

Gettysburg native brings musical group to local audiences

BY ADAM MICHAEL
Times Sports Writer

It's been more than two years since the Gettysburg native musician Trevor Jones joined the group Molehill, a band stationed out of Chicago, Ill.

The band is coming to the east coast for another tour, and for the first time they will be playing less than an hour outside of Jones' home town.

The concert will include a few other local artists, as Booker Lee and the County Fair will also perform at the 9 p.m., Thursday, concert at Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC) located at 268 Herr Street in Harrisburg. The cover is \$5 at the door and only patrons 21 and older will be permitted.

Once a new recruit to the band, Jones is now the second most seasoned regular as he's accompanied Molehill's lead singer and guitarist, Peter Manhart, while picking up a new talented drummer in Devin Staples and former 56 Hope Road keyboardist Tim Reid Jr. Maggie Weber also assists with vocals.

"Our band has really solid musicianship; you're not going to go and think you're listening to a college jam band where guys just get together and think it's cool to play," Jones said. "These are all serious players in here that are serious about their craft, writing good, cohesive songs. I truly think there's something there for everybody."

With the band still working its way to prominence, Jones said it was important to play in areas where members of the band know people. He said Molehill is looking forward to forming an early relationship with HMAC, which is putting the finishing touches on a restoration project.

"It has tons of local paintings and it's the coolest room," Jones said. "It's a full bar and everything, most people just come in for happy hour. They have a very cool sound system, great lights. It's the real deal."

Though Molehill's current members have only played together consistently since Reid Jr. joined the band in late Nov., Jones said they've learned to react to one another's styles and nuances. The sound continues to change subtly as musicians come and go, but Jones believes they're honing in on their sound. He believes the current ensemble is the strongest unit yet.

"We definitely have upgraded as a whole as far as the musical components, but it's even more important than that," he said. "I know players that are technically better than guys in my group or than I do, but if you need to know how to be cohesive and put together a good song, a lot of times that means taking your ego out of it."

Just what that sound is, though, the band still has yet to decide.

The quickest definition of the band's music is rock and roll, mixed with hints of blues and pop rock. The band has been compared to Sublime and Cake, among others, but Jones said the best way he can describe it is eclectic and accessible.

"No one's going to be sitting there like, 'Oh God, I'm at a screamo concert or something,'" he said.

Molehill released its debut album "Rock & Mole" late in 2007. A year later, Jones said he took a more hands-on approach, deciding to help Manhart with the booking and marketing responsibilities. With Jones closer to the project, the band has expanded its following, as he and Manhart are able to divide the work load. In the last year, Molehill's Myspace hits have doubled that of the previous four years combined.

Jones said they're also posting their work at the web site www.purevolume.com which he believes has a bigger teenage following. It also has a cleaner setup with less spam than the fading social networking giant.

In some ways, hearing back from teenagers fans is as rewarding as anything the band experiences.

"Coming up when you're young, everybody knows the best music and when you figure it out, you want to tell everybody," Jones said.

The band made use of YouTube, posting three high-definition capable videos at www.youtube.com/enterthemolehill. Jones suggested the site for potential concert-goers looking for a sample of what they can expect tonight.

