

ANTHONY GOMES, CODE BLUE/MUDBONE AND RICK HILL FEATURED AT FLATLAND BLUES FEST

The **Anthony Gomes Band** is slated to perform an early evening set at Russell's Flatland Blues Fest, Saturday, June 4th.

Since winning Buddy Guy's Legends 1998 "Best Unsigned Blues Band" competition, the Anthony Gomes band has been sharing the stage with many national blues legends. and Downbeat Magazine refers to them as "future legends." The band includes guitarist Dan "King" Kahn, drummer Brian "BJ" Jones, and bassist Slammin' Sam Green.

Anthony Gomes, now based in Nashville, was born and raised in Canada and after moving to Chicago, fused his influences into something fresh, exciting and unique. He draws from Soul, Gospel, Rock, and R & B, and blends it together with blues leaving his imprint on American Roots music in the process.

Gomes' website information says "Gomes struts and growls like a preacher on Sunday, and plays guitar in a manner that makes one wonder if he met the devil at the crossroads." His first recording was a mix of blues-rock. In 2000, he released a predominantly acoustic blues CD favoring heavy gospel and country blues accents. His third CD, *Unity*, is a gathering of the musical impressions he holds in high esteem.

The Des Moines register says: "Young and Canadian are two things that aren't immediately associated with the blues, but Anthony Gomes proves that music can transcend race, age and international borders. His lively R&B infused guitar makes Gomes accessible to all kinds of music fans."

Hays blues band "**Code Blue**" will perform Saturday afternoon, starting off as their acoustic persona "**Mudbone**". "Mudbone" and "Code Blue" consist of lead vocalist John Pennington, Mike Ferguson on guitar and vocals, Tom Green, guitar and vocals, and Mike Ward on bass. When "Mudbone" becomes "Code Blue", Pennington adds drums and Ferguson the keyboard and the electrification creates a different sound and repertoire. "Code Blue" has been in existence for 20 years. "Mudbone" evolved about two years ago as a way to play different venues like the Nicodemus Blues Heritage Festival. The name Mudbone comes from a Richard Pryor character of that name. The band is comfortable together, enjoys what they do in both personas, and will be playing traditional and original blues at the Flatland Blues Festival.

A newcomer to the festival this year is **Rick Hill**. Hill is originally from Hutchinson where he grew up as one of 14 children in a musical household. But the Midwestern town couldn't hold him, and his musical career took him to LA and Hollywood where he did session work, which eventually led to a recording contract and touring with Stephen Stills, POCO, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Buddy Miles. Hill's music has a very distinctive tinge of rural and southern blue's and folk. He'll be doing a solo set at the festival and then joining Code Blue.

The Flatland Blues Festival also includes performances by Ray Smith, Dan Bliss, Peter Madcat Ruth, The Carey Bell Band, Kelley Hunt and Back Porch Mary. The festival begins at 11:00 on Saturday, June 4th at the County Fair Grasslands and Memorial Park in Russell. Opening acts include Linus Sarver, Dave Kuehn, and Brian Curran.

Advance tickets for the festival are available for \$15.00 at the Deines Cultural Center, Russell Main Street office, U-S-A Express and Klema Apple Market in Russell; and G-B Records and Doerfler's Harley Davidson in Hays; and at Salina Harley Davidson and House of Sight and Sound in Salina.

Sponsors of the Flatland Blues Festival include Sprint, US Energy Partners, Russell Vet Service, KRSL-KCAY Radio, United National Bank, Russell County News, and Holland and Holland.