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A GATHERING FOR CHRISTMAS

A C2G CHRISTMAS CONCERT
PAGE 4



SUNNY TAYLOR BAND



MIKE CONLEY



HANNAH BUSHONG



FREAK BROTHERS



UNLIKELY ALIBI



C2G MUSIC HALL



DAN SWARTZ
PAGE 5

NEW AMERICAN YOUTH BALLET'S *THE NUTCRACKER* OUT + ABOUT
THE FINAL HURRAHS ENTERTAINMENT CALENDARS SCREENTIME
MUSIC, MOVIE + BOOK REVIEWS MOVIE TIMES + MUCH MORE



SANKOFA
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Things are getting a bit crazy here at World Headquarters. We still have a couple of weeks to go in 2012, yet we're already hard at work on 2013, and we'll tell you now: expect some surprises. We'll tell you all about them in due time, but for now let's just stick with what's left of 2012.

To begin with, there's this issue of whatzup – a bit thinner than most but still packed with lots and lots of arts and entertainment features, calendars, columns and ads (a quick glance at the ads ought to be enough to assure you that 2013 is going to be a very interesting year indeed).

Next week's issue will be our traditional year-end double edition. Hitting the streets on December 19-20, it will include everything there is to do with a particular focus on New Year's Eve. It'll also include our annual "best of" write-ups from our CD reviewers and a few special guests.

If you're an advertiser or whatzup contributor, check your mailbox, as it's time for whatzup's Best of 2012 Readers Poll nominations which we'll be using to put together the ballot that will be published in January. As for next year's Whammy Awards, expect different. A lot different.

So read on. Besides office parties, package wrapping and stocking stuffing, there's still lots and lots to do between now and the end of the holidays. You'll find almost all of it here, so until next week: get out of the house, have yourself some fun and tell one and all that whatzup sent you.

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A Gathering for Christmas

By Kathleen Christian

"You can love it or hate it, but Christmas music comes around every year" said Mike Conley, businessman, musician and humanitarian.

Oh, how right he is. Some love to hear the classics over and over. Others reach for earplugs when they hear Mariah Carey start to say how she doesn't want a lot for Christmas. No matter where you stand, you must admit it's exciting when old and new meet to celebrate the holidays. That's exactly what Conley has planned this December at C2G Music Hall where he'll be gathering all his friends together to give the classics a face-lift.

A veteran of Fort Wayne's music scene, Conley has always loved the Christmas season.

"Christmas brings a lot of joy. You reminisce, think about memories and count your blessing at how fortunate you are. I love everything about it," he said. He has even released a Christmas album, *It's a Conley Christmas*, with 11 covers of Christmas favorites and an original that's all his own. "I have something that will kind of live forever because Christmas is around every year" Conley said.

That love of the holiday season inspired Conley, along with C2G General Manager Mark Minnich, to put together a December 22 Christmas show featuring local musicians paying homage to some Christmas greats and reinventing others.

"A Christmas concert is perfect for what we do and who we are," said Minnich. "It will be an awesome show that you won't be able to hear or see anywhere else because you can't book a gig at a local bar and play Christmas music."

Among the artists will be Sunny Taylor who will bring her rocking Americana sound to the songs of the season.

"She's part of the C2G family, you know," said Conley. "Sunny is Sunny, She's



MIKE CONLEY;
SUNNY TAYLOR BAND

Fort Wayne Philharmonic will play cello, Chris Richardson will play sax and Will Brown from the Afro-Disiacs will play percussion.

That makes five different acts, all with a very different musical style to bring to the table.

"It's going to be tremendous" Minnich said. "If you come for the whole show, you'll be amazed by the diversity of the different acts and their sounds."

Cover for the show is just \$5 and a can of food that will be donated to a local food



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just wonderful."

Hannah Bushong, whose father, Tim Bushong, produced Conley's Christmas album, will add a touch of jazz to the lineup, while Christmas songs will be given a ska and reggae flavor by Unlikely Alibi and funk will be added by the Freak Brothers.

"It should be pretty interesting to see the Freak Brothers do Christmas songs," said Conley.

Rounding out the lineup will be Conley himself who will be joined by a number of friends, many of whom played on his Christmas album. Tim Bushong will be playing acoustic guitar, Patrick Borton from Deuce will play upright bass, Jane Heald from the

bank. It's a small fee for a big show, but C2G is a nonprofit organization that tries to keep cover costs as low as possible for all of their shows, according to Minnich.

Though the stellar lineup is a perfect amalgamation of musical styles, Conley put it together with more personal motives. "This is just a bunch of good friends in the musical community who want to share the holidays with each other," he said. "A lot of it is just that we're friends and we want to put on a great holiday show."

So whether you're already in the Christmas mood or just need to get it kick-started, spending an evening with friends and listening to great musicians adding their own twist to Christmas classics is a great way to spend a night.

"This is a coming together of the musical community to celebrate Christmas" Conley said. "All the bands are really excited to share this."

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A Reclamation Project

By Heather Miller

Tucked up in a \$3 padded chair scavenged from a recent GE auction, I leaned close to a tiny space heater, hoping that my chilled red nose would go unnoticed as I listened to local artist and curator, Dan Swartz, divulge his master plan to introduce Fort Wayne to the edgy side of contemporary art. By the end of that day, electricians were expected to flip the switch, sending juice through a web of brand new wiring and heat blasting out of shiny air ducts.

Swartz, with the disproportionate strength of an ant, has worked the past several months filling eight dumpsters with crushed drywall, crusty carpet and other remnants of the old Casa D'Angelo's restaurant. The building at 3402 Fairfield Avenue has been transformed into the home of Swartz's nonprofit brainchild, Wunderkammer Company.

Swartz's mission is to "revitalize communities through contemporary art." At first the tag line may pass through one ear and out the other, with a quick mumbling in between of "whatever, art guy. Good luck saving the world." After a few minutes of listening to Swartz enthusiastically explain his plans for Wunderkammer, I couldn't help being sucked in and soon found myself fist-pumping and chanting "art power." Okay, so there was no fist-pumping, but there was discussion – lots of discussion. Swartz's head spews ideas faster than my pencil could collect.

Unlike many 20-somethings, Swartz has a clear vision and a mission. He has a strong passion for community development and intends to use the nonprofit as a vehicle to push his ideas forward.

"We want to reclaim Fort Wayne, look at the neglected and forgotten resources and make those places cool again," Swartz explained. "We have lost our identity, whatever that may be, and we need to reconnect with that."

Bringing a new identity to an old building, Wunderkammer plans to open its doors on December 15, with a four-exhibit gallery show. The first exhibit, a project called *1x1*, is a photo essay representing the full city limits of Fort Wayne. The project stems from Swartz's contemplations of Fort Wayne's identity and a deep love for the city's history.

"It's a 16-month project showing 16 segments of Fort Wayne," said Swartz. "The project shows one chunk of Fort Wayne, one month at a time. We want to showcase the visual identity of our city." Photographers were asked to capture the essence of each slice of the community. Swartz hopes that the project will



put a spotlight on some of the forgotten spaces and allow photographers to jump into the city planning conversation.

"Photographers aren't involved in city planning, even though they are actually walking through the city and taking intimate shots of areas that have been forgotten by the general population," he said.

Swartz hopes that the exhibit will provide an honest representation of our city and uncover some of the cool things that exist in unexpected places. As with all his projects, Swartz hopes to spark a fire in the hearts of others who wish to brighten our community. Wunderkammer will show one chunk of *1x1* which will include about 56 photos. The show, juried by Karen Thompson, former professor of photography at Saint Francis, was funded by a grant from Arts United.

Investigating the identity of our city will lay the foundation for similar projects to follow. Swartz hopes to host exhibits that are produced by members of the community. The Saint Francis University photo club

Continued on page 15



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Kickstarting a Grand Finale

By Greg Locke

Back in the mid-naughts there was this thing – this club, really – called The Wing Council. Members of the Fort Wayne hip-hop community would gather once a week, not so much to talk growth or collaborate on projects or organize events, but to eat wings. Chicken wings. Discounted chicken club. There was Coda (then known as Jedi Glide), one of the area's best break dancers and most ambitious event organizers. There were Jes and Jake Farris who have since booked some of the best artists ever to play Fort Wayne stages (back then, Jes emceed under the name "Big Frame"). There were other emcees, too, like Custom Made Smitty, Levon "Rhyme-wise 37" Williams and Stephen "Sankofa" Bryden.

For the unfamiliar, Sankofa, our subject, is a Fort Wayne-based emcee who was once included in URB Magazine's "Next 100" list. He's collaborated with underground hip-hop legends like Kashal-Tee, CuninLinguists, Tonedeff and many others, and he's played a big part in his city's arts community for over a decade now.

It was at one of these greasy meetings where I first saw Sankofa 2.0. For a few years I'd known Bryden as something of a one-man-army, an eccentric loner type. Sure, he was social enough, but the guy was nothing if not always focused on his next project, his next album. At this 2.0 Council meeting there was a new development: a girl named Jenn Nickell (whom I knew to be a big supporter of local artists) was sitting next to the city's best known emcee. Snuggled up. For real. And while, yes, there has been more Sankofa music than ever in the years since, Bryden has grown and grown and grown since eating those discounted wings with his lovely lady all those years ago. Soon enough Bryden married Jenn, became more social, bought a house, started a career as a teacher and, most recently, became the father of a cute young man named Arthur, his biggest project ever.

Busy as he keeps just living life, Bryden has managed to find time for his artistic endeavors as a still-new father – two group albums with JON?DOE, under the name The Silversmiths, last year alone. Next up is a solo record called *Just Might Be*, an offering Bryden says will be his last.

"I've been fantasizing about my last album since *The Rosetta Stone* dropped in 2004. That was a long time ago," Bryden explained, next talking about other unreleased works that could eventually surface.

"I also recorded an EP titled *Charles Oakley at the Movies* with a producer in Switzerland named Cris Cardiak which helped defray some of the costs for *Just*

Might Be. JON?DOE and I have about two or so Silversmiths albums which may never get finished. I was going to keep my farewell quiet because we all see people saying 'last show, last album, blah blah' only to return, but *Just Might Be* is an incomplete title. I figured to leave it open ended so people can interpret it and bring to it how and what they see fit."

Bryden recorded the record at home, Jenn taking baby Arthur out on the town so record buttons could be pushed.



"I recorded in my room. It's not really a man cave; it's a room with lots of artwork from my friends, a computer with a pre-amp/microphone and a mountain range of shoe boxes," Bryden told me when asked about making the record. "Beats are handled by Agent Orange, EDS, enoch root, Geno, Purify, adrien75 and DRU PHIT. If I had to describe the production style, I'd say it resembles rap before rap began to suck."

The lyrics on the record span decades, dating all the way back to 1997 when Bryden taught in China. There is, Bryden said, a lot of autobiographical material on the record.

"Life has changed my pen. The key difference is not being able to commit hour after continuous hour determining how a particular arrangement of each word's musicality interacts with the beat. I have to be wise with my time because Arthur is priorities one through three."

For the release, as it will be his last, Bryden wanted to do things up properly. In the past he'd done some interesting things, including stamped tins and screen-printed cover art. This time, though, he wanted to go all the way. And, to make that a reality, he's

turned to funds-raising website Kickstarter.

"I want full-color inserts and lyric sheets. Considering the amount of words contained in this album, that's a lot of paper. Combine packaging expense with being a dad and not being able to justify spending what was once my money but is now family money on a vanity project and there you have it – Kickstarter," Bryden said. "I've seen others utilize Kickstarter and have picked their brains as to how to most effectively craft my own campaign."

Kickstarter, it's a website that helps artists raise money for their projects. Artists set a goal, pitch their project and offer up rewards. If their goal isn't met by a certain date, they get nothing; if the goal is met, they get the money but have to make good on the rewards.

"This is me writing my eulogy, saying goodbye on my own terms. This is me indulging in every last whim and going off the deep end. From my understanding, Kickstarter campaigns work best when there's a quirky/cute video and a collection of crazy rewards," Bryden said. "I figure combining the aforementioned pieces gives my campaign a chance to reach beyond those already familiar with my work."

Kickstarter rewards tend to most often be fan items such as posters, CDs, T-shirts and private concerts, things like that. From time to time someone will throw in something odd, like a ride to work or a lap dance. For the 'Kofa campaign, as expected, there are all sorts of creative options: Nike iD shoes designed by ognihs, Jake Farris and Sankofa; tapes of rare and unheard songs; custom toothpick holders; stickers; magnets; shirts; bottle openers; stress balls; post-it notes; pens; caps; meals with Bryden; voicemail recordings; Lego men; name drops in songs; lawn signs; and maybe, just maybe, custom fortune cookies.

Swag. Loads of it. I had to ask, naturally, how one comes to have such a wide array of mercy.

"I have had a lot of time to prepare for this album. The more time, the more ideas of sweet things I can include for the Kickstarter campaign," Bryden explained. "My pretend label, Obese America, was an outlet to release my music as well as give me an excuse to tinker with artwork and other odds and ends on the merch side. This time, Cottage Cheese Industries – the name for my pretend marketing branch of my pretend label – has gone into triple overtime shifts of madness. As this is my farewell, I'm going out with a 2,100 gun salute."

