

The son of a bass player and singer for a traveling band, Johnny “Wheels” Kennicott had music in his blood since birth, but expressing himself musically took on new importance when Johnny broke his neck in a childhood accident at age 12, leaving him paralyzed from the chest down. “The days of football practice after school was definitely over,” Johnny says. But music still provided an outlet for his infectious energy and his creative potential. Though his father’s instrument of choice and his early passion of playing drums were now out due to limited function, Johnny found, through determined trial and error, he could manipulate his paralyzed diaphragm to not only sing, but also blow the harmonica. Since that time, Johnny has been traveling the Pacific Northwest music scene, spreading the gospel of blues. His latest backing lineup – road tested and featuring a sound forged during late nights in taverns and bars – includes Taylor Frazier on bass, Brandon Logan on guitar and backing vocals, Mike Rabe on guitar and backing vocals, and Doug Knoyle on drums. Russ Wilson on guitar and George Robnett on drums, join the lineup when a different mix is needed. Johnny and the boys have delivered their blend of traditional blues, southern rock, and soul to such venues as Roadhouse 101, Vagabond Brewery, The Goodfoot, Chinook Winds Casino, and The Viewpoint. Johnny has also been featured at Bacon Fest, Dallas Summerfest, and Run 21. Recently, Johnny and the Donkeys invited members of their fan club to an intimate evening at the Pyrate Llama recording studio in an effort to capture the energy and vitality of their live shows on record. Mastering, editing and more recording continue with a release date targeted later this winter.