

INSIDE BLUES

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The Finest Blues Rag in the Inland Empire

DEAD ZONE COMES TO LIFE

by John Millner

Faithful readers of *Inside Blues* might recall that, on more than one occasion, I have referred to the Wenatchee area as "The Blues Dead Zone" of Washington State. Well, I'm pleased to report that, thanks to Robert Sandidge of R.L.S. Entertainment and Dave Kiefer from KZPH - 106.7 FM, the Dead Zone is showing signs of life.

Robert has begun to book some excellent Northwest blues acts into the Wenatchee Convention Center. The first show, in late November was a huge success. The recently rejuvenated King Biscuit provided an amazing opening set. After a short break, the evenings headliner, Swamp Mama Johnson took the stage and proceeded to burn the place down!

Robert's next show promises to be a real barnburner. Appearing at the convention center on Saturday, February 7th, will be three time "Empire Award" winners for "Best Blues Band", Too Slim & the Taildragers. This would be a great opportunity to snag a copy of their impressive new CD, "Blues For EB." Opening the show will be one of my favorites, Etouffee, playing their unique swamp rock style of blues. These shows are held in the lower level of the Wenatchee Convention Center and feature a good sized dance floor, full service bars, and munchies. Robert is busy putting together a package that includes tickets to the show and a room at the West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. R.L.S. plans to have shows every six weeks or so and eventually feature some dynamite national blues talent. For additional information, call R.L.S. Entertainment at (509)662-6872.