Stay tuned for info about album release shows and more. For now, head over to Facebook.com/RapSankofa for instructions on how to check out the *Just Might Be* Kickstarter campaign.

Staging a New Tradition

By Ashley Motia

The Nutcracker is one of the most well-known and accessible stories in the history of ballet. This holiday season, Fort Wayne is fortunate to get a double dose of this classic tale about a young girl, her nutcracker prince and a wicked mouse king.

New American Youth Ballet (or NAYB) will be staging a weekend engagement of *The Nutcracker* at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center December 15 and 16.

But if you've seen one performance of *The Nutcracker* this season, you've seen them all, right? Absolutely not.

Beth McLeish, NAYB's executive/artistic director, explained how her organization sought to make their version a unique offering of the beloved dream sequence.

"We asked ourselves how we could make it different. There's another *The Nutcracker* in town that's beautiful and wonderful," she said, "but I feel that our students need the experience of performing in *The Nutcracker* as well. It's a holiday tradition, but it's also an important part of the classical ballet canon.

"We don't need to offer the community something it already has, which is the full production value *The Nutcracker* with The Philharmonic, so we challenged ourselves with making ours different."

It started with a tagline: "for children, by children, about children." McLeish explained that because NAYB only serves children, they are particularly focused on that younger demographic. The youngest dancer in their production is three years old, with the oldest being 18.

But as much as NAYB's production of *The Nutcracker* is about showcasing their students and giving them an opportunity to perform, it's also about giving back to the community. Two of their three shows are reserved to show appreciation to various groups: one for more than 30 local social service agencies and the other to honor those who serve and protect our community. (The show on Saturday, December 15 is open to the public.)

"We worked with corporate sponsors to offer discounted tickets to these social services organizations. Some of them are bringing as many as 300 people to the show, people who probably wouldn't be able to experience the ballet otherwise – those from disadvantaged populations or with disabilities. We're catering our performances to that type of audience," said McLeish.

To add to the excitement, Santa will make an appearance with gifts for all of the children in atten-

dance.

"One of our shows will have more than 700 children in the audience. Every one of them will be getting a present," McLeish said. "We've added a special focus on the children in our audiences. We're doing as much as we can to make it a family holiday event."

To keep the performances kid-friendly, NAYB has abbreviated the three main ballet sections slightly to accommodate for the shorter attention spans of young audience members (and performers). McLeish assured me that no major parts will be left out of the story, though. In total, the program runs about 90 minutes without intermission.

And it's a work in progress.

This is NAYB's first year of putting on *The Nutcracker*. McLeish said it's something they now plan to do annually, so costumes and sets will be built up as they progress. This year's performance includes many rentals to beef up the production value.

"It's going to be really impressive," McLeish said. "We have more than 80 unique and dazzling costumes because some dancers perform multiple roles. We also have three backdrops that we're using and more than 100 different props. It makes for a full theater experience."

"These kids are coming in to see a full 90-minute *Nutcracker*, say hello to Santa and receive a present. It's really going to be cool for them, and that was the direction we wanted to go in. We figured that by taking this route, it allows us to bring arts and culture to people who may not experience it outside of these performances."

Which echoes NAYB's missions statement of making the arts – ballet, in particular – accessible to all.

The classical ballet training school aims to teach anyone with a sincere interest in the dance art, regardless of income or background. NAYB makes ballet affordable for all children with its sliding scale tuition. About half of the students performing in *The Nutcracker* are on the sliding scale program, according to McLeish.

"With these performances, we're planting seeds with children who have not been exposed to ballet or the arts. How many of these kids in the audience may grow up to be a dancer some day because of this experience?

"We would like to serve any dancer who has the desire to learn ballet. A family may think that their income stands in the way of their child learning ballet – it doesn't here. If they come here and show a desire to dance and a serious commitment to the time and passion required to excel in the dance art form, we will find a way to get them here," she said.



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Wooden Nickel CD of the Week



ENDGAME Almost Ready

You may have heard of these guys. If you've been to a wedding or or Bar Mitzvah in the past 40 years, you've almost certainly *heard* them. Tom Gibson, Mark Lenz, Neil Federspiel and John Escosa have been one of the area's premier wedding bands since blow driers were a mandatory piece of rock n' roll gear. These guys have classic rock down to a "t," as their new CD of originals proves. If you love your rock classic, you're ready for *Almost Ready*. Just \$9.99 at any Wooden Nickel Music Store.

TOP SELLERS @

WOODEN NICKEL (Week ending 12/9/12)

TW	LW	ARTIST/Album
1	1	KID ROCK <i>Rebel Soul</i>
2	-	BRUNO MARS <i>Unorthodox Jukebox</i>
3	5	HINDER <i>Welcome to the Freakshow</i>
4	-	BIG BOI <i>Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors</i>
5	4	JOE BONAMASSA <i>Beacon Theatre: Live from New York</i>
6	2	LED ZEPPELIN <i>Celebration Day</i>
7	3	WIZ KHALIFA <i>O.N.I.F.C.</i>
8	-	ALICIA KEYS <i>Girl on Fire</i>
9	7	JOE BONAMASSA <i>Driving Towards Daylight</i>
10	6	SOUNDGARDEN <i>King Animal</i>

Saturday, Dec. 15 • 2pm • All Ages • Free
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The Final Hurrahs

Numero One

The debut record from Bricktown's Replacements- and Guided by Voices-inspired new rock band, The Final Hurrahs, is a number of things. First, the 17 tracks here (12 full-blown songs and five quick theme songs) work as a musical enhancement for an interactive boys clothing line called The Good Ones. The album exists because the clothing exists. But there's more. The record is a collaboration between the two very cool companies behind The Good Ones – design firm One Lucky Guitar and Matilda Jane Clothing – and singer/songwriter Josh Hall, best known for his work in Thunderhawk. *Numero One* is an experiment, a concept, a story, a party, an alternate universe where little animals wear Chuck Taylors and ride skateboards and play guitars.

When I listen to Thunderhawk proper, I picture a tall, half-drunk guy with a PBR in one hand and a partially tuned guitar in the other. He wants to drink, hangout, play drums and howl. When I listen to The Final Hurrahs, I picture Stuart, a small, human-like animal of some sort who dresses like Damon Albarn. He wants to skate, laugh, rock and inspire.

Before making the record, One Lucky Guitar's Matt Kelley created his band on paper – drawings, quotes, T-shirt designs, tour posters, ideas and a back story. The goal was to make The Good Ones not just the greatest, hippest, highest quality clothing for boys around, but to make the company a full-blown experience. An inspiration. A calling card. That said, anyone who knows Kelley even a little bit knows that he was thinking about the record before that first T-shirt was completed. I can almost picture his notes in my head – rocking, timeless, loose, fun, sweet, classic. The Replacements' *Tim* album, minus the beer and sadness. Thunderhawk, minus the beer and sadness. Short, memorable, perfect songs that "cool" parents can listen to with their kids. Kelley's goal: to someday see a member of "The Best New Band Since The Strokes" on stage for their SNL debut. Final Hurrahs tattoo on his arm. That, and to maybe win a Grammy for Best Children's Album.

And here's the thing about that: *Numero One* is better, and certainly cooler, than most of the recent winners of said award (I checked). And, with the clothing line and beautiful packaging and website, not to mention the accessibility of the songs, the album actually *seems* like the kind of release that stands a chance. Everything seems just right. Perfect. But, mostly, the songs are great. Hall, whom many regard as one of the few songwriters genuinely comparable to drunken rock n' roll gods like Robert Pollard and Paul Westerberg, is the star of this show. I'm not sure how the ideas for the songs came together (Kelley clearly had input and gave direction), but in the album's liner notes, Hall (the mellowest overachiever you're likely to meet) is credited for writing, recording, singing and mixing all the songs. Aside from some drums here and there, he plays all the instruments, too.

What's most impressive about Hall's work here are the lyrics, which I'm guessing go above and beyond everything Kelley had hoped for. They're funny, poignant, cute and oddly sweet. Not bad for a guy who, on his own records, appears to be, well, damaged and deeply complex. In a recent One Lucky Guitar post, Kelley wrote about working with Hall: "My over-arching plan was that I would get in the kitchen with the madman, and we would co-write all of the songs ... but as the project progressed, I simply couldn't keep up. The guy exhales songs." Later Kelley gives his humble opinion on the album: "[It's] a five-star classic. An all-time favorite. A put-it-on-repeat, where's-the-Grammy masterpiece ..."

In short, *Numero One* is a rock n' roll record full of quick, simple, memorable songs with great lyrics. An album that both kids and adults can enjoy as long as they have imaginations and haven't already been too confused by the Gagas and the Biebers. I only wish *Numero One* existed when I was first getting into music, was around to teach my cartoon-loving brain about the core of great rock n' roll music. A record for cool kids to listen to, live with, love and connect to long before working their way through must-hears like *Let It Bleed*, *Raw Power*, *Alien Lanes*, *Is This It?* and *Pleased to Meet Me*. Chances are, Mom and Pop are gonna like *Numero One* – a vacation from all the unbearable, cheesy, unchallenging children's music floating around – just as much as the kiddos. And, who knows? Maybe someday they'll pick up Hall must-haves like *Gravity Wins!* and *Black Label Summer*. And, you know, get tattoos of rock n' roll dogs and wear Good Ones gear. (Greg W. Locke)



BACKTRACKS

Tripping Daisy

Bill (1992)



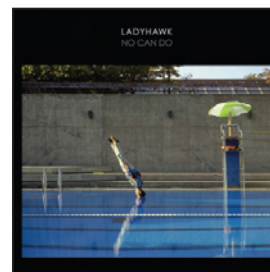
The first full length record from Tripping Daisy was pretty respectable. It was released at the height of Seattle grunge (they were from Dallas) and had elements of the genre, but it was also sort of psychedelic-pop and full of great guitars. Frontman Tim DeLaughter's strong, almost too processed vocals created a sound that was less angry than their counterparts of the scene, but the music still featured the massive layered guitars of the genre.

Bill opens with "My Umbrella," a fevered pop song backed by tight drumming and guitars (think Spin Doctors meet Offspring). "One Through Four" follows and keeps up the pace for almost three full minutes, followed by another radio-friendly track in "Lost And Found." "Change Of Mind" is one of the psych-pop songs featured and brings the tempo down a few beats while the next song, "On The Ground," one of the harder tracks, sort of reminds me of Jane's Addiction from their early years. "The Morning" is a trippy little number, sort of an instrumental with synthesized voices and sounds in the background, and "Blown Away" brings you back to the sound that was heard in the beginning of the record. They actually do a very good cover of the Lemon Pipers' "Green Tambourine" on this album as well. There are a few hidden tracks at the end of the CD, but the last listed song, "Triangle," wraps up what I consider to be a really good release.

Tripping Daisy are probably best known for their 1995 single, "I Got A Girl" and the video that accompanied it. The band had four albums (and five drummers) in six years, and broke up after the fatal overdose of guitarist Wes Berggren. Check out The Polyphonic Spree, another great project from DeLaughter; they are promoting a Christmas album. (Dennis Donahue)

Ladyhawk

No Can Do



In 2008 Vancouver's Ladyhawk released their sophomore effort, *Shots*. This was an aptly named album that sonically inhabited those darkly magical pre-hangover, post-last-call hours. The band recalled a younger (yet no less moody) version of The National, with soaring melancholy and a hint of menace behind the beauty.

Four years later, what should we expect from these guys? An even more world-weary, dour disposition? If that's what you're hoping for, buddy, then Ladyhawk's latest album title has an answer for you: *No Can Do*. Burnished, bursting with pent-up energy, and as refreshing as a hangover-free walk in the Saturday morning winter sun, this album is a majestically rocking document.

"Window Pane" drives along insistently and economically, with melody to spare. The expansive opening track, "Footprints," recalls the cinematic hugeness of the Stone Roses in their heyday. If you're familiar with Ladyhawk's distinctive hooks, rest assured they're still buried in there. But, this track's fuzzed-out momentum won't be denied. This infectious enthusiasm extends to "You Read My Mind" (which features an exceptional payoff in the chorus; this one keeps piling on the goodies right up to the end), the breakneck "Evil Eye" and the title track. The current incarnation of whatever passes for the Shins these days would do well to listen to this one – if only to re-experience the vibe that hearkens back to that band's debut.

Ladyhawk blow up any residual sad sack descriptors with the punk-fueled, euphoric "Rub Me Wrong." Following close on its heels, "Sinking Ship" keeps the tempo jacked up and pairs clean guitars with fuzzed up ones. The distant vocals won't provide an easy hook to grab onto, but that's not the point on this particular ride.

