

# Local musician set to join S2D band at Riverfest

**By Samantha Christian  
of the Daily Times staff**

The high-energy, multigenre band Something To Do (S2D) will make its second Riverfest appearance on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 3 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.

Band leader and guitarist Kenny Dinkis describes the horn-driven band as playing fun music that is very catchy to sing along and dance to.

“If you take the energy of pop/rock or alternative/punk rock and put that together with the Jamaican reggae, it kind of sounds like that,” he said.

Since its formation in 2001, the band has performed nearly 50 shows per year at venues and festivals such as Bastille Days, Octoberfest, Skafest and nearly a decade straight at Summerfest.

“We’d love to do it (play) full-time someday,” said Dinkis.

S2D has four Trapdoor Records albums to its name and has shared the stage with other ska bands such as Less Than Jake, Reel Big Fish, Goldfinger and The Mighty Mighty Bosstones.

“Ska is kind of like Jamaican reggae but a little more hyped-up and energized,” Dinkis said, noting that since its roots in the 1950s, ska has transformed from Jamaican reggae and calypso to British punk rock infused with American jazz and rock ‘n’ roll.

In those terms, Something To Do can offer a little something to everyone.

To the band’s surprise, out of

all of the summer events on the band’s Facebook page, Riverfest has the most people who responded that they are going to attend the event.

“There’s a bunch of people I don’t even know who are coming to this festival, so I’m really curious to see what the excitement is in Watertown,” said Dinkis.

“We played at Watertown once before (2006) and it was a really good time,” he said. “The hospitality of that festival (Riverfest) is incredible, so we really look forward to it.”

S2D is a Waukesha-based band but has many ties to the Watertown area.

“Our booking agent (John Ertl) helps do all the entertainment there, and the stage manager (Joe Salvo) has been there for years and we know he’s a great guy,” said Dinkis.

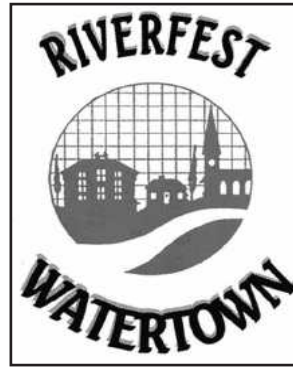
“So from behind the scenes, we love it.”

Some local flavor will also be on stage.

Watertown resident and Lake Mills Middle School band teacher Brad Klotz will be the special guest horn player for the band.

“He (Klotz) will come and join us for some songs,” said Dinkis. “He’s a friend of mine and we’re really excited to have him.”

The six members of S2D (including Kenny Dinkis on guitar, Mike Batzler on drums, Joe Abbott on trumpet, Ropin’ Rodeo Nate on bass, Marc



Kuntz on trombone and Alex Kayser on guitar) pride themselves on being music industry professionals and entertainers, and they work hard to be energetic on stage and energize the crowd.

While Dinkis said a typical crowd is younger — from teens to 30s — the band has performed for all types of audiences.

“We’ll look out into the audience and see little kids dancing and people in retirement age dancing,” he said.

“So we really like to think we have a feel for a very broad audience — anyone who likes to have fun.”

Since the band will play two different sets, Dinkis assumes the band will play primarily its original material along with its own versions of covers such as “Rebel Yell” by Billy Idol and “Just What I Needed” by The Cars.

“We’ll give people something that they are familiar with, but

we’ll also play songs that people can sing along to and have fun,” said Dinkis.

The band will play selections from its newest five-song CD titled “Souvenir” which came out last year, and two of its favorite tunes, “Down down” and “Wannabe.”

Dinkis said most songs are melody-driven. “We’ll get a melody in our heads and we kind of build our words from there,” he said.

These lyrics derive from a variety of the band members’ personal experiences with relatives, friends and just having a good time.

A duct-tape inspired song, “When I’m Stuck I Turn To Duct Tape,” won a music contest and brought the group national attention from CNN to NPR among hundreds of other media outlets.

To get a taste for the band who has been nominated for “Group of the Year” and “Best Ska Band” in Wisconsin, a full music catalog is available on itunes.com, amazon.com and links are available on their website <http://www.somethingto-do.ws>.

“We look forward to every festival and we want people to know that we’re here to help them have a good time,” said Dinkis.

Following both performances of Something To Do on Saturday, Aug. 13, is Gabriel Sanchez: The Prince Experience from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and 8:30 to 10 p.m.



The band Something To Do will perform at Watertown's Riverfest on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 3 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. Band members pictured, back row from left, are Mike Batler, Marc Kuntz, Kenny Dinkis and Joe Abbott; front from left, Ropin' Rodeo Nate and Alex Kayser.