

Local artist finding success through music

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As John Watt and his band make their name known, one thing they will need to invest in is a couple sets of new tires.

Not even a month off their Texas Tour, Watt is already talking about making a return trip to the Lone Star State later this year, and making additional stops along the way.

But first, his band has a CD release party to attend. The event will kick off at 9 p.m. Saturday, at the Inn Between Lounge at 2700 Second Ave. The band will also play from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Though the CD, "Higher," was released March 17, the band was unable to promote it at the time because it came out the day they left for Texas.

"As far as Council Bluffs is concerned, this is a brand-new release, even though it's been out for a little bit," Watts said.

As for the group's recent trek down south, Watt said there was something in his heart that kept telling him to mess with Texas and take the band there. "And damned if we weren't supposed to go," he said. "We got hooked up with a promoter while in Austin,



File photo/Ben DeVries

Local musician John Watt and his band recently returned from a successful tour in Texas. Watt is making plans to return to the Lone Star State for further performances.

it's been great."

The Texas Tour ran from March 17-30, and the band played at the South By Southwest musical convention in Austin, Laredo, and Corpus Christi.

Watt is known for overcoming

a disability by discovering his musical ability. Blind for more than 20 years, he lost his sight after attempting to take his life at the age of 18.

"Without having lost my sight, I probably would never have

picked up a guitar," Watt said in a previous article in The Daily Nonpareil.

In addition to playing a guitar, Watt taught himself to play the keyboards, piano, and harmonica. His music grew into a career, and

for the first 10 years, he worked as a solo artist.

As his experience grew, so did his scope of what he did. He joined a local band, Private Hoserod, and formed The John Watt Band last year.

Watt had to explain the premise behind Private Hoserod, as he's encountered people who thought the name had a sexual connotation.

Instead, the name came from band member Dan Hosford's experience in the military, when his drill instructor was handing out dog tags.

Hosford's was misspelled, much to his dismay. "He (the drill instructor) yelled out, 'where the hell is Private Hoserod?,' and that's where the name came from."

In 2004, Watt released "Big Studio Fears," and explained how he got the name.

"It came from recording in a studio in Omaha," he said. "However much time I spent in that studio was how much I had to pay for it. I kept thinking, 'this big studio is really costing you,' and that's how the name came about."

To do away with his big studio fears, Watt opted to invest in building a recording studio in his

home. "It meant I was free from having to watch the clock," he said.

On "Higher," Watt said it blends more of various styles, such as country and blues, and yet doesn't conform to any of them.

"I'm still trying to figure out who I am as an artist," he said.

As Watt continues to discover his musical talent, he and his band mates are planning to head back to Texas in September for another tour. There will be some additional stops, probably in Oklahoma City, Wichita, and others, he said.

Watt is also looking for more distribution avenues. Currently, Homer's is the only company that carries his music.

Watt said another CD will be released next spring. Until then, he'll continue to do what he does best — make music.

"We're just a bar band that promotes its own music as well," he said.

His Web site, www.johnwatt.com is currently undergoing renovation. For more information on Watt, go to www.privatehoserod.com and click on his name.

For booking or album ordering information, call Derby Records at (712) 322-5000.