The only apparent slowdown comes early, with "I'm a Witch," but it's smoldering underneath and catches fire soon enough. *No Can Do* is that rare album that sounds great no matter where the needle drops. Lets hope Ladyhawk and this album get the kind of attention here in the States that they deserve. (D.M. Jones)

Thursday, Dec. 13

ANGOLA
Skip's Party Place — Rock Star Karaoke, 8 p.m.
AUBURN
4 Crowns — Shotgun Prod. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
FORT WAYNE
Arena Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke w/Jay, 8 p.m.
Club V — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Columbia Street West — Dance Party w/DJ Rich, 10 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9 p.m.
Deer Park Irish Pub — Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca, 10 p.m.
Foster's Sports Pub — Shooting Star Prod. w/Stu, 9:30 p.m.
Latch String Bar & Grill — Ambitious Blondes Ent., 10 p.m.
North Star Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/Mike Campbell, 8 p.m.
O'Sullivan's Pub — Tronic, 10 p.m.
Piere's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Rusty Spur Saloon — American Idol Karaoke 9 p.m.
NEW HAVEN
Rack & Helen's — American Idol Karaoke w/Eric, 9:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14

AUBURN
4 Crowns — Shotgun Prod. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
Meteor Bar & Grill — Classic City Karaoke, 9 p.m.
CHURUBUSCO
DW Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/DJ Chuck, 10 p.m.
FORT WAYNE
4D's Bar & Grill — DJ Trend, 10 p.m.
Alley Sports Bar — On Key Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Babylon — DJ Tabatha, 10:30 p.m.
Babylon, Bears Den — DJ TAB & karaoke w/Steve Jones, 10:30 p.m.
Club V — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Columbia Street West — Dance Party w/DJ Rich, 10 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — KJ Jessica, 9 p.m.
Early Bird's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Elks — Shooting Star Prod. w/Dusty, 10 p.m.
Flashback — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Green Frog — American Idol Karaoke w/TJ, 9:30 p.m.
Hook & Ladder — Shooting Star Prod. w/Stu, 9 p.m.
Office Tavern — Swing Time Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Piere's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Pine Valley Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke w/Jesse, 9:30 p.m.
Quaker Steak and Lube — American Idol Karaoke w/Jay, 9:30 p.m.
Rum Runners — DJ dance party, 8:30 p.m.
Tower Bar & Grill — Bucca Karaoke w/Ashley, 10 p.m.
Uncle Lou's Steel Mill — Shooting Star Prod. w/Barbie, 10 p.m.
Woodland Lounge — DJ Randy Alomar, 9 p.m.
LAOTTO
Sit n' Bull — Classic City Karaoke, 9 p.m.
LEO
JR's Pub — American Idol Karaoke w/Doug P, 9 p.m.
MONROEVILLE
Toad's Tavern — Shooting Star Prod. w/Nacho, 9 p.m.
NEW HAVEN
Canal Tap Haus — Flashback Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Spudz Bar — Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca, 9 p.m.
WOLCOTTVILLE
Coody Brown's USA — American Idol Karaoke w/Matt, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

AUBURN
Meteor Bar & Grill — Classic City Karaoke, 9 p.m.
FORT WAYNE
A.J.'s Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/Wendy KQ, 8 p.m.
Alley Sports Bar — On Key Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Arena Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke w/Josh, 9 p.m.
Babylon — Plush, 10 p.m.
Chevvy's — Karaoke w/Total Spectrum, 10 p.m.
Club V — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9:30 p.m.
Duty's Buckets Sports Pub — DJ, 9 p.m.
Early Bird's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Flashback — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Hammerheads — Shotgun Prod. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
Jag's Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke w/TJ, 9 p.m.
Latch String Bar & Grill — Ambitious Blondes Ent., 10 p.m.
Piere's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Pike's Pub — Shooting Star Productions w/Stu, 10 p.m.
Pine Valley Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Tower Bar & Grill — Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca, 10 p.m.
Uncle Lou's Steel Mill — Shooting Star Prod. w/Barbie, 10 p.m.
VFW 8147 — Come Sing Witt Us Karaoke w/Steve, 9 p.m.
HAMILTON
Hamilton House — Jammin' Jan Karaoke, 10 p.m.
NEW HAVEN
Canal Tap Haus — Flashback Karaoke, 9 p.m.
POE
Hi Ho Again — Shooting Star Prod. w/Nacho, 10 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16

FORT WAYNE
JR's Pub — American Idol Karaoke w/Doug P, 9 p.m.

After Dark — Dance videos & karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9 p.m.
Foster's Sports Pub — Shooting Star Prod. w/Stu, 9:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17

FORT WAYNE
After Dark — Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
Canal Tap Haus — Flashback Karaoke, 8 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9 p.m.
Latch String Bar & Grill — Ambitious Blondes Ent., 10 p.m.
Office Tavern — Swing Time Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18

AUBURN
Mimi's Retreat — Shotgun Prod. Karaoke, 9 p.m.
FORT WAYNE
4D's Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/Brian, 9 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9 p.m.
O'Sullivan's Pub — On Key Karaoke, 10 p.m.
GARRETT
CJ's Canteena — Classic City Karaoke, 9 p.m.
NEW HAVEN
Rack & Helen's — American Idol Karaoke w/TJ, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

FORT WAYNE
After Dark — Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
A.J.'s Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/Wendy KQ, 8 p.m.
Berlin Music Pub — Shooting Star Prod. w/Barbie, 10 p.m.
Chevvy's Pizza & Sports Bar — American Idol Karaoke w/TJ, 10 p.m.
Club V — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9 p.m.
Dupont Bar & Grill — Shut Up & Sing w/Mike Campbell, 8 p.m.
Office Tavern — Shooting Star Productions w/Stu, 9 p.m.
Wrigley Field Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/Bucca, 10 p.m.
GARRETT
Martin's Tavern — WiseGuy Entertainment w/Josh, 10 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 20

ANGOLA
Skip's Party Place — Rock Star Karaoke, 8 p.m.
AUBURN
4 Crowns — Shotgun Prod. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
FORT WAYNE
Arena Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke w/Jay, 8 p.m.
Club V — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Columbia Street West — Dance Party w/DJ Rich, 10 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — House KJ, 9 p.m.
Deer Park Irish Pub — Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca, 10 p.m.
Foster's Sports Pub — Shooting Star Prod. w/Stu, 9:30 p.m.
Latch String Bar & Grill — Ambitious Blondes Ent., 10 p.m.
North Star Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/Mike Campbell, 8 p.m.
O'Sullivan's Pub — Tronic, 10 p.m.
Piere's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Rusty Spur Saloon — American Idol Karaoke 9 p.m.
NEW HAVEN
Rack & Helen's — American Idol Karaoke w/Eric, 9:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 21

AUBURN
4 Crowns — Shotgun Prod. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
Meteor Bar & Grill — Classic City Karaoke, 9 p.m.
CHURUBUSCO
DW Bar & Grill — Karaoke w/DJ Chuck, 10 p.m.
FORT WAYNE
4D's Bar & Grill — DJ Trend, 10 p.m.
Alley Sports Bar — On Key Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Babylon — DJ Tabatha, 10:30 p.m.
Babylon, Bears Den — DJ TAB & karaoke w/Steve Jones, 10:30 p.m.
Club V — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Columbia Street West — Dance Party w/DJ Rich, 10 p.m.
Crooners Karaoke Bar — KJ Jessica, 9 p.m.
Early Bird's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Elks — Shooting Star Prod. w/Dusty, 10 p.m.
Flashback — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Green Frog — American Idol Karaoke w/TJ, 9:30 p.m.
Hook & Ladder — Shooting Star Prod. w/Stu, 9 p.m.
Office Tavern — Swing Time Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Piere's — House DJ, 9 p.m.
Pine Valley Bar & Grill — American Idol Karaoke w/Jesse, 9:30 p.m.
Quaker Steak and Lube — American Idol Karaoke w/Jay, 9:30 p.m.
Rum Runners — DJ dance party, 8:30 p.m.
Tower Bar & Grill — Bucca Karaoke w/Ashley, 10 p.m.
Uncle Lou's Steel Mill — Shooting Star Prod. w/Barbie, 10 p.m.
Woodland Lounge — DJ Randy Alomar, 9 p.m.
LAOTTO
Sit n' Bull — Classic City Karaoke, 9 p.m.
LEO
JR's Pub — American Idol Karaoke w/Doug P, 9 p.m.

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EXPECT: Hottest bar in northern Indiana. No cover ever! Great food and drink specials, pool, games, live bands and karaoke. **EATS:** Comfort-style, high-quality food at a fair price. Homemade specials daily. **GETTING THERE:** 3 miles north of Carroll Road at the corner of U.S. 33 and State Rd. 205 in Churubusco. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

FORT WAYNE

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Tavern/Sports Bar • 1820 W. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-6488

EXPECT: Mon., \$10 buckets, \$3 Blue Moon bottles and \$1 taco; Tues., \$2 longnecks, \$7.25 fajitas; Wed., 25¢ wings, live entertainment; Thurs., \$3 Jager bombs, \$4 Long Islands, 40¢ boneless wings; Fri., \$2 cherry and grape bombs, \$6.00 pitchers; Sat., \$2 Coors Light pints, \$3 Leinenkugel bottles, live entertainment; Sun., \$10 100-oz. towers, touch down food specials. **GETTING THERE:** NW corner of Dupont & Lima. **HOURS:** Mon.-Fri. 3 p.m.-3 a.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-3 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

AFTER DARK

Dance Club • 1601 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne • 260-456-6235

EXPECT: Mon. drink specials & karaoke; Tues. male dancers; Wed. karaoke; Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Vegas-style drag show (female impersonators); dancing w/Sizzling Sonny. Outdoor patio. Sunday karaoke & video dance party. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown Fort Wayne, 1 block south of Powers Hamburgers. **HOURS:** 12 noon-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 6 p.m.-3 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Cash only, ATM available

ALLEY SPORTS BAR

Sports Bar • 1455 Goshen Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-4421

EXPECT: Friday, "On-Key" Karaoke starting at 9 p.m.; Saturday, live bands 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover; Sports on 21 big screen TVs all week. **EATS:** Sandwiches, Fort Wayne's best breaded tenderloin, pizzas, soups and salads. **GETTING THERE:** Inside Pro Bowl West, Gateway Plaza on Goshen Rd. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.; 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Tues.-Wed.; 9 a.m.-12 a.m. Thurs.; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Fri.; 9 a.m.-3 a.m. Sat.; and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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Dance Club • 112 E. Masterson, Fort Wayne • 260-247-5062

EXPECT: Two unique bars in one historic building. DJ Tabatha on Fridays and Plush DJs on Saturdays. DJ TAB and karaoke in the Bears Den Fridays. Come shake it up in our dance cage. Outdoor patio. Ask for nightly specials. **GETTING THERE:** Three blocks south of the Downtown Hilton on Calhoun St., then left on Masterson. Catty-corner from the Oyster Bar. **HOURS:** 6 p.m.-3 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Cash only, ATM available

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----- Calendar • Live Music & Comedy -----

Thursday, Dec. 13

ALL THAT REMAINS w/Nonpoint — Rock at Piere's, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$9.89, 486-1979

CAB N' JOE — Variety at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 625-1002

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — Variety at Covington Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 432-6660

CHRISTINE STEDMAN w/CHRIS DUBAIL — Comedy at Snickerz, Fort Wayne, 7:30, \$8, \$9.50, 486-0216

CLAM JAM w/QUINCY SANDERS — Open jam at Skully's Boneyard, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 637-0198

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC w/THE PHILHARMONIC CHORUS — "The Sacred Music of Christmas," Chamber Choral Series with conductor Sameer Patel performing Bach's "Jauchzet, Frohlocket" from *Christmas Oratorio*; Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*; Mendelssohn's *There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob*; the traditional *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*; Gardner's *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*; Parker's *Adeste Fideles*; Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ*; *The Shepherd's Farewell*; Tchaikovsky's *December*; Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Christmas Carol*; and Handel's "Hallelujah" from *Messiah*, at First Wayne Street

United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., \$22, 481-0777,

HUBIE ASHCRAFT — Variety at Rack and Helen's, New Haven, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 749-5396

J TAYLORS — Variety at Don Hall's Triangle Park & Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 482-4342

JEFF McDONALD — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524

JOE JUSTICE — Variety at Trolley Bar, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 490-4322

JON DURNELL — Rock variety at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

KUGLER BROTHERS TRIO — Variety at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., no cover, 483-1311

OPEN MIC HOSTED BY MIKE CONLEY — At Mad Anthony Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

THE OSMONDS — Christmas pop at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, 7:30 p.m., \$20-\$40, 419-238-6722

TODD HARROLD TRIO — R&B jazz at Duty's Buckets, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 459-1352

Friday, Dec. 14

ALL THE DEPARTED w/CREEP, THE PARK BROTHERS, HARRISON SADE, ALEX RENBARGER, CHASE HUGLIN, NOCTURNAL BEATNINKS, TO THE POINT, CONDEMNED NATION, DEAR ALONE & YET TO BE MUTE — Rock at Jam Crib, Fort Wayne, 4:30 p.m., \$5, 422-1654

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock at Skip's Party Place, Angola, 9:30 p.m., \$3 after 8 p.m., 665-3922

BROTHER w/OUTLAW COWBOYS — Classic rock and country at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Skully's Boneyard, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 637-0198

CHRISTINE STEDMAN w/CHRIS DUBAIL — Comedy at Snickerz, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. & 9:45 p.m., \$9.50, 486-0216

CLASSIC VOICE — Swing at Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 482-1618

COUGAR HUNTER — 80s glam rock at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

DAN SMYTH — Acoustic variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

Sirface Returning After a Year Off

Those heading to the Bear's Electric Christmas show on Friday, December 21 will be in for one mind-blowing evening. Sure, we all know headliner All That Remains will be ready to tear things up, but it will also mark the return of our very own Sirface. That's right, one of the more established rock acts in our area is coming out swinging anew after taking some time off. It's hard to believe that it's been over a year since their last performance (at that time none of us knew their hiatus would last this long). During that downtime, one thing they managed to do was make some adjustments to their lineup. The revamped Sirface consists of Jared Pagan (vocals) and Matt Hopkins (bass) along with newbies Colt Burnett (guitar) and Darrell Robinson (drums). They've already begun writing new material and are chomping at the bit to start booking some dates in 2013.

