

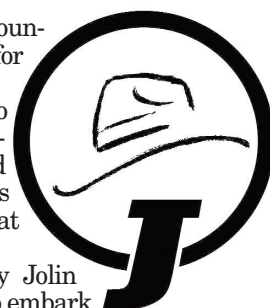
THE COUNTRY BAND THAT ROCKS

PENNSYLVANIA-BASED BAND LOOKS FORWARD TO SUMMERTIME GIGS

By RYAN D. BEARDSLEY
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- JUNE 2** — Turbotville Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- JUNE 7** — Hughesville Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival, 7 to 10 p.m.
- JUNE 13** — Freemont Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival, 7 to 9 p.m.
- JUNE 14** — Warrior Run Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival, 7 to 10 p.m.
- JUNE 20** — Montgomery Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival, 7 to 11 p.m.
- JUNE 23** — Salem Township Fire Co. Carnival, 6 to 9 p.m.
- JUNE 27** — Split Rock Resort, One Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, at the Sandbar, 5 to 9 p.m.
- JULY 1** — Jersey Shore Town Meeting, 6 to 10 p.m.
- JULY 12** — Canton Innes Hose Volunteer Fire Co. Carnival, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- JULY 23** — Mifflinburg Fire Co. Carnival, 7 to 10 p.m.
- JULY 24** — Creamer Fire Co. Festival, 8 to 11 p.m.
- JULY 29** — Benton Fire Co. Carnival, Benton Rodeo Grounds, 7 to 10 p.m.
- AUG. 13** — Montour DeLong Community Fair, Washingtonville, 7 to 10 p.m.
- AUG. 30** — Nuremburg Celebration at North Park, 6 to 10 p.m.
- AUG. 31** — Jaycees Boat Regatta, Lock Haven, 7 to 10 p.m.
- SEPT. 5** — Montoursville Fall Festival, Indian Park, 7 to 10 p.m.
- SEPT. 7** — FunFest, NASCAR theme, Hazleton, Center City, 6 to 9 p.m.
- SEPT. 12** — American Legion Post 26, 301 Route 15 South, Dillsburg, 8 p.m. to midnight.



They're known as the country band that rocks — and for good reason.

The countless people who have seen the Pennsylvania-based Johnny Jolin Band play live know the group sets out to rock each audience at every performance.

In the past, the Johnny Jolin Band had the opportunity to embark on a China tour in 2004, where they performed before thousands in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Ning Bo. The group also has received airplay on six local radio stations, as well as play on nationally syndicated "Hot Country Nights with the Conman," hosted by Chris "Conman" Conn.

The group has opened for various Nashville recording artists, including Chely White, David Lee Murphy, Ricochet, Billy Montana, Steve Wariner, Ronna Reeves, Mel McDaniels and Jimmy C. Newman.

The Johnny Jolin Band now is looking forward to a summer packed with gigs. Summer typically is the busiest time for the group and has them visiting fairs, carnivals and other celebrations all over the state.

Johnny Jolin, lead singer and guitar player of the group, recently talked to the Sun-Gazette about what he enjoys about performing, as well as what the chemistry is like within the band.

Jolin's musical history dates back to when he was in the Army. It was during this time, when Jolin was traveling between military bases, that he began his songwriting. Jolin would join base bands playing on and off bases during his eight years in the service, playing lead, bass and rhythm guitar.

It was after Jolin came home from the Army in 1991 that he began a single act, performing as a country singing disc jockey at local night clubs. Jolin won the area's first karaoke contest held by John Finn of Backyard Broadcasting in May 1993 at the Sheraton Hotel.

"After winning [the karaoke contest], I was approached about starting a band — so I did," Jolin said. "Members have come and gone over the years, but the popularity of the Johnny Jolin Band has continued to grow."

The band consists of professional musicians Joe "Doc" Agoglia, who plays keyboard, acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, trumpet and mandolin; Tim Breon on bass and lead guitar; Mike Hudson

on drums; and Willie Ort, the group's sound and lighting technician.

Agoglia, producer and songwriter of Christian songs, is a lifelong musician that came to the Lewisburg area from the New York music scene. While in New York, he was known for performing in many of the top clubs, including The Copacabana. Agoglia also is the owner and operator of Smoketown Studios and Jo-Jo Production Co.

Breon was born and raised in the Williamsport area, and is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts. He has been playing music professionally for more than 30 years, marking much time with the acclaimed David Rose Band, according to a news release. Breon also has played for jazz legend David Leibman, Davy Jones (The Monkees), Olivia Newton-John, and Motown "soulstress" Martha Reeves, among others. He also is a member of the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra.

Hudson also was born and raised in the Williamsport area, and started playing drums in 1999 during his junior year of high school. Hudson said he was influenced heavily by "Mitch" Mitchell, Ginger Baker and Keith Moon. After playing in several small "garage bands," Hudson gained a newfound interest in jazz and drumming legend Elvin Jones. He then took instruction from area drummer Steve Mitchell.

Although band members have come and gone, Jolin believes the current members are here to stay and what the band has been looking for all along. He said the same guys have been in the band for five years.

"We get along very well — we're like family," Jolin said. "It took awhile to get the right mix of personalities, but I think we finally have it."

Jolin said his favorite aspect of being apart of the Johnny Jolin Band is spending "down time" with the members after the show.

