

AUG2017



The LCBS Bluespaper - for your listening pleasure!

Issue 275

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

August 2017



CZECH VILLAGE!
BLUES

Joanna Connor
along with the
LCBS All-Stars!

Inside this August 2017 issue —

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Mark your calendars
for the 25th Annual Bowlful of Blues!
Sunday, September 3, 2017

Big Al & The Heavyweights

Checkers Tavern hosts the big boys!

Photos by Phil Smith. Article by Bill Graham



"Big Al" Lauro on the drums and Wayne Lohr on keys from Big Al & The Heavy Weights at Checkers Tavern & Hair Salon.



Big Al & the Heavyweights Band have a following of "Gumbo Heads" and blues fans all over the country. They are known for their live shows performing a New Orleans blend of Jazz, Blues, Zydeco, Cajun, and Southern Rock. The Southern Rock influences are not surprising given that Warren Haynes of Gov. Mule and The Allman Bros. was a founding member. But they also incorporated a lot of Chicago blues with great slide guitar in their performance at Checkers. The band has gained notoriety for their lengthy sets and their ability to fuse their many musical influences into a powerful brand of blues.

Big Al and the Heavyweights, are a real bar band they are like a Southern NRBQ. They are a band that does it the old fashioned way, club-by-club, fan-by-fan. Big Al and the Heavyweights will be on the road 200+ days this year, and it is this regimen of hard touring for the last six years that has made them one of the most well known and in demand bands in the country.

They have toured across the country Maine to Key West, Corpus Christi to San Francisco we were lucky one of their stops was Checkers. I will be reviewing their new unreleased disc at a later date.

2017 Iowa Blues Challenge results (so far):

Fairfield Solo/Duo - Freight Train Frank Strong

Des Moines Solo/Duo - Kevin B.F. Burt

Quad Cities Solo/Duo - (Juliana Logan/Bruce Kort & Forrest Rische/Concreteslim)

TBD on August 9.

Grinnell Band - Hound Dog Shy

Des Moines Band - (Scotty & the Wingtips/Avey Grouws Band) TBD tonight.

Quad Cities Band - (Blue Scratch/Reggie & the Three Notes) TBD on August 9

Finals will be 5 pm Saturday, September 16 at the Des Moines Social Club, 900 Mulberry St.

\$15/\$10 for members of any Iowa Blues Society with current card.

— Jeff Duskina

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 Bailey's® to: Evan Vulich at: evulich@mchsi.com.

Bluespaper Ad Rates

\$15.00 - Business card size - 2" x 3.5"
\$35.00 - Quarter page ad - 3.5" x 4.75"
\$60.00 - Half page ad - 4.75" x 7.25"
\$75.00 - 2 columns (2/3) - 4.75" x 9.75"
\$100.00 - Full page - 7.5" x 9.75"

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 20th 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.

Czech Village Blues

Formerly Bluesmore

Press release

Cedar Rapids, Iowa (May 17, 2017) –

The Linn County Blues Society is teaming up with Friends of Czech Village to start a new blues tradition in Cedar Rapids. When the Linn county Blues Society's Bluesmore ended its 21-year run in 2015, the all-volunteer group began looking for a new venue for the event. This year, they found it.

Czech Village Blues will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2017 in the Czech Village neighborhood of Cedar Rapids. The event will be a one-day blues music show to help Friends of Czech Village raise funds for the reestablishment of the Riverside Roundhouse in Czech Village. The show is a joint production of the Friends of Czech Village and the Linn County Blues Society. Czech Village Blues will feature International Blues Slide Guitarist Joanna Connor, and The LCBS Allstars featuring 8 Iowa Blues Hall of Famers. Attendees at Czech Village Blues will see the same excellent caliber of performers as were seen at Bluesmore.

Friends of Czech Village is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for and reconstructing the Riverside Roundhouse building in the Czech Village neighborhood. Once rebuilt, this high-quality facility will be a venue for farmer's markets, recreational activities, festivals, social occasions, and more. For additional information, please visit www.CzechVillageFriends.org.

The Linn County Blues Society is a registered 501(c)(3) 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 including For more information, please visit www.LCBS.org.

