



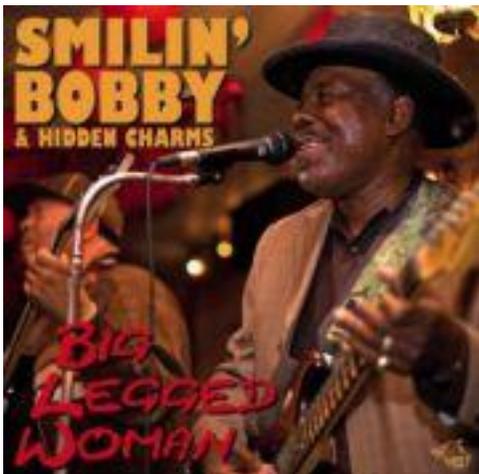
Inclusive - a newsletter for the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society

April 2012

Change in April First Friday Show By Bob Paleczny

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Johnny Rawls will have to reschedule the show he was planning to do for us on April 6. Johnny's brother passed away, and he will be in LA with his family attending the funeral.

Fortunately, Smilin' Bobby has agreed to step in and do the April 6 PCBS First Friday show. One of the most underrated bluesmen on the Chicago scene, Smilin' Bobby has a unique, biting guitar attack which is a cross between Magic Slim's stinging leads and Magic Sam's cool little rhythm fills. Complemented by his great tuff vocals, he is an absolutely fantastic entertainer. They don't call him Smilin' Bobby for nothin! He recently cut a new CD for Austria's Wolf Records entitled "Big Legged Woman."



Smilin' Bobby's New CD Cover

In 1958 Smilin' Bobby started out as a club musician and began playing on Maxwell Street Sunday mornings around 1961 or 1962. He became a close friend to Magic Sam and used to hang around at his house. He was
(Continued in next column)

influenced by Jimmy Reed and Willie Mabon, along with Little Milton, Albert Collins and Albert King. Smilin' Bobby plays most often in small, funky west side taverns, and has made numerous appearances at the Chicago Blues Fest, in addition to many European Festivals.

You can hear Smilin' Bobby live on WEFT radio starting at 8 pm. He will arrive for his performance at Memphis on Main around 9:30 pm.

Meanwhile, The Sugar Prophets will open the show at Memphis on Main at 8 pm and get the crowd going!

The Johnny Rawls show will be rescheduled within the next few months.

Prairie Crossroads Is Awarded Urbana Arts Grant By Sandy Hannum

The PCBS has been awarded a grant by the Urbana Arts Grants program for a Blues in the Schools after school enrichment program at Wiley school. We will receive the full amount that we requested, which is \$1300, to fund the program.

We have already completed the first step of the program, which was the all-school assembly described by Rich in the following article!

The next phase of the Blues in the Schools program will begin on Wednesday April 4, and will continue for six weeks. Cara Maurizi has 15 students ready to participate. Although we have funding for 15 harmonicas from the grant, Samuel Music has chosen to donate the instruments to the project instead. Each participating child will receive a Hohner Pocket Pal harmonica to keep.

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Each of the Wednesday sessions will include both Blues history instruction from Ashley Howard and Blues harmonica instruction from Doug Schroer. The first class on April 4 will be somewhat different in that David Adcock will be the harmonica instructor that day.

Both Doug Schroer and David Adcock are well-known to most readers as excellent Blues harmonica players who have been on the local scene for a long time. David leads the local band The Painkillers. Doug Schroer is currently teaching harmonica at C4A and often sits in with Blues bands such as the Martini Brothers.

Ashley Howard is a grad student in African American studies who was recommended to us because she has a particular interest in Blues history. She is very excited about participating in this project.

The format for each class will be about 15 minutes of Blues history, 45 minutes of harmonica instruction, and 15 minutes to tie things together. The teachers are keeping the planning flexible as they want to see how the children respond.

At the end of the six weeks there will be some kind of performance for the parents, and possibly for other students. The details on this have not been decided. The instructors are also excited about the possibility of a performance at the Orpheum for the Champaign Blues, Brews and BBQ Fest. We will see what evolves!

