

This Bluespaper has the highest blessing  
by Father Guido Sarducci



# BLUESPAPER

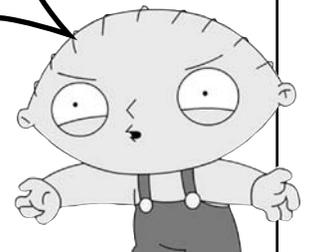
Issue 171

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

October 2008

## ...and the bands played on!

# New Bo fest<sup>2</sup> delivers BIG!



**MORE  
photos inside!**



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# Support *your local* Musicians

# Rick Cicalo

## 1954-2008

by Steve Gravelle, The Gazette

Eastern Iowa music fans were stunned by the sudden death of bassist Rick Cicalo might be surprised to learn he was a mayor, too. "We're going to miss him dearly," Washington, Iowa, City Council member Merle Hagie said last night. "Music and (being) mayor was his life."



Cicalo, 54, died Sunday at his home. Hagie said Cicalo had recently been diagnosed with cancer. "We found out about a week ago he was very sick," said Hagie.

Cicalo, who played bass with such Iowa notables as Bo Ramsey, Greg Brown, and Big Wooden Radio, was elected to his first term in November 2005.

"I thought he was doing an excellent job," said Hagie. "He was a young man, he was doing a very good job."

During his shortened tenure, Cicalo was an advocate for downtown improvements and the city's library. Cicalo was also a supporter of PAWS & More, Washington County's non-profit animal shelter.

After noticing it had fallen into disrepair, Cicalo launched an effort to refurbish the grave of Ola Babcock Miller, the Washington native who

began what became the Iowa State Patrol while she was the state's secretary of state in 1933. The gravesite was renewed, and a dedication held in August 2006.

"He was promoting Washington as much as humanly possible," said Hagie.

City Council member Sandra Johnson, the mayor pro tempore, will take over the mayor's post for the balance of Cicalo's term or until a special election is held, Hagie said.



Rick Cicalo on the bass at the Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame ceremonies.  
Photo by Bryce Loshman.

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The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

*Y'know, there's nothin' like tearing up a good club now and then.*  
—Jerry Lee Lewis

The Linn County Blues Society is a way cool, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Blues music in Eastern Iowa as well as to provide charitable contributions to other community organizations. LCBS is an Affiliated Organization in the Blues Foundation's international network. The BLUESPAPER is a monthly publication of the LCBS.  
Website: [lcbs.org](http://lcbs.org)

### LCBS Officers

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Merchandise - David Andrews

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Staff Writers - See bylines each issue  
Distribution - Andy Dergo, Bill Meeks  
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Program - Bob De Forest  
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### Membership

To learn more about the Linn County Blues Society or to join, see the membership form in this Bluespaper or the LCBS website. Your membership includes;

- Discount admissions to many local Blues activities.
- Monthly LCBS Bluespaper.
- Voting rights in the LCBS elections.
- Simply being way cool.

### Bluespaper Contact information

Send news, band or club live entertainment listing or advertising to: Evan Vulich, 1116 Daniels St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 or preferably e-mail at: [evulich@mchsi.com](mailto:evulich@mchsi.com).

### Bluespaper Ad Rates

\$15.00 - Business card size - 2" x 3.5"  
\$25.00 - Quarter page ad - 3.5" x 4.75"  
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**Submission Requirements-** All ads, photos or scanned images, either color or black/white, need to be 300ppi. Native Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, JPG, TIFF, EPS, PDF, BMP accepted. Ads created in Word may cause dementia. **Deadline for submissions is the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

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

# 2 locals inducted IBHOF

## Daddy-O & De Forest get the nod

KCCK.org



Dennis "Daddy-O" McMurrin



Bob De Forest

We would like to congratulate KCCK's Bob DeForest, who next week will be inducted into the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame. "Bobby D" is only the second radio personality to ever be so honored. Bob will be inducted in ceremonies next Sunday night at Blues on Grand in Des Moines. Joining Bob on the podium will be a couple of our other favorite bluesmen, Dennis McMurrin and Catfish Keith. If you'd like more information about the event or the IBHOF, go to bluesongrand.com.