While we may hear some of that new material at the show, if we have to wait, you know darn well it will be worth it. Just take their 2009 release, *A New Life*, which was five years in the making. Sure, we had to wait a bit for it, but that thing was solid as can be with many hard rock sing-alongs. For their first show



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

back, it looks as if they'll be the first to take the stage, so get your rear out to the show early. You don't want to miss them!

If you see bassist Hopkins slapping the four-stringer on a couple different occasions that night, your mind's not playing tricks on you. He'll actually be doing double-duty, as his other outfit, Rains, is also on the bill. If you see him moseying around the crowd during the show, buy him a cold one. I'm sure he'll need it.

Country duo Allan & Ashcraft will performing a New Year's Eve party at Cowboy Up, Southwest Michigan's country music destination. If you want to ring in the new year with a little A&A and some rowdy Michiganders, then take the short trip north.

nikni76@yahoo.com

Saturday, Dec. 15 • 8pm

Robbie V.

Sunday, Dec. 23 • 7pm

Jason Paul

Wednesday Nights

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w/ Stu Black**

Office Tavern

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Fort Wayne, Indiana
260.478.5827**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 8:30PM
KUGLER BRO. TRIO
7:30PM • SOUND OFF SHOW W/21 ALIVE'S
TOMMY SCHOEGLER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 9:30PM

TBA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 • 9:30PM

WHAT SHE SAID

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

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Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

DEE BEES — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC w/CINCINNATI COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC — "Holiday Pops," Sweetwater Pops Series with conductor Bradley Thachuk performing *Sleigh Ride*, the *Hallelujah* Chorus and other traditional holiday music at the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$28-\$68, 481-0777

GUITAR AND FIDDLE — Variety at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 6-8 p.m., no cover, 625-1002

JOE JUSTICE — Variety at Jimmy's on James, Angola, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 833-9676

KAT BOWSER — Variety at Deer Park Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

KENNY TAYLOR — Acoustic at Don Hall's Factory, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 484-8693

KILLNANCY — Rock at Piere's, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$5, 486-1979

KIRKO BANGZ — Rap at Piere's, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$22.50 adv., \$27.50 d.o.s., 486-1979

MARK MAXWELL SAX EXPERIENCE — Christmas jazz at the Philmore on Broadway, Fort Wayne, 8:45 p.m., \$15-\$20, 800-599-9820

MIKE BEACH — Variety at Kickin' Chicken Saloon, Monroeville, 9 p.m., no cover, 623-6736

OPEN MIC NIGHT — Open jams at the Fire House Tea and Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., free, 444-4071, www.firehousetea.com

OUTTA HAND — Rock variety at North Star Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 471-3798

PRIMETIME — Variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 489-0840

RECKON — Country rock at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

SCRATCH N SNIFF — Pop rock variety at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 7:30-10:30 p.m., no cover, 436-3512

SOUL FYRE — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

TAX BRANDYWINE w/JAMES AND THE DRIFTERS — Folk rock at the Dash-In, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 423-3595

TODD HAROLD TRIO — R&B jazz at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

WEST CENTRAL QUARTET — Swing favorites at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

WHAT SHE SAID — Rock at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

Saturday, Dec. 15

1-Ton Trio — Blues rock at Angola Moose, Angola, 9 p.m., no cover, 665-9361

ANTHONY GARR — Acoustic rock at the Firefly Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 5:30-7 p.m., free, 373-0505

BC Fuzzz — Funk at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

BACKWATER — Country at Navy Club Ship 245, New Haven, 8 p.m., no cover, 493-4044

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock at Skip's Party Place, Angola, 9:30 p.m., \$3 after 8 p.m., 665-3922

BLUE RIVER BAND — Country at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

CHERE-BOB & HER BLUEGRASS BOYS — Bluegrass at Portside Pizza, Columbia City, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 691-3333

COUGAR HUNTER — 80s glam rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

ECLIPSE — Acoustic Rock at Don Hall's Factory, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 484-8693

ENDGAME — Rock at Wooden Nickel North Anthony, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m., no cover, 484-3635

EYES — Rock at Alley Sports Bar, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-4421

D. JONES w/MARLIN HILL & THE LIVING FOR JESUS GOSPEL MIMES, LATRECE COREE, TERRELL PETTUS, PASTOR BILL MCGILL AND COURTNEY WHITE — Gospel comedy at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., \$12 adv., \$17 d.o.s., 426-6434

DAN DAVIS — Rock at Deer Park Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

DEE BEES — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

DUSTIN LYNCH w/GUNSLINGER — Country at Neon Armadillo, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., \$7 adv. \$9 d.o.s., 490-5060

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC w/CINCINNATI COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC — "Holiday Pops," Sweetwater Pops Series with conductor Bradley Thachuk performing *Sleigh Ride*, the *Hallelujah* Chorus and other traditional holiday music at the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., \$28-\$68, 481-0777

HEARTBEAT CITY — 70s-80s at Skully's Boneyard, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 637-0198

HEARTLAND SINGS — Holiday choral at Homestead High School auditorium, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., \$20, 436-8080

HOLIDAY OPEN JAM w/CONTINUUM — Open jazz soul jam at The Dash-In, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 423-3595

NIGHTLIFE

BERLIN MUSIC PUB

Music • 1201 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-580-1120

EXPECT: The region's premier underground/D.I.Y. music venue featuring genres such as metal, punk, Americana, indie pop, etc. Karaoke Wednesdays, bluegrass jam hosted by Old and Dirty on Thursdays, live music on Fridays and Saturdays, \$1 drink specials on Thursdays and Sundays. Free WIFI. **EATS:** Pizzas and sandwiches. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of West Main and Cherry. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Monday-Saturday, noon-3 a.m. Sunday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Visa, MC, Disc, ATM available

G2G MUSIC HALL

Music • 323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne • 260-426-6464

EXPECT: Great live music on one of Fort Wayne's best stages. Diverse musical genres from local, regional and national performers, all in a comfortable, all-ages, family-friendly, intimate atmosphere. Excellent venue for shows, events, presentations, meetings and gatherings. **EATS:** Local vendors may cater during shows. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. **HOURS:** Shows typically start at 8 p.m.; doors open an hour earlier. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & wine during shows only; **PMT:** Cash, check

CALHOUN STREET SOUPS, SALADS & SPIRITS "CS3"

Music/Variety • 1915 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • 260-456-7005

EXPECT: Great atmosphere, jazz DJ Friday night, live shows, weekly drink specials, private outdoor patio seating. **EATS:** Daily specials, full menu of sandwiches, soups, salads, weekend dinner specials and appetizers. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of South Calhoun Street and Masterson; ample parking on street and lot behind building. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later, Thurs.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR

Sports Bar • 1150 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne • 260-467-1638

EXPECT: High-action sports watching experience featuring 30 HD TVs, state-of-the-art sound systems and booths with private flat screen TVs. Karaoke Thursday nights. UFC Fight Nights. Great drink specials. **EATS:** Varied menu to suit any palate. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson Blvd. and S. Harrison St., inside Courtyard by Marriott. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc, ATM

CHECKERZ BAR & GRILL

Pub/Tavern • 1706 W. Till Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-489-0286

EXPECT: Newly remodeled, 10 TVs to watch all your favorite sports, pool table and games. Live rock Fridays & Saturdays. **EATS:** Kitchen open all day w/full menu & the best wings in town. Daily home-cooked lunch specials. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Lima and Till roads. **HOURS:** Open 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri., noon-3 a.m. Sat., noon-midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, ATM available

COLUMBIA STREET WEST

Rock • 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5055

EXPECT: The Fort's No. 1 rock club — Live bands every Saturday. DJ Night every Friday w/ladies in free. **EATS:** Wide variety featuring salads, sandwiches, pizzas, grinders, Southwestern and daily specials. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on The Landing. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

DEER PARK PUB

Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg Rd. Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-432-8966

EXPECT: Home to Dancioke, 12 craft beer lines, 75 domestic and imported beers, assorted wines, St. Pat's Parade, keg toss, Irish snug and USF students. Friday/Saturday live music, holiday specials. Outdoor beer garden. www.deerparkpub.com. Wi-Fi hotspot. **EATS:** Finger food, tacos every Tuesday. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Leesburg and Spring, across from UFS. **HOURS:** 2 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., noon-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & Wine; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

DICKY'S WILD HARE

Pub/Tavern • 2910 Maplecrest, Fort Wayne • 260-486-0590

EXPECT: Live bands Saturday nights; Family-friendly, laid back atmosphere; Large selection of beers. **EATS:** An amazing array of sandwiches & munchies; Chuck Wagon BBQ, seafood entrees and pizza. **GETTING THERE:** 2 blocks north of State St. on Maplecrest at Georgetown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri.-Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Amex, Visa, Disc

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FRIDAY-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14-15 • 10PM

DJ RICH

EVERY THURSDAY

DJ RICH



NIGHTLIFE

DON HALL'S FACTORY PRIME RIB

Dining/Music • 5811 Coldwater Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-484-8693
EXPECT: Private rooms for rehearsal, birthday, anniversary celebrations. **EATS:** Fort Wayne's best prime rib, steaks, chops, seafood & BBQ. **GETTING THERE:** North on Coldwater to Washington Center, 1/4 mi. from I-69, Exit 112A. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Checks, MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, DC

DON HALL'S TRIANGLE PARK BAR & GRILLE

Dining/Music • 3010 Trier Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-482-4343
EXPECT: Great Prime Rib, Steak, Chops and excellent Seafood menu, along with sandwiches, snacks and big salads. Very relaxing atmosphere, with a huge sundeck overlooking a pond. Daily dinner and drink specials, live music every Wednesday and Saturday night, and kids love us too! More online at www.donhalls.com. **GETTING THERE:** Two miles east of Glenbrook Square, on Trier Road between Hobson and Coliseum Blvd. **HOURS:** Open daily at 11 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Checks, MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

DUPONT BAR & GRILL

Sports Bar • 10336 Leo Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311
EXPECT: Great daily drink specials, three pool tables, 14 TVs, Shut Up and Sing Karaoke w/Mike Campbell every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. and live music Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. **EATS:** \$5.99 daily lunch specials; 40¢ wings all day on Wednesdays and Sundays. **GETTING THERE:** North of Fort Wayne at Leo Crossing (Dupont & Clinton). **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex

FIREFLY COFFEE HOUSE

Coffeehouse • 3523 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-373-0505
EXPECT: Peaceful, comfortable atmosphere; live music on Friday & Saturday, 5-6:30 p.m.; local artists featured monthly; outdoor seating. (www.fireflycoffeehousefw.com). Free wireless Internet. **EATS:** Great coffee, teas, smoothies; fresh-baked items; light lunches and soups. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of North Anthony Blvd. and St. Joe River Drive. **HOURS:** 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Sat.; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** None; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

LATCH STRING BAR & GRILL

Pubs & Taverns • 3221 N. Clinton, Fort Wayne • 260-483-5526
EXPECT: Fun, friendly, rustic atmosphere. Daily drink specials. Music entertainment every night. No cover. Tuesdays, Rockabilly w/Kenny Taylor & \$2.50 imports; Thursdays, \$1.50 longnecks; Sundays, \$3.50 Long Islands; Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays, Ambitious Blondes Karaoke. **GETTING THERE:** On point where Clinton and Lima roads meet, next to Budget Rental. **HOURS:** Open Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Sun., noon-12:30 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

MAD ANTHONY BREWING COMPANY

Brew Pub/Micro Brewery • 2002 S. Broadway, Fort Wayne • 260-426-2537
EXPECT: Ten beers freshly hand-crafted on premises and the eclectic madness of Munchie Emporium. **EATS:** 4-1/2 star menus, 'One of the best pizzas in America,' large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Just southwest of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. **HOURS:** Usually 11 a.m.-1 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

NORTH STAR BAR & GRILL

Pubs & Taverns • 2915 E. State Blvd, Fort Wayne • 260-471-3798
EXPECT: Daily food and drink specials. Karaoke w/Mike Campbell Thursday. Live bands Friday-Saturday. Blue Light Monday w/\$1 drinks, \$1 beers & DJ Spin Live playing your favorites. \$1.75 domestic longnecks Tuesday & Thursday, \$2 wells & \$1 DeKuyper Wednesday. Beer specials Friday. **EATS:** Full menu feat. burgers, pizza, grinders and our famous North Star fries. **GETTING THERE:** State Blvd. at Beacon St. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., 3p.m.-3 a.m. Fri.; 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat.; noon-midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

