

A close-up photograph of a woman with vibrant red, wavy hair. She is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right, with her eyes closed in a moment of musical expression. She is holding a black Heil microphone in her right hand, which has red-painted fingernails. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor performance space.

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

Bluesletter

MAY 2019

WWW.WABLUES.ORG

Ritzville: 1st Annual Music on Main
Blues News, Previews & Reviews
Retapped Blues & Brews in Richland

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Blues Fans,

May is here and the summer is upon us! First up, this month is the Retapped Brews & Blues Festival. We have been busy putting the final pieces of the show together and the Friday opening party is almost done! You can keep up on all the details at our new Facebook "Retapped Blues & Brews." Please go to the page and be sure to Like and Follow them. Affordable room packages are available at the Clover Island Inn. The Saturday starts with Be Tricky followed by Junk Belly and they are a blues rock

powerhouse! Next up is the Jan Harrison Blues Experience and Jan is on the cover of this issue. The fourth act is Polly O'Keary & the Rhythm Method. Our headliner is Big Al & the Heavyweights and they have a new album and couple of their songs are on Sirius and other blues stations. These guys haven't been here for a while and will rock the stage and send everyone home exhausted.

We'll have multiple craft beers from Tri-Cities breweries and taprooms. With 6oz tasting glasses, you'll sample many, and then pick your favorite and vote in the Tri-Cities Craft Brew Challenge! The winning brew of the popular vote will pick a local non-profit charity that will receive 50% of the net profits from beer sales. We will feature several Tri-Cities' favorite food trucks and Retapped will be a first rate weekend to start of the summer festival season. As I said on Facebook, type in Retapped Blues & Brews. Follow & Like this new event to keep up with details over the next few weeks.

This information will be on the Washington Blues Society Events Facebook page and on our website (www.wablues.org) on the homepage slider and in the calendar! Be sure to get tickets early to save \$5.00 off gate price. Hope to see you there!

There are volunteer opportunities too, so if you're interested be sure to email our volunteer director at Volunteers@wablues.org!

Thanks and hope to see you all out and about this summer!

Tony Frederickson, President
Washington Blues Society
Board of Directors, Blues Foundation (2015-2017)

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Washington Blues Society is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and advance the culture and tradition of blues music as an art form. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals, and \$35 for couples. The Washington Blues Society is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. The Washington Blues Society is affiliated with The Blues Foundation in Memphis, Tennessee.

WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 70604
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This month's Bluesletter is all over the Evergreen State! Our cover features Retapped Brews & Blues performer Jan Harrison in Richland, Miranda Kitchpanich's fond farewell to the Wildflower Wine Shop in North Bend and the issue includes a preview of the first annual Music on Main event in historic downtown Ritzville.

ABOVE: The historic H.E. Gritman Restoration Project in historic downtown Ritzville, spearheaded by Noxon, Montana-based entrepreneur Brenda Owens. Support the first annual Music on Main in Ritzville on Memorial Day weekend. (Photo by Stephen McFadden)

COVER IMAGE: Jan Harrison of the Jan Harrison Blues Experience (Photo by Laree Weaver)



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hi Bluesletter Readers,

Welcome to the May Bluesletter! Due to the amount of content I've received for this issue, I've temporarily removed our Venue Guide from the print edition. Please visit our website, www.wablues.org, for a more interactive and user-friendly Venue Guide with 340+ listings of venues that offer live blues music. Please also check out our online Blues Calendar. It's cool!

Amy Sassenberg's thoughtful profile of Rocky Allen leads the issue followed by another walk down Tacoma's historic Lower Broadway from Little Bill. This issue is living proof that we are not "The Seattle Blues Society" as our cover features Retapped Blues & Brews performer Jan Harrison and a preview of the first annual Music on Main in downtown Ritzville.

Malcolm Kennedy reviews the fourth edition of Steve Cheseborough's must-have blues guidebook, *Blues Traveling*, and I bring back the "Blues on the Road" feature regarding a recent trip to Pompano Beach, Florida. Our 2019 International Blues Challenge youth representatives, Miranda Kitchpanich and Nick Mardon (along with Andrew Cloutier and Jesse James), reflect on the final days of the Wildflower Wine Shop in North Bend.

This month's issue includes previews on two important benefit opportunities in May: On the 9th, Music4Life Everett will hold a benefit concert and auction at the historic Everett Theatre and on the 11th, the Salmon Bay Eagles will host a special Mother's Day event supporting the Chemical Using Pregnant Women's Program at Swedish Medical Center in Ballard.

Next month, I'll include my review of *Bitten by the Blues: The Alligator Records Story* that I bought at The Blues Foundation during the International Blues Challenge earlier this year as well as additional reporting on this year's exciting blues festival season.



The June issue will also include an Irish travelogue from Washington Blues Society bluesman Keith Scott from his week-long tour. Since he's "The Blues Fisherman," we'll learn about fishing destinations on the Emerald Isle, too.

Until next month, please buy a CD at a local show from a local blues band in Seattle, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, at Retapped Blues & Blues in Richland, Yakima, Spokane or Vancouver (in both Washington & British Columbia),

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Eric Steiner".

Eric Steiner, Editor

Washington Blues Society Bluesletter

Member, Board of Directors, The Blues Foundation (2010-2013)

The Washington Blues Society is a proud recipient of a 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award from The Blues Foundation



The Memory Maker

Making memories with Rocky Allen at the Best of the Blues Awards

By Amy Sassenberg

If a picture is worth a thousand words, Rocky Allen has said quite a lot, very well. In addition to a lifetime of snapping great images, the Snohomish-based photographer and musician has been creating the “In Memoriam” slideshow for the Best of the Blues Awards since 2013.

He can’t quite remember how he got started doing it, but now that he does, he pays more attention when he hears of someone’s passing. He says he feels a little like a virtual undertaker, in that he spends time learning about the people who have passed the previous year, and then presenting them in an honorable way. He says he thinks about each individual and the people they left behind. He keeps them in mind as he spends the 30 to 40 hours every spring putting together the project.

Allen has been contributing to the Washington blues community since he arrived here more than a decade ago, as a bass player and as a photographer. He played steel guitar as a kid, but started his music career in earnest in his late 30s when his children were grown. As a founder of the West Coast blues group, The RoadDogz, Allen used his photography skills in service to the band’s marketing and website as they transitioned to Seattle from their California base. In a cooperative effort between him and his then-girlfriend, they organized a group of friends and models called The RoadBabes, who followed the band. He honed his portrait skills doing photo shoots that would potentially benefit the band and the women’s portfolios. “When I learned what a website was and that the entire world could see it, that’s when my marketing instincts kicked in,” he says. “The RoadBabes were responsible for a great deal of our publicity.”

He also worked briefly for an Orange

County entertainment company, where he expanded to assisting other local bands with photography and video, including blues acts Karen Lawrence & Blue by Nature, White Boy James and the Shari Puerto Band. Seattle performers continue to utilize Allen’s skills for their marketing packages, though he is semi-retired now. Polly O’Keary and the Rhythm Method are customers and fans. “Rocky is not only an amazing photographer, he is an amazing human being. Working with him, we have always felt very comfortable and relaxed, and that’s part of the reason why we always get such great images from Rocky.” He has dozens of different kinds of photography on his website, rockyallenphotography.com. The last time he played bass professionally was at the 2015 Freedom Fest with Terry Parker & the Back Alley Cowboys.

Allen works with Washington Blues Society Board members to come up with a list of recently deceased musicians for the slideshow. He then puts some thought into choosing the images and where to place them. He uses an older program called Aperture to input the photos and the names. The presentation is usually a combination of blues-inspired national and international performers, blended with local musicians and Northwest friends of the community recently lost. “I try to look at it from the perspective, especially with local people, that this is somebody that we know, that somebody loved.”

The exercise inevitably brings up thoughts of his own mortality. Allen has had his share of challenges to his health in recent years. Hospitalized and near death at least twice in the last three years, the good-natured 65-year-old wonders aloud, with a laugh, who will be putting this together when he’s no longer here to do it. “Probably most of them didn’t know they were going to die that year,” he shrugs.



Sometimes he is called to use a photograph that he took. “The ones who really get to me,” he says, “are the people who passed unexpectedly.” He also realizes, though, that no matter who it is, death is the great equalizer. “It doesn’t matter how famous you are or how much money you have, you’re still going to die.”

This year’s Best of the Blues Awards ceremony takes place at the Northwest Music Hall in Everett. Allen is usually there to see it when it goes from the laptop screen to the big screen. Backed by live musicians, it’s often experienced as the most powerful and memorable few moments of the show. Asked how he feels seeing the finished product at the theater, he hesitates. “Honestly...I’m sitting on the edge hoping it all goes down without any problems,” he says, and then turns thoughtful. “I’m certainly communicating something.”

While not playing or speaking, through the images and how they’re presented, it’s worth more than words to many in attendance. Allen helps us remember how important it is: these people, this music, this life.

Above: Rocky Allen

Facing Page Upper: Dave McCabe

Facing Page Lower: Michael Kahler

(Photos on Page 7 by Rocky Allen)



"Fearless, full-tilt Chicago blues...serving vocals and soaring harmonica" -Chicago Tribune

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Benefit Preview: Toast & Jam to Give Moms a Hand

Mother's Day Music Event Supporting Expecting Mothers at the Salmon Bay Eagles

The Salmon Bay Eagles Aerie #2141 is excited to partner with the Swedish Medical Center Foundation to host its first Mother's Day music benefit that will raise funds to help expecting mothers at Swedish in Ballard.

Toast & Jam will be held on May 11th from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the Salmon Bay Eagles in Ballard.

You'll not only enjoy a wonderful night of live music consisting of blues, rock, and classics, but you'll be supporting the treatment of mothers and their babies.

About the charity: For each ticket purchased, about 50% of the proceeds goes towards the Chemically Using Pregnant Women's Program at Swedish Ballard (CUPW).

CUPW cares for women in any stage of pregnancy using any substance; drug or alcohol. The clinical staff specializes in women's issues and substance abuse treatment and offers individual and group therapy on a daily basis. This program has been serving pregnant women in the northwest for more than 25 years. It's an important cause that not only helps the mother who wants to get healthy, but benefits the child as well.

Your donation: Purchase your \$20 advanced or \$25 at-the-door tickets at the club with a check or credit card. Ticket purchases include a \$10 donation to CUPW plus a 2-week temporary membership to the Salmon Bay Eagles and free event parking at the Swedish Medical Center Ballard parking garage. Additional donations are encouraged and welcomed.