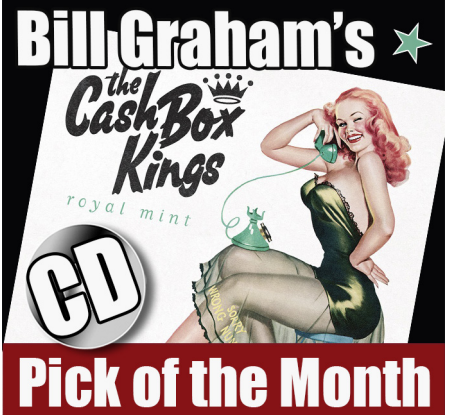
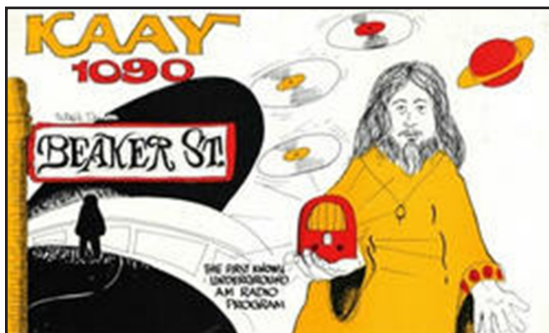
Sponsorships for Czech Village Blues are available. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mark Rowell: 319-560-2253, publicity@LCBS.org

Cloning Clyde on Friday Nights!

Hey, Clydemongers, Beaker Street Hour continues on KCCCK radio between 9-10 CDT every Friday night. Responses to Beaker Street Hour have been overwhelmingly

positive!. Be sure to listen to the Big Mo Blues Show while you're there. Clyde is how I got hooked on the Blues. Feel free to contact me on FB or at bigmo@kccck.org and thanks Clyde/Beaker fans! It's as close as we're gonna get to turning back the clock. kccck.org ~ Mo

Be sure to thank "Biggie" for this great program on KCCCK!



The Cash Box Kings

Alligator Records 2017

Royal Mint

The Cash Box Kings started working the bar circuit in the Mid-West in 2001. They were very successful but they really blew up in 2007 when they teamed with vocalist Oscar Wilson. Wilson had kicked around Chicago singing blues for many years creating his own following in the clubs, but when he joined CBK things really started to happen for both of them.

Joe Nosek the founder of CBK is a powerhouse harmonica player a very good songwriter and vocalist. He always had a good band around him; he formed in his words,... a blues collective. He has traveled and recorded with different configurations called CBK with Nosek as the only constant member. But in 2007 he added the gritty voice of Wilson as a regular and this elevated them in another league.

This time out the band consists of Nosek harp and vocals, Wilson vocals, Billy Flynn guitar, Joel Paterson guitar, Kenny Smith and Mark Haines drums, Brad Ber upright and electric bass. The C-Note horns Al Falaschi, Darren Sterud, and Jim Doherty help out on a few songs that move the band in a new direction; jumpblues.

The CBK are good songwriters and very good interpreters of other people's classics. Here they take Amos Milburn's jump blues song House Party, Jimmy Reed's rocking I'm Gonna Get My Baby, and Muddy Water's boogie-blues Flood and make each their own.

Their own compositions reflect the world today as modern as they see it. Blues For Chi-Town addresses the violence plaguing Wilson's neighborhood. The tongue-in-cheek, Build That Wall is about how today political sloganeering has taken over reality in politics. A couple of others originals, If You Got A Jealous Woman Facebook Ain't Your Friend and Don't like Life Tether You Down, are standouts on a very good album.

— by Bill Graham



25th Annual BOWLFUL of BLUES

Maytag Bowl in Maytag Park • Newton • Iowa

LABOR DAY WEEKEND ★ SUNDAY, SEPT. 3, 2017

Noon - 10 pm - Gate Opens at 11 am

Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers 4:00

Jane Lee Hooker 8:00

ROB LUMBARD between sets

Indigenous 6:00

The Norman Jackson Band 2:00

Juliana & A Soul Purpose Noon

PRE-PARTY
WITH **DOUG DEMING**
AND THE **JEWEL TONES**
Hosted by Central Iowa Blues Society
Saturday, September 2 • 7pm
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Free to anyone with Bowlful of Blues advance ticket
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AFTER-FEST PARTY & JAM
American Legion Post 111
next to Maytag Park
Hosted by
The Norman Jackson Band



Tickets on sale now through
Midwestix.com, www.southskunkblues.org
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Mattingly Music & Books, American Legion Post 111 or
Hy-Vee in Newton, Cadillac Jack's in Baxter,
The Music Shop in Grinnell, or Zzz Records in Des Moines.
\$25 Advance, \$30 at gate, 15 & under free with adult

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**You can't always get what you want but if you try sometimes, you just might find
you get what you need. ★**

Joanna Connor

Headlines Czech Village Blues Festival

bio

No doubt you've seen it by now: That viral video of a woman onstage in a bright purple dress, playing one absolute scorcher of a slide guitar solo. That's Joanna Connor in her home turf of Chicago, with the firepower she delivers to local crowds on a nightly basis.