*"When buying a used car, punch the buttons on the radio. If all the stations are rock and roll, there's a good chance the transmission is shot."*

*—Larry Lujack*

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Bob De Forest

References



### Taj Mahal – Maestro

Heads Up Records

Release Date – September 30, 2008

### Maestro

The dictionary says a maestro is: 1. an eminent composer, teacher, or conductor of music; 2. a title of respect (initial capital letter); 3, a master of any art. Taj Mahal's new CD lives up to these definitions, period. Lots of funky blues done with Taj's usual energy and guests Angelique Kidjo, Toumani Diabate, Ben Harper, Jack Johnson, Ziggy Marley, Los Lobos, New Orleans Social Club (Meters) and The Phantom Blues Band. Lots of styles covered from kora to reggae with some New Orleans in between. It's got a great vibe with lots of energy unlike a lot of "special guest" CD's. A shout out to Prairie High grad Darrell Leonard on trumpet. Taj has been around long enough to sit on his hands, but still shows that he has lots of game left.

*—John Heim (A.K.A. "Big Mo")*

*If you don't know the blues... there's no point in picking up the guitar and playing rock and roll or any other form of popular music.*

*— Keith Richards*

# 2nd Annual New Bohemia Festival

## beleaguered with multiple locations, still puts on great show!

article by Bill Graham - photos by Gary Gibson

First of all, Jim and I along with the entire New Bohemia Music and Arts Festival committee want to offer big, big thank you to all of the volunteers, the bands, the sponsors and the fans of live music. Their support allowed the Second Annual New Bohemia Music festival to entertain again this year though it was under less than ideal logistic conditions. With the cost of travel reaching an all time high throughout the country, music fans and musicians alike have been forced to limit going to some of their favorite musical venues throughout the state and surrounding states. This has made it difficult for many of us to see all of the great musicians and bands coming to the Midwest this year.

So, on August 29th, 30th and the 31st, New Bohemia Art and Music Festival presented nine stages, 60 bands and hundreds of musicians all in three cities. The music was complemented by fine art and a great selection of food served by local vendors. This year, because of the flood we had to branch out to different venues. We took the show on the road to Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Waterloo bands played Friday night in all three cities.

For the last two years festival promoters have worked hard to bring in new as well as veteran performing artists. We cover a wide range of musical genres and feature some of the finest musicians available. This year fans had a chance to experience music on any one of the stages or attend all of the events for one price. The dedicated fan could attend stages to see blues, acoustic, pop and rock over the three days bringing the festival experience to a whole new energy level.

The fans looking for good times, high-energy, and great blues hit pay-dirt at on the Linn County Blues Society stage. Matt Woods & the Thunderbolts performed at Bluesmore and proved they could enter-

tain a crowd so Evan Vulich booked them immediately for the Linn County Blues Society stage where they once again turned in an energetic performance. The Pumpers from Cedar Rapids, Johnny Kilowatt and the great Dave Zollo and guests kept the crowd going all afternoon. By the time the Dynafloes took the stage the sun was down, the lights were on and crowd was most appreciative of the solid afternoon and evening of blues.

In the same location the festival staged the acoustic stage; thanks to those that know this music best, Stars Guitars. Stars Guitars stage was a hit with those looking for something a different in their music; a little peace and quiet. The fans were presented with Castle Ridge, John Boller, Shawn Ster, Carol Montage, Terry McCauley, and Mike Belmon played a with truly an all star band of musicians from around the country including Pat Smith and Steve Armstrong. Mike Cox and long time favorite Gayla Drake Paul finished out the evening.

Fans of more progressive or alternative rock music enjoyed the Mission Creek



David Zollo with his band

night to an enthusiastic crowd. They have a unique sound for sure; kind of aggressive, tribal and different from anything you have heard. You will have the opportunity to see them on tour with Nine Inch Nails this fall.

Of course the price will be about three times higher than the ticket price for the whole New Bohemia Music festival.