We are grateful to the City of Urbana for selecting our project for funding. We are also grateful to Sam Smith at Krannert for his help and support, and to Dr. Sundiata Cha-Jua for recommending Ashley Howard.

PCBS Blues in the Schools Kicks Off By Rich Cibelli

A packed gym at Wiley School in Urbana in early Spring and what was referred to as “wacky hair day” helped establish the first installment of Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Blues in the Schools Program. The event was celebrated with a kick off concert.

Attended by more than 330 Wiley School Students and adults, the crowd was treated to a well-crafted 45-minute presentation. This special event included not only a little bit of blues history, but was made even more enjoyable by the appearance of The Painkillers, a local blues band. (Continued in next column)



**The Painkillers Play BITS Concert at Wiley School
Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli**

The show started with a few introductions and then Cara Maurizi, Wiley School Fine Arts Teacher and narrator for the event, began her presentation with a little history lesson about blues legend Sonny Boy Williamson II and the song he wrote called “Help Me.”

That was followed by Maurizi introducing another famous blues song, “Big Boss Man,” written by Mance Lipscomb. Maurizi once again took time to explain a little history about the song. By now one could tell the audience was really starting to enjoy the opportunity to hear a great band and learn some blues history.

When The Painkillers begin to play “When It Rains It Pours,” by Charlie Musselwhite the entire crowd joined together to clap along. It was truly a sight to see so many young children having such a good time.

The band played “If you Love Me Like You Say”, by Little Johnny Taylor with Carolyn Johnson adding her great vocals and percussion while directing the kids in the audience to “stay in school and follow the rules.”

As an extra special treat, Dave Adcock singer and harmonica player with The Painkillers took time to introduce each of his fellow band members. Each of them followed by explaining something about the instruments they played.

Joining Adcock for this event were Matt Stewart on guitar, Steve Errede on electric bass, Kevin Colravy on drums and Carolyn Johnson on vocals and percussion. (Continued on next page)

For the final two songs of the program Cara Maurizi once again gave those in the crowd a little background information about the songs' composers. First up was "Mystery Train," By Sam Phillips. Maurizi explained that it was Phillips who created the famous Sun Studios and record company in Memphis, Tennessee. She also mentioned that Phillips made a name for himself by recording performers like Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash.

The last song of the show "Homesick Blues," originally written by Fiona Boyes, received special mention from Maurizi. It happened to be the only song in this event written by a woman. Maurizio added that Boyes once lived in Australia and decided to move to America to continue her blues music career.

Now completed, and nearly forty five or so minutes of great music and blues history later, the show came to an end with a round of applause for the band and the presenter. This was indeed the way to kick off our blues in the schools program.

On a personal note I'd like to thank Barb Sartain, Wiley School Principal and all her staff including Cara Maurizi for allowing the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society the opportunity to kick off our first blues in the schools program in front of such a well-behaved group of young students. You are the best!

I also want to thank David Adcock and all The Painkillers for taking time out of their day to help put on this great program and also to Drew Wilder of WCIA Channel 3 for his attendance and follow up story.

Through These Eyes
By Rich Cibelli

What do you get when you combine the talents of four seasoned guitar players, a stage performance housed in a unique setting and a great crowd ready to hear some music? The answer is quite simple - an "Evening of Original Blues."

Hosted at Beat 'N' Trash in downtown Danville, "Evening of Original Blues," is the creation of store owner Benny Jenkins whose shop at 15 N. Vermilion St., has just about anything and everything that a music fan would want. From posters to guitars and amps, strings, T-shirts, DVD's and CDs and even your favorite retro wear, Beat 'N' Trash is a heaven for the novice or the dedicated collector. Do
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yourself a favor and visit their website at www.beatntrash.com or give them a call at 217-446-BEAT.

The night of March 26 belonged to the performers, including Keith Harden who began with a rendition of Lightnin' Hopkins' "Black Cat Bone," and then followed up with "Rattlesnake Daddy."