To get FREE parking, just park on the 4th and 5th floors of the Swedish Medical garage on Tallman Ave and present your parking ticket to the doorman. The first 100 guests will receive a validated ticket provided by Swedish to exit the garage.

Get your spot early. Come early for dinner and talk to representatives of CUPW. Then settle in and enjoy some great jams with family and friends. It's an all-ages show that's open to members and all ticket holders.

Ticket prices include a donation to Swedish Medical Women's Health Programs, two-week trial Salmon Bay Eagles membership, and free parking validation. Additional donated funds encouraged. Credit cards accepted.



The poster for the Mt Baker Rhythm & Blues Festival features a central illustration of a smiling tree character with multiple arms playing a red electric guitar. The text on the poster includes the festival name, dates (August 2-4), location (Deming WA), and a list of performing bands. It also lists various amenities like free camping, food vendors, and an ATM, along with logos for sponsors and local businesses. At the bottom, it provides information for secure online ordering.

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Another Walk Down Lower Broadway

Featuring Felix, The Congo Cafe, Joe Johansen, Blind Pitts, Leana, the cops & a Paddy Wagon

By Little Bill Engelhart (Photo by Blues Boss: Happy 80th Birthday at The Triple Door in Seattle)

As time went on, Joe Johansen and I were doing our best to live the life of the real patrons on Tacoma's historic Lower Broadway. I actually had my hair processed. It all happened at Felix's barber shop, the pool hall. I told him what I wanted done. He never asked why. He just asked me to get on the chair. Since he put a towel over my face I couldn't see what was going on, but it was very clear that there was more than Felix working on my hair and they were having a great time. When it was over I looked like a white boy whose hair was dead. It just kind of just laid there.

I started wearing a cap.

Blind Pitts was one of the more popular attractions on the street. Always dressed to the max and sitting in front of the Congo cafe in a Cadillac. Story was he had been a big time pimp for several years right up until his wife threw acid in his eyes for sleeping with one of his ladies. One of his ladies was Leana. She held court in a second floor room above the Congo Cafe. She had a boyfriend who was a real deal gangster. Leana and I were just hanging out together for laughs. That all stopped when I heard that he was getting out of the jail and WANTED TO TALK TO ME!

I'm thinking he is gonna kick my ass, shoot me or God only knows what. As it turned out, he wanted to thank me for looking out for his woman.

One evening Joe and I were eating in the Congo. The waitress brought us our food and I paid her. It gets better. She brought me my change.



I turned to get my money and there is a guy robbing me.

I tell him: "Give me my bread."

He gives me the finger.

Now check this. Joe and I are the only white guys in the place. What do I? I CALL THE COPS!

The Paddy Wagon pulls up, they come in and ask me what happened. I lay it all out. They take Joe, me and the thief to the police station. There is another drunk guy in the wagon. The dude who stole my money takes the drunk guy's watch. Once we get to the station, I am taken to talk with the head cop. My money is on his desk. He wants to know if I have the serial numbers on my money. I ask him about the numbers on his money.

Well this smart aleck smiles and says, "my money wasn't stolen."

The up side to all of this, they gave us a ride in the Paddy Wagon back to our hotel. The down side was the father of the girl I was dating was just coming to work and saw Joe and I getting out of the Paddy Wagon.

End of story.

Above (Left to Right): Patti Allen, Rod Cook, Chris Leighton, Little Bill and Billy Stapleton at Seattle's Triple Door Celebrating Little Bill's 80th Birthday.
(Photo by Blues Boss)

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see page 24

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Preview: Music4Life Everett Benefit Concert & Auction

Cody Beebe and the Crooks, Kara Hesse and Jayleigh Ann & The Lost Boys

Music4life Everett present a benefit concert & auction at the Historic Everett Theatre on Thursday, May 9, 7: 00.PM. The evening features Cody Beebe and the Crooks, Kara Hesse and Jayleigh Ann & The Lost Boys.

The Western Washington mayors of Auburn, Kent Des Moines, Edmonds and Everett, along with the King and Snohomish County Executives, have officially declared May as Music4life Month.

The Seattle based non-profit Music4Life provides ready-to-play musical instruments to students K-12 in need in six school districts in our region.

Through contributions and donated instruments, children who would never experience the joy of instrumental music

can learn to play in school band and orchestra.

To keep the instruments flowing into Everett Public Schools, Music4Life Everett is holding a benefit concert and auction on May 9, 2019 at the Historic Everett Theater on Colby Avenue at 7pm.

The concert and auction features local Americana recording artists Cody Beebe & The Crooks, Kara Hess, and a trio of high school musicians Jayleigh Ann & The Lost Boys will open the night.

To date, Music4life Everett has raised over \$20,000 and provided over 300 instruments for Everett Public Schools.

Please consider attending the benefit show

and auction to help the all-volunteer group achieve their 2019 goal of doubling those numbers and help as many kids as possible.

If you cannot attend, you still can help by designating your donation for Everett Public Schools at www.music4life.org



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5:00 Jan Harrison Blues Experience

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9:00 Big Al & the Heavyweights.

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Blues on the Road: Pompano Beach, Florida

Notes from a recent visit to Florida - home to nine blues societies!

Story and Photos by Eric Steiner

Last December, I vacationed in Florida. I had never been to Pompano Beach before and it was an opportunity to enjoy some sun amidst the typical grey winters of the Pacific Northwest. I had joined the South Florida Blues Society to enter their 2018 cruise raffle and reconnect with president “Blues Bobby” Weinberg. When I accepted the 2009 Keeping the Blues Alive Award, “Blues Bobby” was there. He adopted our small blues society contingent and it was fun to see him play harp at jams along Beale Street.. I’m pleased that he’s still promoting the blues with the South Florida Blues Society and I think their calendar, and “Blues Bobby’s” Friday blues updates are informative and fun.

One late Thursday night, I went to Rip’s Sports Bar inside Diamond Strike Lanes in Pompano Beach. After I read more about The Blues Crusaders, I learned that they were slated to represent the Southwest Florida Blues Society at the 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

Florida is home to nine blues societies, including the Treasure Coast (Port St. Lucie), Suncoast (Tampa), South Florida (Coral Springs), Orange Blossom (Orlando), North Center (Gainesville), Daytona Beach and the Blues Society of Northwest Florida (Pensacola). I look forward to returning to Florida to support a state with such a thriving blues community statewide.



The Blues Crusaders at Rip's Thursday Night Blues Jam Session in Pompano Beach, Florida in December of 2018 (Photo by Eric Steiner)



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Thurs May 9	Bad Albert's Band & Billy Stapleton Ballard 6-9pm
Sat May 11	Elliott Bay Pizza & Pub Mill Creek 7-9pm Chris Stevens and Annie Eastwood Duo
Tues May 14	Bake's Place Bellevue - Stapleton Eastwood Duo 8pm
Thurs May 16	Bad Albert's Band & Beth Wulff Ballard 6-9pm
Tues May 21	Bake's Place Bellevue - Stapleton Eastwood Duo 8pm
Thurs May 23	Bad Albert's Band & Kimball Conant Ballard 6-9pm
Fri May 24	Easy Monkey North City/Shoreline 8-10:30pm Powerhouse: Stapleton, Wilhelm, Peterson, Eastwood
Sat May 25	Frankie's B-Town Bistro Burien 7:30-9:30pm Chris Stevens and Annie Eastwood Duo
Sun May 26	Spar Tavern Oldtown Tacoma 7-10pm Powerhouse: Stapleton, Wilhelm, Peterson, Eastwood
Tues May 28	Bake's Place Bellevue - Stapleton Eastwood Duo 8pm

Music4Life

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A Fond Farewell to the Wildflower Wine Shop

Live blues with Miranda Kitchpanich, Jesse James, Andrew Cloutier & Nick Mardon

By Miranda Kitchpanich

It was just a week after 'SNOWMAGEDDON' on March 9th at the Wildflower Wine Shop, a popular little restaurant and live music venue in North Bend.

I was booked for my very first headline gig, and needless to say, I was a little anxious and very excited. It was all thanks to Nick for this opportunity!

I had come to the Wildflower Wine Shop one night to see The Nick Mardon Blues Trio with Jesse James on bass as I had done many times before. I love sitting in with them and playing some of the songs that Nick and I did together at the 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Club owner Kimberlea Miller came out to the parking lot as the guys were packing up their gear after the gig and offered another date to Nick and his band.

Out of the blue, Nick smirks at me and tells to Kim "Hey, Miranda isn't doing anything that night."

So, that's how I got the gig. Kim had seen me on her stage countless times and was pleased to hear that Nick and Jesse would be backing me up as my band for that night. I absolutely love playing with these guys, especially together. Nick brought in Andrew Cloutier, a beloved local drummer with well-known talents. He's played festivals, the Highway 99 Blues Club and has been the drummer for Left Hand Smoke and Lee Oskar! I was a lucky girl with a line-up like that and I knew it.

We pulled together a set full of blues and classic rock. So, naturally, I went about inviting many of my favorite people. As I said before, the snowstorms had just ravaged the region and people were not sure they were going to make it out to the show.

As the room filled up with so many friendly



and loving faces, I began to get impatient to get started.

We opened with "Damn Right I Got the Blues" (Buddy Guy), and played two 90 minute sets that included some originals, plus "Ain't No Sunshine" (Bill Withers), "Rock and Roll" (Led Zeppelin), "Chain of Fools" (Aretha Franklin) and so many others that would not have been as successful without Nick, Jesse, or Andrew.

Thanks to these guys, I was able to lay every bit of what I had out on that stage that night. I still can't get over how full the room was and how loud that crowd was. I had invited so many people, at that point I had absolutely no idea who would show up (so many of them did!) It really meant the world to me to see so many close friends and family there for my first show as a headliner!

For the past few months, I've been stepping in to play bass with Jesse James and the MOB.

It's been such a good experience getting out there and playing with Jesse - it's given me the opportunity to share the stage with yet



another amazing musician. It has given me the chance to grow, learn, and adapt as a working musician myself. I love calling Nick my "Blues Partner." We've had some crazy adventures in our short time working together and I hope there is much more to come! Maybe next time I'll even have a set with more original tunes! And, as always, thank you so much to the Washington Blues Society for always being such a huge supportive part in my blues journey.