O'SULLIVAN'S ITALIAN IRISH PUB

Pub/Tavern • 1808 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5896
EXPECT: A Fort Wayne tradition of good times & great drinks! Darts, foosball, live entertainment. Karaoke Tuesday nights. **EATS:** O's famous pizza every day. Italian dinners Wednesday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Reservations accepted. **GETTING THERE:** West of downtown at the corner of Main and Runnion. **HOURS:** 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

OFFICE TAVERN

Pub/Tavern • 3306 Brooklyn Ave., Fort Wayne • 260-478-5827
EXPECT: New, fresh look. Not sticky floors. Friendly, prompt service. Pool table and video games. **EATS:** Handmade, 1/2-lb. burgers and great original chicken wings every day. **GETTING THERE:** Between Bluffton and Taylor on Brooklyn. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

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----- Calendar • Live Music & Comedy -----

J TAYLORS — Variety at Christ Child Festival, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 1-2 p.m., no cover, 483-1111

JUKE JOINT JIVE — Rock funk variety at the Butler American Legion, Butler, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 868-2260

KENNY ROGERS — Pop country at The Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7 p.m., \$38-\$100, 563-1102

KENNY TAYLOR & THE TIKONGAS — Surf rock at The Wet Spot, Decatur, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 728-9031

LEFT LANE CRUISER — Blues at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 422-5896

LOST VEGAS — Rock at Vinnie's Bar, Decatur, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$3, 728-2225

MARK GARR — Variety at Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

MARK MAXWELL SAX EXPERIENCE — Christmas jazz at the Philmore on Broadway, Fort Wayne, 8:45 p.m., \$15-\$20, 800-599-9820

MARSHALL LAW — Country rock at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

MILES HIGH W/SHADDER — Rock at Historic Auburn Hotel Lobby, Auburn, 7-10 p.m., \$3, 255-6805

OUTLAW COWBOYS W/BROTHER — Country rock at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

PARTY BOAT BAND — Variety at Lucky's Terrapin Grill, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., donation, 490-5765

PHIL POTTS TRIO — Blues at North Star Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 471-3798

ROBBIE V. — Variety at the Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 478-5827

STAGECOACH — Country rock at the Hook & Ladder, Waynedale, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 747-1572

SYNERGY — Rock at Covington Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 432-6660

SUM MORZ — Rock variety at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

TESTED ON ANIMALS — Rock Variety at Dicky's Wild Hare, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 486-0590

TODD HARROLD TRIO — R&B jazz at Mad Anthony Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

URBAN LEGEND — R&B soul at AJ's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., \$5, 434-1980

WHAT SHE SAID — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., \$5, 483-1311

THE WHY STORE — Rock at Piere's, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$5, 486-1979

YELLOW DEAD BETTYS — Rock original at Legends Sports Bar, Huntington, 10 p.m., no cover, 359-0610

Sunday, Dec. 16

DARRON 'COOKIE' MOORE — Christmas jazz at Bookers at Coyote Creek, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., \$7, 483-3148

HEARTLAND SINGS — Holiday choral at Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Columbia City, 2:30 p.m., \$20, 436-8080

HUBIE ASHCRAFT — Variety at Brevin's, Churubusco, 3-6 p.m., no cover, 693-9340

CONCORDIA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT w/ASCENSION LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY, CONCORDIA ELEMENTARY, HOLY CROSS ELEMENTARY AND ST. PETER ELEMENTARY CHOIRS — Holiday Concert at the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 4 p.m., \$6-\$12, 424-5665

Monday, Dec. 17

OLD CROWN BRASS BAND — Brass at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., donation, 432-1524

SUPER BOB w/COGNITION & KEROSCE — Indie rock at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 490-6488

Tuesday, Dec. 18

DAVID PHELPS — Contemporary Christian at First Assembly of God, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$25, 484-1029

HUBIE ASHCRAFT — Variety at Duty's Buckets Sports Pub & Grub, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 459-1352

KENNY TAYLOR & PAUL NEW STEWART — El's Angels Xmas show at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

Wednesday, Dec. 19

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at East Haven Tavern, New Haven, 8:30-11:30 p.m., no cover, 749-7777

FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC — Holiday pops at The Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$15, 563-1102

JASON PAUL — Variety at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 755-3465

KENNY TAYLOR — Acoustic at J.K. O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 420-5563

MIKE ROGERS — Variety at North Star Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 471-3798

SWEETWATER JAZZ PROJECT — Jazz at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 7:30, \$5, 426-6434



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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FEATURING

QUINCY
SANDIERS



FRIDAY, DEC. 14 • 8PM

Chris Worth

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 • 9:30PM

Heartbeat
City

415 E. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne
(260) 637-0198

NIGHTLIFE

PEANUTS FOOD & SPIRITS

Rock • 5731 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-486-2822

EXPECT: No cover ever! New owner/management. Kept what you like; got rid of what you didn't. New flat screens, remodeled pool room.
Wed. special: \$3.75 large pitchers, no cover. Come see the NEW Peanuts! **EATS:** Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays are Wing Night: 40¢ bone-in, 45¢ boneless. Come try Baskets of Death. **GETTING THERE:** Marketplace of Canterbury, 3 mi. east of Exit 112A off I-69. **HOURS:** 2 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-12:30 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex

RUSTY SPUR SALOON

Music/Country • 10350 Leo Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-755-3465

Expect: Wednesday acoustic, Friday and Saturday live bands; local, regional and national acts. **Eats:** Full kitchen with new menu; Saturday Steak Dinner Special, \$6. **Getting There:** Located in Leo Crossing at the intersection of Dupont, Clinton and Tonkel roads. **Hours:** Open at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday; open at 3 p.m. Friday. **Alcohol:** Full Service **Pmt.:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

SHOWGIRL III

Adult Entertainment • 930 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-8843

EXPECT: Gentlemen's Club voted among the Top 10 in the U.S. Four stages, two bars, five big screens. 24-hour limousine service, VIP room, champagne room and free buffet served 4-7 p.m. Lingerie Shows Tuesdays, Amateur Contest with cash and prizes Wednesdays. Menage-a-trois wine now being served. **EATS:** Full kitchen available daily till close. **GETTING THERE:** Coliseum Blvd. next to Hooters.

HOURS: 2 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., 12 p.m.-3 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

SKULLY'S BONEYARD

Music/Variety • 415 E. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-637-0198

EXPECT: Daily features Mon.-Fri.; Variety music Wed.; Acoustic Thurs.; Jazz Fri.; Rock n' roll Sat. Lounge boasts an upscale rock n' roll theme with comfortable seating, including booths and separated lounge areas; 15 TVs; covered smoking patio. **EATS:** Full menu including steaks, seafood, burgers, deli sandwiches, our famous homemade pizza & grilled wings. **GETTING THERE:** Behind Casa's on Dupont.

HOURS: 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Mon.-Tues.; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Wed.-Fri.; 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

SNICKERZ COMEDY BAR

Comedy • 5535 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-486-0216

EXPECT: See the brightest comics in America every Thurs. thru Sat. night. **EATS:** Sandwiches, chicken strips, fish planks, nachos, wings & more. **GETTING THERE:** In front of Pierce's. 2.5 miles east of Exit 112A off I-69. **HOURS:** Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thurs. & 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. Fri. and Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

STATE GRILL

Pub/Tavern • 1210 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5618

EXPECT: The most historic bar in Fort Wayne. A great pour for a low price. Belly up to the bar with the friendly Lakeside folk. Great beer selection and the world's most dangerous jukebox. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of State Blvd. and Crescent Ave., across from The Rib Room. **HOURS:** 6 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon., 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Tues.-Fri., 12 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat., 12 p.m.-12 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** ATM on site

ST. JOE

OASIS BAR

Pub/Tavern • 90 Washington St., St. Joe • 260-337-5690

EXPECT: Low beer and liquor prices. Internet jukebox, pool tables and shuffleboard. NASCAR on the TVs. **EATS:** Great food, specializing in ribs, subs and pizza. You won't believe how good they are. **GETTING THERE:** State Rd. 1 to north end of St. Joe. **HOURS:** Open 7 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-3 a.m. Sat. and 12 p.m.-12 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

WARSAW

MAD ANTHONY LAKE CITY TAP HOUSE

Music/Rock • 113 E. Center St., Warsaw • 574-268-2537

EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. **EATS:** The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. Carry-out handcrafted brews available. Live music on Saturdays. **GETTING THERE:** From U.S. 30, turn southwest on E. Center St.; go 2 miles. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full-Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

Thursday, Dec. 20

1-TON TRIO — Blues rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8:30-11 p.m., no cover, 483-1311

ADAM STRACK — Acoustic variety at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

DAVE LATCHAW — Piano at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-3442

HUBIE ASHCRAFT — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 739-1795

JEFF McDONALD — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524

JOE JUSTICE — Variety at Covington Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 432-6660

NICK KING — Country at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 625-1002

OPEN MIC HOSTED BY MIKE CONLEY — At Mad Anthony Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

YELLOW DEAD BETTYS — Rock original at Quaker Steak and Lube, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 484-4688

Friday, Dec. 21

1-TON TRIO — Blues rock at Jimmy's on James, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 833-9676

ADAM STRACK — Acoustic variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

ALL THAT REMAINS w/RAINS — Rock at Pierce's, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$9.89-\$13, 486-1979

ANDREW APPLE w/COREY RHYMEZ, 11M12D & BRANDON BOGUES — Acoustic R&B at Carl's Tavern, New Haven, 10 p.m., no cover, 749-9133

APRIL'S ALIBI — Rock at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

BC FUZZ — Funk at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock at Martin's Tavern, Garrett, 10 p.m., no cover, 357-4290

BROTHER — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

BROTHER BELIEVE ME — Rock at Pierce's, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$5, 486-1979

CHADD MICHEALS & THE BRAT PACK — Rat-pack at Skully's Boneyard, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 637-0198

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — Variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 489-0840

ERIC CLANCY & SHANNON — Christmas variety at Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., no cover, 482-1618

JFX — Rock at Skip's Party Place, Angola, 9:30 p.m., \$3 after 8 p.m., 665-3922

JOHN DURNELL — Variety at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 6-8 p.m., no cover, 625-1002

JUKE JOINT JIVE — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., \$5, 483-1311

MY LOST TRIBE — Rock variety alternative at Peanut's Food & Spirits, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 486-2822

MARSHALL LAW — Country rock at Ugly Mugz, Woodburn, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 632-4017

OLD AND DIRTY — Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 422-5896

OPEN MIC NIGHT — Open jams at the Fire House Tea and Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., free, 444-4071, www.firehousetea.com

PHIL'S FAMILY LIZARD — Rock variety at North Star Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 471-3798

PISS ON FEET w/EXTERMINATE ALL RATIONAL THOUGHT & LET THE TREES BURN — Rock variety at CS3, Calhoun Street Soup, Salad and Spirits, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 456-7005

POSSUM TROT ORCHESTRA — Folk at Mad Anthony Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

ROD BOWERS — Classic rock country at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

SCRATCH N SNIFF — Classic rock at Eagles Post 248, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 478-2481

SUGAR SHOT — Country at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 755-3465

TODD HARROLD TRIO — R&B jazz at the Dash-In, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 423-3595

VELVET SOUL — Rock at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

YELLOW DEAD BETTYS — Rock original at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

Saturday, Dec. 22

ADAM STRACK — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

BACKWATER — Country at Neon Armadillo, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., \$5, 490-5060

BENEATH IT ALL — Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 422-5896

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock at Martin's Tavern, Garrett, 10 p.m., no cover, 357-4290

BROTHER — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

Saturday, Dec. 15 • 10pm
TESTED ON ANIMALS

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[Co-op Deals Filer Recipe w/Kimberly]

Monday, December 17, 1pm: Cooking Demo

Sweet Potato & Parsnip Latkes

[Fresh Goods with Sheila]

Packing a Lunch?

