

Wednesday, June 25, 2008 10:07 am

## [‘Hear ’Em’ series returns June 28](#)

### **Charles Havira, Toby Walker take the stage Saturday in PocoNotes acoustic storyteller series**

By [Christopher J. Hughes chughes@theabingtonjournal.com](mailto:chughes@theabingtonjournal.com)  
Reporter/Photographer

*WAVERLY* – One artist will likely discuss his “New Way Through Happiness” while the other talks about the best way to cross Parchman Farm – better known as the Mississippi State Penitentiary – but each will share his unique guitar and songwriting talents to the Waverly Community House on Saturday, June 28.

Charles Havira, the Scranton songwriter whose work crosses several genres, and Toby Walker, an acoustic blues and roots musician who studied the song styles in the southern United States with those who first performed it, are the featured artists in the second of four “Hear ’Em at the Comm” music series events.

Since he began performing in 1991, Havira said he rarely escaped from music. He performed with several local bands and promoted shows under the head Cornucopia Productions before beginning an effort that culminated in the 2004 album “Holiday” and the June 14, 2008 release of his self-titled record. His label now shares the name of the former production company and fits the range of music on the new disc well.

While he turns 38 next month, Havira said, “I feel like I’m in my mid-20s again. I’m reconnecting with my past and visiting places I haven’t been to since I was 25 years old.”

The new album features 14 musicians including Havira and served as a release of some of life’s woes he had kept bottled up, he said. “Sometimes getting through life can be rough,” he said. “This helped me move on and focus on the life I’m living.”

Moving on includes the new attitude in the aforementioned track where Havira writes to “check the machine for signs of life.” Checking the machine could mean checking an answering machine or your own mindset to be sure things keep moving forward, and the track is a metaphor of sorts for the help you can find through friendships.

He said he’s excited to work with PocoNotes, who produced one of the best local shows in recent history when they brought the Storyville Stompers to northeastern Pennsylvania

in 2006, according to Havira. “Even though I am playing, I’m going out for a night of music to have a good time. I want to be just like anyone else who has a ticket,” he said.

Walker’s musical journey began some 35 years ago, when he started to dive deep into early rock and roll. That digging led him throughout the southern United States and helped him discover the history of blues and ragtime music and simultaneously develop his own interpretations of it. He said teaching those long lost riffs is still joyful.

“I really have a love for playing it,” he said in a recent phone interview from his home in northern New Jersey. “I remember how hard it was for me to learn it, and it’s a treat to teach it to people who are once like I was with it.”

Walker is one of several high caliber musicians invited to teach the art at the Jorma Kaukonen Fur Peace Ranch, the criteria used by PocoNotes to select headlining acts for the 2008 series. His concert sets contain a range of original works and interpretations of classics with a handful of improvised solos. His ability to maintain a bass line while developing lead guitar riffs led to the name of his self-produced record company – Band in the Hand.

He said he looks forward to sharing his brand of the blues on June 28. “People have sometimes never heard of this stuff, and they’re happy and surprised by this type of music,” he said. “For others who do know it, it brings back a lot of different memories for them.”

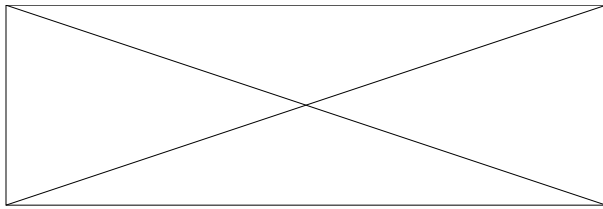
## Want to go?

*What:* ‘Hear ’Em at the Comm’ series, part two of four with Charles Havira and Toby Walker

*When:* Saturday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

*Where:* Waverly Community House, 1115 N. Abington Rd., Waverly

*Info:* Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 on the night of the performance. For more on the artists, visit [www.charleshavira.com](http://www.charleshavira.com) or [www.littletobywalker.com](http://www.littletobywalker.com)



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