Top: Andrew Cloutier, Miranda Kitchpanich and Jess James

Above: Nick Mardon & Amanda Kitchpanich
(Photos by JJR Photography)



Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys
Voyageurs
(Self-Released)

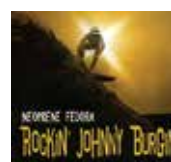
Steve Riley is the “real deal” in Cajun music, he is an acknowledged master of the Cajun accordion and fiddle. Steve formed the Mamou Playboys in 1988 and they have 14 releases with four being Grammy nominated in the Best Traditional Folk Album category, including their previous release *Grand Isle*. (Steve has another pair in side project winning a Grammy in 2012 with The Band Courtbouillon.) The 13 tracks on *Voyageurs* include four originals and three traditional songs with Mamou Playboy arrangements. The Playboys open *Voyageurs* with “Au revoir Grand Mamou” sung in Cajun French as is a majority of their music. Grand Mamou refers to the area in and around the town of Mamou in south central Louisiana. The next tune is “Plus Creux” a bounce song with about half the lyrics in English as they sing “you might find diamonds, you might find gold; but if you don’t dig you will never know.” The next track is a traditional song “Allons boire un Coup” which has a folky feel and a double-time beat. One of the standouts is the traditional “Bernadette” which got me tapping my toes immediately. Another is the Cajun accordion and fiddle romp “Tite fille de la campagne” which also features some fleet-fingered guitar work. “Malcolm’s Reel” is an instrumental with a brisk tempo and solos on accordion, fiddle and guitar. *Voyageurs* is a fun album which I highly recommended. Malcolm Kennedy



Brett Benton
Live at the Highway 99 Blues Club
(Country Blood Records)

The Brett Benton/Gordon Townsend Duo represented the Washington Blues Society at the 2018 International Blues Challenge where they were semi-finalists. Brett plays a heady mix of Northern Mississippi Hill Country Blues, Delta Blues and roots

music. The six tracks on the EP feature two originals and was recorded live at the Highway 99 Blues Club in 2017. Ed Maloney introduces Brett and Gordon and then they go into Mississippi Fred McDowell’s “Kokomo Blues.” Brett stays close to the original style; but with Gordon he they add distinctive Hill Country elements. Next up is the original “I Got a .45” a dark song with bristling slide guitar, pulsing drums and crashing cymbals. A name that resonates for many folks hearing the term Northern Mississippi Hill Country is RL Burnside and RL is represented well on “Miss Maybelle,” which was on 2000 Fat Possum Records CD, *Wish I Was in Heaven Sitting Down*. Brett’s take is particularly inspired. Brett and Gordon then open Mississippi Fred McDowell’s songbook on “Shake ‘Em on Down” with an exceptional update. Brett introduced the next one, an original, “Hard Love” saying, “this is the first song I ever wrote, and I was mad this day too” then proceeds to play a slow rolling blues Brett closes out the EP with Robert Johnson’s “Preachin’ Blues,” a song he recorded at his final 1937 Dallas session. and was also the B side of the last 10” 78 rpm record released by Vocalion after Johnson’s death in 1939. The A side was “Love in Vain.” They speed it up doing it in double time with several short tempo breaks giving it a unique feel. Brett is currently working on a new release and has some choice originals ready to go that he performs at his shows. Highly recommended. Malcolm Kennedy



Rockin’ Johnny Burgin
Neoprene Fedora
(West Tone Records)

Rockin’ Johnny opens his latest solo release from 2017, *Neoprene Fedora* which is half spy movie theme music and half surf rock instrumental of the coolest kind, and there is an interlude that brings in a Chuck Berry element giving it a bluesy feel. “Guitar King” is a song by Andrew “Blueblood” McMahon whose long association with Howlin’ Wolf gave his electric bass it’s

nickname (“Howlin’ Wolf Bass”). It is straight up post-war Chicago blues and shows Burgin to be a solid blues vocalist and a top-flight guitarist. Joining Rockin’ Johnny on this CD is award-winning producer/guitarist Kid Anderson, Aki Kumar on blues harp, Bob Welch on guitar and piano, Alabama Mike on vocals, Nancy Wright on sax and June Core on drums. Johnny brings in Steve Wills on accordion and Billy Wilson on rub board for “Kinda Wild Woman,” “Please Tell Me” and “Our Time is Short” giving them all a Louisiana feel. Alabama Mike takes the vocals for “Smoke and Mirrors” a relationship gone wrong song and “I Did the Best I Could” singing “we never argued, and we didn’t fight/oh; but something went wrong and it never got right; but I did the best that I could” followed by a stinging guitar solo. Aki brings distinctive vocals and blues harp to his original “Self Made Man.” Aki also sings and plays on a tune written by Chicago’s singing and slinging drummer Willie Williams, “My Baby’s Gone” with Rockin’ Johnny channeling Hubert Sumlin and Aki doing Carey Bell’s blues parts with Johnny “Cat” Soubrand playing Eddie Taylor’s guitar lines. On “My Life’s Enough for Me,” Rockin’ Johnny has an Albert King thing going on and closes out *Neoprene Fedora* with “Goodbye Chicago” as he laments the dearth of a blues scene in a city so closely tied to blues music. This album’s the bomb. Malcolm Kennedy

Editor’s Note: This month, Rockin’ Johnny returns to the Evergreen State with shows in Seattle, Olympia, Conway, Edmonds, Kenmore (and more), plus dates in North Vancouver and Nanaimo, British Columbia. Please visit www.rockinjohnnyburgin.com.





Brian Butler
Butler's Blues
(Self-Released)

Brian Butler has been on the local blues scene for some time and his last CD, *Wait All Night*, was nominated by the membership of the Washington Blues Society as Best Blues Recording as is *Butler's Blues* for this year's awards. The album features 13 selections including 10 originals. In addition to solo gigs Brian is one of Brian Lee's Orbiters and plays in the new Spencer Jarrett Blues Band. Brian is an exceptional musician playing guitar and blues harp, his singing is top notch and his song crafting is also notable. Brian opens with "Johnny Young" a song about a mandolin player who was a regular on Chicago's famed Maxwell Street playing with Sonny Boy I and Muddy Waters in the early 40's and in clubs with Little Walter with few sides of his own and was rediscovered in the 1960's. One of the standouts on *Butler's Blues* is "Mississippi Woman." This song is the real deal and deserves major radio play. The two of the covers are fairly obscure, "Lead a Horse to Water" by R&B/blues singer Earl Thomas and "Yonder Comes the Blues" by the sparsely-recorded folk rocker Fred Neil. The third cover is "A Nickle and a Nail" a song sung by O.V. Wright which Butler does in a beautiful mellow bluesy style. "Oxbow Blues" is a solid finger picking instrumental and "News About Billy" is a heartfelt song of the loss of a friend and life's lessons. Brian closes out the CD with "Place Pigalle" a song about a Pike Place Market venue steeped in Seattle history that ranges from the Klondike Goldrush to a blues dive in the 70s affectionately called "the Pig." Ask any musician around town who was active at the time on the blues scene and they will have tales about "Place Pigalle." I give the album my highest recommendation: An instant classic. Malcolm Kennedy



Joe Blue & the Roofshakers
Keep It Real
(Self-Released)

The Fabulous Roofshakers began in 2006 and were quickly BB Award nominated for Best New Band. Founding members Bruce Koenigsberg on bass and Gordon Bensen on sax are still part of this dynamic band. Joe "Blue" Giorello (Tim Turner, Highway 99 All-Stars Band) has been the front man since 2013 and other Roofshakers are Conrad Ormsby on drums, Paul Sommer on guitar and Ron Baker on sax. *Keep It Real* is their first release as a unit. Joe Blue has been nominated for BB Awards in 2010 & 2015 for Best Harp and in 2015 for Best Sax. *Keep It Real* is a collection of nine well-selected covers from Louis Prima to War, Fats Domino to an uncredited Ronnie Earl. The Roofshakers open with Prima's classic "Jump Jive & Wail," a song given new life by the Brian Setzer Orchestra in 1998. BB King's "Got a Mind to Give Up Living" features touches of the Peter Green/Fleetwood Mac version and the Butterfield Blues Band take from *East-West* with Joe blowing solid blues harp. Wille Dixon wrote "Back Door Man" for Howlin' Wolf and the opening guitar lines and rhythm recall the "Creeper Returns" with Gordon blowing some sweet sax. Lee Dorsay's "Get Out of My Life Woman" has been covered by Iron Butterfly, The Kingsmen, both Albert and Freddie King and was on *East-West*, too. "Bring It On Home," also by Dixon, is classic Sonny Boy Williamson II and is a tune Led Zeppelin famously covered, and this version fades out just like Sonny Boy's original. They close the album with a song frequently cited as the first rock & roll hit, Jackie Brenston's "Rocket 88" with Joe on harp and Gordon on sax. *Keep It Real* is a solid outing. Malcolm Kennedy



Mary Lane
Travelin' Woman
(Women of the Blues Records)

Chicago blues promoter Lynn Orman and her new record label, Women of the Blues, has sparked Mary Lane's first CD in 20 years with *Travelin' Woman*. It reminds me of how Hound Dog Taylor and the HouseRockers compelled Bruce Iglauer to form Alligator Records (more on that in my review, *Bitten by the Blues: The Alligator Records Story*, June Bluesletter). I've seen Mary Lane at the Chicago Blues Festival and at downtown clubs over the past 15 years and I've thought that Mary Lane was a straight, unbroken link to blues artists who made the Great Migration from the South to the Chicago. Prior to leaving Arkansas, she sang with Howlin' Wolf, Robert Nighthawk, and James Cotton. After moving to Chicago, she sang with Junior Wells, Magic Sam, Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James when clubs like Silvio's Gatewood's Tavern and the 708 Club were hoppin'. On *Travelin' Woman*, award-winning producer Jim Tullio and Mary Lane co-wrote nine of the 10 tracks (with the title track from Jim Tullio, Mary Lane and Leroy "Werewolves of London" Marinell). Standout tracks include "Travelin' Woman" with sax parts from Chicago Rhythm and Blues King Gene "Daddy G" Barge and Terry Ogolini, "Some People Say I'm Crazy," with Corky Siegel, "Make Up Your Mind" that artfully pairs Mary with Colin Linden on acoustic slide dobro and "Bad Luck and Trouble" with Chicago guitarist Dave Specter. Mary Lane is the subject of a documentary, *I Can Only Be Mary Lane*, that has screened at many film festivals. I urge Bluesletter readers to learn more about Mary Lane: Find the documentary, buy the CD and discover this Chicago blues treasure. Buddy Guy introduced her as "the real deal" at his club at a screening of the documentary last year, and he knows what he's talking about. Eric Steiner