Just having the chance to see Matt Grimm, guitarist songwriter of the unfortunately recently broken up band The Hang Dogs from New York, made my day. The man is a gifted song writer. Incorporating history, politics and storytelling with very good tunes, his music never disappoints. Matt has a new CD to be released soon with his band The Red Stain. Get it and find his other recordings or better yet catch them live. These guys rock! William Elliot Whitmore

the roots/blues singer song writer from southern Iowa played his banjo and guitar like he is straight up from the Mississippi Delta by of the Appalachian Mt. His often dark storytelling songs are first rate and distinctively Iowa. Murder by Death,



Dances With Scissiors Tribal Fusion entertains between sets

stages which scored with Baby Teeth, Poison Control Center and Brighton MA all up and coming bands touring behind their first major recordings. I predict they will all have a great future. Health, a band coming to the festival from California headlined Friday

a band that is getting a large following the more often they tour, closed the night to a very well received show.

Jason Zbornik and the fine people from Nexus entertainment made sure the younger music fans were happy with Newicked-dream, the Moment, I:scintilla and one of my favorites the Teddy Boys. Nexus staged an all day, all-age show Saturday and a show in Waterloo the night before, with bands we will be hearing more about in the future. Josh Lamore who has been in the band Feature Presentation played a solo set, sounding like Billy Bragg recording for Drive Thru Records. He is good and has the talent to go far.

Third Street Live/LMR Productions did what they have been doing for many years right down on Third St. This time 3rd StreetLive/LMR was located behind the Union bar on 16th Ave SW on an outdoor



Johnny Kilowatt

stage. They put together a show of hard rock and metal that pleased every one of their fans. Concrete Blanket and Black the Sun started the evening with covers of everything from Motley Crew to AC/DC. Next to take the stage was East 18, playing like an encyclopedia of modern rock with all of the covers and a few original songs. But the night belonged to INCH 75, a local favorite and I can see why. They have

**New Bo2** continued on page 7

# Gentleman Johnny Rawls

## enthralled Checkers crowd

article and photos by Bill Ray

**J**ohnny Rawls and his band performed at Checkers Sunday night, September 14th. A true gentleman and polished performer,

Johnny Rawls of Mississippi is always the crowd favorite when he plays at Checkers about twice a year.

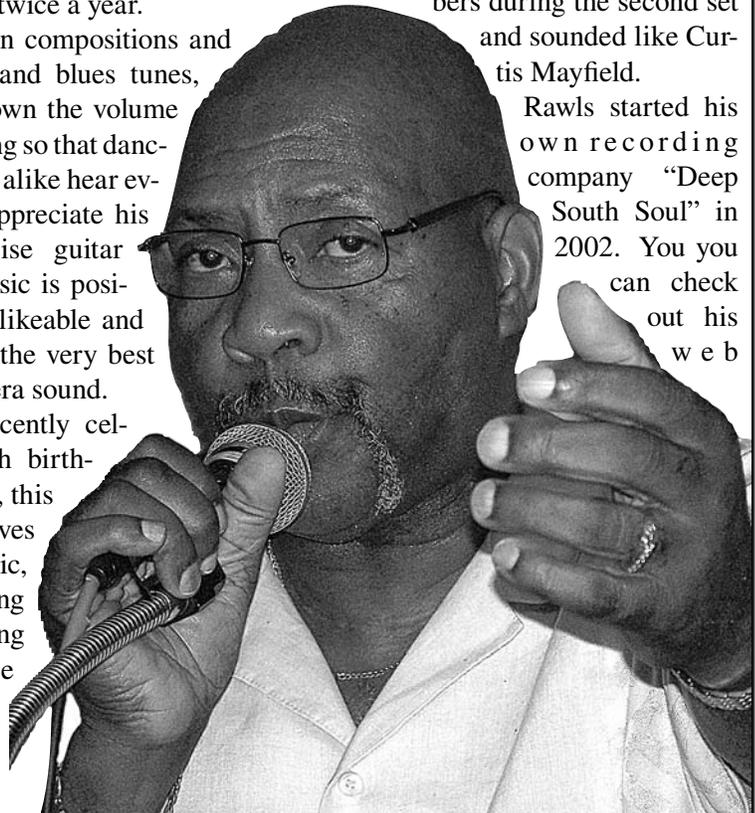
Playing his own compositions and covers of soul and blues tunes, Johnny turns down the volume in a lounge setting so that dancers and listeners alike hear every word and appreciate his crisp and precise guitar chords. His music is positive, affirming, likeable and reminds one of the very best of the Motown era sound.

Johnny just recently celebrated his 57th birthday. Simply put, this performer loves playing his music, and his easy-going way of interacting with the audience causes them to return the love.