Originally from this area, and an honorary member of PCBS, Harden now resides in Nashville where he continues his music career. This night Keith was not only a performer, but a teacher who guided the more than 60 in attendance through a lesson in blues history. At the beginning of each song Harden would take time to explain a little about the song's creator, as well as why he tuned his guitar a certain way to perform it. This is Harden at his best, always wanting to explain his craft to those who come to see him perform.



Keith Harden Playing at Beat 'N' Trash
Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Harden continued his show with a cover of Robert Johnson's "Crossroads." He followed that up with a couple of Mississippi John Hurt classics including "Pay Day" and "Who Do You Love."

Harden even spoke about the late great Muddy Waters and also John Lee Hooker, who he once opened up for. He then proceeded to perform Hookers' famous blues boogie "I'm In The Mood." Harden even threw in a Steve Ray Vaughan tune to delight the crowd.

Not ready to finish up his performance Harden took a few minutes to feature some of his own work. For example, he used his "Tulsa Town," to explain what call and response represents as it relates to blues music.
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Harden ended his portion of the performance with an encore of "Wishing Well," another of his originals and then thanked the crowd for coming to the show and supporting him over the years. To find out more about Harden visit his website at www.keithharden.com.

There was a short break for giveaways and announcements, including the introduction of David M. Nolan, a local blues music photographer who had brought an awesome display of his work to the event. Then it was time for part two of the "Evening of Original Blues."

Taking to the stage now were Alex Jenkins of Alex Jenkins and the Bombers, Dave Lindsey of Big Creek Guitar Band, and Greg Lamb of King's Highway.



Greg Lamb, Dave Lindsey, and Alex Jenkins
Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

This part of the show turned out to be a real treat as the three guitar players took turns playing either original or standard blues tunes in a round table setting. I can't tell you how many times they complimented each other. It was great to see these guys up on stage playing their hearts out and giving each other a hard time.

Alex Jenkins started the session with his rendition of "Old Dog Blues." Not to be outdone, Lindsey followed with one of his originals called "Blues For Breakfast." Lamb, who also played harmonica on his songs, added his own original with "Wasn't Gonna Get Drunk Tonight."

Lamb even took time out to talk about the great work that Prairie Crossroads Blues Society does and also for being a sponsor of the night's event. He continued by mentioning all that we do to promote blues music in our community including the extensive calendar of events that we publish on our website.

(Continued in next column)

After a few more songs the event came to an end and the four performers gathered on stage for a photo to celebrate what was an incredible night of blues music.



Greg Lamb, Dave Lindsey, Keith Harden and Alex Jenkins
Photo courtesy of Rich Cibelli

Thanks once again to Benny and all the staff at Beat 'N' Trash for a most enjoyable evening. I can't wait to come back again to hear more great music and check out much more of this store's amazing collection.

Janiva Magness
"Stronger For It"
Reviewed by Rich Cibelli



If you hunger to listen to music full of inspiration and passion look no further than "Stronger for It," the latest release by Janiva Magness on Alligator Records.

"There It Is," the first song on this project and one that Magness helped pen, breaks right out of the starting gates and continues strong throughout showcasing this (Continued on next page)

singer's impressive vocal range. Add the solo guitar work of Dave Darling and you've got yourself the making of a great beginning to this 12 song CD.

Following right behind is "I Won't Cry," another that Magness helped write. While it starts out much slower, the great background vocals by Ernie "Chico" Perez, Alfredo "Freyco" Ballesteros and Dave Darling fit perfectly to help complete the track.

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Magness has earned a reputation as one of the best blues singers around. Add in several major achievements along the way including the title of "2009 Blues Music Award for B.B. King Entertainer of the Year," for example.

Notwithstanding, Magness was also named "Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year," in both 2006 and 2007. Looking back, that's pretty impressive for Magness who as a young teenager while living in Memphis noted that listening to the blues helped her fill a void in her troubled life. From that point on Magness was determined to learn as much as she could about the performers and the music she now loved more than ever.