CD REVIEWS



Terry Robb
Confessin' My Dues
(NiaSounds))

The CD release party for *Confessin' My Dues*, co-sponsored by NiaSound and the Cascade Blues Association, kicked off Terry Robb's 2019 Spring-Summer tour of the Pacific Northwest, California and British Columbia on March 1st at The Secret Society Ballroom in the Rose City. As of press time, the tour has 60+ dates scheduled to showcase this exceptional 13-song CD. *Confessin' My Dues* is Terry Robb's 15th solo recording and it includes a diverse set of music ranging from traditional ragtime and fingerpicking to stinging slide guitar blues. Terry Robb is one of the most accomplished and recognized bluesmen in the Pacific Northwest and he is a member of the Oregon Music Hall of Fame and the Cascade Blues Association Muddy Awards Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame. I was particularly impressed by Terry's slide work on "High Desert Everywhere" and the uptempo title tune. Terry's understated vocals fit "Heart Made of Steel" and a ballad about Highway 61, "Darkest Road I'm Told," nicely. "Now Vestapol," a bright instrumental, reminds me of classic fingerpickers like Chet Atkins and Doyle Dykes, and each time I listen to that song, I hear something new. Terry plays acoustic and Resonator guitars on a majority of the songs on *Confessin' My Dues*, and on the remaining cuts, seasoned Portland-based jazzmen Dave Captein (Tom Grant, Jessica Williams) play stand-up bass and Gary Hobbs (Stan Kenton, Michael Brecker) play the drums. On "Keep Your Judgement," Executive Producer and Photographer Stuart and Americana fingerpicker extraordinaire Adam Scramstand join the trio on backing vocals and rhythm guitar. *Confessin' My Dues* is new acoustic blues classic that I enjoyed from start to finish. Eric Steiner

Editor's Note: On April 28th, Terry Robb will play the Tacoma Guitar Festival and on

May, he'll play the Old Liberty Theatre with Jeff Peterson in Ridgefield, Washington on the 4th and Seattle's Moore Theatre with Robin Trower on the 17th.



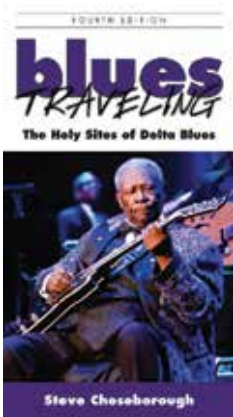
Harpdog Brown
For Love & Money
(Dog House Records)

I'm admittedly a big Harpdog Brown fan, so this review won't be as objective as it probably needs to be. Over the last 20 years, I've seen him at Grinder's in Shoreline, in local International Blues Challenge competitions at blues society events in White Rock and Abbotsford, British Columbia and on the Kitchener Blues Festival Main Stage in Ontario. *For Love & Money* follows two strong 2016 blues CDs, *Travelin' With the Blues* and *What It Is*. *For Love & Money* features 13 songs that take us from the Crescent City, up the Mississippi Delta and Chicago on a diverse musical journey that includes jump blues, second-line, post-war harp-fueled Chicago blues and a classic interpretation of "Blue Light Boogie" from Louis Jordan and His Tympany Five. Harpdog's new band features Dave Webb on keyboards, Bob Grant on drums, Jeremy Holmes on "Doghouse Bass." A dynamic, three-piece horn section gives *For Love & Money* a big band feel with William Abbott on clarinet and alto sax, Jerry Cook on baritone and tenor sax and Skye Lambourne on trombone. Harpdog's original "Reefer Loving Woman" sounds like it's straight out of Tipitina's (or The Snug) in the Crescent City and a cover of Brandon "Yukon Slim" Isaak's "I'll Make It Up to You" is buoyed by jaunty clarinet work from William Abbott. Two of the songs are particularly fanciful: "Stiff" and "Vicious Vodka" are sure to be late-set crowd pleasers (especially when the alcohol is flowing). After listening to this CD a few times, I marveled at how adept Harpdog Brown is with a pen (or computer keyboard) as a songwriter as well as the harp. In addition to being a three-time award winner of the prestigious Maple Blues Award from the

Toronto Blues Society in the Harmonica Player of the Year category (2014, 2015 and 2016), Harpdog also has had three nominations in the Western Canadian Music Awards, received the Fraser Valley Music Award and a Juno nomination. In addition, Harpdog is the only Canadian blues artist who has won a Muddy Award in the Best NW Blues Release category from the Cascade Blues Association for his *Home Is Where the Harp Is* CD in 1995. In 2016, Harpdog was nominated for Maple Blues Awards in the Harmonica Player, Male Vocalist and Album of the Year categories for his 2016 CD *Travelin' With the Blues*. This year, Harpdog Brown & The Uptown Blues Band is nominated for Best Band in the Washington Blues Society's Best of the Blues ("BB Awards"). Natalie Hahn's CD design, 16-page booklet with lyrics and background from Harpdog and award-winning producer Steve Dawson, sets the bar high for blues CD packaging. *For Love & Money* showcases a strong big band sound influenced by New Orleans and Chicago blues and will likely land on (or near) my list of "top 10" blues CDs released in 2019. Eric Steiner

Editor's Note: Partial Tour List (Below)

- 4/26 – Conway, WA: Conway Muse – Official US Release Party
- 4/27 – Live in Hope, BC
- 4/28 - Tractorgrease Café, Chilliwack, BC
- 5/2 - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 155, Greenwood, BC
- 5/3 - Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre, Cranbrook, BC
- 5/10 - Blue Frog Studios, White Rock, BC
- 5/13 - Blue Wing Saloon, Upper Lake, CA
- 5/14 - Mission St. BBQ, Santa Cruz, CA
- 5/15 - Club Fox, Redwood City, CA
- 5/16 – Flynn's Cabaret & Steakhouse, Felton, CA
- 5/17 – Torch Club, Sacramento, CA,
- 5/18 - Lucy's Lounge, Fresno, CA
- 5/19 – The Siren, Morro Bay, CA
- 5/21 - Old Town Blues Club, Temecula, CA
- 5/22 - Gallagher's Irish Pub & Grill, Huntington Beach, CA



Blues Traveling: The Holy Sites of the Delta Blues
By Steve Cheseborough
Updated and Expanded Fourth Edition
University Press of Mississippi, 306pp, \$25

The fourth addition of Steve Cheseborough's *Blues Traveling: The Holy Sites of the Delta Blues* is a book I recommend to every blues enthusiast. Even if you haven't traveled to the land where blues began, this well-researched book is an interesting and educational read.

The third edition of *Blues Traveling* had 258 pages and an 18-page index. The fourth edition tops 306 pages and has a 22-page index. The fourth edition includes extra pages on Beale Street in Memphis, the Mid-Delta Area which covers Tutwiler to Glendora including Rosedale, Dockery and Drew. The journey from Greenwood to Vicksburg also features new information on Indianola, Belzoni, Rolling Fork and Vicksburg.

Ten years ago, I reviewed the third edition of this book. The fourth edition is a substantial update to the earlier edition. *Blues Traveling* includes numerous sites that do not have official Mississippi Blues Trail markers and includes interesting information about many that do. There are helpful maps of regions and small towns to locate these sites off the beaten blues path.

Steve takes us down to towns like Alligator, the home of Robert "Bilbo" Walker's Wonder Light City juke joint and Shaw, the birthplace of David "Honeyboy" Edwards, in the Mid-Delta. We also visit Nitta Yuma, a small town south of Hollandale on Highway 61 that is home to Bo Carter's grave.

Many folks interested in the blues know that there is more than one grave marker for Robert Johnson. Last count, there are three headstones honoring Robert Johnson. There is also some uncertainty about the year Sonny Boy Williamson II (aka Aleck Miller) was born, too. Cheseborough takes things far deeper into the region and folks who made the blues. The latest edition of *Traveling Blues* has invaluable information on places like Mound Bayou, Margaret's Grocery and Market in Vicksburg, about churches, small museums and juke joints. Fortunately, the book offers suggestions for juke joints that still offer live blues in the Mississippi Delta.

Cheseborough's travelogue takes readers through important blues sites and towns from Memphis to the Delta with stops on Highway 1, Highway 61, Highway 49W and 49E to Highway 6 and the Natchez Trace Parkway. He also eloquently describes the Mississippi River, the Sunflower River and the Yazoo River, the Cold Water River and the Tallahatchie as well as railroad towns that have long been abandoned.

As someone with a strong interest in the artists who created and played the blues, I find the history described in the fourth edition to be fascinating, and in reading the pages of *Traveling Blues*, I learned of new places and people not on my blues radar.

My library contains more than 50 blues books and I find Cheseborough's book invaluable. I have had the opportunity to spend a few hours on Beale Street and *Blues Traveling* informed and enhanced my experience. I highly recommend *Traveling Blues*, particularly for blues fans who make the pilgrimage to Memphis and the Mississippi Delta. Malcolm Kennedy

Editor's Note: Next month, the Bluesletter will include my review of Bruce Iglauer's blues memoir, *Bitten by the Blues: The Alligator Records Story* (co-written by Dr. Patrick A. Roberts).



Two Mississippi Blues Traveling Memories:

Top: Four Legends: Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Sam Carr, Hubert Sumlin and Bob Stroger at the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale

Above Middle: The door, circa 2005, of the Ground Zero Blues Club.

