

Note: Due to the July 4 holiday, the deadline for ads and news for the July 10 issue is noon on July 3.



The County Star

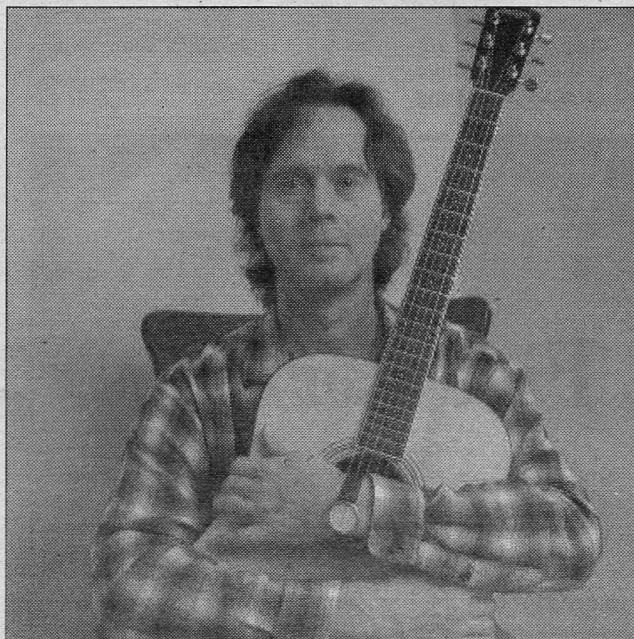
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Festival: Music acts set to play Tolono Fun Day from 1



Keith Harden will play from 3 to 5 p.m. June 28.

"You're a Grand Old Flag" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." They will also sing a medley of familiar Christian hymns.

"It is thrilling, and we do enjoy it," Anderson said of her annual Fun Day performance. "We're proud to be a part of it."

Anderson has a connection with another artist who will perform at Fun Day, blues/folk/Americana artist Keith Harden, who will perform from 3 to 5 p.m. June 28 in the park. He was a student at Unity when she was teaching music there, although he was never in her class.

"He came into my room and when he got frustrated would play the organ or piano to blow off steam," Anderson remembers. "I consider him a close friend."

Anderson recalls that Harden had the ability to spontaneously write a melody at an early age.

"I think he's a fine young man," Anderson says. "I knew this was a different kind of talent I was working with, and I knew this was a talent people would love. I could tell he was a musician to the bottom of his toes."

Besides the piano, the Tolono native plays guitar, dobro, harmonica, blues mandolin and ukulele. He has opened for such greats as Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Dr. John and Delbert McClinton.

The Keith Harden Band produced the CDs "Cousins of the Blues" and the early years. Solo projects have included "What the Blues Are For," "there goes another day," "Acoustic Blues," "Precious Stone," "Illinois Blues,"

"Mostly Mississippi," "the song goes on" and "The Bad Dog Blues Sessions."

Along with his own songs, Harden covers such artists as Blind Lemon Jefferson, Skip James, Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell, Mississippi John Hurt, Leadbelly and Janis Joplin.

Harden moved to New York in 2001 and won the Downstate New York Blues Association Acoustic Blues Challenge in 2005 and advanced to Memphis to perform in the International Blues Challenge in January 2006.

A resident of Nashville since September, Harden is working on his latest CD, "the song goes on."