



The Strange Tones

They're On Their Way

"A speed limit sign / We don't play no mind / That's how we roll." Nope, those aren't lyrics from Lil' Wayne's latest album; the words belong to a blues rock band called **The Strange Tones**. The Portland quartet is cruising into Eugene this weekend to play a CD release show for their new album, *We're On Our Way*. On the CD, you'll hear influences starting with American roots and traveling all the way through rockabilly and surf rock, presented in a tightly wrapped package complete with Fender bass, harmonica, bottleneck guitars and soulful vocals.

Don't expect an unnatural attempt to imitate the late greats of a soulful genre: The Strange Tones blend their sound to cre-

ate a fun, experimental performance filled with electrifying guitar licks, which are delivered by Guitar Julie and Suburban Slim (aka Phil Wagner) and the tight rhythm section of bassist Andy Strange and drummer J.D. Huge (Jeff Strawbridge). Andy Strange, Strawbridge and Wagner grew up playing around Eugene in several bands. In Portland they united with Julie Strange to play, produce and promote their music. "In most blues acts it's like big star, little band. Our songs are so tightly arranged that we can't even really play a show if one of us isn't there," says Julie. "We like being a unit as opposed to a bunch of stars."

The Strange Tones play at 9:30 pm on Saturday, September 22 at Mac's at the Vet's Club. \$7. — *Katie Cornell*

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