(Photos by Eric Steiner)

MAY 2 THU

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends Featuring Beth Wulff 6pm

Conway Muse: Back Room Lit Lab 6:30pm

Conway Muse: Open Mic 7:30pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Charlie Musselwhite 7:30pm

Neptune Theatre: Rival Sons w/sp. guests The Sheepdogs 8pm

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Hot Mess 8pm

MAY 3 FRI

At Michele's: Bent On Blues 8pm

Bake's Place: Mark DuFresne Band 7pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Charlie Musselwhite 7:30pm

Conway Muse: Blue Moon Marquee 7:30pm

Easy Monkey Taphouse: Stickshift Annie with Kimball and the Fugitives 8pm

Emory's on Silver Lake: It's About Time 7pm

McMenamins Anderson School: Cool Water 7pm

Oxford Saloon: Moon Daddy Band 8pm

Snoqualmie Casino: George Thorogood & The Destroyers 8pm

Skylark West Seattle: Reji Marc, Aline Vida, Shop Dog 8pm

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Blue 55 8pm

The Crystal Ballroom: The Atlantics 7pm

MAY 4 SAT

Conway Muse: Fanny Alger & The Dizzys 8pm

Conway Muse: The Lonesome Town Painters 7:30pm

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Charlie Musselwhite 7:30pm

Easy Monkey Taphouse: Sheri Roberts Greimes & JoMomma's Cuatro De Mayo Party 8pm

Granite Falls Eagles: Scratch Daddy 8pm

Madison Ave Pub: Ladies First Showcase XIII 7pm

Rhodes River Ranch Restaurant: Moon Daddy 6pm

The Mill: Boogie Chillin' 8pm

The Point Casino: Zepparella 7pm

Tractor Tavern: Eldridge Gravy & the

Court Supreme w/Braxmatics & Baby Gramps 8pm

MAY 5 SUN

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: Charlie Musselwhite 7:30pm

MAY 6 MON

Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review with Mad BoJo 7pm

MAY 7 TUE

Bake's Place: Billy Stapleton and Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

Craft Bar & Kitchen: Rod Cook 6pm

MAY 9 THU

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends Featuring Billy Stapleton 6pm

Conway Muse: Andrew Kasab 7:30pm

Historic Everett Theater: Music 4 Life Everett Benefit Concert & Auction with Cody Beebe & The Crooks 7pm

J&M Café: True Romans 9pm

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Moe Ribbs Blues Band 8pm

MAY 10 FRI

Maple Hall: 3rd Annual La Conner Guitar Festival 5/10-5/12

Bridge Press Cellars Spokane: Wine and Music Festival 5/10-5/12 12:00pm

Conway Muse: Caught in the Web & Toast 7pm

Conway Muse: Norris & Nicely 7:30pm

Cypress Lounge at Bellevue Westin: Michele D'Amour and the Love Dealers 8pm

Hard Rock Cafe Seattle: Carvin Jones Band 8pm

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Chris Stevens Band 8pm

MAY 11 SAT

Amarillo: Nate Burch Band 8pm

Anacortes Eagles: Scratch Daddy 7pm

Clock-Out Lounge: Shannon Shaw 9pm

Collectors Choice: Ronni Lee 8pm

Conway Muse: Double Duo MuseBird Cafe w/Notable Journey & Steve & Kristi Nebel 7:30pm

Elliott Bay Pizza & Pub: Chris Stevens & Annie Eastwood Duo 7pm

Historic Everett Theater: Heart By Heart 7:30pm

Jazzbones: Coco Montoya 8pm

John Dam Plaza: Retapped Blues & Brews Festival 12:00pm

Oxford Saloon: Third Rock 8pm

The Mannette Saloon: Skinny Blue

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Toast & Jam (Benefit for Swedish Medical Center), 6-11 PM (See Preview This Issue)

MAY 12 SUN

192 Brewing Company: Sunday Afternoon Blues Jam 2pm

The Spar Tavern: Jesse James & the MOB 7pm

The Triple Door: Coco Montoya w/ John "Greyhound" Maxwell 7:30pm

MAY 13 MON

Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review with Mad BoJo 7pm

MAY 14 TUE

Bake's Place: Billy Stapleton & Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

Madison Ave Pub: McPage & Powell 7pm

The Triple Door: John Nemeth & The Blue Dreamers 7:30pm

Collectors Choice: Washington Blues Society Blues Bash w/Brett "Bad Blood" Benton and TuN

MAY 16 THU

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends Featuring Beth Wulff 6pm

Conway Muse: John Nemeth & The Blue Dreamers 7:30pm

J&M Café: True Romans 9pm

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Johnny Burgin 8pm

Sunbanks Resort: Sunbanks Music Festival 5/16-19, 5pm

Vintage Café: Brett Benton Duo 7pm

MAY 17 FRI

Conway Muse: DEAL: Celebrating the Grateful Dead 7:30pm

Conway Muse: CC Adams Band 7:30pm

Oxford Saloon: Rockfish & Friends 8pm

The Brass Kraken: Planet Groove 9pm

The Moore Theatre: Robin Trower 7pm

The Royal Room: Duffy Bishop 8pm

MAY 18 SAT

Conway Muse: Duffy Bishop Band

7pm

Conway Muse: Cave Swallows & Sam & The Savages 7:30pm

Historic Everett Theater: Fabulous Thunderbirds with the Stacy Jones Band 7pm

Jazzbones: Doctor Funk 8pm

Ott & Murphy Winery: Sheri & Da Boyz 7pm

Pub 282: Scratch Daddy 7pm

The Brass Kraken: Betsy & the Boys 9pm

MAY 20 MON

Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review with Mad BoJo 7pm

Paramount Theatre: Neil Young with Promise of the Real 7pm

The Moore Theatre: Elle King 7pm

MAY 21 TUE

Bake's Place: Billy Stapleton & Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

Madison Ave Pub: Brett Benton 7pm

Paramount Theatre: Neil Young with Promise of the Real 7pm

MAY 23 THU

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood & Friends Featuring Kimball Conant 6pm

Conway Muse: Skagit Artists' Art Opening! 6pm

Conway Muse: Scott Cook & Mandy Troxel 7:30pm

J&M Café: True Romans 9pm

Salmon Bay Eagles: All Stars No Stripes Band 8pm

The Paramount Theater: Tedeschi Trucks Band 7pm

MAY 24 FRI

Seattle Center: 48th Annual Folklife Festival 5/24-5/27

Conway Muse: The Holmes Shea Band 7:30pm

Dawson's Bar and Grill: Gin Creek 9pm

Easy Monkey Taphouse: Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse 8pm

Neptune Theatre: The True Loves w/ sp. guests: Prom Queen & Sun Breaks

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Women's Rockin' Blues Jam 8pm

Seattle Center Fountain Lawn Stage: Elliott Bay Blues Band 1:30pm

Seattle Center Armory Court Stage: Sheri Roberts Greimes & JoMomma 2pm

MAY 24 FRI (CONT'D)

The Paramount Theater: Tedeschi Trucks Band 7pm

Third Place Commons: Michele D'Amour & the Love Dealers 7:30pm

The Royal Room: The Highsteppers Classic Soul Revue 9:45pm

MAY 25 SAT

Conway Muse: Johnny Burgin 7:30pm

Conway Muse: Comfort Food (African Rhythms) Bard Loft 7:30pm

Dawson's Bar and Grill: Gin Creek 9pm

Frankie's B-Town Bistro: Chris Stevens and Annie Eastwood Duo 7:30pm

Historic Everett Theater: Rockfish and Friends 7:30pm

Rhodes River Ranch Restaurant: Jimmy Wright Band 6pm

The Brass Kraken: Stephanie Anne Johnson 9pm

The Point Casino: Skinny Blue 6pm

MAY 26 SUN

Ritzville Main Street Stage: Music on Main Festival 12:00 pm

The Spar Tavern: Billy Stapleton's Powerhouse 7pm

MAY 27 MON

Madison Ave Pub: Monday Blues Review with Mad BoJo 7pm

MAY 28 TUE

Bake's Place: Billy Stapleton & Annie Eastwood Duo 8pm

Craft Bar and Kitchen: Rod Cook 6pm

Little Creek Casino: Stacy Jones Band 8pm

MAY 29 WED

Bellevue Arts Museum: Bellevue Jazz & Blues Festival 5/29-6/2

North City Bistro and Wine Shop: McPage & Powell 7pm

MAY 30 THU

Bad Albert's: Annie Eastwood and Friends feat. Cheri Adams 6pm

Conway Muse: Whiskey and Strings workshop w/Andre Feriante 6:30pm

Conway Muse: Russell Bartlett 7:30pm

J&M Café: True Romans 9pm

Neptune Theatre: Brandi Carlile 8pm

Salmon Bay Eagles Blues: Whitman Jam 8pm

Tractor Tavern: Whitney Mongé w/ Supermother & Lyle 8pm

MAY 31 FRI

Conway Muse: Pretty Gritty (Duo) 7:30PM

Engels Pub: Polly O'Keary & The Rhythm Method 9pm

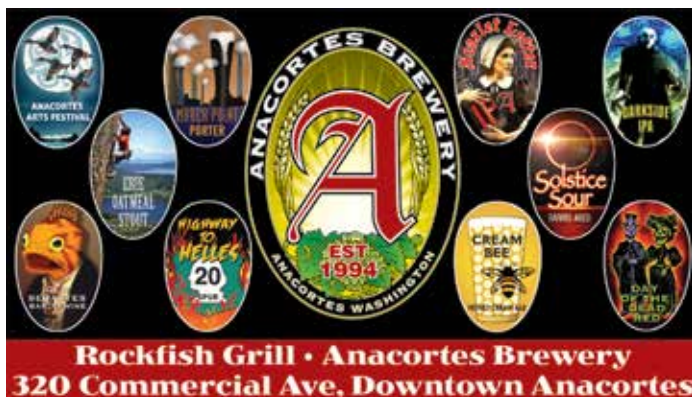
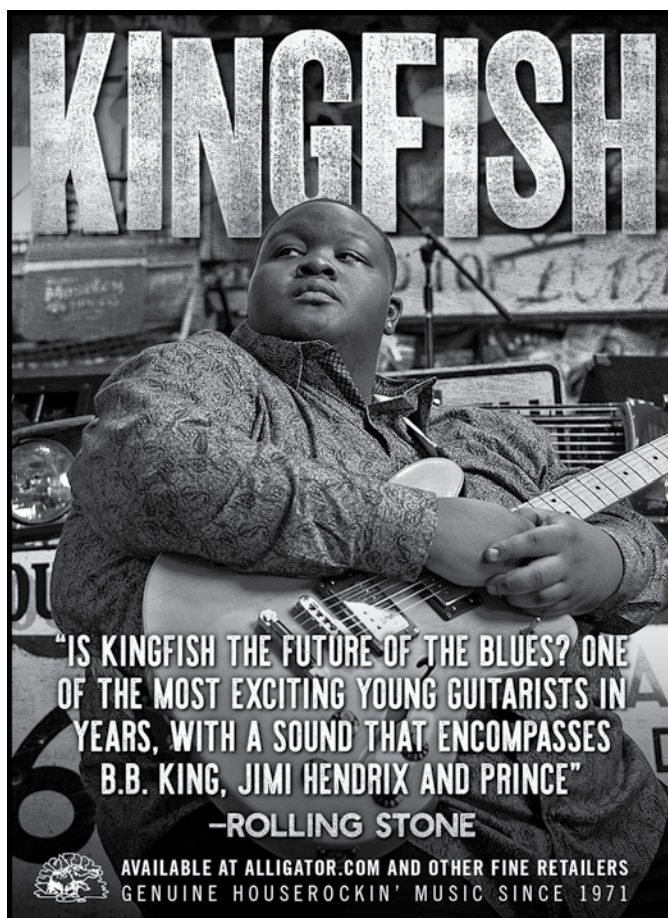
Port Gardner Bay Winery: Sheri & Da Boyz 7pm

Salmon Bay Eagles: Blues Jazz Jam w/ Collective 8pm

Village Taphouse & Grill: Stacy Jones Band 8:30pm

The Neptune Theatre: The Record Company w/sp. guest Becca Mancari

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Please send any updates, additions or corrections to both Editor@wabluess.org and ericrichd@aol.com. We're working to build a better Bluesletter!

