

Troubadours on the Red Dirt Turnpike



Missy Whitfield

Turnpike Troubadours

Turnpike Troubadours, 'Goodbye Normal Street,' May 8

This band from Stillwater, Okla., follows the map drawn by its honky-tonk forebears: driving fiddle, and touring the well-worn Red Dirt route through Arkansas, Texas and New Mexico. But lead songwriter Evan Felker also calls up contemporary images, such as the soldier writing a letter "beneath a big Afghan moon" in "Southeastern Son," and a vivid

car crash in "Before the Devil Knows We're Dead." The singer has some Gram Parsons in his voice; the band got started playing acoustic versions of Townes Van Zandt and Jerry Jeff Walker songs.