On this tour,

Johnny was ably backed up by Ray Allen on bass and Allen Kirk on drums. They also provided excellent harmony vocals. A surprise treat was vocalist Gerome Durham (traveling with the band) who sang several numbers during the second set and sounded like Curtis Mayfield.

Rawls started his own recording company "Deep South Soul" in 2002. You can check out his website



*"Johnny Rawls is a classy performer and a true musical gentleman"*



site at: johnnyrawls-blues.com and listen to complete versions of some of his most recent songs. No question about it--Johnny Rawls is a classy performer and a true musical gentleman.



# Local Music



This publication of the Linn County Blues Society is dedicated to the sole support of LIVE music. It is guaranteed to be heart-healthy, low in fat, low in sodium and completely **Karaoke FREE! Accept no substitutes!**

## October Blues Calendar

Thur. 2	J.M. O'Malley's The Firehouse Checkers Tavern & Eatery	DDog & The BBits, 9-1 Mike & Rob Show, 9-1 Nick Stika, 7PM
Fri. 3	The Hub, Cedar Falls Checkers Tavern & Eatery	The Blue Band, 5:45-9PM, TGIF party Twist & Shout, 9PM
Sat. 4	Yacht Club Tabor Vineyard, Baldwin	Demolition Band w/ DJ. 10:30-1 Blue Band, 2-5:30PM
Sun. 5	Mahoney's Irish Pub	Daddy-O's Funky Posse w/DJ, 6-10PM
Wed. 8	Sammy's	McMurrin & Johnson, 9-1
Thur. 9	Bushwoods, CR Checkers Tavern & Eatery	Mike & Rob Show, 9-1 Karl Hudson, 7PM
Fri. 10	Volume Open Throttle, Shellsburg Checkers Tavern & Eatery	Billy Janey Trio w/ Dan Johnson, 9-1 Mike & Rob Show, 9-1 Johnny Kilowatt, 9PM
Sat. 11	Firehouse- JAM Pub Mitchell (Blue Collar) Mulligans, CR	Skeeter Lewis & Dan Johnson, 4-8PM McMurrin & Johnson, 9-12:30 Mike & Rob Show, 9-1
Sun. 12	Mahoney's Irish Pub Next Door- JAM	TBA Daddy-O McMurrin, 9PM
Thur. 16	J.M. O'Malley's Firehouse, CR Checkers Tavern & Eatery	4BOXOROCS, 9-1 Mike & Rob Show, 9-1 Bill Lester, 7PM
Fri. 17	Next Door Checkers Tavern & Eatery	4BOXOROCS, 9-1 Strangely Familiar, 9PM
Sat. 18	Checkers Tavern & Eatery Super Dave's, Walford	DNA, Benefit for Polk School, 3-6PM Mike & Rob Show, 9-1
Sun. 19	Mahoney's Irish Pub Next Door- JAM Checkers Tavern & Eatery	Fresh Heir, 6-10PM 4BOXOROCS, 9PM Bryan Lee Band, 6PM
Thur. 23	Checkers Tavern & Eatery	Chris Miller, 7PM
Fri. 24	Checkers Tavern & Eatery	The Tornadoes, 9-1
Sat. 25	Firehouse- JAM Chappy's Safari Lounge The Screaming Eagle Checkers Tavern & Eatery	Skeeter Lewis & Dan Johnson, 4-8PM 4BOXOROCS, 9-1 The Blue Band, Waterloo Flood Relief Jam, 3PM
Sun. 26	Mahoney's Irish Pub Next Door Checkers Tavern & Eatery	Public Property 4BOXOROCS, 9PM Levee Town, 6PM
Fri. 31	Ernie's, Halloween Party UI, Masonic hall Sundown, Williamsburg Checkers Tavern & Eatery	McMurrin & Johnson, 6PM-??? The Tornadoes, UI swing dance Electric Mule, 9-1 Trux Band, 9PM

**EVERY**

Sun.- Checkers Tavern-Blue Sunday-6PM  
Sun.- Mahoney's - Various artists-Never a Cover, 6pm  
Sun.- Charlie's, Coralville-Blues Jam  
Wed.- Checkers Tavern-Kevin BF Burt solo 6-9  
Wed.- Mahoney's-D-Licious Vinyl w/ Bobby D 8-12  
Thurs.-J.M.O'Malley's-T-Bone Giblin Jam Fest

The LCBS meets the 1st Monday of each month.  
See you at the Longbranch on October 6, 6:30PM  
for the LCBS Board & Member meeting.