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Alice Stuart & the Formerlys 360.753.8949
AlleyKatz 425.273.4172
ALTAI BAND goldenguitarman777@gmail.com, galiawind@yahoo.com
Andrew Norsworthy andrewnorsworthy@yahoo.com
Andy Koch's Badd Dog Blues (formerly Badd Dog Blues Society) 360.739.6397
Annette Taborn 206.306.3398
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Lucille Street cynmoring@gmail.com

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† With valid WBS membership card and advanced reservation. Reservations must be made by calling Jazz Alley at 206-441-9729 and requesting the WBS Special. This offer is not applicable to all shows.

Go Out and Support Local Live Music!

Jam hosts listed and Open mics are either blues-friendly or full band-friendly. Please send listings & updates to vicepres@wabluess.org to contribute to this listing!

SUNDAY

Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline - Jazz Jam 7-10 PM

192 Brewing, Kenmore: 192 Blues Jam w/ The Groove Tramps 3-7 PM All Ages Times vary on Seahawk games

Anchor Pub, Everett: Open Jam (2nd Sunday) 2-5 PM All Ages Jazz Jam (3rd & 4th Sundays)

Blue Moon Tavern, Everett: Jam w/ the Moon Dogs 7-10 PM

Captain Jacks, Sumner: Open Mic hosted by Lady Carter & The Gents 7PM

Collectors Choice, Snohomish: Acoustic Open Mic hosted by Patrick Thayer & the Reclamation Project 6PM

Club Crow, Cashmere: Jam Session 7-10PM (1st Sunday)

Couth Buzzard Books Espresso Buono Cafe, Seattle: Buzzard Blues Open Jam hosted by Kenny Mandell 7-9 PM (1st Sunday All Ages)

Dawson's, Tacoma: Tim Hall Band Jam 7-11 PM

El Sarape Cantina, Shelton: Open Band Jam 4-8PM (3rd Sunday)

Finaughty's, Snoqualmie Ridge: Tommy Wall's Wicked Blues Jam 7-11PM

Peabo's Bar & Grill, Mill Creek: Peace N Love Jam w/ Tommy Cook, Eric Rice & Scotty Harris 7-10 PM

O'Malley's Lounge, Olympia: Blues Jam w/ The Pleasure Hounds 6-9 PM

The Royal Bear, Auburn: Sunday Unloaded Jam Session 6-10 PM

MONDAY

Mac's Triangle Pub, Seattle: 8-10 PM

Nectar Lounge, Seattle: Mo Jam Mondays 9-11 PM

Dawson's, Tacoma: Music Mania Jam 7-11 PM

The Swiss, Tacoma: Open Mic Hosted by Chuck Gay 7-10 PM

Red Dog Saloon, Maple Valley: Jam w/Scotty FM & the Broadcasters 7PM

Riverside Pub, Wenatchee: North Central WA Blues Jam 7-10PM (2nd & 4th Mondays)

The Mill, Milton: Open Mic w/Walker Sherman 7-10PM

The Mint, Victoria B.C: Open Mic w/ Pete & Mo

The Village Taphouse & Grill, Marysville: Jam Night w/ Scotty Harris & Tommy Cook 7-10 PM

Emerald of Siam, Richland: Open

Mic/Band showcase hosted by Barefoot Randy/Dirty River Entertainment 8pm (All Ages until 10:45PM)

Wee Blu Inn Again Bar & Grill,

Bremerton: Tim Hall Band Jam 5-9 PM

TUESDAY

Bean & Vine, Everett: Open Mic 6-9 PM

Royal Esquire Club, Seattle: Sea-Town All-Stars 8-10 PM

Antique Sandwich Co. Tacoma: Open Mic 7-10 PM

Dave's of Milton: Blues & Beyond Jam w/ Jerry Miller Trio 7-10 PM

Double J Saloon Seattle: Open Mic 8:30PM (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

Elmer's Pub, Burien: Jam w/Billy Shew 7-11 PM

Engel's Pub, Edmonds: Jam Night w/ Dano Mac 8-11 PM

Paragon, Seattle: Open Mic 9P-12 AM

Pogacha, Issaquah: Jam Hosted by Doug McGrew. 8PM 21+

Poppe's 360 Neighborhood Pub, Bellingham: Open Mic Night w/Brian Hillman 6:30-9 PM

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Acoustic Open Mic Jam, All Ages 7-10 PM

J&M Café in Pioneer Square, Seattle: Blues Jam 9-11 PM

Stewart's, Snohomish: Tuesday Jam night w/the Shortcuts 8 PM

Stoneway Cafe, Seattle: Acoustic Open Mic, 7-10 PM

Slippery Pig, Poulsbo: Monthly All Ages Open Mic 7 PM

Tim's Tavern, Seattle: Open Mic 7PM

Tweede's Café, North Bend - Open Mic 6:30-9:30 PM

North End Social Club, Tacoma: Open Mic Tuesdays w/Kim Archer 8PM

Ben Moore's, Olympia: Open Mic 7PM

The Cherry Bomb, Port Angeles: Blues Jam w/Big Al & the Gang 7-10P

WEDNESDAY

Bethel Saloon, Port Orchard: Open Mic 8 PM

Black Dog Arts Cafe, Snoqualmie: All Ages Open Mic 7PM

Blue Moon Tavern, Seattle: Open Mic 8-11 PM

Collectors Choice Restaurant, Snohomish: Blues Jam w/Usual Suspects 8-11 PM

Couth Buzzard Cafe, Seattle: Open Mic at 7:30-10 PM

Dawson's, Tacoma: Linda Myers Wicked Wednesday Jam 8-11 PM

Darrell's Tavern, Shoreline: Open Mic 8:30-11PM

Dragon Gate, Des Moines: Open Jam 9-11PM

Filling Station, Kingston: Open Mic 7 PM All Ages, styles & instruments welcome

Grumpy D's Coffee House, Seattle: Open Mic 630-9 PM

George's, Kirkland - Heather B's Open Mic/Jam 7-9 PM

Hi-Fidelity Lounge, Bremerton: Open Mic 8 PM

Hopvine Pub, Seattle: Open Mic 8 PM

Jazzbones, Tacoma: Live It Out Loud All Ages Jam 6-930PM (3rd Wednesday)

Madison Ave Pub, Everett: Unbound Blues Jam 730-11 PM

Muk Cafe, Langley: Open Mic 7PM

Nauti Mermaid, Port Orchard: Open Mic 7-11 PM

Nickerson Street Saloon, Seattle: Open Mic 9 PM-12AM Open Jam (Last Wednesday)

Old Triangle, Seattle: w/Jeff Hass Open Mic & Jam 8-11 PM

Skylark Café, West Seattle: Open Mic 8-11PM

Stoneway Cafe, Seattle: Acoustic Open Mic, 7-10 PM

Tony V's Garage, Everett: Open Mic 9-11 PM

Twin Dragon, Duvall: Open Jam 7:30-11pm

The Tin Hat, Kennewick - Open Mic & Jam w/Mondo Ray Band 7-11 PM

The Living Room Coffee, Marysville: Open Mic, 6-9 PM

Rhythm & Rye, Olympia: Open Mic hosted by Scott Lesman 8-11 PM

192 Brewing Company, Kenmore: Open Mic 7-10PM

THURSDAY

Anchor Pub, Everett: Open Mic 9-11 PM All Ages

Bridgepress Cellars, Spokane - All Genre Jam 7-10 PM

The Cedar Stump, Arlington: Open Jam w/The Usual Suspects 7 PM

Port Gardner Bay Winery, Everett: Open Mic 6:30-9:30 PM

Dave's of Milton: Open Jam w/ Power Cell 8-11 PM

Dawson's, Tacoma: Blues Jam w/Billy Shew 730-11 PM

Drunky Two Shoes BBQ: White

Center: Uptown All-Stars Jam 730-11P

Oxford Saloon, Snohomish: Haunting Rock Jam 730-11PM

Jacksons Sports Bar & Clubhouse, Yakima: Open Jam 8-11PM

JB Bungalow, Kirkland: HeatherB Blues's Open Mic/Jam 8-11PM

Luther's Table, Renton: Open Mic 7P

The Village Inn Pub, Bellingham: Jam w/Jimmy D 8-11PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Blues Jam w/Mark Whitman 8-11 PM (Last Thursday)

Slippery Pig Brewery, Poulsbo: Blues & Brews Jam Night w/Thys Wallwork (All Ages) 7-11 PM

Gordon & Purdy's Pub, Sumner: Open Blues Jam 7-11 PM

Stoneway Cafe, Seattle: Acoustic Open Mic 7-10PM

Loco Billy's Wild Moon Saloon, Stanwood: Tightwad Thursday Jam

Rhythm & Rye, Olympia: Olympia Jazz Jam hosted by Tarik Bentlemani

The Dam Bar, Port Angeles: Open Mic

Stewarts, Snohomish: Open Jam w/ Pole Cat & Co. 7-1130 PM

Rolling Log, Issaquah: Open Jam hosted by Doug McGrew, 8P-12AM

San Juan island Brewing Co, Friday Harbor: Open Mic 6-8 PM

The Loft Pub, Victoria B.C: Open Jam 7PM

FRIDAY

La Copa Café, Seattle: Victory Music Open Mic 6:30-9PM, All Ages

The Living Room Coffee, Marysville: Student Jazz Jam 6:30-9:30 PM All Ages (Last Friday)

Urban Timber Coffee, Sumner: Open Mic 6:30-10PM All Ages

Dragon Gate, Des Moines: Open Jam 9-11PM

Dreadknott Brewery, Monroe: Open Mic 7-10PM

Kana Winery, Yakima: Open Mic 7PM

Salmon Bay Eagles, Seattle: Open Mic w/Linda Lee 8-11PM (Third Thursday)

Soul Food Coffee House & Fair Trade Emporium: Jazz Jam 7 PM (Last Friday).

