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Bands will share thoughts on local music scene

By **Adam Rodewald**

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Editor's note: The following story is the first in a series of six on Marshfield's music scene as told through the eyes of a young, solo musician and an old-time variety band. Below is an overview of who they are.

The BackTrax Band

Members:

Wayne Jellish, 57 - bass, vocals

Don Kerper, 53 - guitar, vocals

Aaron Jellish, 31 - guitar, vocals

Donnie Keiffer, 70 - keyboard, saxophone, vocals

Al Duerr, 54 - drums, vocals

The scoop:

The eclectic group known as the BackTrax Band has entertained Marshfield for more than 20 years with an arsenal of songs ranging from old-time rock 'n' roll to country, blues and polka.

Though age and experience have softened their drive to hit the big time, music lives on in their souls, branding them as a staple band in the Marshfield music scene.

"I think one of the keys to this band is we've been playing for so long in this area with all the same members," said Wayne Jellish, one of the longest-standing members. "We get along together though everyone is very different."

It's that difference which brings such a wide spectrum of music and personality to their performances, which consist mostly of parties, weddings and bars, he said

The bands' mission is to provide memorable



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Members of the BackTrax Band perform at a wedding dance at the Eagles Club in Marshfield. They are: Wayne Jellish, left, Donnie Keiffer, Aaron Jellish, Al Duerr and Don Kerper. *Dan Young/Marshfield News-Herald*

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More information on the web

[i](#) Link to live recordings of Elijah Blair and BackTrax band

Coming tomorrow

Elijah Blair and the BackTrax Band discuss what happens behind the scenes at one of their concerts.



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Elijah Blair is a musician from Marshfield. *Contributed photo*

entertainment by playing music responsibly, and most of all, having fun, said guitar player Don Kerper.

Elijah Blair

Solo musician:

Elijah Blair, 25 - guitar, vocals

The scoop:

As a young, up-and-coming musician, Blair offers a flavor of brooding and powerful guitar rhythms that one might compare to a conglomeration of Bob Dylan, Damien Rice and Elliot Smith.

Blair grew up with classics from Led Zeppelin, The Doors and Jimi Hendrix, but he gravitated towards his defining acoustic rock and folksy sound as he grew older.

"It's easiest for me to write if ... I have a lot of things on my mind," he said. "I use it as my therapy, song writing. It takes a weight off your shoulders."

Blair has been playing shows throughout central Wisconsin for just over one year now and has opened for a number of nationally touring artists including Gus Black and Steve Reynolds at the Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts.

He is currently working towards recording a professional demo to help book larger gigs and would like to take his show on the road, he said.