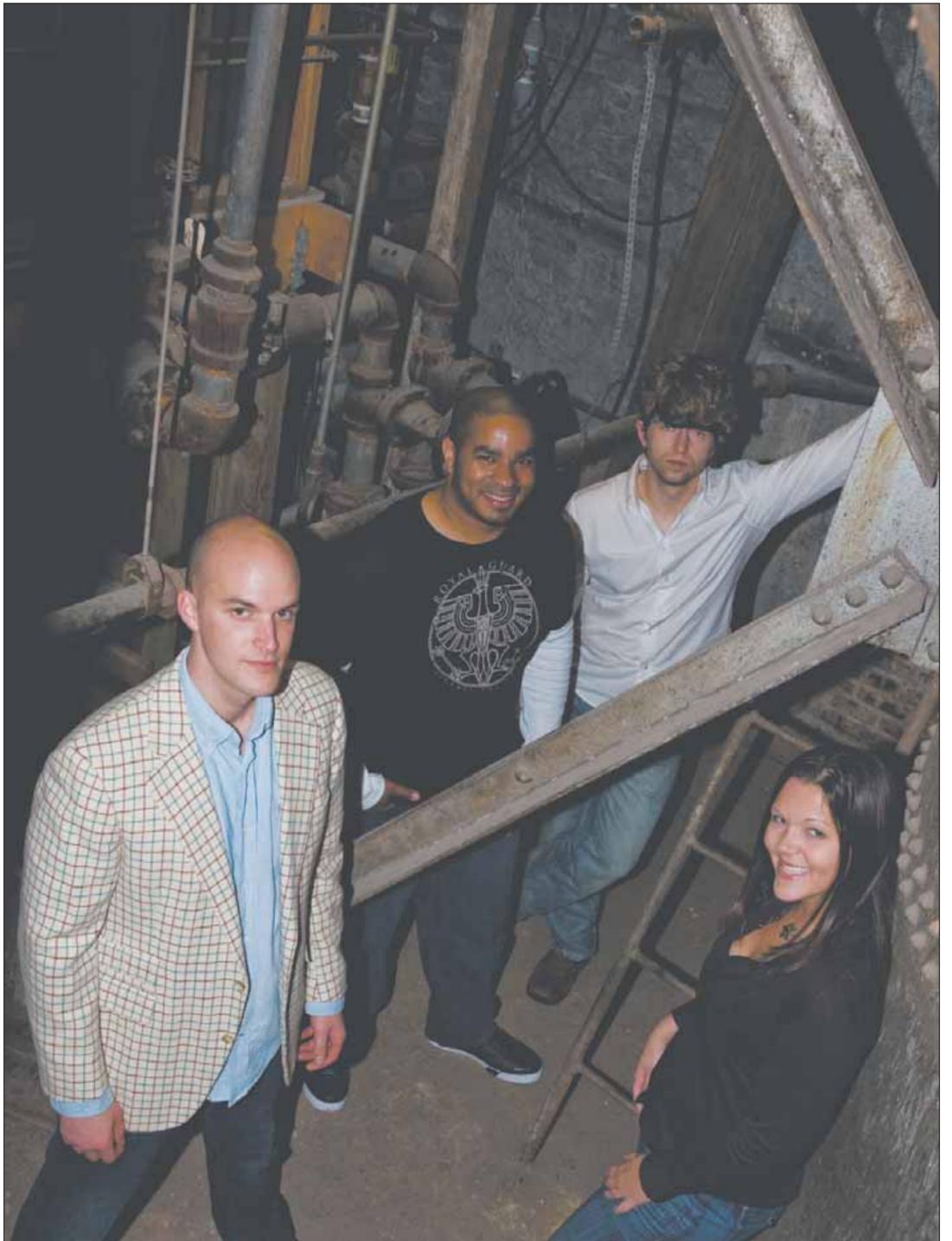
Molehill's most recent success came recently when the band members were informed that one of their tracks, "On the Wall" will be released on the popular video game "Rock Band" network online.

Jones said the band nearly has enough material to record another album. They continue to search for the right producer to help them complete the package.

"The quality needs to continue to move up," he said. "We have great musicians on board now."

"You want a producer who really likes your stuff. When you're done with the record, you want the producer to be as proud of it as you and you want them to really want their name on it."

A Gettysburg High School graduate, Jones performed in various orchestra and jazz band arrangements through out his high school career before moving on to West Virginia University where he majored in music education. Last summer,



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COMING HOME – Molehill, a rock and roll band out of Chicago, is set to take the stage tonight at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center. Gettysburg native Trevor Jones, far left, has been with the band for about two years and is excited to bring the group to local audiences. Molehill will be joined by local favorites Booker Lee and the County Fair. The concert starts at 8 p.m and is open to those 21 and older.

