

What's Happenin': Summer 2012

Written by Mike Schulz
Tuesday, 22 May 2012 06:00

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Music

Ronnie Baker Brooks

The Redstone Room

Friday, May 25, 8 p.m.

Performing with his father and brother as the Brooks Family Blues Dynasty, Chicago-based singer/guitarist Ronnie Baker Brooks will be among the headliners at this year's Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, so I guess you could consider his May 25 Redstone Room concert something of a Quad Cities warm-up.

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Then again, with the All Music Guide describing Brooks as “a monster guitarist with an ample supply of technique and passion,” and the *Boston Herald* calling his most recent CD “ferocious and unrelenting,” I’m thinking the temperatures in the Davenport venue might be significantly higher than “warm.”

The son of Chicago-blues legend Lonnie Brooks and the sibling of famed blues artist Wayne Baker Brooks, Ronnie unofficially entered the family business at age nine, playing guitar on-stage at one of his dad’s concerts. A mere decade later, he was an actual member of Lonnie’s band, touring alongside the likes of Koko Taylor, Elvin Bishop, and Lil’ Ed Williams. And a decade after that, he released a debut album – 1998’s *Golddigger* – that was produced by someone who als
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knows a little something about music as a family enterprise: Janet Jackson.

Golddigger earned Brooks a Blues Music Award nomination for best new artist, and after releasing his equally acclaimed CDs *Take Me Witcha* and *The Touch*, he has emerged as one of our most soulful and accomplished musicians, with

BluesRevue.com

’s Eric Wrisley writing, “I’ve heard Ronnie Baker Brooks referred to as the new King of Chicago Blues, and when he’s on-stage, there’s little question why.” So expect Brooks’ soul- and hip-hop-inspired blues energy to be explosive regardless of whether he’s playing the Redstone Room or to a huge outdoor crowd; as he joked on MNBlues.com, “I’ll play for the grass.” I actually had a college friend who played for another

kind

of grass, but he’d probably prefer I didn’t mention his name in print.

Ronnie Baker Brooks appears locally with opener Bella Soul, and more information on the night is available by calling (563)326-1333 or visiting RiverMusicExperience.org .

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[Downtown Dayenport Music Festival](#) is taking place on May 25-26 at the Fall Creek Community Center. The festival features live music, food, and a chance to meet local artists. [DowntownDayenport.com](#)



[The City of Danbury](#) is hosting a series of events to celebrate the city's 150th anniversary. The events include a parade, a concert, and a fireworks display. [CityofDanbury.com](#)



[The Danbury Chamber of Commerce](#) is hosting a series of events to celebrate the city's 150th anniversary. The events include a parade, a concert, and a fireworks display. [DanburyChamber.com](#)



[The Danbury Memorial Day Festival](#) is being held on Sunday, June 10. The festival features live music, food, and a parade. [DanburyMemorialDay.com](#)



[The Danbury Music Festival](#) is being held on Sunday, June 10. The festival features live music, food, and a parade. [DanburyMusicFestival.com](#)



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