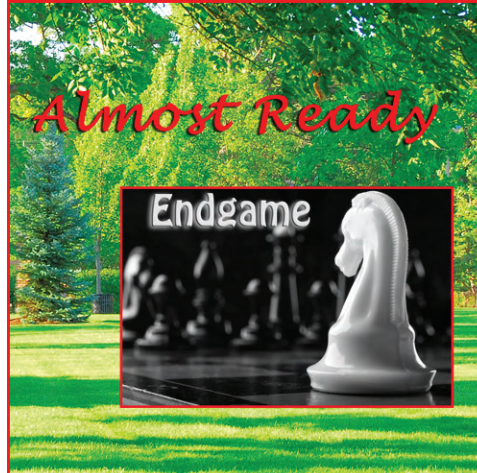
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Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

BROTHER BELIEVE ME — Rock at Piere's, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$5, 486-1979

CHADD MICHEALS & THE BRAT PACK — Rat-pack at Eddie Merlot's, Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m., no cover, 459-2222

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — Variety at Skully's Boneyard, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 637-0198

CRAIG MORGAN & PHIL VASSAR — Country Christmas at The Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$20-\$75, 563-1102

COUGAR HUNTER — 80s Glam Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 483-1311

DD3 — Rock blues at Deer Park Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

EARTHBOUND — Acoustic Rock at Don Hall's Factory, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 484-8693

ERIC CLANCY TRIO — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

FOR PLAY — Rock variety at Covington Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 432-6660

GREG HOUGH — Acoustic at the Firefly Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free, 373-0505

GUNSLINGER — Country at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

J TAYLORS — Variety at Coody Brown's, Wolcottville, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 854-2425

JESSIE BROWN — Country at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 755-3465

JFX — Rock at Skip's Party Place, Angola, 9:30 p.m., \$3 after 8 p.m., 665-3922

JOEL YOUNG BAND — Classic rock country at North Star Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 471-3798

MARSHALL LAW — Country rock at Kendallville American Legion, Kendallville, 8 p.m., no cover, 347-9978

MIKE CONLEY W/SUNNY TAYLOR, HANNAH BUSHONG, UNLIKELY ALIBI AND THE FREAK BROTHERS — Christmas variety at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m., \$5 and a can food donation, 426-6434

SCOTT SPRUNGER AND ADOSH — Poetry variety at Historic Auburn Hotel Lobby, Auburn, 8-10 p.m., no cover, 255-6805

TESTED ON ANIMALS — Rock at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2:30 a.m., \$5, 422-5055

WALKING PAPERS — Rock variety at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

Sunday, Dec. 23

JASON PAUL — Variety at the Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, 478-827

Monday, Dec. 24

ANTHONY GARR — Acoustic rock at the Firefly Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 4-5 p.m., free, 373-0505

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Jimmy's on James, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 833-9676

Wednesday, Dec. 26

DUANE EBY — Variety at North Star Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 471-3798

FRANCIE ZUCCO — Jazz at Don Hall's Triangle Park & Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 482-4342

whatzup PERFORMERS DIRECTORY

ACOUSTIC VARIETY

Mike Conley..... 260-750-9758

ALTERNATIVE ROCK

My Lost Tribe..... 260-402-7590

CLASSIC ROCK

The Remnants..... 260-466-1945

CLASSIC ROCK & COUNTRY

The Joel Young Band..... 260-414-4983

CLASSICAL

The Jaenicke Consort Inc. 260-426-9096

COMEDY

Mike Moses..... 260-804-7834

COUNTRY & COUNTRY ROCK

Allan & Ashcraft..... 260-215-2137

BackWater..... 260-494-5364

John Curran & Renegade..... 260-402-1634

Marshall Law..... 260-229-3360

Outlaw Cowboys..... 260-224-4307

DISC JOCKEYS/KARAOKE

American Idol Karaoke..... 260-637-7926 or 260-341-4770

Shotgun Productions Karaoke..... 260-241-7181

HORN BAND

Tim Harrington Band..... 765-479-4005

ORIGINAL ROCK

Downstait..... 260-409-6715

ORIGINALS & COVERS

Kill The Rabbit..... 260-223-2381 or 419-771-9127

PUNK BLUES

Left Lane Cruiser..... 260-482-5213

ROCK & REGGAE

Unlikely Alibi..... 260-615-2966

ROCK & ROLL

Biff and The Cruisers..... 260-417-5495

ROCK & SOUL

Urban Legend..... 260-312-1657

ROCK & VARIETY

A Score Before..... 260-740-2340

KillNancy..... 260-740-6460 or 260-579-1516

ROCK/HEAVY & METAL

A Sick World..... 260-403-8988

ROCK/METAL

Valhalla..... 260-413-2027

TRIBUTES

Pink Droyd..... 260-414-8818

VARIETY

Big Money and the Spare Change..... 260-515-3868

Elephants in Mud..... 260-413-4581

The Freak Brothers..... bassandgolf@gmail.com

Joe Justice..... 260-486-7238

A Score Before..... 260-740-2340

Paul New Stewart (Chris & Paul, Brian & JJ)..... 260-485-5600

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will produce his first group show.

"Group shows offer viewers many perspectives and takes on different subjects," Swartz explains. "Unique interpretations will help the community become familiar with contemporary culture." Saint Francis students prepare to offer their tongue-in-cheek responses to what some believe to be the day the world will end. The project is open to interpretation and promises to be quirky, unusual and perhaps shocking. A well-prepared patron will come equipped with a roll of duct tape and a few bottles of water, just in case. The opening is scheduled for December 15, just before the end of times.

The *End of Times* show will run parallel with a perfectly placed exhibit titled *EX*, meaning exquisite corpse. The show questions the idea of control, as the usual relationship between artist and curator is turned inside out. The concept removes the curator's usual function, which is to choose the work to be included in a show and narrate the display with his or her own vocabulary. In the case of *EX*, curators were given a collection of finished works and asked to bring meaning to the pieces by strategic placement. On the opposing end, artists were directed to create work of a certain subject, in this case a human body. The artists were also stripped of their voice to direct how the work should be displayed. The role reversal presents an entirely new set of problems for the creative team while at the same time opening a wide range of new conversations. The show first opened in March 2012 in New York City, then traveled to Chicago in May.

"With each show being curated by a different person, it changes completely in each city," says Swartz, who will curate the Fort Wayne show that will include 27 images. *EX* opens on December 15.

Wunderkammer's opening will be topped off with the remnants of a show that occurred in 2010-11. *Not Tony Smith*, is a project that involved the placement of moveable sculptures in a variety of public spaces. The project was a covert effort to engage an atypical audience in the creation of art. In simple terms, people were tempted to move chunks of sculpture to make new sculptures, the same way a kid knocks over another kid's block tower, then makes a new block tower that stands until a third kid comes along, and so on.

The social experiment produced interesting results. Collaboration occurred between the homeless and the random. Curious creative types stacked pieces while occupy campers tore them down. The pieces endured weather and a few beatings, but the damage was justified. Just as a favorite toy may lose an arm or an eyeball, *Not Tony Smith* earned its scrapes and scars with purpose and flaunts them with pride.

The installation will be reconstructed in time for



Wunderkammer's opening and dismantled and retired on January 31 as the gallery clears its floors and walls in preparation for Fort Wayne's first official Fringe Fest.

What's a Fringe Fest? In Swartz's words, a Fringe Fest is a "glorification and expression of performance art of any kind." Typically large, elaborate events, Fort Wayne's first attempt will be small, using two spaces within the Wunderkammer building. Swartz expects 10 artists and 20 performances to occur over a four-day span. Wunderkammer has received applications from artists from Chicago, Ann Arbor, Columbus and Atlanta.

Before the doors have even opened, Wunderkammer is getting attention from artists in cities across the region. During the past six months, Wunderkammer construction has raised the curiosity of surrounding neighbors. Swartz states that he has had a "flow of random people, curious about what's going on inside stop by," so many visitors that he habitually locks the door behind him so he can work without interruption.

Working to gut and revitalize a building while planning and setting four exhibits has left Swartz feeling, "emotionally and physically void ... leaving me unable to be creative." I have to disagree. This guy's brain is a bubbling pot of magma, waiting to blow. His conversations are speckled with lessons in art history, politics, societal reform and passion for making the world a better place. He wants people to realize that contemporary art is made for and by people that could easily, and likely do, live in the house next door.

"Most of us are just normal people who care about expressing ourselves and sharing new ideas," says Swartz. "I just want the community to open up to contemporary art a little bit."

There are people out here, Mr. Swartz, who are drooling over your menu of contemporary culture. We are waiting for a taste of an art scene typically reserved for big cities. Ding-dong. Unlock the door. The restaurant may be closed, but Wunderkammer is open for business.

Warm Up with a Cold One.



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Calendar • On The Road

Afghan Whigs	Dec. 31	Bogart's	Cincinnati
AJ Swearingen & J Beedle (\$22.50)	Jan. 19	The Ark	Ann Arbor
All That Remains w/Nonpoint (\$9.89 adv., \$13 d.o.s.)	Dec. 13	Piere's	Fort Wayne
All Time Low w/Yellowcard	Jan. 18	Orbit Room	Grand Rapids
Andre Williams (\$25)	Jan. 5	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Andrew Bird	Dec. 19-20	Forth Presbyterian Church	Chicago
Another Round (formerly IU's Straight No Chaser) (\$20 adv., \$25 d.o.s.)	Mar. 8	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Avett Brothers (\$39.75-\$54.75)	Feb. 14	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Bergamot w/Five Minute Fan Club and Kevin Daniels & Friends (\$8)	Dec. 15	Martyrs'	Chicago
Betty (\$19)	Dec. 17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Big Gigantic	Dec. 31	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Big Gigantic	Feb. 6	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Big Gigantic	Feb. 8	Orbit Room	Grand Rapids
Black Jake and the Carnies (\$15)	Dec. 21	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Blackberry Smoke	Jan. 5	Deluxe at Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Blackberry Smoke	Jan. 8	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Blackberry Smoke	Jan. 13	House of Blues	Chicago
The Blind Boys of Alabama (\$13-\$43)	Mar. 23	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Blue River Band (\$5)	Dec. 15	Rusty Spur Saloon	Fort Wayne
Bobby Brown (\$36-\$45)	Jan. 31	Sound Board	Detroit
Borrow Tomorrow w/Jeremy Vogt Band & Jenny Christy	Jan. 18	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Bowfire (\$18-\$37)	Mar. 10	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert
The Boys from the County Hell	Dec. 23	House of Blues	Cleveland
Breathe Owl Breathe	Jan. 3	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Brenda Lee	Dec. 16	The Palladium	Carmel
Brian Regan (\$35.50-\$49.50)	Jan. 19	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Brian Regan (\$39.50)	Jan. 20	Stambaugh Auditorium	Youngstown
Carlos Jones and the Plus Band	Dec. 26	House of Blues	Cleveland
Celtic Woman (\$42-\$62)	Apr. 7	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Charles Bradley	Dec. 31	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Christine Stedman w/Chris Dubail (\$8-\$9.50)	Dec. 13-15	Snickers	Fort Wayne
Christopher Cross (\$18-\$41)	Feb. 14	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert
City and Colour, Rodriguez, Trampled by Turtles, Delta Rae, Carl Broemel, Frontier Ruckus,	Jan. 25	Hill Auditorium	Ann Arbor
Brown Bird, Colin Hay (\$47.50-\$290)	Dec. 14	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Clay Aiken (cancelled)	Dec. 28	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Clayton Anderson	Dec. 29	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Clutch	Feb. 8	Fillmore Detroit	Detroit
Coheed and Cambria	Jan. 26	Hill Auditorium	Ann Arbor
Colin Hay (\$47.50-\$290)	Dec. 21	Park West	Chicago
Concrete Blonde	Feb. 10	Allen County Public Library	Fort Wayne
Craig Benner & the Crawdads (free)	Dec. 22	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Craig Morgan and Phil Vassar (\$20-\$75)	Feb. 15	House of Blues	Chicago
Cowboy Mouth	Dec. 15	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
D. Jones w/Marlin Hill & the Living for Jesus Gospel Mimes, Latrece Goree, Terrell Pettus,	Feb. 9	House of Blues	Chicago
Pastor Bill McGill, Courtney White (\$12 adv., \$17 d.o.s.)	Dec. 31	Hamilton Fish & Game Club	Hamilton
dada	Dec. 21	Holiday Inn Gateway Center	Flint, MI
Dale Vaughn	Feb. 2	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Danko Jones	Jan. 23	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Dark Star Orchestra	Dec. 18	First Assembly of God	Fort Wayne
The Darkness	Dec. 20	The Ark	Ann Arbor
David Phelps (\$10-\$25)	Dec. 31	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Delbert McClinton (\$50)	Dec. 15	City Winery	Chicago
Diamond Rio (\$47-\$65)	Dec. 15	Neon Armadillo	Fort Wayne
Donna the Buffalo w/Steve Dawson	Jan. 24	Fillmore Detroit	Detroit
Dustin Lynch w/Gunslinger (\$7 adv., \$9 d.o.s.)	Jan. 25	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Ed Sheeran	Jan. 26	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Ed Sheeran	Jan. 24	Sound Board	Detroit
Eddie Griffin (\$30-\$33)	Dec. 15	Crump Theatre	Columbus, IN
Ekoostik Hookah	Dec. 31	Agora Theatre and Ballroom	Cleveland
Ekoostik Hookah	Jan. 19	The Outpost	Kent, OH
Ekoostik Hookah	Jan. 25	Martyrs'	Chicago

Road Tripz

Dec. 20	Tink's Rock House, Marion, OH
Dec. 21	Cafe 611, Frederick, MD
Dec. 23	Hard Rock Cafe, Nashville, TN
Dec. 22	Flamingo Nosebleed
Jan. 2	Melody Inn Tavern, Indianapolis
Jan. 3	The Crunchy Frog, Green Bay, WI
Dec. 29	The Frequency, Madison, WI
Dec. 15	Juke Joint Jive
Jan. 19	Byant Eagles, Bryant, OH
Feb. 2	Kill The Rabbit
May 12-10	American Legion, Van Wert
Dec. 31	Marshall Law
Jan. 19	The Loop, Laporte
Feb. 2	Hicksville Eagles, Hicksville, OH
May 12-10	Memories of the King feat. Brent Cooper
Dec. 31	Carnival Valor Cruise, Caribbean
Dec. 31	The Outlaw Cowboys
Dec. 14	Celina Eagles, Celina Eagles
Dec. 15	Fort Wayne Area Performers: To get your gigs on this list, give us a call at 691-3188, fax your info to 691-3191, e-mail info.whatzup@gmail.com or mail to whatzup, 2305 E. Esterline Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725.

