

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Celebrating a Decade of Keeping the Blues Alive"

The Official Monthly  
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*We are a nonprofit organization  
whose purpose is to promote,  
preserve, and advance the  
culture and tradition of Blues  
music as an art form.*



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# The Bluesletter

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## THE BLUES DEAD ZONE IS COMING TO LIFE

by John Millner

Faithful readers of "The Bluesletter" might recall that, in the past, 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 Sandige 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 outstanding 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 excellent opening set and after a short break, the evening's headliner, Swamp Mama Johnson, took the stage and proceeded to burn the place down!

Robert's next show promises to be an exciting night of Blues. Appearing at the convention center on Saturday, Feb. 7th will be three-time "Empire Award" winners for Best Blues Band, Too Slim and the Taildraggers. This would be a great opportunity to pick up a copy of their impressive new CD, "Blues For Eb". This band also won a "BB Award" in the same category a couple of years ago. Opening the show will be one of my favorite bands, 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 WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Preliminary plans are for shows every six weeks or so and to eventually feature some dynamite national blues talent. For additional information, call R.L.S. Entertainment at (509-662-6872) Ad on page 10.



## The Blues are alive in Wenatchee!!!

R.L.S Entertainment Enterprises is currently planning to have between 3 to 5 concerts/dances every 8 to 10 weeks in Wenatchee during 1998. They are also entertaining the idea of Wenatchee's own Blues Festival. The first on November 21, 1997 with Swamp Mama Johnson and the King Biscuit Blues Band was a sell out with the final count ranging around 650 to 700 people. Knowing from our past experiences helping with the Don Lanphere Jazz Festivals and various other functions, the Greater Wenatchee Valley and North Central Washington as a whole has a reputation for being a hard sell. With this in mind, R.L.S. started advertising this first show 8 weeks out with the help of radios finest program director, Dave Keefer of Rock 106.7 and Killer Kolar - Big Prints for the banners and paper ads we were able to strike one for the Blues with a successful first show. Our goal was simple; let North Central Wash. and Wenatchee Valley know that the Blues is Back... We felt that it was necessary to also establish to those that attended that all these up and coming shows will have quality performers, more than adequate lighting and P.A. production and enough staff to insure a good time to be had by all.

The next show is scheduled for February 7th of 1998 at the Wenatchee Convention Center Grand Ball Room. The Etouffee Band will open the show with Too Slim And the Taildraggers wrapping it up. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 on the day of the show. Doors will open at 7pm with the music starting at 8pm. You must be 21 to attend. The Wenatchee Convention Center is connected to the WestCoast Wenatchee Hotel and for those who may be traveling we have arranged for a free shuttle to pick you up at the train or airport. Call us at (509) 662-MUSC (6872) for more information. Check out the ad on page 10 for room and ticket combination special.