

Calumet City band to try to set record

Group will attempt most paid performances in 10 hours in one city.

BY LAURI HARVEY
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CALUMET CITY - A Calumet City band is hoping to set a world record Saturday for the most paid performances in 10 hours in one city.

The band, Wolcott, has dubbed the event the Cal City Crawl and has 21 signed contracts from 21 different taverns in Calumet City for performances between noon and 10 p.m. Saturday. The band will play 21-minute sets every half hour, each at a different pub.

"We're going to have two days of practice to get down the stuff we know," said Ben Mollin, 27, of Calumet City, who plays bass and provides lead vocals for the band. "We'll be playing 105 tunes if

Wolcott's members

- **BEN MOLLIN**, of Calumet City, 27, bass, lead vocals, hair
- **RYAN DEYOUNG**, of South Holland, 26, lead vocals, guitar
- **KEITH FORSYTHE**, of Lansing, 25, keyboards
- **DANNY GIORGI**, of Hobart, 32, lead guitar
- **TOM MILLER**, of Chicago, 22, drums

you average the songs out."

The idea came from Nick Kutzko, manager of Music Lab in Lansing and a friend of the band.

"It was his idea, but he didn't think we were going to do it," said Ryan DeYoung, 26, of South Holland, who provides lead vocals and plays guitar in the band.

Kutzko said he was talking to Tom Miller, 22, of Chicago - Wolcott's drummer who also

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STEFFANY GENTRY / THE TIMES

Ben Mollin, left, Keith Forsythe, Tom Miller, Danny Giorgi and Ryan DeYoung are the band Wolcott.



PHOTOS BY STEFFANY GENTRY / THE TIMES

The Calumet City band Wolcott practices Tuesday for today's attempt at a world record. The band wants to have the most paid performances in 10 hours in one city by playing in 21 pubs in Calumet City.

Band

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works at Music Lab – in September around the time of Calumet City's City Fest aboutbands playing Calumet City pubs in years past.

"In the old days, bands said, 'We played every bar in Calumet City,' and I always said, 'No you didn't,'" Kutzko said. "They probably played four or five places on Sin Strip. So I said to Tom, 'Hey, why don't you play every bar in Calumet City in one day and see if you can set a record?'"

Miller liked the idea and by the end of the night, the band enthusiastically agreed to give it a shot.

Band members sent an e-mail to the Guinness Book of World Records, and Keith Forsythe, 25, of Lansing – keyboard player for the band – received a response.

"They said they accepted the bid for a record and sent us the information," DeYoung said.

In order to officially qualify for the Guinness book record, the band has to have someone videotape the day in real time and carry a battery-operated clock to show the times of the various gigs.

Mollin said after receiving acceptance from Guinness, the band started going to Cal City bars asking if they would like to be part of the day.

"They thought we were nuts," Mollin said. "Nobody thought we were serious at first, but then people started calling us back. There's no other city you can do this in, really, other than Calumet City because of the number of bars and having so many bars so close together."

The one thing the band isn't sure of is who holds the current record or whether there is a record on the books.

"The Guinness people didn't tell us and we didn't really ask," DeYoung said.

While the band planned two practices this week prior to Saturday's pub crawl, a dry run at the various bars was not in the works.

"We're just going to wing it and hope it goes right," DeYoung said.

Band members say they know their fan base will come out to support them Saturday, but they are hoping to attract new fans as well.



Tom Miller is the drummer for Wolcott. Miller's co-worker at Music Lab in Lansing gave the band the idea for the world record attempt.

IF YOU GO:

- **11:30 a.m.** – Bus pick up at The Hideaway, 159th Street and Burnham Avenue
- **noon** – The Olde Homestead, 11 155th St.
- **12:30 p.m.** – Vicky's Melody Tap, 347 154th Place
- **1 p.m.** – Lauer's, 31 154th Place
- **1:30 p.m.** – Maggie's
- **2 p.m.** – Dave's Emergency Room, 12 Pulaski Road
- **2:30 p.m.** – My Alibi Too, 34 Pulaski Road
- **3 p.m.** – The Bullseye, 427 Pulaski Road
- **3:30 p.m.** – Bagley's, 666 Hirsch Ave.
- **4 p.m.** – Aggie's
- **4:30 p.m.** – Rose & Crown, 201 154th Place
- **5 p.m.** – Boss', 154th Street and Wentworth Avenue
- **5:30 p.m.** – Partner's, 148 154th Place
- **6 p.m.** – Players, 538 Pulaski Road
- **6:30 p.m.** – Maury's Pub, 575 Torrence Ave.
- **7 p.m.** – Time Out Pub, 403 Torrence Ave.
- **7:30 p.m.** – Dick's Hideaway, 48 154th Place
- **8 p.m.** – Silver Slipper, 416 154th Place
- **8:30 p.m.** – Pourhouse, 103 155th Place
- **9 p.m.** – Tom's Backdoor, 816 Burnham Ave.
- **9:30 p.m.** – Tombstone, 977 Burnham Ave.
- **10 p.m.** – The Hideaway, 159th Street & Burnham Avenue

"I think people should come out and support music and support the community and local businesses," Mollin said. "If someone else was doing it, I'd be a part of it."