



## Press Releases

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### **BLUES LEGENDS FREDDIE HUGHES, BETTIE MAE FIKES, MIKE WILHELM AND FRANKIE LEE TO HEADLINE KNTI-FM 99.5 – BLUE WING BLUES FESTIVAL, JULY 18-21**

**UPPER LAKE, CA**, May 15, 2007 – Freddie Hughes, Bettie Mae Fikes, Mike Wilhelm and Frankie Lee will be featured vocalists during four evenings of world-class blues music in the open air garden setting of the Tallman Hotel and Blue Wing Saloon in Upper Lake, CA from Wednesday, July 18 through Saturday, July 21. The show, co-sponsored by local radio station KNTI-FM 99.5, starts each evening at 5:30 with a set from the great finger-style, steel string blues guitarist **Barry “Big B” Brenner**, followed by the headliner of the evening. The Blue Wing Saloon will be serving a tasty barbeque dinner with the show. The cost for the show and dinner is \$25.

The Festival opens on July 18 with **Freddie Hughes** launching his new CD on the BluesExpress label. Born and raised in Berkeley, Freddie has performed world-wide since his first hit single in 1970 and has appeared with such greats as Aretha Franklin, James Brown, and Etta James. Freddie will be backed by the **Rich Kirch** Blues Band. A Chicago native, Rich moved to the Bay Area in 1988 at the invitation of the late, great John Lee Hooker and played with Hooker on tours around the world for 13 years. He and his band have backed Freddie Hughes, Kathi McDonald and many others in recording sessions over the years.

Although **Bettie Mae Fikes** now lives in Los Angeles, she is well known in Lake County from her regular appearances at the Konocti Blues Café. Born in Selma, Alabama, Bettie was active in the Civil Rights Movement, beginning her singing career with the SNCC Freedom Singers and performing at the 1964 Democratic Party convention in Atlantic City and again at the 40th anniversary convention in 2004. She has graced the stages of Carnegie Hall, Newport Jazz Festival, the Library of Congress, and numerous blues festivals. She will be backed by a band organized by Nice resident **Robert Watson**, who played lead guitar with James Brown until Brown's death last year.

Friday evening belongs to two popular groups that have appeared regularly at the Blue Wing Saloon/Café during its weekly “Monday Blues” sessions. The Lake Blues All-Stars feature guitarist Jim Williams, bass player Jon Hopkins, and **Mike Wilhelm**, who is featured on guitar and vocals. Known for his adroit finger picking and bottomless baritone, Mike has a long and varied music history stretching from the Summer of Love in San Francisco to the Blue Wing Blues Festival 40 years later. Friday will conclude with a high-energy set from Twice as Good, featuring the popular father and son duo of **Rich and Paul Steward**.

The grand finale of the Festival on Saturday will feature BluesExpress recording artist **Frankie Lee**, whose appearance in Lake County is being co-sponsored by ReMax Realty. From his humble beginnings in rural Texas, Frankie moved from gospel music in the Baptist Church to his life-long love affair with the blues. His career took off in the early 1960s when he was invited to join the Ike & Tina Turner Review as a featured vocalist in their traveling road show. Since then, Frankie and his band have traveled world-wide and most recently released a popular CD called “Here I Go Again.”

The tastefully restored 17 room **Tallman Hotel** in Upper Lake was featured in both the April and May 2007 issues of *Sunset Magazine*. The adjoining [Blue Wing Saloon Café](#) serves quality comfort food with an array of local brews and wines. More information on the artists scheduled to perform at the Festival can be found on the following web sites:

- [Barry Brenner](#)
- [Freddie Hughes](#)
- [Rich Kirch](#)
- [Bettie Mae Fikes](#)
- [Mike Wilhelm](#)
- [Rich & Paul Steward](#)
- [Frankie Lee](#)

Press inquiries should be directed to Kim Sudhalter, Urban Legend PR, 213.258.2220, [kim@urbanlegendpr.com](mailto:kim@urbanlegendpr.com).

The Festival organizer is Hotel and Saloon owner Bernie Butcher, 415.921.7571, [bb@tallmanhotel.com](mailto:bb@tallmanhotel.com).

Alan Mathews of co-sponsor KNTI can be reached at 707.263.6113, [amathews@bicoastalmedia.com](mailto:amathews@bicoastalmedia.com).

Dan Bacon of the BluesExpress recording label can be reached at 415.864.0907, [bacondr@aol.com](mailto:bacondr@aol.com).

The Tallman Hotel and Blue Wing Saloon are managed by Huntington Beach, CA-based Broughton Hospitality Group. Founded by Larry Broughton in January 2001, BHG is an innovative full-service hospitality management, consulting and development organization. BHG has been named among the top 100 hospitality management companies in the USA by industry publications. Larry Broughton was recently awarded Ernst & Young’s prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2006. BHG operates properties in Santa Monica, Orange County, Palm Desert, Puerto Vallarta, Santa Barbara, Solvang and Lake County, CA. For more information, visit [www.BroughtonHospitality.com](http://www.BroughtonHospitality.com).