Because the band is so busy during the summer months and constantly looking forward to their next gig, Jolin believes that relaxation is just as important as the time on stage.

"We joke around a lot and just have a good time with each other," Jolin said.

Jolin himself joked that the best part of performing in the summer months is finding the best hot sausage sandwich in the area.

But on a more serious note, he also likes when the audience appreciates what the band is doing and when "they're really into the band." He also enjoys interacting with the audience and the guys in the band, he said.

Jolin added that the Johnny Jolin Band does

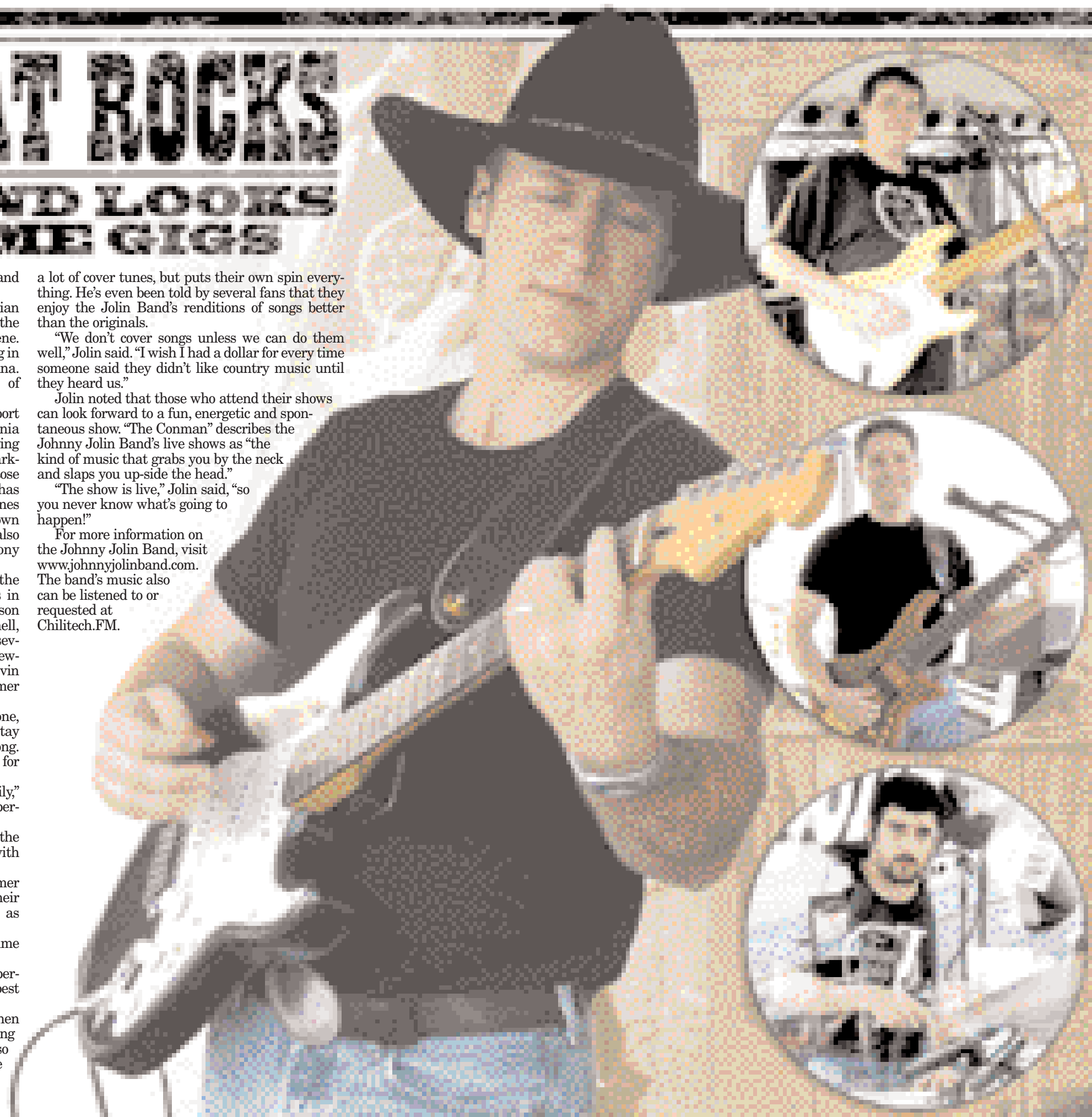
a lot of cover tunes, but puts their own spin everything. He's even been told by several fans that they enjoy the Jolin Band's renditions of songs better than the originals.

"We don't cover songs unless we can do them well," Jolin said. "I wish I had a dollar for every time someone said they didn't like country music until they heard us."

Jolin noted that those who attend their shows can look forward to a fun, energetic and spontaneous show. "The Conman" describes the Johnny Jolin Band's live shows as "the kind of music that grabs you by the neck and slaps you up-side the head."

"The show is live," Jolin said, "so you never know what's going to happen!"

For more information on the Johnny Jolin Band, visit www.johnnyjolinband.com. The band's music also can be listened to or requested at Chilitech.FM.



PHOTOS PROVIDED
At right, The Johnny Jolin Band is, clockwise from top, Tim Breon, Joe Agoglia, Mike Hudson and Johnny Jolin. The group is gearing up for a summer packed full of gigs, where they will appear at carnivals, fairs and other celebrations all over Pennsylvania.