But a studio return was long overdue and "Six String Stories," her first album in a dozen years, is the one that the fans who pack her hometown gigs have been waiting for. You'll still hear the scorching solos—"Halsted Street" alone has enough wattage to light up a few cities—but there's more to Joanna Connor than that. Gutsy singing and heartfelt playing has always been her trademarks.

"I have a pretty big catalogue of songs and you can read the crowd for what it wants to hear. I've been drawing a lot of millennials lately and as the audience gets younger, the music gets heavier—but I'm starting to do acoustic shows as well. It's all part of the palette of what I do, and it's always gone all over the map. When people ask me who I listen to I always say, 'Oh, man. Who don't I listen to?'"

Connor's original hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts is seldom named as a blues hotbed, but she was never one of those rock & roll kids who came to the blues second-hand. "My mom was actually the big influence in my musical life; she listened to blues, folk and rock as much as she could. So I heard Buddy Guy and Taj Mahal when I was a kid, and got into the more obscure artists as I went on. And I saw all the Chicago bands who came through town." By her mid-teens she was playing

the Worcester and Boston clubs with her own band, then moved to Chicago in 1984. Once in town she learned from the best, sitting in with the likes of James Cotton, Buddy Guy and Junior Wells.

While Connor couldn't get out to the audiences, they started coming to her. She debuted at the Chicago club Kingston Mines back in the '80s and still plays there three nights most weekends, between gigs at larger clubs and festivals. "It's become kind of an institution: You go to Chicago, you go to Wrigley Field and then you go see Joanna Connor. The schedule is kind of brutal, but it's great—usually a packed house, with lots of adrenaling pumping. When it gets to be around midnight, the audience starts getting younger. And I love that—my son is 29, and he gets people looking at him and saying, 'That's your mom?'"

After all that wood-shedding, it's no surprise that "Six String Stories" is her most accomplished album. But Connor admits that it took some coaxing to get her back into the studio. "I'll give Lance credit for starting the ball rolling. He was the drummer in my band before switching to bass and he plays both on all the studio tracks. This was the first time I ever collaborated with one musician to such a degree. I've always been a live musician and going into the studio used to be a daunting, scary thing. But you know what, the older I get the more comfortable I am with myself. I don't listen to the outside voices in my head, I just go with it."



I think the gift of approaching middle age is that you know who you are and become confident in yourself. For me that's been a real journey, and a lot of it is about your own attitude."

At the other extreme are guitar-sliding tracks like "Halsted Street" ("I went for a Metallica kind of sound on those power chords," she says) and the Bayou-inspired "Swamp Swim." Then there's "Heaven," which takes everything back to church. "I wrote that as more of a political song with a West African feel, but Lance gave it more of a gospel sound. His brothers are pastors and have churches, so they brought that kind of feel into it."

With the album finished and her daughter at school, Connor is finally planning to hit the road. And trends aside, she feels the time's as right for the blues as it ever was. "There's been a healthy scene forever, with a lot of younger artists coming up—of course, younger in the blues means anyone under 50. But a new generation comes up as the golden artists start to pass, the music gets a more modern approach. It's constantly evolving, but it's still there."