Since those days Magness has enjoyed a very successful career. Her recording catalog includes "It Takes One To Know One," back in 1997 as well as two CDs on The Northern Blues Label. The first in 2004 with "Bury Him At The Crossroads" Magness followed up in 2006 with "Do I Move You?"

In 2008, Magness signed on with Chicago based Alligator Records. Her debut release on the label "What Love Will Do," received tremendous accolades. Magness continued her rise to the top with her 2010 release "The Devil Is An Angel Too," also on Alligator.

"Stronger For it," her third release on the label follows a path of success for Magness who again and again is proving that she is truly one of the most gifted singers around. "I'm Alive," "Ragged Company" and "You Got What You Wanted," are three more fine examples you hear on this latest CD's most enjoyable sound.

Each is filled with great vocals and accompanying instrumentation. I especially enjoy hearing the piano, Hammond B-3 and Wurlitzer work done by Dave Darling, Jim Alfredson and Arlan Oscar.

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"I Don't Want To Do Wrong," features Magness singing a gospel-themed selection filled once again with an outstanding vocal and guitar arrangement. I found myself listening to it over and over again while writing this piece.

On "Thought I Knew You," Magness once again finds a way to convey the perfect words to help guide this song's title. Matt Teco on drums and Gary Davenport on bass complement this song.

"Dirty Water" and "Things Left Undone," two of the final three selections included in this CD are much slower, and are fine examples of how Magness is able to use her tremendous vocal talents to bring forth a story to the listener. I also like the guitar work of Zach Zunis who adds a nice touch on "Dirty Water," with a perfectly placed delta groove.

"Whoop And Holler," is the title of this CD's last song. It features Magness, her backup singers, plus rhythmic clapping from fellow band members in a straight forward testimonial. Although shorter than other selections in this project, "Whoop And Holler," delivers the perfect ending for "Stronger For It."

From start to finish, "Stronger for It," is a fine example of Janiva Magness at her best. Moreover, it represents the true spirit of an artist who turned tremendous obstacles early in life into the desire to work as hard as she could to perfect her talent.

My hat goes out to Alligator Records for once again putting its name behind a release that is sure to attract the attention of many in the blues community and farther. As for Janiva Magness, she is one gifted singer who continues to gain fans through non-stop touring with her stellar band as well as lending support to others.

Case in point, Magness dedicates her time by helping several national organizations that are dear to her heart. To find out which ones, I hope you'll take some time to visit <http://janivamagness.com/>.

Corporate Sponsorships

We greatly appreciate our Corporate Sponsors for supporting the PCBS with their funds and their missions.

Memphis on Main regularly brings impressive Blues talent to Champaign.

Fluid Events brings the Champaign Blues, Brews, and BBQs festival to town this summer, along with other Blues music events throughout the year.

Skins-N-Tins Drum Shop provided a drum set for use in the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society IBC challenge.

Donors

We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses that have provided donations to support the work of the Prairie Crossroads Blues Society.

Cody Sokolski and Marci Dodds
One Main Development, LLC
Samuel Music
Slumberland Furniture
SuperValu

Band Memberships

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers are playing at Gino's Place in Danville, IL on May 12 and at the High St. Bar & Grill in Wingate, IN on May 26.

The Diva and The Dude are playing at The Clark Bar on May 27 and at the Jeleniz Martini Bar in Mattoon on May 28.

Full Throttle Band is our newest member band. We welcome them to the PCBS!

Hurricane Ruth is playing at Just One More in Decatur on April 1, at Casey's Pub in Springfield on the 13th, and at the Curve Inn in Springfield on the 28th.

The Kilborn Alley Blues Band is on the road again playing several gigs in the southeastern US. Be sure to catch them on WILL when the Jubilee episode from Kentucky Educational TV is aired on April 13 at 9 pm!

King's Highway is on sabbatical.

Matthew Curry & The Fury is playing at the Castle Theater in Bloomington on April 7, at the River Beach Club in Chillicothe on the 15th, and at Memphis on Main on the 21st.

The Painkillers are playing at the Iron Post on April 14th and May 12th. Their new CD, "Done Me Wrong" has been released. Be sure to get a copy!

