longbranch on January 9, 6:30PM
for the LCBS general meeting. Guests are welcome!
90 Twixt Town Rd., Cedar Rapids • 377-6386.

A very special THANK YOU to these businesses who Keep the Blues Alive!

- Chappy's Safari
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Look for the LCBS
on Facebook & Twitter!



Marty Stokes

Pick Up The Phone - Lakehouse Records

Peter "Blezzman" Lauro

Marty Stokes calls the area around Sanibel and Captiva Islands (on Florida's Gulf Coast) home, and it's also where he grew up and has been playing the blues since he was a kid. As a member of the states' many blues societies, The Marty Stokes Band spreads it's blues all over the sunshine state. One would be hard pressed to find a club or festival in Florida where the band has not played. When you think about it, there's something to be said for that - the band is constantly working!

On "Pick Up The Phone", the band consists of: Marty Stokes on vocals, and lead, rhythm, slide & acoustic guitars; Jennifer Mazziotti on tenor and all harmony saxophones; Darryl Best on bass; and Carveth Clauson on drums. Special guests on the project include: John McLane on B-3 keyboards; Summer Kilgore Mendez on lead and backup vocals; J P Soars on lead and cigar box guitars; and Chris Peet on drums. The album is Marty Stokes' third release, is self-produced and his first on the Lakehouse label. It features thirteen tracks of which nine were penned by Marty.

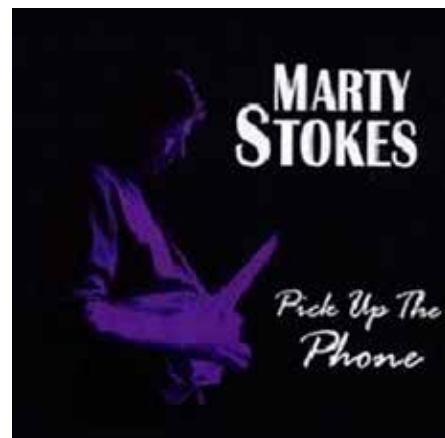
"Pick Up The Phone", the opening and title track, is the only track on the disc that features just the four

members of the band. Basically, this fast paced shuffle is what those of us familiar with the band get to hear on a regular basis - tight and intense rhythm from Darryl and Carveth, with lots of smokin' sax and guitar leads by Jennifer and Marty.

The sixty second scorching guitar work Marty lays down on the intro to "Take A Little Time" immediately had me loving this one. Then shortly afterwards Jennifer blows out a similar scorching riff on her sax and that was it, I was in slow blues heaven. When these two team up on these tandem burning blues leads, it just doesn't get any better. Then again, with Chris Pete (J P. Soars & the Red Hots and Southern Hospitality) and John McLane running your rhythm it kind of does.

Since the song was made famous by a powerful female vocalist - Tracy Nelson - it was a smart production move to have another powerful female vocalist - Summer Kilgore Mendez - sing it. Between her lead and Marty on backup vocals, Summer nails this version of "Livin' The Blues".

"Whiskey Drinking Woman" and "Do You No Harm" are two tracks that are all about the guitars. With Darryl and Carveth in their usual rhythm groove behind them, these consecutive tracks feature a collection of phenome-



nal lead, slide, guitar box and rhythm guitar work by Marty Stokes and J P Soars.

All aboard the "Morning Train".... next stop, church! This spiritual, Gospel track was pleasantly unexpected. Not being able to recall Marty ever doing this type of thing, I'm already looking forward to the next time he does. His acoustic guitar work is as moving as it is masterful and the harmony vocals between him and Summer are heavenly. Great track!

Other tracks on "Pick Up The Phone" include: "Sink Or Swim", "Low Flyer", "Pay My Dues", "Down Like A Man In Love", "Tumble", "I Found Love" and "Inside The Bottle".

For more on Marty Stokes, you can go to his website at www.martystokesband.com and the record label's website at www.lakehouserecords.com. When you do, please tell Marty and Reno that the Blewzzman sent you. FYI, Marty and the band will be performing in the 2017 IBC in Memphis.

Linn County Blues Society Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____
Street _____ City/State/ZIP _____
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 lcbs.org. Thank you for helping to keep the Blues Alive!



Linn County Blues Society
PO Box 2672
Cedar Rapids, IA
52406-2672



scan for LCBs web info

Happy New Year from all of us at The LCBS!

Current list of members of the IBHOF

Big Mike Edwards
Billylee Janey
Bo Ramsey
Bob DeForest
Bob Dorr
Bob Pace
Bruce McCabe
Catfish Keith
Chicago Rick Lussie
Craig Erickson
Darrell Leonard
Dartanyan Brown
Del Saxman Jones
Dennis McMurrin
Eddie Haywood
Ella Ruth Piggee
Elvin Bishop
Ernie Peniston
Eugene Jackson
Fred Walk
Gary Gibson
Gary Jackson
George Davis
Gilbert Davis
Grant Townsell
Harlan Thomas
Hawkeye Herman
James Kinds
Jim DeKoster

Jimmy Pryor
Joanne Jackson
Joe Price
Louis McTizic
Mel Harper
Patrick Hazell
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Ron McClain
Ronnie Brewer
Rose Marie Webster
Sam Salomone
Scott Cochran
Sid Wingfield
Speck Redd
Stephen Miller
Steve George
Steve Hayes
Tom Giblin
Willis Dobbins
Dwight Dario
Tommy Gordon
Robert "One Man"
Johnson
Philip "Bunky" Marlow
Rob Lumbard

Andre Mosqueda
Shaun Murphy
Jeff Petersen



Friday Blues-

- 6-10 PM - The Big Mo Blues Show
- 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