

Project by Edgerton band explores life and loss in the song called "Promise"

By Jeff Brown
Reporter staff

Like many of us, when Evan Riley started a new job he made an effort to get to know his co-workers — asking about their hobbies, their interests and their families. Unlike most people, however, when Riley learned that two of his co-workers had recently lost young children he sat down, picked up his guitar, and wrote a song about it, called "Promise."

Riley, age 32, is an Edgerton resident and music teacher in the Janesville school system; he's also the guitarist, vocalist and chief songwriter of the Evan Riley Band, and writing a song about the deaths of two young children and the effect it had on their parents was the natural thing for him to, do especially when you consider that Riley is a parent himself.

"Our daughter Keira was born only two months before those two children," said Riley. "It's hard to imagine, having a kid the same age, what that would put you through." Keira is now five years old.

Contemplating the loss of his own child spawned in Riley's brain the concept for a story, told in a series of songs, about a man who travels away from his family to



Band members from left to right: Marie Pauls, Todd Thompson, Evan Riley, Jamie Sercombe, (sitting) Michael Mood

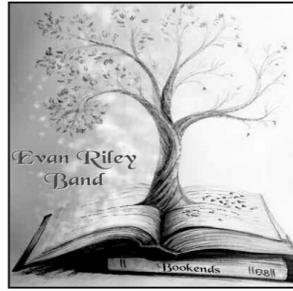
work hard and build the American Dream, only to realize too late how important family is.

Riley also drew inspiration from the death of his grandfather. "I wrote another song called 'Good-bye,' and it seemed like I had a lot of songs contemplating life and death, so it kind of made sense to make a storyline out of it. I wrote new songs to fill in the gaps."

"Bookends," a concept album, was the result. "The man works a lot and isn't around his family

much, and when he comes home things aren't as easy as he'd like them to be," said Riley. "Then his child dies and things get thrown into perspective. There's a hopeful spin at the end, it kind of comes full circle."

The project grew to include two books and a music video in addition to the CD. Riley said the cost of finishing the project was daunting. "The minimum we needed was \$3,500, and to get everything that we wanted to get done it was going



Album cover for the Evan Riley Band's latest release.

to be \$5,000.

Enter kickstarter.com, a website that allows artists and designers to post videos soliciting donations for their project. "We sent it out to everyone we knew and got really positive feedback and raised over \$6,000," said Riley. "It was pretty amazing that people came out to support the project."

The band held a CD release party on June 7 at the Armory in Janesville. The band has also played at the Speakeasy in Janesville and played in McFarland's Concert in the Park series on Thursday, July 3. This fall the band will play at Capital Brewery in Middleton.

And later this summer, the Evan

Riley Band will take "Bookends" on the road when they play a series of shows in upstate New York, north of Syracuse, where Riley grew up. Riley said the band will be on local TV during the visit to New York state.



Evan Riley Band logo

Depot Cafe opens in Edgerton

Submitted by Anne Hraban

The Depot Cafe is excited to announce that they will be opening their doors this week. "We want to thank everyone who stopped in over the last couple of weeks to check us out and offer their words of encouragement," commented owners, Cheryl and Scott Cramer.

The staff is a well rounded group of local residents who are anxious to begin serving you everything from a simple cup of coffee or tea to specialty coffee beverages, sandwiches or a bowl of hand-crafted, artisan soup. Diners will also delight in sitting out on the deck enjoying their beverage with a pastry, delivered fresh everyday from Fosal Bakery in Stoughton.

The Depot Cafe seeks to embrace all things Wisconsin. "We are proud to say that almost all of our products are from Wisconsin," proclaimed Nicole Gauss, Assistant Manager. "Even our bottled water is from Chippewa Falls.

Door County coffee is the featured coffee at the Depot Cafe. You will be able to not only enjoy it on-site, but you will be able to purchase it in bulk. The Depot Cafe has other products that encompass the people, the places and the great products of our state.

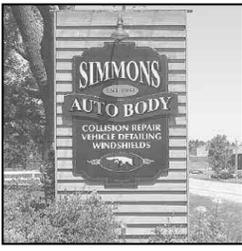
As general manager, I offer an invitation to everyone to stop by this Saturday evening and enjoy the music of the Jestin Jay Trio while sipping on one of our locally crafted micro beers, Fermenting Cellars wines, or one of our specialty coffee beverages.

In addition to the spacious deck, the Depot Cafe offers a lovely portico that is now complete with a tranquil water fountain, courtesy of an anonymous donation from a local resident. We are also available for special occasions such as a wedding reception or baby shower.

The Depot Cafe will be open Monday - Saturday, 5:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and on Sundays, 6:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



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We must have an accurate count for adequate transportation. Please reserve your spot by July 17.

For additional information and to register, please contact any of the following:

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Fred Falk	608-868-6525
Sam Wilcox	608-868-6731

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