Ekostik Hookah	Jan. 26	The Mousetrap	Indianapolis
Ekostik Hookah	Feb. 1	Skully's Music Diner	Columbus, OH
Ellie Goulding	Jan. 29	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Ernie Haase and Signature Sound (\$18-\$37)	Mar. 24	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert
Every Avenue	Dec. 20	Saint Andrews Hall	Detroit
Every Avenue	Dec. 21	House of Blues	Chicago
Excision (\$25 adv., \$30 d.o.s.)	Jan. 25	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
The Fab Faux	Jan. 12	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Flamingo Nosebleed w/ The Magnes & The Queers	Jan. 1	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Fleetwood Mac	Jun. 12	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Flogging Molly	Jan. 25	Fillmore Detroit	Detroit
Flogging Molly	Jan. 26	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Flogging Molly	Jan. 27	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Flogging Molly	Jan. 29	House of Blues	Cleveland
The Floorwalkers	Dec. 21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Four Tops (\$35.50-\$38)	Dec. 13	Sound Board	Detroit
Foxy Shazam	Dec. 30	Bottom Lounge	Chicago
Frankie Ballard (\$18)	Dec. 14	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Freakwater	Jan. 10	The Ark	Ann Arbor
fun.	Jan. 26	Fillmore Detroit	Detroit
G. Love and Special Sauce	Jan. 10	House of Blues	Cleveland
George Winston (\$45)	Dec. 16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Grace Potter and the Nocturnals	Jan. 12	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Grace Potter and the Nocturnals	Jan. 13	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Grace Potter and the Nocturnals	Jan. 18	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Graham Parker & The Rumour	Dec. 18	Park West	Chicago
Green Day	Jan. 8	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Green Day	Jan. 30	Wolstein Center at CSU	Cleveland
Grouplove	Dec. 13	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
honeyhoney	Dec. 26	House of Blues	Cleveland
Insane Clown Posse	Dec. 22	Saint Andrews Hall	Detroit
JJ Browning w/Eyes on Fire & Pragmatic	Dec. 15	Deluxe at Old National Centre	Indianapolis
JJ Grey & Mofo	Dec. 30	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Jarrod Niemann w/Gunslinger (\$18)	Jan. 12	Neon Armadillo	Fort Wayne
Jason and the Punksnecks	Feb. 14	Berlin Music Pub	Fort Wayne
Jeff Dunham	Dec. 26	Wright State University Nutter Center	Dayton
Jeff Dunham (\$49.50)	Dec. 28	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Jessie Brown (\$5)	Dec. 22	Rusty Spur Saloon	Fort Wayne
Jesus Ojeda	Dec. 15	Orbit Room	Grand Rapids
Joe Rogan	Jan. 25	House of Blues	Chicago
John Krajcik w/The Wet Darlings	Dec. 14	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
John Pizzarelli	Jan. 10	The Palladium	Carmel
Junior Brown	Jan. 19	Old Town School of Folk Music	Chicago
Keane w/Youngblood Hawke	Jan. 26	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Keller Williams	Feb. 1	The Vogue	Indianapolis
KEM and Mike Epps (\$49-\$150)	Dec. 31	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Kelly Joe Phelps (\$15)	Jan. 18	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Kenny Rogers (\$38.50-\$75.50)	Dec. 13	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Kenny Rogers (\$38-\$100)	Dec. 15	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Kill Hannah	Dec. 22	House of Blues	Chicago
The Killers	Dec. 20	Eastern Michigan University	Ypsilanti, MI
The Killers w/Tegan and Sara	Dec. 21	UIC Pavilion	Chicago
Kirko Bangz (\$22.50 adv., \$27.50 d.o.s.)	Dec. 14	Piere's	Fort Wayne
The Klezmatics (\$30)	Dec. 14	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Leftover Salmon w/The Lee Boys	Dec. 27	The Vogue Theatre	Indianapolis
Leftover Salmon w/The Lee Boys	Dec. 31	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Loudon Wainwright III	Jan. 31	Old Town School of Folk Music	Chicago
Lotus	Dec. 27-28	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Luke Bryan w/Thompson Square and Florida Georgia	Jan. 17	Ford Center	Evansville
Main Squeeze	Dec. 20	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Mannheim Steamroller (\$30-\$85)	Dec. 16	Fox Theatre	Grand Rapids
Maps & Atlases	Dec. 31	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Marc Cohn w/ Rebecca Pidgeon (\$45)	Jan. 14	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Martina McBride	Dec. 21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Marilyn Manson	Jan. 22	The Fillmore	Detroit
Marilyn Manson	Jan. 23	House of Blues	Cleveland
Matchbox Twenty w/Phillip Phillips (\$42-\$78)	Feb. 12	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Maura O'Connell	Jan. 18	Old Town School of Folk Music	Chicago
Maura O'Connell	Jan. 20	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Michael Stanley	Dec. 31	House of Blues	Cleveland
Midge Ure (\$22)	Jan. 17	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf w/the Fabulous Thunderbirds and JJ Grey (\$25-\$35)	Feb. 1	Clowes Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Mung Xuan Quy Ty w/Thuy Duong, Toc Tien, Mai Tien Dung, Nhu Quynh, Truong Vu, Huang Thuy and the Liberty Band (\$25-\$30)	Jan. 27	Motor City Casino Hotel	Detroit
NASA Team	Dec. 22	Deluxe at Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Of Monsters and Men	Dec. 16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
One Direction	July 12	The Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
One Direction	July 13-14	First Midwest Bank Amphitheater	Tinley Park, IL
The Osmond Brothers (\$20-\$40)	Dec. 13	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert
Over the Rhine (\$30)	Dec. 13	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Pauly Shore (\$25)	Jan. 12	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Peabo Bryson w/Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr., Stephanie Mills and James Ingram (\$60)	Dec. 14	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Peter Noone w/ The Grass Roots and the Buckingham's (\$35)	Jan. 26	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Peter Yarrow w/Mustard's Retreat (\$12-\$27)	Jan. 25	Hall-Moser Theatre	Portland
Punch Brothers	Dec. 13	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Ragbirds	Dec. 15	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Railroad Earth	Jan. 25	House of Blues	Chicago
Reel Big Fish	Jan. 22	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Reel Big Fish	Jan. 24	House of Blues	Cleveland
Richard Marx	Dec. 16	Park West	Chicago

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of their huge album *Rumours*, **Fleetwood Mac** are hitting the road in 2013. **Christine McVie** will not be a part of the band this time around, but **Stevie Nicks**, **Mick Fleetwood**, **John McVie** and **Lindsey Buckingham** will be. The band will kick off the tour April 4 in Columbus, Ohio and also visit Chicago April 13 before ending the tour in Detroit June 13. Of course, a deluxe version of *Rumours* will be released in 2013 in order to cash in on the frenzy.



Road Notez

CHRIS HUPE

In more music legend news, **Rod Stewart** will make a short trek through this area in 2013 on his Live the Life Tour, bringing **Steve Winwood** along for the ride. Stewart just released his first holiday album, *Merry Christmas, Baby*, and will visit the United Center in Chicago April 10 and The Palace of Auburn Hills near Detroit April 25.

Lamb of God singer **Randy Blythe** was officially indicted on a charge of manslaughter for an incident at a concert in the Czech Republic in 2010. Blythe was jailed in that country earlier this year but was able to post a bond and return to the U.S. Although he could probably stay in the U.S. and not endure a trial, Blythe told the L.A. Times, "The charges are just groundless to me and to a lot of people. I feel obliged to go back. This young man's family has suffered through this big media explosion and they deserve some answers. Their child is dead. That's about as bad as it gets."

Fort Rockers **Downstait** are in the midst of a tour that works its way through the Midwest this month, including stops at Planet Rock in Battle Creek December 14, The Rock House Café in Indianapolis December 16 and the Golden Gnome in South Bend December 18. The band just released a new single, "Bad," from their forthcoming album, due out in early 2013. Downstait will come home to the Fort December 29 when they pay tribute to Kiss at the first Down the Line: Hard Chord show December 29 at The Embassy Theatre.

christopherhupe@aol.com

Rick Ross, Meek Mill and Wale (cancelled)	Dec. 15	Fox Theater	Detroit
Riders in the Sky (\$25)	Dec. 16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The Rippingtons w/Kris Brownlee (\$17-\$32)	Jan. 26	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert
Robert Randolph and the Family Band with Karl Denson's Tiny Universe	Dec. 31	Riviera	Chicago
Robin & Linda Williams (\$20)	Jan. 13	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Joe Rogan	Jan. 25	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Saint Diablo	Dec. 21	Alosa Villa	Columbus, OH
Sandra Bernhard (\$35-\$50)	Feb. 1-2	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Savoy Brown w/Kim Simmonds (\$25)	Jan. 4	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Seth Glier (\$15)	Jan. 11	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Simpleton & City Folk w/Lauren Wolf Band	Dec. 27	House of Blues	Chicago
Sister Hazel	Dec. 14-15	House of Blues	Chicago
Skillet w/Boys Noize - The Bang (\$29.50)	Dec. 31	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Small Town Son (\$5)	Dec. 28	Rusty Spur Saloon	Fort Wayne
Soundgarden	Jan. 27	Fillmore Detroit	Detroit
The Steepwater Band	Dec. 31	House of Blues	Chicago
Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys	Jan. 25	Old Town School of Folk Music	Chicago
Studebaker John (\$13-\$15)	Dec. 21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Super Bob w/Cognition & Kerosac	Dec. 17	4D's Bar and Grill	Fort Wayne
Super Diamond	Jan. 18-19	House of Blues	Chicago
Tax Brandywine w/James and the Drifters	Dec. 14	Dash-In	Fort Wayne
Third Eye Blind	Dec. 28	House of Blues	Cleveland
Third Eye Blind	Dec. 29	Fillmore Detroit	Detroit
Third Eye Blind	Dec. 30	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Toby Mac w/Red, Matthew West, Jamie Grace, NewSong, Sidewalk Prophets, Royal Tailor, Jason Castro, OBB, Capital Kings & Nick Hall	Jan. 20	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Todd Carey and Band	Dec. 13	Birdy's	Indianapolis
Tony Lucca	Dec. 14	Saint Andrews Hall	Detroit
Tracy Morgan (\$43-\$53)	Dec. 27	Sound Board	Detroit
Trampled by Turtles	Jan. 24	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 26	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 29	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 30	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
Trinidad Tripoli Steelband (\$15)	Dec. 18	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Umphrey's McGee w/Greensky Bluegrass	Feb. 1	Orbit Room	Grand Rapids
Underoath	Jan. 19	Saint Andrews Hall	Detroit
The Used w/We Came As Romans, Crown The Empire & Mindflow	Jan. 20	The Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
The Used	Jan. 23	House of Blues	Chicago
The Verve Pipe w/Crashing Cairo (\$20)	Dec. 15	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
The Waiters	Jan. 9	Viper Alley	Lincolnshire, IL
The Waiters	Jan. 10	Old Town School of Folk Music	Chicago
The Waiters	Jan. 11	LC Pavilion	Columbus, OH
Walk The Moon w/Pacific Air	Jan. 21	Deluxe at Old National Centre	Indianapolis
The Walkmen & Father John Misty	Jan. 17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Walkmen & Father John Misty	Jan. 18	Vic Theatre	Chicago
The Werks	Dec. 30-31	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Who's Bad (\$18)	Jan. 18	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Who's Bad	Jan. 19	House of Blues	Cleveland
The Why Store	Dec. 15	Piere's	Fort Wayne
The Why Store	Jan. 19	Three D's Pub & Cafe	Carmel, IN
Wish You Were Here	Jan. 5	House of Blues	Cleveland
Yellow Room Gang (\$15)	Jan. 5	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Yo La Tengo	Feb. 1	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Yonder Mountain String Band	Feb. 1	LC Pavilion	Columbus, OH
Zac Brown Band (\$39.50-\$69.50)	Dec. 31	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Zac Brown Band w/Blackberry Smoke & Levi Lowrey (\$45-\$69.50)	Jan. 11	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Zapp Band (\$20)	Jan. 12	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Zion Lion	Jan. 26	Papa Pete's	Kalamazoo

OPENING THIS WEEK

3D Monsters Inc. (G)

First Position (Not Rated)

The Guilt Trip (PG13)

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG)

Holy Motors (PG13)

Saving Grace B. Jones (PG13)

Searching for Sugar Man (PG13)

ALEX CROSS (PG13) — Tyler Perry and Matthew Fox face off in high stakes game of cat and mouse. Based on the bestselling novel by James Patterson.