The Sugar Prophets are playing at Memphis on Main for the April 6 PCBS First Friday show. Check out their regular blues jams at Cowboy Monkey on the first Thursday of the month! They are playing at Doherty's in Decatur on April 19th and at Boomerang in Urbana on the 28th.

The Sweet Wood Band is one of our newer member bands. Check them out on the web!

Timmy D & Blind Justice are playing at Gino's Place in Danville on April 21.

Prairie Crossroads Board of Directors

President	Rich Cibelli
Vice President	Steve Stoerger
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Secretary	Greg Altstetter
At-large Members	Sandy Hannum Tony Odendahl

PCBS Business

The next Prairie Crossroads Blues Society Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on April 18 in room 215 of the Champaign Public Library.

Inclusive, a newsletter of the PCBS, is always looking for new contributors and submissions of finished or unfinished content. Deadline for the next newsletter is April 27. Please submit articles, ideas, or comments to smhannum@gmail.com.

Inclusive Staff

Editor: Sandy Hannum

Writers for This Issue: Rich Cibelli
Sandy Hannum
Bob Paleczny

Tech Consultant: Bob Paleczny and BP Computers

Mojo Tech: Sherry Cibelli

It may be time to renew your membership in the PCBS! Check the date on your membership card. You can renew online using PayPal.

Mt. Bluesmore



Hey, Walter. It's great to see young kids enjoying Blues music in school!

You got that right, Muddy. I can't wait to hear them start playin'.

They'll have you beat in about two months. Heh heh.

EVENTS

Apr 1 – Hurricane Ruth – Just One More – Decatur, IL – 5:30 pm
Blues dancing w/ bluesCENTRAL – Emerald City Lounge – Champaign – 7 pm

Apr 2 – Brad Vickers & His Vestapolitans – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Apr 3 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Swamper's Bar & Grill – Florence, AL – 8 pm

Apr 4 – The Blues Deacons – The Travel Lodge – Springfield, IL – 8 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint – Atlanta, GA – 6:30 pm

Apr 5 – Deak Harp – Krannert Uncorked – Krannert Center – Urbana – 5 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – The Brick – Charleston, SC – 9 pm
The Sugar Prophets – Blues Jam – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm

Apr 6 – Smilin' Bobby w/ The Sugar Prophets – PCBS First Friday Blues – WEFT & Memphis on Main – 8 pm
The Blues Deacons – The Travel Lodge – Springfield, IL – 8 pm
Susan Williams Band – McSki's Place – Watseka, IL – 8 pm

Apr 7 – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Castle Theater – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Brackin's Blues Club – Maryville, TN – 9 pm

Apr 9 – J.P. Soars & The Red Hots – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Apr 11 – Susan Williams Band – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 6:30 pm
Sean Chambers – Goodfella's Pub & Pizza – Pekin, IL – 8 pm
Deak Harp – Red's Lounge – Clarksdale, MS – 9 pm

Apr 13 – Hurricane Ruth – Casey's Pub – Springfield, IL – 8 pm
The Martini Brothers – Huber's – Champaign – 8 pm
Susan Williams Band – Second Street Bar & Grill – Peotone, IL – 8 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 10 pm

Apr 14 – The Painkillers – The Iron Post – 6 pm
Kilborn Alley Blues Band – Wild Dog Saloon – Decatur, IL – 9 pm

Apr 15 – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Sunday Blues – River Beach Pub – Chillicothe, IL – 2 pm

Apr 16 – Too Slim & The Taildraggers – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Apr 19 – The Sugar Prophets – Doherty's – Decatur, IL – 7:30 pm

Apr 21 – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Memphis on Main – Champaign – 7 pm

Timmy D & Blind Justice – Gino’s Place – Danville, IL – 9 pm

Apr 23 – Andrew “Jr. Boy” Jones – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

Apr 28 – Hurricane Ruth – The Curve Inn – Springfield, IL – 6 pm

The Blues Deacons – The Pink House – Ogden, IL – 8:30 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Boomerang – Urbana – 9 pm

