

Richie Lee to celebrate the music of the '50s and '60s in Underwood

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Submitted photo - Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50s will bring their spin on '50s and early '60s tunes to UMBA Hall in Underwood on Saturday night.

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A little nostalgia on a Saturday night. Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50s will bring their spin on '50s and early '60s tunes to UMBA Hall in Underwood on Saturday night, musically transporting concertgoers to the time of poodle skirts, perfectly coiffed hair and "Peggy Sue."

Lee and crew will play a mix of songs from artists including Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, Ricky Nelson, Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and others.

"It's the roots of rock 'n roll, it shouldn't be forgotten," Lee said. "I enjoy it a lot, and other people still enjoy it as well."

Sporting black glasses and a '50s style, Lee channels, as best he can, the musical wisdom and spirit of Holly on stage. The 21-year-old, who plays guitar, bass guitar and drums, said his parents imparted their love of early rock 'n roll on him.

"My parents grew up listening to that music, so they always had it on the radio," Lee said. "That's how I got exposed to it. I just always liked the sound of it. That music moved me."

And move is what Lee said he hopes patrons will do.

"The crowd really enjoys dancing to the music, which is important," Lee said. "I love entertaining people, it's a lot of fun."

Dale Robertson with the Underwood Memorial Building Association said the concert would be the first at the UMBA Hall in a while.

"There was a lot of interest, so we thought we'd try something," Robertson said. "We think the music will be popular with our demographic. We're looking forward to having the community attend to see this young man. It should bring families out."

The concert is free, with first-come, first-served seating. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the band playing from 7 to 10 p.m. Concessions, including sloppy Joes, will be available.

Joining Lee in Underwood will be Dale Rupp on drums, Tim Canfield on bass guitar and Lincoln Rockhouse on keyboard. Lee said a rotating small group of musicians makes up the Fabulous 50s.

Lee grew up in Des Moines and he still resides there. He said he learned how to play the guitar at the age of 11 and shortly thereafter was playing shows. The Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association bestowed Lee with its Spirit Award in 2010.

His affinity for Holly began at an even earlier age, when at 7 he won a Buddy Holly look-alike lip-synching contest.

Now he's touring the state and beyond, with gigs booked every weekend.

"I couldn't be able to guess how many we play in a year," Lee said. "But we generally play one to three shows every weekend. We stay booked up."

The band was recently in Missouri Valley, and Lee said he's hoping to see familiar faces at UMBA Hall.

"I'm looking forward to seeing some of the same people," he said, "and hopefully some new people, too."



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