SATURDAY

Café Zippy's, Everett: Victory Music Open Mic 5:30-8:30PM All Ages (1st Saturday)

Rockin' Johnny Burgin at the Salmon Bay Eagles

Save the date: May 16th in historic Old Town Ballard for a special blues event

By Malcolm Kennedy

Chicago blues guitarist Rockin' Johnny Burgin has performed across the world playing 250 shows a year. Born in Pennsylvania, Johnny Burgin grew up in Mississippi and South Carolina. He learned guitar parts from his father before moving to Chicago in 1988 to attend the University of Chicago where he was a DJ.

Quickly enamored with the blues, Johnny paid his dues and apprenticed with the Ice Cream Men with notable Chicago bluesmen Steve Cushing on drums, Scott Dirks on harp and Dave Waldman on guitar. Tail Dragger hired Johnny and they played four nights a week on the West Side with Lurrie Bell, Jimmy Dawkins, Little Arthur Duncan and Johnny Littlejohn. Burgin toured the Midwest with Pinetop Perkins and then

nationally with Sam Lay. In 1994, Burgin formed his own band with Jimmy Burns on vocals and guitar and they soon scored a Monday residency at Smoke Daddy. In 1996, Delmark signed Jimmy Burns with Johnny's band and released Johnny's debut *Straight Out of Chicago* in 1997 followed by *Man's Temptation* in 1998. Shortly after that, Johnny toured Europe and North America.

In 2002, Burgin took a break from music to be a family man. He returned in 2009 with four CDs between 2010 and 2017. In 2016, he moved to the wine country near San Francisco. There, he worked with harp masters Andy Santana and Aki Kumar and guitarist, producer Kid Andersen and others. Johnny worked on *DeLay Does Chicago*, *Tail Dragger Live at Rooster's Lounge DVD*, *Howlin' at Greaseland: A Tribute to Howlin' Wolf* with Alabama Mike,

Tail Dragger and Terry Hanck.

Johnny's most recent solo CD, *Neoprene Fedora*, followed 2015's *Greetings from Greaseland* (Kid Andersen's studio). Rockin' Johnny has a live album in the works, and a new CD, *Dos Hombres Wanted*, with Spanish blues harp player Quique Gomez on VizzTone. In 2019, Johnny moved to Portland, and he plays the Salmon Bay Eagles for a very special show after a month-long tour of Japan and a show at the the Redwood Coast Music Festival in Eureka. Come on down and help give Johnny a warm Old Town Ballard welcome for his Salmon Bay Eagles debut, the home of live blues in Seattle on Thursdays for 29+ years. The Eagles is a private, membership club, guests or non-members can buy two-week memberships for \$5 at the bar.

Festival Preview: Spring Sunbanks

An exceptional line-up at an exceptional Washington blues festival May 16th -19th

By Leanne Trevalyan

Greetings music lovers of the Great Northwest! First the good news: Spring Sunbanks has a stellar line-up of tried and true favorites, national headliners, and of course, some first timers, too.

The bad news: This will be the only Sunbanks this year as there will not be a September event. Resort management has cut back to one festival per year and make it a great one! If you wanna get your Sunbanks fix on for 2019, May is the time!

The party kicks off Thursday night in the Cantina with dynamic singer songwriter Maddy Dullum on vocals and piano. The Twang Junkies, followed by Hillstomp round out this foot stompin', low down, hill country blues rockin' bash.

The Trevalyan Triangle and Billy Stoops

& the Dirt Angels open the mainstage on Friday with Americana-flavored originals. The Mike Elred Trio from Phoenix brings hot, rockin' Arizona blues to Sunbanks for the first time, and fresh off of his International Blues Challenge second place finish, Sammy Eubanks closes the night with his lean, mean four piece machine.

Saturday opens with Ruby Flambé making a long awaited return with her swinging ukulele driven music. One of the few true blue blues bands in our region, (say that three times fast) The T-Town Aces will dish up a healthy helping of blues on Saturday afternoon. Ben Rice from Portland will take the stage celebrating three Blues Music Awards nominations (possibly wins: we'll know May 9th) in the acoustic album, acoustic artist, and emerging artist album categories!

Among headlining acts, John Nemeth

will rock the festival on Saturday night, following Sunbanks favorite Hamilton Loomis and his funk-inspired originals. Southern California's The Rayford Brothers will *rockabilly* you into the midnight hour!

On Sunday, Patrick Tetreault & the Pride of the North Bank makes their festival debut with their acoustic Americana blues. Emily Burgess (former guitarist, 24th Street Wailers) graces the mainstage as a frontwoman for the first time. Another Sunbanks newcomer, Nakia and the Blues Grifters from Austin, Texas brings his soulful voice (he was a finalist on The Voice) for a rare Northwest appearance.

Sunbanks favorite Patti Allen closes the festival with Monster Road, featuring vocalist Susan Apple.

For schedule sunbanksfestival.com
Tickets and reservations 509-633-3786

Congratulations to the Winthrop R & B Festival!

Winthrop wins big at the Washington Festival & Events Association's 2019 Gala!

The award-winning, Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival was honored last month at the Washington Festivals and Events Association's (WFEA) Summit Awards gala in Bellevue, winning a stunning seven Gold Awards.

The Awards, given annually by the festival association, recognize outstanding work in marketing and communications. Entries were judged by professionals in their fields of radio, television, photography, website, development, promotions, graphics, advertising, public relations, marketing, social media and special event production.

Winthrop received Gold Awards for:

- Best Photo by photographer Peter Dervin
- Best Radio Ad (voiced by David Keefer of the Quake 102.1.
- Best Website (designed by Promolab)
- Best Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Best Social Media Ad Campaign (fueled by Project Bionic)
- Best T-Shirt Design
- Best Event Recap/Annual Report

"We had the highest quality of competitive entries in our Summit Awards program history," said WFEA Executive Director Bruce Skinner. "All organizations should be proud of the work they are doing for their festivals and events. Their efforts are making a difference for attendees and their community as well."

The Association provides professional and leadership development, and technical assistance state-wide for the festivals and events industry in Washington State.



Its membership includes all facets of the event production industry, ranging from chambers of commerce and community based non-profits and vendors to park departments and mega events like Seafair.

In attendance, Winthrop Music Association (WMA) President Rick Northcott, WMA Board Member Peter Dammann, ticket partner Amy Maxwell of Ticket Tomato Director Erika Olsen.

"We are proud to work with all our partners without whom this legacy event would not happen," said Winthrop festival Director Olsen. "They help make our festival a truly Golden Event! Kudos to all."

Celebrating its 32nd year, the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival is the longest running, most successful blues event in Washington State, and takes place in one of the region's most spectacular festival settings—the Methow Valley of the North Cascades.

A truly world-class event, the festival this past year received the coveted Keeping the Blues

Alive award for Best US Festival from the Memphis-based Blues Foundation, which lauded the event for its strong, long-time commitment to its community and for presenting the best of the blues.

This year's Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival will be held July 19-21, 2019.

Above (Left to Right)

Amy Maxwell of Ticket Tomato, Erika Olsen, Winthrop festival Director, Winthrop Music Association Board President Rick Northcott and Winthrop Music Association Board Member Peter Dammann.

(Photo Courtesy of Erika Olsen)

A Raucous Night in Store for the May Blues Bash

Brett "Bad Blood" Benton & TuN will rock the Blues Bash at Collectors Choice Restaurant

Brett "Bad Blood" Benton



Alabama-born and Southern-raised, Brett "Bad Blood" Benton has been obsessed with country blues ever since he was a child, listening to his parents' and grandparents' records at an early age. By his teens, he was playing behind a drum kit, and by his early 20's, was learning his way around slide guitar. In 2016, he left the South to perform his own brand of Delta and country-style blues around the country and the world. Currently in the Pacific Northwest, he has played many local, regional, and national festivals and a countless number of venues in just a few years' time, and most recently, he has signed with Seattle's own Knick Knack Records. His first studio release, *You Got to Pray*, is just out, and the CD will be available at the Blues Bash.

Benton has shared stages with his friend, Cedric Burnside, and with Walter Trout, the Selwyn Birchwood Band, Samantha

Fish and International Blues Challenge winners Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons. Benton followed in their footsteps, winning the regional spot and going to Memphis the next year to represent the Washington Blues Society in the International Blues Challenge. Known for his fierce rhythmic finger-picking and melodic slide guitar, as well as his booming voice, Brett's raw style is best heard paying homage to its roots. He's exciting to watch, "stompin' and hollerin'" solo with acoustic slide guitar or playing electric alongside a heavy, dynamic style of drums that really emphasizes what country blues is all about: the hypnotic groove that gets folks up and dancing! Both styles remain true to the nature of country blues, while adding some grit and weight. This music will keep you moving and grooving! More at brettbentonmusic.com.

TuN



This smokin' five-piece ensemble sizzles with soul and a rockin' blues-infused blend of originals and classics. Their

sound is mesmerizing, warm and polished. Composer, keyboardist, and vocalist Chris Cootsona founded the group and writes with classically-trained guitarist and vocalist Nick Fair. These Seattle natives welcomed Chicago-born Lauren Santi as the lead vocalist, adding fiery flare and a sophistication beyond her years. With Keith Moon-influenced, LA session-player Will Bagby on drums, and longtime Bay Area musician Bill DeHart on bass, the group comes together like a secret recipe where each stand-out ingredient complements the others. Originally scheduled to play back in February, when we had to cancel due to weather, TuN agreed to come back in the spring. We are so excited to feature this band whose music breathes new life into the funky sounds of the '60s and '70s. Check out their new single "Cicero" from their album now in production, at tuntheband.com, and come check them out in person on Tuesday, May 14.

The Washington Blues Society is a non-profit organization. The Blues Bash is a member meeting open to the public, every second Tuesday from 7-9:30 p.m. at Collector's Choice Restaurant in Snohomish.

Upper Left:

Brett "Bad Blood" Benton (Photo by Dave Corry)

Lower Middle: TuN

Bill Bagny, Bill DeHart, Lauren Santi, Nickolas Fair and Chriss Cootsona
(Photo by Kalina Cimone)



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Music on Main During Memorial Day Weekend!