Guests are welcome!

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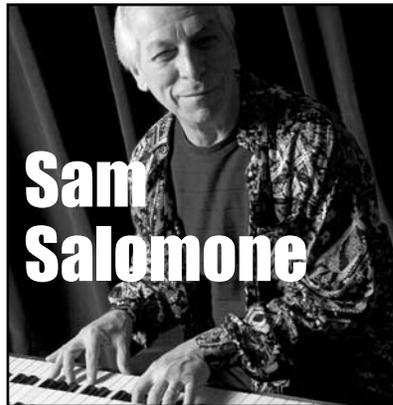
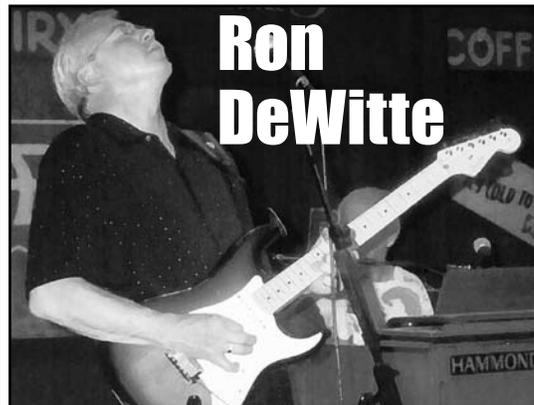
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guitarcenter.com



# Ron DeWitte at Liars



liarstheatre.com



**L** iars Theatre will present four stars from the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame playing together on October 10 -11 at the Campbell Steele Gallery in Marion. The group will be Ron DeWitte on guitar, Sam Salomone on B3, Dartanyan Brown on bass and Steve Hayes on drums. This is a fabulous line-up of guys who have spent many years in the blues business, defining the scene in the Midwest! They don't often get to play together, but Liars favorite Ron DeWitte got them together for this gig.

DeWitte, Brown and Salomone will all perform breakout solo features. Two nights only, in the intimate setting of the Campbell Steele Gallery - a chance to see these musicians work together and see them up-close. No smoking -- wine, beer and snacks will be served.



*New Bo2 continued from page 5*

the stage presence of a big name band and the chops to do it right. Mike Trousdale knows how to line up bands and stage an event this stage proved it.

3rd StreetLIVE/LMR also staged the combination New Bohemia/Freedom Festival show at Kirkwood on Sunday. With the whole Fun Zone area, arts, musical entertainment and food it was the perfect recipe for good family fun. The Fun Zone and children's stage took up two parking lots and the adult stage the lot. Appearing were Cedar Island Band, McMurrin and Johnson, Me and Rosie B., Public Property, and Life of Riley with Cedar Rapid's own Hollywood star Riley Smith. He is an actor with several major movies on his résumé, but he is quite a musical talent also.

All in all this was a super year of music the different locations seemed to make it difficult for some people to find but the people that made it to the shows were treated to an out standing array of talent. We hope to see everyone back on Third Street next year for the third annual New Bohemia Music and Arts festival.

See more at;  
newbohemiamusicfestival.com

## BLUE SUNDAY

### Checkers Tavern & Eatery

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*Tickets are \$25, available beginning September 1st by calling the Gallery: (319) 373-9211. Both shows begin at 8 pm. Doors will open at 7:15PM.*

*Open seating. The Gallery is located at 1064 7th Avenue on the downtown square in Marion. liarstheatre.com.*

## Linn County Blues Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Dues - \$20

Blues Booster/Corporate Sponsor - \$100

Check below if you would like to share your talents with the LCBS in one or more of these areas:

Membership     Bluespaper     Bluesmore     Merchandise     Public Relations     Other

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- 10-11 PM - Backstage Blues
- 11 PM to midnight - KCCK Jams
- Midnight Blues CD

**Saturday Blues -**

- 6-10 PM - Da Blues with Bobby D
- 10-11 PM - The Crawfish Circuit
- 11 PM -midnight - The Melting Pot
- Midnight Blues CD