

Best of the Quad Cities: Nightlife

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 14 February 2007 02:59

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Local blues band

1. Ellis Kell Band

2. Electric Leroy

3. Shane Johnson

Local country band

1. Dani Lynn Howe Band

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2. Jim the Mule

3. A Fifth of Country

Local jazz band

1. Josh Duffee & His Orchestra

1. The Tritones Jazz Ensemble

3. Craig Bentley Jazz Trio

Local rock band

1. Crossroads

2. Wicked Liz & the Bellyswirls

3. The Parish Festival

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Local metal/alternative band

1. Katalina
2. Spatterdash
3. The Parish Festival
3. The Post Mortems



Reader voters named Katalina the area's "best metal/alternative band." So which does Katalina consider *itself* - metal or alternative? "Well," says lead singer Terry Johnson with a chuckle, "we usually call it hard rock. A lot of people say that we're heavy enough that we would *be* metal, except that I sing instead of scream." So the band lets its fans do the screaming. After forming in 2004, Katalina - composed of Johnson, guitarists Billy Gardner and Josh Park, bassist Shannon Ford, and drummer Bryan West - now performs,

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according to Johnson, "30-something" gigs a year (they'll appear next at the Redstone Room on February 17), and seems to amass new admirers at each one. "We get a lot of familiar faces at shows," Johnson says, "but we also get a lot of *new* faces. It's a cool mix of people." While none of the band's members is a stranger to what he calls "

super

-heavy" rock (Ford, for instance, used to play in Civilized Anarchy), Johnson admits that he, for one, is content with the - ahem

-

alternative

. "The thing I like about the people who come to see us is that they're really enthusiastic and they're really into the music, but they're not into, like, smashing each other's skulls in. We get along with all those [heavy-metal] fans and we don't have a problem with any of them," he adds, "but sometimes it gets a little too intense for us. We're not 15 anymore, you know?" -

Mike Schulz

Local folk/acoustic performer

1. The Parish Festival

2. Quiet Bears

3. Fry Daddies

New local band

1. The Parish Festival

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2. Patio

3. Closer Than Now

Place to dance

1. RIBCO

2. Kai's

3. Carriage Haus

Sports bar

1. Rookies

2. Pluckers

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3. Sports Fans

Dive bar

1. The Drunken Monkey

2. Steve's Old-Time Tap

3. Bent River Brewing Company

3. Bleyart's Tap



The Drunken Monkey, located at 1838 Rockingham Road in Davenport, was named the *Reader's* "best dive bar" for 2006. So whaddaya wanna know? Is there graffiti on the walls? Dirt on the floor? Pee on the toilet seats? No, no, and - if I'm to believe my friend who used the "clean,

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functional, and pretty" ladies' room - no. The truth is, The Drunken Monkey doesn't seem like a stereotypical dive at all; owner Rob Egger calls his cozy, well-lit establishment "just a friendly little neighborhood bar," but it's even more appealing, and unique, than that description would suggest. Named after both a famed karate move and the fact that, as Egger says, "My mom always called

me

a drunken monkey," the DM is cleverly decorated with copies of vintage, simian-themed advertisements and posters, features an open-mic night every Thursday, and boasts terrific drink specials; the Banana Bomb (like a Jäger Bomb with a banana kick) is to-die-for delicious, and you can even get a pint of imported ale for \$2.50. Yet the kicker is the beer dispenser that ale

comes

from, what Egger calls a "one of a kind" tapper built specifically for the Drunken Monkey ... out of a Harley-Davidson motor. So, considering the venue's many charms, does Egger bristle when it's referred to as a "dive bar"? He shrugs and says, "It

is

a dive bar." Fair enough. And just the sort of place I'm happy to dive into. -

Mike Schulz

Happy hour

1. Boozies Bar & Grill

2. Putter's Pub & Grill

3. Hooters

Martini

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1. Copia

2. Governor's

3. Crave

Stiffest cocktails

1. Copia

2. Governor's

3. Boozies Bar & Grill

Bartender

1. Jon Horvath (RIBCO)

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2. Dave Phillips (Copia)

3. Russ Catton (Carlos O'Kellys)

3. Neil Vickers (Bent River)

3. Corey Chaffee (QC Zone)

Gay-lesbian hangout

1. Club Fusion

2. 811 Lockdown

3. Club Liquid

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