

BENEFIT

Continues from Front

only as good as its drummer.’ Every band that Tom Kammer played with was better because of him.”

Kammer and his wife Brenda now reside in Mankato, Minn. They have three grown children and a couple of grandkids. Until mid-October, life had been pretty normal for the Kammers. But recent weight loss and fatigue led Tom to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn., where he learned he has pancreatic cancer.

If there is any good news to come from that diagnosis it is that Tom is in the 10 percent who have a fighting chance. Now many of his former bandmates are reuniting for a benefit to help him with that fight.

Area residents and old friends of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s music will have the opportunity for a blast from the past at a special upcoming event. On Saturday, Dec. 12, Kammerstock will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Oelwein.

Murphy’s music history has helped Mark Nicolay and Tom Miller in organizing the event the past month or so. They guarantee this will be an experience everyone will enjoy.

Kammerstock will be eight hours of musical talent from 3 to 11 p.m. to

celebrate Tom Kammer’s musical legacy and assist him with expenses incurred as he goes through treatments and surgery to fight his cancer. It will be well worth the \$10 admission price. Former members of Shatter and Blue Horizon have created The BlueShatter Band, which will perform for one time only on Dec. 12. Members include Mark Nicolay, Tom Miller,

SHATTER - 1979 clockwise from lower left, Mark Nicolay, Mike Fereday, Jim Hines, Rob Tatro, Tom Kammer.

Mike Fereday, Tom Kammer, Kelly Murphy, Rob Tatro, Clay Hallberg, Charlie Hallberg and Dan Gordish.

Murphy said there will be other musicians that played with Kammer coming to perform at Kammerstock as well. He noted they are coming from Georgia, Oregon, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas, Washington, D.C., as well as all over Iowa.

“I have been working with all these musicians and we have been doing virtual rehearsals via Internet,” Murphy said. “We have a basic list of music and have decided who will do the leads on what songs, etc. Of course there will be some ad libs, but we are all professional musicians, so this will be a lot of fun.”

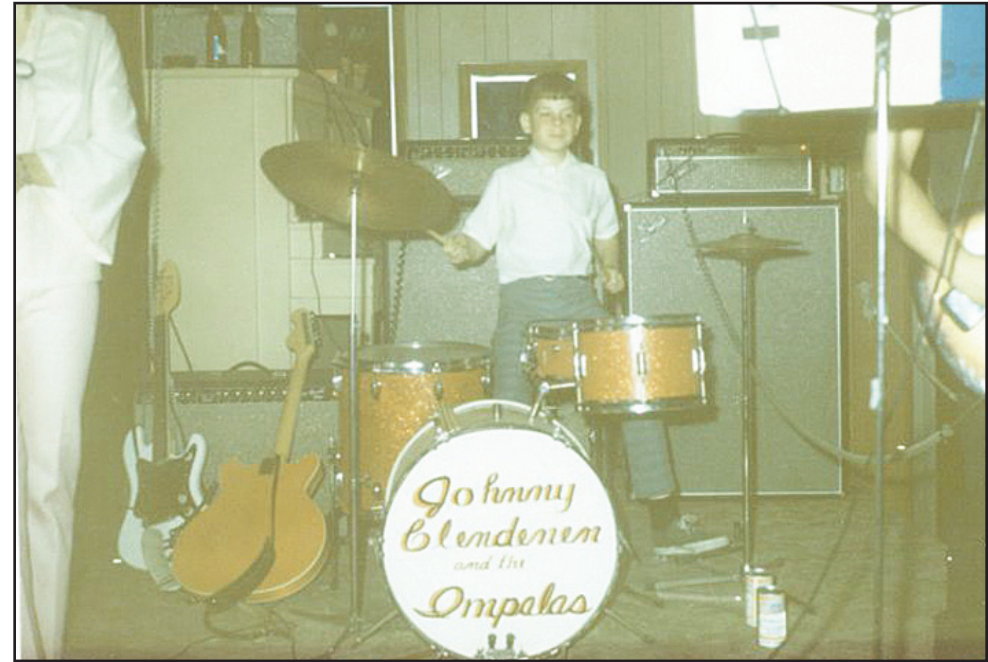
There will be food, drink, door prizes, raffles and silent auctions throughout the night. Kammerstock will close out with an all-star jam.

“We’re reaching out to a friend of ours who is truly in need. It’s for a good cause and we are all thrilled to be part of it,” Murphy said.

For those friends of Kammer who want to help out but are unable to attend, there is a fundraising page for him at GoFundMe. Donations can also be made at any of the Veridian Credit Union locations or mailed to: Veridian Credit Union, Tom Kammer Benefit, 124 E. Charles St., Oelwein



All photos this page courtesy of HubCityMusic.cloudmurphy.com



Tom Kammer, age 10, performing in Berger’s Tap, with JOHNNY CLENDENEN and the IMPALAS, downtown Oelwein.



Tom Kammer doing what he does best at a holiday gig in 1986.



BLITZ BROTHERS - 1984. In front, Brad Hughes and Bill O’Brien. Center, Tom Kammer. Back, Dan Falck and Robbie Casey.



KEITH THOMPSON TRIO - Keith Thompson, Janene Thompson, Tom Kammer.



BLUE HORIZON - 1974. Seated, Mike Vargason and Tom Kammer. Standing from left, Rob Tatro, Kelly Murphy, John Chapman.



BLUE HORIZON - 1979 in their prime. From left, Kelly Murphy, Mike Vargason, Terry Wheeler, Tom Kammer, Rob Tatro.

BlueShatter



Performing Live at KAMMERSTOCK
Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015
Knights of Columbus Hall, Oelwein, Iowa



THE BASICS

THE BASICS from left, Kent Moore, Tom Kammer, Dan Sullivan performed from 1990-2003 all over Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.