Apr 30 – Matt Walsh – Blue Monday at the Alamo – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

May 2 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm

May 3 – The Sugar Prophets – Blues Jam – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm

May 4 – The Blues Deacons – The Travel Lodge – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Uncle Buck’s Sports Bar & Grill – Mahomet, IL – 9 pm

May 5 – The Sugar Prophets – A.I.W. Hall – Decatur, IL – 3 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Mike ‘n’ Molly’s – Champaign – 8 pm

May 8 – Joe Bonamassa – Sangamon Auditorium UIS – Springfield, IL – 8 pm

May 11 – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Winner’s Lounge – Bloomington, IL – 8 pm

May 12 – The Sugar Prophets – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 3 pm

The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – Gino’s Place – Danville, IL – 9 pm

May 18 – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Heyworth Hey Days – Heyworth, IL – 7:30 pm

May 19 – Hurricane Ruth – Springfield Pride 2012 Pride Fest – Springfield, IL – 12 pm

Smokin’ Blues & BBQ Festival – Long Creek Vineyards – Decatur, IL – 12 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Long Creek Vineyards – Decatur, IL – 3 pm

The Blues Deacons – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm

May 20 – Smokin’ Blues & BBQ Festival – Long Creek Vineyards – Decatur, IL – 12 pm

Matthew Curry & The Fury – Long Creek Vineyards – Decatur, IL – 5:30 pm

May 24 – The Sugar Prophets – Doherty’s – Decatur, IL – 7:30 pm

May 26 – Alex Jenkins & The Bombers – High Street Bar & Grill – Wingate, IN – 8 pm

Matthew Curry & The Fury – Mackinaw Valley Vineyards – Mackinaw, IL – 8 pm

May 27 – The Diva & The Dude – The Clark Bar – Champaign – 5 pm

May 28 – The Diva & The Dude – Jeleniz Martini Bar – Mattoon, IL – 8 pm

Jun 1 – Hurricane Ruth – Walker’s Bluff Winery – Cartersville, IL – 7 pm

Jun 2 – Matthew Curry & The Fury – Eagles Club – Bloomington, IL – 7 pm

The Sugar Prophets – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm

Jun 6 – Kilborn Alley Blues Band – D.R. Digger’s – Champaign – 9 pm

Jun 7 – The Sugar Prophets – Blues Jam – Cowboy Monkey – Champaign – 9:30 pm

Jun 8 – Chicago Blues Festival – Grant Park – Chicago – 11 am

Hurricane Ruth – Crows Mill Pub – Springfield, IL – 8:30 pm

Jun 9 – Chicago Blues Festival – Grant Park – Chicago – 11 am

Matthew Curry & The Fury – WGLT Summer Concert – Bloomington, IL – 5 pm

The Painkillers – The Iron Post – Urbana – 6 pm

The Blues Deacons – Alto Vineyards – Champaign – 7:30 pm

Jun 10 – Chicago Blues Festival – Grant Park – Chicago – 11 am

Kilborn Alley blues Band w/ Deak Harp – Chicago Blues Festival – Chicago – 5 pm

Jun 15 – Hurricane Ruth – The Curve Inn – Springfield, IL – 6 pm

Jun 29 – Champaign Blues, Brews & BBQ – 4:30 pm

Alex Jenkins & The Bombers - Champaign Blues, Brews & BBQ – 5pm

Mississippi Valley Blues Fest – Davenport, IA – 5:30 pm

Matthew Curry & The Fury – Mississippi Valley Blues Fest – Davenport, IA – 6:30 pm

Jun 30 – Champaign Blues, Brews & BBQ – 12 pm

Mississippi Valley Blues Fest – Davenport, IA – 12:30 pm

The Diva & The Dude – Champaign Blues, Brews & BBQ – 1:30 pm

Hurricane Ruth – Champaign Blues, Brews & BBQ – 5 pm

The Blues Deacons – The Trading Post – Springfield, IL – 9 pm

Jul 1 - Mississippi Valley Blues Fest – Davenport, IA – 12 pm