Music on Main brings a special live music event to historic downtown Ritzville, Washington

Blues, Southern rock and country sounds are destined for Main Avenue in Historic Downtown Ritzville on Sunday, May 26, 2019. Free live entertainment is being made possible through the efforts of Brenda Owens and her H.E. Gritman Building nonprofit organization.

The new event is free to all ages and will include music, vendors and raffle drawings. Music on Main will coincide with the annual Ritzville Classics on Main car show hosted by the Ritzville Classic Car Club. The stage will be located on Washington Avenue adjacent to Main Avenue where the car show's participants have their vehicles on display.

Music begins at 12:05 PM with four Pacific Northwest bands gathering to liven up the Memorial Day weekend Spring Fest events in Ritzville. Sheri Roberts Greimes with JoMomma opens things. The Hankers take over at 1:45 PM. The Sara Brown Band turns up the heat at 3:30 PM. At 5:15 PM, Sammy Eubanks comes on board to take us out with a bang with special guest Peter Rivera (Rare Earth) joining him in his set!

Owens is combining her love of music with a passion for restoration of the H.E. Gritman Building, which she owns. The classic structure is located at the heart of Ritzville's Historic Downtown. While Owens resides in Montana, she has spent the past year implementing a plan to fully restore the two-story brick building constructed in 1902 by H. E. Gritman. A corner turret with conical roof and a corner tower room on the second story make this building a true icon.

Music has long been in Owens' veins. She currently helps coordinate the Big Sky Blues Festival in Noxon, MT. Knowing how popular the former Ritzville Blues, Brews & BBQs was during its 18-year run, Owens set out to bring music back to Main Avenue. Memorial Day Weekend is the perfect opportunity. It's the annual gathering for the Ritzville Alumni on Saturday. The weekend

features Art in the Park on Saturday and Sunday, Alumni Banquet on Saturday night, Classics on Main on Sunday and the Ritzville Fire Department Pancake Breakfast on Monday. And now, Music on Main!

For a first effort, Owens' has ensured that the music will be epic.

Sheri Roberts Greimes has a beautiful, powerful voice worthy of any blues stage. In fact, it has been said that Sheri "Can sing the blues like nobody's business." She will be joined by her band, JoMomma.

Earlier this year Sheri competed in the International Blues Challenge in the solo/duo category. Her powerful voice and bluesy, country rock sound has earned her many accolades. She has been nominated for the Washington Blues Society's 2019 Best Female Blues Vocalist and Best Solo/Duo Performance.

The Hankers deliver a strong mix of country, Southern rock and blues and they do so using a powerful combination created by a wicked fiddle player and a fiery, vivacious lead vocalist that has a sultry southern voice.

Front man Keith Niehenke uses his fiddle and bow to energize the stage. Julie Layne Niehenke turns that up a notch when she lets loose with her vocals. This band brings extraordinary vocals and powerhouse instrumental talent.

The Sara Brown Band, based in Kettle Falls, can take an audience's breath away. When you hear "Don't Mess with a Redhead from Stevens County," don't take the lyrics for granted. That tune can only be about Sara Brown. She packs powerhouse vocals in with a stylish, traffic-stopping stage presence. Her musical influences should provide a few clues. She pays homage to some legendary vocalists, listing Etta James, Billie Holiday and Beth Hart among her top inspirational favorites.

Rounding out the night is Sammy Eubanks,



Sheri Roberts-Greimes

and he and Ritzville have some serious history. Eubanks played there at least 10 times during the previous festival's run. He even anchored the Friday night kickoff parties at the fairgrounds.

Sunbanks Blues Festival coordinator Billy Stoops sums it up: "If you can look up 'cool' in the dictionary, you'll see this cat's picture."

Sammy's often referred to as "The Voice." He's won Best Male Vocalist 12 times and is a Hall of Fame member on the Inland Empire Blues Society, an organization he helped create.

He's spent a lifetime thrilling audiences and building a music legacy that has evolved into a national touring band. Earlier this year Sammy Eubanks & The Work'In Class represented the Washington Blues Society and advanced to the finals of the 35th International Blues Challenge and captured second overall out of a field of 260 Blues acts.

For information regarding accommodations visit: <https://www.ritzvillechamber.com/lodging>

To support the H.E. Gritman Building Nonprofit and the restoration project, contact Brenda Owens at h.e.gritman@gmail.com or (509) 850-7371.



Washington Blues Society Sets Local Competitions for 2019 International Blues Challenge

Washington Blues Society Contacts:

Tony Frederickson, President

(206) 612-6055

president@wabluessociety.org

Rick Bowen, Vice President

(425) 422-5062

vicepres@wabluessociety.org

The Washington Blues Society's local competitions for the 2020 International Blues Challenge in Memphis have been set! It's time for bands and solo/duo acts to make their plans to compete. One band and one solo/duo act will represent the Washington Blues Society (WBS) in Memphis at the world's largest gathering of blues musicians on January 28th through February 1st of 2020 on Memphis' fabled Beale Street.

We are working with the Inland Empire Blues Society (IEBS) to hold semi-finals across the state to make it easier for blues acts to participate. We will hold semi-final competitions on Monday, May 27th in Snohomish, WA at Collector's Choice Rest, on Sunday, June 2nd in Tacoma, WA at Airport Tavern, on Sunday, June 9th in Anacortes, WA at the Rock Fish Taproom, on Sunday, June 16th in Cashmere, WA at Club Crow, on Sunday, June 23rd in Vancouver, WA (TBA) and on Sunday, June 30th in Spokane, WA at Bridge Press Cellars. The finalists will compete on Sunday, August 11th in Everett, WA. If we receive more than 10 applicants for either event, our Board may select applicants via a lottery at the May 2019 Board meeting.

Each competition will follow the rules of the Blues Foundation. Each set will be limited to 25 minutes, and each competitor will be allowed one 15-minute set change. Any blues act that resides in WA, OR, ID, MT, BC or ALB, may enter, and the act must include at least one who is a member of the WBS. Membership can be established at IBC entry, using the membership form in the WBS Bluesletter or online at www.wabluessociety.org. Please note: Membership in CBA, IEBS or Idaho/Montana based Blues Society is accepted in place of the WBS membership requirement. The contest entry application may be downloaded from www.wabluessociety.org, or in the April and May edition of the WBS Bluesletter and must include the non-refundable entry fee, which pays for the backline and a PA system. Each winner will be required to perform at a minimum of two fundraisers in 2019 and one fundraiser in 2020 at no charge. Proceeds from these events and fees, will be deposited into a WBS fund to help defray expenses to get each winning act to and from Memphis, but we cannot guarantee an "all-expense paid" trip. Band entry fee is \$30; solo duo entry fee is \$15. Applications and entry fees must be received no later than Thursday, May 14th.

All proceeds will help with expenses for Memphis. The WBS will help winners in fundraising, but cannot guarantee that all expenses for Memphis will be covered. Judges will evaluate each act using the Blues Foundation scoring criteria (www.blues.org/ibc/scoring.php) and rules (www.blues.org/ibc/rules.php). Acts may not be affiliated the WBS Board or act upon application. IBC rules also prohibit any act from competing three consecutive years at the IBC (www.blues.org/ibc/rules.php). Application is an initial statement of interest and not a binding agreement between the applicant and the WBS. Make your plans to enter now! Applications and entry fees must be received no later than Thursday, May 14th.



WASHINGTON BLUES SOCIETY
2019 International Blues Competition (IBC) Contest
Two Categories: Bands (Three Piece and Larger) and Solo/Duo Acts
CONTESTANT APPLICATION

Please complete this application if you want to compete in the Washington Blues Society contest to send a band or a solo/duo act to the IBC in Memphis in January of 2020. We are working with Blues Societies across the state to hold semi-finals across the state to make it easier for blues acts to participate. We will hold semi-finals on: Monday, May 27th in Snohomish, WA at Collector's Choice Restaurant; Sunday, June 2nd in Tacoma, WA at the Airport Tavern; Sunday, June 9th in Anacortes, WA at the Rock Fish Taproom; Sunday, June 16th in Cashmere, WA at Club Crow; Sunday, June 23th in Vancouver, WA at TBA and Sunday, June 30th in Spokane, WA at Bridge Press Cellars. The finalists will compete Sunday, August 11th in Everett, WA. If we receive 10+ applicants for any event, our Board may select applicants via lottery at the May 2019 Board meeting. This form is an initial statement of interest, and not binding. Judges will evaluate acts using the Blues Foundation score sheet (www.blues.org/ibc/scoring.php).

LOCATION (CIRCLE ONE)

Snohomish (5/27)

Tacoma (6/2)

Anacortes (6/10)

Cashmere (6/16)

Vancouver (6/23)

Spokane (6/30)

Band or Solo Duo (Circle One)	
Contact	
Mailing Address	
Best Phone	
Email	
Signature	

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA, FEES, AND DEADLINE: Contestants must be a blues act, pay the non-refundable entry fee, reside in WA, OR, ID, MT, BC or ALB, and at least one member must belong to (or join) the WBS upon application. (Membership in the CBA, IEBS or Idaho/Montana based Blues Society will also meet Blues Society membership requirement) Entry fees go into a fund for winning Band and Solo/Duo to help with expenses for travel to Memphis, TN, but we cannot guarantee an "all-expenses paid" trip. Band entry fee is \$30; Solo/Duo entry fee is \$15. Applications and entry fees must be received no later than Thursday, May 14th by a WBS Board member or at:

Washington Blues Society
ATTN: President, IBC Entry
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Seattle, WA 98127



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Charlie Musselwhite 5/2-5/5



May 2019

The Spinners 4/25-4/28
Jackson HS Jazz Ensembles 4/29
The Delfonics feat. Greg Hill 4/30-5/1
Charlie Musselwhite 5/2-5/5
The Hot Sardines 5/7-5/8
Najee 5/9-5/12
15th Annual Seattle-Kobe Female
Jazz Vocalist Audition 5/13
Yellowjackets 5/14-5/15
Take 6 5/16-5/19
The Messenger Legacy: Art Blakey
Centennial Celebration 5/21-5/22
Ms. Lisa Fischer & Grant Batton 5/23-5/26
Ballard Jazz Bands & Vocal Jazz 5/28
Spyro Gyra 5/30-6/2
Edmonds Woodway High School
Jazz Band 6/3



The Delfonics feat. Greg Hill 4/30-5/1



Ms. Lisa Fischer & Grand Batton 5/23-26



The Yellowjackets 5/14-5/15



GRAPHICS → EDITOR@WABLUES.ORG