Jones finished graduate classes at DePaul University and has turned his focus to his band, as well as educating middle and high school students in classical bass. Jones still takes time to play freelance for various orchestras and is still pursuing a career in the classical scene as well as playing for Molehill.

"You come up playing classical music your whole life and

you're always playing somebody else's music," he said. "I still really like that. There aren't many things more satisfying than playing a Beethoven or Brahms symphony. But when you do something and build it yourself, and people dig it, it's a great feeling. It's just a little different than playing for an organization."

Though it's the first time that

Molehill will play with Booker Lee and the County Fair, the concert will act as a reunion of sorts. In middle school, Jones played with Booker Lee frontman Josh Fidler and bassist Dan Fidler. The band also includes locals Dan Gallagher and Jack Books.

"The only other time I played with members of Booker Lee was when I was in seventh

grade," Jones said. "The first time [we] played, I think we played CCR Down on the Corner. Fun fact, I guess."

On Feb. 19 Molehill returns to Harrisburg at The Appalachian Brewing Company to play in the Millenium Music Conference based out of Harrisburg. That performance will begin at 9:30 p.m.

2009 photo contest winners selected

The Upper Adams Jaycees announce the winners of the 2009 National Apple Harvest Festival's Photo Contest. The 2009 contest had 153 entries.

The Grand Prize winner is William J. Dupuis of Chambersburg with a photo of a bright red apple falling into water.

In Division I, first prize went to Patricia Starry of Shippensburg; second prize to Harry Brown of Palmerton; and honorable mention to Patricia Starry and Marsha A. Tuckey of Gardners.

In Division II, first prize went to Karen McMillan of Duncannon; second prize to Roy R. Russell of Broomall; and honorable mention to Larry Coleman of Chambersburg, and Patricia Starry of Shippensburg.

In Division III, the first prize went to Amy Martin of Carlisle; second prize also to Amy Martin; and honorable mention to Karen McMillan of Duncannon.

The Upper Adams Jaycees wish to thank everyone who contributed the offerings of beauty and charm of "Apple Country" in its special splendor in the seasons up to and including the celebration of the National Apple Harvest Festival. Entrants are invited to start preparing now for the 2010 contest.



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This photo by William J. Dupuis is the Grand Prize winner of the 2009 National Apple Harvest Festival's Photo Contest.

All winning photos will be posted for viewing on www.appleharvest.com after Jan. 15.

Museum ready for first meeting of 2010

Allison-Antrim Museum, Greencastle, Pennsylvania, will hold its first monthly meeting of 2010 on Thursday, Jan. 14, in the downstairs social room of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 130 N. Washington St, Greencastle, beginning at 7 p.m. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

The speaker for the evening will be Scott Anderson, Associate Director for Food Services at Shepherd University. His topic will be "Canned History: An Examination of Food Canning in American History." Canning food as we know it today has its early roots in the Napoleonic Wars. It gained further prominence in the U.S. during the American Civil War. By the mid 1800s, various companies were gaining fame for their canned goods, among them Nestle, Heinz and Crosse and Blackwell. Anderson is both an historian



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Heinz was among one of the first companies to gain fame for its canned goods, along with Nestle and Crosse and Blackwell.

and gourmet chef. He will review the origins of many canned food types and brands

that we take for granted today in our everyday shopping.

Anderson is also a Civil War historian and has written for publications such as *The Washington Times* and *The Civil War News*. He has lectured for groups such as The Smithsonian Associates, Chambersburg Civil War Seminars, and Shepherd University. Anderson is also the web master for the the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars website.

The program is open to the public. There is no fee to attend, but donations will be accepted toward Allison-Antrim Museum's annual speaker series.

If there is a threat of inclement weather, notice of cancellation will be posted on the museum's website at www.greencastlemuseum.org by Wednesday, January 13 or by calling 597-9325. The program will be rescheduled at a later date.