*"I'm the best musician in the country!"
Yeah, but how are ya in the city?"*

August 2017 Blues Calendar

Tue. 1	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 2	QDogs BBQ Vinton Park	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Marion Craig Erickson Quartet, Vinton
Thur. 3 ★	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub City Square Park	Charlie Morgan, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM The Blue Band, Uptown Getdown, Marion, IA
Fri. 4	QDogs BBQ The Tiki Bar	Tony Brown & Dan Johnson, 6-9PM Marion The Blue Band, Clear Lake
Sat. 5 ★	Village Market West Branch West Branch Tirrell Band Shell	Tony Brown & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM FunkDaddies, Hoover Hometown Days, 2-3PM BTA, Hoover Hometown Days 4:30-5:30PM The Blue Band, 6-8PM Manchester
Sun. 6	Cooter's	Slide Williams hosts open jam, 4-7:30PM
Tue. 8	Parlor City Pub	Brook Hoover hosts jam, 7-10PM
Thur. 10	J.M. O'Malley's Limestone Room Parlor City Pub	Bryce Janey, 8-midnight. DJ's birthday! B. Dorr & IA Blues All-Stars, Waterloo 7-10:00PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM
Fri. 11	Checkers Tavern Cedar Ridge Winery Hy-Vee Market Grill	Live music! BTA (Brass Transit Authority) 6-9PM Swisher Craig Erickson Trio, Mt. Vernon Rd. 6-10PM
Sat. 12 ★	Czech Village Czech Village Village Market	LCBS/Czech Village Blues Festival. See ad! Bob Dorr at LCBS/Czech Village Blues Fest Skeeter Louis & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM
Sun. 13	Cooter's	Slide Williams hosts open jam, 4-7:30PM
Tue. 15	Parlor City Pub	Bryce Janey hosts jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 16	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio, 6-9PM Marion
Thur. 17	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Limestone Room	Tony Brown Master Jammers, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM B. Dorr & IA Blues All-Stars, Waterloo 7-10:00PM
Fri. 18	Cedar Ridge Winery Checkers Tavern Sturgis Park	FunkDaddies, 6-9PM Swisher Live Music! The Blue Band, 5:30-9PM. Cedar Falls
Sat. 19	Village Market Iowa State Fair Parlor City Pub	Bryce Janey & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM The Blue Band, MidAmerican Stage. 7&9PM Craig Erickson Expedition, 8-12
Sun. 20	Cooter's Cedar Ridge Winery	Slide Williams hosts open jam, 4-7:30PM Kevin Burt Band w/ Dan Johnson, 3-6PM Swisher
Tue. 22	Parlor City Pub	Ryan Phelan host jam, 7-10PM
Thur. 24	J.M. O'Malley's Parlor City Pub Concert Series	Craig Erickson, Groove Party, 8-midnight McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM The Blue Band, Grinnell, IA Location TBA
Sat. 26	Village Market QDogs BBQ-Festival Yacht Club I-Cubs Baseball	Doug Ducey & Dan Johnson, 11-2PM Kevin Burt w/ Dan Johnson, 2-3:30PM Marion Kevin Burt Band w/ Dan Johnson, 9-1 Des Moines The Blue Band, After game -Beer pavilion
Sun. 27	Cooter's Sutcliffe Cider	Slide Williams hosts open jam, 4-7:30PM The Agency Band, 3-5:30PM Lisbon
Tue. 29	Parlor City Pub	Bob Dorr & Jeff Petersen host jam, 7-10PM
Wed. 30	QDogs BBQ	Skeeter Louis Trio w/ Bob Dorr. 6-9PM Marion
Thur. 31	J.M. O'Malley's Limestone Room Parlor City Pub	Matt Panek, 8-midnight B. Dorr & IA Blues All-Stars, Waterloo 7-10:00PM McMurrin & Johnson, 7-10PM

Mark your calendars for the 25th Annual
★ Bowlful of Blues!
Sun., September 3, 2017

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 "Dadddy-O" McMurrin at Parlor City 7-10PM
Fri. - Checkers Tavern, LIVE MUSIC! 7PM



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The LCBS meets on the 1st Monday of each month!
See you at the Longbranch on August 28, 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!

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Look for the LCBS
on Facebook & Twitter!



Roots and Dore

"The Blues and Beyond" self produced by Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro

Peter "Blewzzman" Lauro

Roots and Dore are a duo who specialize in "organic, acoustic, blues roots music". They are Riyen Roots on guitars & vocals and Kenny Dore on harmonica. "The Blues And Beyond" is their debut disc and it consists of ten original tracks penned by Riyen along with a Robert Johnson cover. Five of the tracks on the project include special guests and they are: Bob Margolin on slide guitar; Tony Black on upright bass; and David Holt on resonator.

While recording this album at Echo Mountain Recording Studio, which at one time was an old church, an unexplained phenomenon took place. As Kenny tells it, unbeknownst to them, a signal was picked up from the air which they never heard until they played back the track. As bizarre as it was, they decided to go with it and after doing a bit of editing and adding some reverb, they came up with a great effect and that wound up making a great intro to the song. It goes something like this....With Riyen strumming soft acoustic guitar chords in the background, the opening track starts off with something that sounds like an actual recording off of an old 78 record, static and all, of an evangelist preaching the teachings found in the bible.....in the bible.....in the bible.....Then just where it sounds like the needle gets stuck Kenny joins in with some very slow and very drawn out eerie like harmonica chords and a tale about the life of a "Blues Man" unfolds. This one's just the duo doing what they're known for, and great at as well - playing and singing old school acoustic style roots blues as if they've lived it.

