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**MEET
THE BANDS**

**John Watt finds
'big prize' in
playing music**

Iowa musician's love of legendary rockers inspires a far-reaching repertoire poised to excite new audiences.

By Michael A. Brothers
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Songwriting seems to happen all at once for John Watt. The Council Bluffs, Iowa-based singer and multi-instrumentalist just lets things come as he writes.

"Usually what happens is I'll just be strumming a few chords and that establishes a mood," Watt says. "And the melody and the lyrics kind of come from there. It really just happens all simultaneously."

Watt and his band are making the trek here this weekend to play at Just One More in Republic tonight and the Daily Pub in Springfield on Saturday.

His original songs have a strong Lennon-and-McCartney influence mixed with an undercurrent of Midwest twang and a dose of blues.

His penchant for a good melody, Watt says, comes from listening to a lot of Beatles, Pink Floyd and other artists from the heyday of classic rock.

Watt has a versatile catalog of tunes that he is trying to get out in front of more people as he begins to expand his base beyond Iowa.

"I've got such a huge output of material that I think I'm going to put out a rock, a blues and a country (CD) all on the same date and see what happens with it," he says.

Bill Daily, owner of the Daily Pub, says he likes to keep his place clean, and make sure the music isn't overwhelmingly loud "so that it doesn't run people off."

Watt, who began playing music in his 20s, says this is now a full-time endeavor for him.

"Music is definitely the big prize, the ultimate goal."



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John Watt and his band are breaking out from Iowa roots.

Want to go? The John Watt Band plays at 9 p.m. today at Just One More, U.S. 60 in Republic, 882-2294; and at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Daily Pub, 1906 E. Meadowmere St., 862-9911. No cover charge.