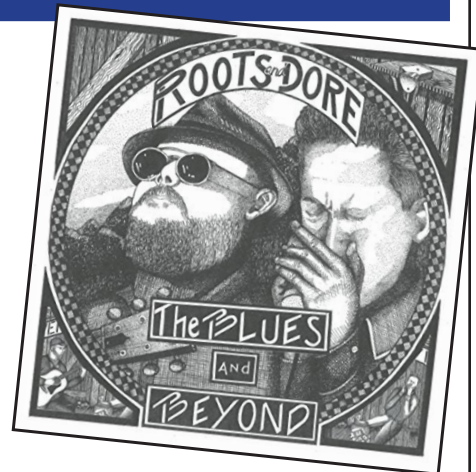
This song was written for and dedicated to the ladies, or as the guys

prefer to say, the "Womens". Yep, the womens in the city who look real fine and the womens in the country who are sweet like peaches on the farm, Riyen and Kenny just love their womens. With David joining Riyen on guitar this one's got some real good pickin' and strummin' and with that big bass getting slapped around by Tony and Kenny getting a bit more aggressive on the harp, the rhythm's pretty hot as well. Very good stuff!

Here's one about a subject that most of us would hope to not relate to and yet many may - "Hard Times". Once again it's just Riyen and Kenny putting their classic touch to down home Delta style blues. Inasmuch as this duo didn't invent what they're doing they certainly invented their own and very unique way of doing it. Their guitar and harmonica rhythms are so perfectly in touch it's almost as if one brain is controlling both instruments. It's absolutely amazing.

Along with the rest of us, Riyen is hoping that when his number's called he's hoping that he's "Not Goin' To Hell". Good luck with that, Riyen. So you take these two amazing musicians, who by themselves are ridiculously good, and you add Bob Margolin for a little slide guitar mastery and Tony Black for some big bass sound and what do you think happens? Exactly.

All disc long I've been in awe of Kenny Dore's harmonica style. His ability to stretch and hold even the softest of notes is incomparable. All you've got to do is listen to the opening of the disc's last track - "If I'm Gone" - and you'll not only know what I'm referring to but I'm sure you'll agree as well. It's a perfect track to close the disc with. The soft and progressively slowing music put to these melancholy lyrics was a perfect



marriage and along with the beautiful harp work, Riyen and David are mesmerizing on the guitar and resonator. Acoustic blues just doesn't get any better than this.

Other tracks on "The Blues And Beyond" include: "Better Treat Me Better", "Push Me Away", "Love My Women", "Never Let You Go", "Stones In My Passway" and "Fading Away Blues".

You can check out Roots and Dore by either going to their website; www.rootsanddore.com or liking their FB page - facebook.com/rootsanddore. However you find them, please tell them the Blewzzman sent you!

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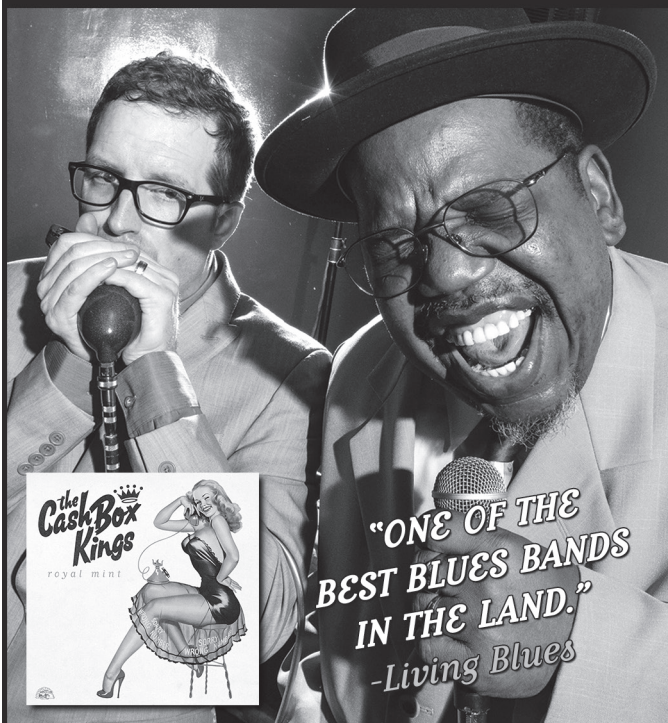


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The Cash Box Kings royal mint



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- 11 PM to midnight - KCCK Jams
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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