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 12:35, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 10:00

ARGO (R) — Ben Affleck directed this suspenseful drama about six Americans who found refuge in the home of the Canadian ambassador during the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE

Ends Thursday, Dec. 13

Thurs.: 4:00, 9:45

BRAVE (PG) — A feisty female (Kelly Macdonald) takes up archery, defies custom and has to undo a beastly injustice to her land in this Pixar feature that depicts a teen's coming-of-age.

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:55, 9:10

THE COLLECTION (R) — A psychopathic thriller and sequel to *The Collector* with all the makings of a typical serial killer horror flick.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 1:00, 3:15, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50

• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE

Ends Thursday, Dec. 13

Thurs.: 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG13) —

Director Christopher Nolan (*Inception*, *Memento*) wraps up his Batman trilogy with this blockbuster starring Christian Bale (*Bruce Wayne/Batman*) and Anne Hathaway (*Catwoman*).

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 9:00

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS (PG) — Greg Heffley, hero of the popular kids book series, hopes to get through the summer by pretending he's got a job at a ritzy country club. Zachary Gordon stars as Greg.

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15

END OF WATCH (R) — Two officers are marked for death of confiscating goods from members of a notorious cartel.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE

Ends Thursday, Dec. 13

Thurs.: 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE

Ends Thursday, Dec. 13

Thurs.: 1:15, 4:10, 6:55, 9:45

FIRST POSITION (R) — Part of Cinema

Center's Meet the Filmmakers series, this dance documentary will be followed by a Skype Q&A session with

director Bess Kargman.

• CINEMA CENTER, FORT WAYNE

Sunday, Dec. 16 Only

Sun.: 2:00

Showtimes for Jefferson Pointe Carmike 18 in Fort Wayne were not available at press time.

We will put them online (at www.whatzup.com) as soon as they are available.

FLIGHT (R) — Denzel Washington stars as a seasoned airline pilot who miraculously crash lands his plane after an in-air catastrophe, saving everyone on board with his super-human coolness and once again becoming a hero despite a minor drinking problem.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 2:30, 5:30, 8:45

• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE

Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18

Thurs.: 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:15

Fri.-Sun.: 4:35

Mon.-Tues.: 12:05, 3:05, 6:30, 9:35

• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON

Ends Thursday, Dec. 13

Thurs.: 12:25, 3:25, 6:25, 9:25

• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW

Thurs.: 6:15

Fri.: 7:30

Sat.: 3:00, 7:30

Sun.: 3:00

Mon.-Wed.: 6:15

FRANKENWEENIE (PG) — Tim Burton's stop-action animated feature about

a boy and his dear, departed dog features Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara from *Beetlejuice*.

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Thurs.: 12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:05

Fri.-Wed.: 12:40, 2:55, 7:35

FUN SIZE (PG13) — A teen comedy centered on a sarcastic high school senior (Victoria Justice) who gets stuck watching her little brother on Halloween night.

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Thurs.: 12:40, 2:55, 7:35

Fri.-Wed.: 5:10, 10:05

THE GUILT TRIP (PG13) — Barbra Streisand and Seth Rogen star in this comedy directed by Anne Fletcher (*27 Dresses*) and originally titled *My Mother's Curse*.

• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW

Thurs.: 5:00, 7:00

HERE COMES THE BOOM (PG) — Kevin James, Salma Hayek and Henry Winkler star in this comedy about a former collegiate wrestler-turned-biology teacher at a failing high school.

• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE

Daily: 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG) — Academy Award-winning filmmaker Peter Jackson gives Bilbo Baggins the same treatment he gave Frodo in this prequel to J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE

Starts Friday, Dec. 14

Fri.-Sat.: 12:30 (3D), 1:00, 1:30 (3D),

2:00 (3D), 2:30, 4:10 (3D), 4:40, 5:10

(3D), 5:40 (3D), 6:10, 8:00 (3D), 8:20, 9:00 (3D), 9:20 (3D), 10:00, 11:30

Mon.-Wed.: 12:30 (3D), 1:00, 1:30 (3D), 2:00 (3D), 2:30, 4:10 (3D), 4:40,

5:10 (3D), 5:40 (3D), 6:10, 8:00 (3D),

8:20, 9:00 (3D), 9:20 (3D), 10:00

• COLDWATER CROSSING, FORT WAYNE

Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18

Thurs.: 12:00 midnight (2D & 3D)

Fri.-Sun.: 11:00 (3D), 11:30, 12:00

(3D), 12:15, 12:30, 12:45 (3D), 3:00

(3D), 3:30, 4:00 (3D), 4:30, 5:00 (3D),

7:00 (3D), 7:15, 7:30, 7:45 (3D), 8:00

(3D), 8:30, 9:00 (3D), 9:30, 10:50

(3D)

Mon.-Tues.: 12:00 (3D), 12:30, 3:00

(3D), 3:30, 4:00 (3D), 4:30, 5:00 (3D),

7:00 (3D), 7:30, 8:00 (3D), 8:30, 9:00

(3D)

• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON

Thurs.: 12:00 midnight

Fri.-Sat.: 11:00, 11:15 (3D), 11:30,

11:45, 2:30, 2:45 (3D), 3:00, 3:15,

6:05, 6:20 (3D), 6:30, 6:45, 9:35, 9:50

(3D), 10:00, 10:15, 11:30

Sun.-Wed.: 11:00, 11:15 (3D), 11:30,

11:45, 2:30, 2:45 (3D), 3:00, 3:15,

6:05, 6:20 (3D), 6:30, 6:45, 9:35, 9:50

(3D), 10:00, 10:15

• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW

Thurs.: 12:00 midnight

Fri.: 5:15 (3D), 5:45, 8:45 (3D), 9:15

Sat.: 2:00, 5:15 (3D), 5:45, 8:45 (3D),

9:15

Sun.: 2:00, 2:30 (3D), 5:45, 6:15 (3D)

Mon.-Wed.: 6:15 (2D, 3D)

• NORTHWOOD CINEMA GRILL, FORT WAYNE

Starts Friday, Dec. 14

Fri.: 3:15, 7:15

Sat.: 11:30, 3:00, 7:00

Sun.: 11:30, 3:00, 6:30

Mon.-Wed.: 6:30

• STRAND THEATRE, KENDALLVILLE

Save Your Time and Money by Avoiding New Rom-Com

Playing for Keeps, a formula picture that is advertised as a romantic comedy would be better titled *Bored and Desperate Housewives of Suburban Virginia*. (Bored and desperate and suburban housewives are redundant I know, but play along.) No one in this picture is playing for keeps. All are playing for a short-term goal. Off-screen goals seem to be a paycheck, a short shooting schedule or just keeping your name out there. On screen, things are genial but not much more compelling.

Gerard Butler, a would-be heartthrob plays George Dryer, a would-be heartthrob. George was a big soccer star, and when he was young and famous he married a cute chick from Virginia. They had a little boy and a short marriage. George was an immature, vain, cheating boy who thought very highly of himself. He had a lot of money and attitude.

Years later, he's not a boy and has no money, but nothing else has changed. He has moved to Virginia, ostensibly to be near his son, but mostly because somewhere in his very dim brain he knows his baby momma is worth all the other women he's conquered combined. (Soccer players use their heads literally, not figuratively. I'm not sure how much of George's empty-headed-ness is brain damage from sports injuries and how much is just natural selfishness and superficiality.)

We're supposed to believe he is a nice

guy, but really he's just not as aggressive a jerk as almost everyone surrounding him. An exception in this world of icky people is baby momma Stacie, played with charm and likeability by Jessica Biel. Also a good guy is their son Lewis, a freckle-faced, scowling Noah Lomax.

George lives off the kindness of strangers. He and the strangers are making mutually beneficial dull pecuniary bargains. George gets the use of a guest house at a bargain price. His landlord gets to peek at him through the blinds. George gets to drive a Ferrari. The Ferrari's owner, a jerk played (unfortunately) way too believably by Dennis Quaid, uses George to divert attention from his own (many) shortcomings.

George becomes the coach of Lewis' soccer team, not because he wants to be helpful, but because Stacie scolds him to do something real for their son, for once. George wants to be a television sports mouthpiece. Butler's accent, which is supposed to be a turn-on but isn't, makes his audition tape so awful that I wondered if we were supposed to think he'd never get the job because he just doesn't seem to have the knack.

Becoming the coach of a soccer team puts George in front of a lot of women with too much time on their hands. And they start throwing themselves at him. What possessed Judy Greer, Catherine Zeta Jones and Uma Thurman to take these roles? (This is where the short shooting schedule and getting your-



Flix

CATHERINE LEE

self out there comes in to play.)

Each of these talented actresses plays a drippy dame. Judy Greer weeps a lot but finally brings a nice humanity to her role. Uma Thurman is supposed to be tipsy and cynical, but her performance is awkwardly over the top. Catherine Zeta Jones is working the sultry so hard you think she's still in *Chicago*. That any of these characters is raising a child is a horrifying idea.

Zeta-Jones used to be a sportscaster, so when George doesn't seem interested enough, she offers to help him with his audition tape and getting it in front of the folks at ESPN. The possibility of getting a job does get his attention. This opportunity distracts him from his son, off and on.

This sends Lewis into a funk and prompts further reprimands from Stacie. These events are like soccer balls to the head for George, and he starts thinking about his past and his future. Ever so slowly, it starts to sink in that maybe he should grow up a bit.

George has a hard time thinking of anything but himself for very long. If his ex-wife weren't getting married in a few weeks, he probably wouldn't be able to figure out that Stacie is the woman he still loves. She's

way too good for him, but she still has a soft spot for the big lug, and they do share a kid, so there is little doubt that these two will end up together.

But their slow progress or descent into being together again is excruciating. Bland and dull as *Playing for Keeps* makes Stacie's fiancé, he still seems a much better (and cuter) choice for her. Stacie has grown up — "somebody had to" she tells George. The tears she sheds for the brief happy past she and George shared are real. Youth was not wasted on these two when they were young, but it isn't particularly convincing that they can forge a happy and satisfying future.

Perhaps the worst moment of the movie is when George asks Stacie about her fiancé, "Does he make you laugh?" Since there are few laughs in *Playing for Keeps* and George has been the source of none of them, the line plays worse than a cliché. It is an insult to guys who really do make their women laugh.

I admit I only saw *Playing for Keeps* because my choices were limited. I don't do vampires, and I wasn't in the mood for gangsters and killers. How long do I have to wait for *Silver Linings Playbook* to get here? Since I couldn't see the film I wanted to see, I saw *Playing for Keeps*. I try to review films that will still be playing when *whatzup* hits the stands. *Playing for Keeps* may hang around a few weeks, but save your dollars for something else.

Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.: 7:00
Sat.-Sun.: 1:45, 7:00
Mon. Wed.: 7:00

HOLY MOTORS (PG13) — A French fantasy drama about a man (Denis Lavant) who travels between multiple parallel lives. Written and directed by Leos Carax.
• CINEMA CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.: 9:00
Sat.: 4:00, 8:30
Sun.: 6:00
Mon.: 6:30
Tues.: 8:30
Wed.: 6:30

HOPE SPRINGS (PG13) — Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones star in this dramatic comedy about a devoted couple whose marriage has gone a bit stale, leading them to seek the help of a renowned couples specialist (Steve Carell).
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 4:55, 9:35

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (PG) — Adam Sandler voices Dracula in this animated family film. Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Fran Drescher, Kevin James and David Spade also participate.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:45

ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (PG) — Ray Romano, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary and John Leguizamo voicing the main characters in what amounts to pretty much the same Ice Age movie as the previous three.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50

KILLING THEM SOFTLY (R) — Three not very bright guys rob a Mob protected card game in this action comedy starring Brad Pitt, Ray Liotta, Richard Jenkins and James Gandolfini.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Fri.-Wed.: 7:40, 10:00
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 9:50
Fri.-Tues.: 12:20, 2:40

LIFE OF PI (PG) — Based on the best selling novel, director Ang Lee creates a movie about a young man who survives a disaster at sea and is hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:30 (3D), 1:10, 3:30 (3D), 4:10, 6:30 (3D), 7:10, 9:30 (3D), 10:00
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:05 (3D), 1:35, 3:55 (3D), 4:25, 6:45 (3D), 7:15, 9:35 (3D), 10:05
Fri.-Tues.: 12:45 (3D), 3:40, 6:40 (3D), 9:40 (3D)
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 (3D), 7:15, 10:00 (3D)
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 4:30, 7:05 (3D)
Fri.: 5:15, 8:00 (3D)
Sat.: 2:30, 5:15 (3D), 8:00 (3D)
Sun.: 2:30, 5:15 (3D)
Mon.-Tues.: 4:30, 7:05 (3D)
Wed.: 4:30, 7:05

LINCOLN (PG13) — Steven Spielberg directs an all-star cast including Daniel Day-Lewis, Tommy Lee Jones, Sally Field and James Spader in this drama depicting the life of Abraham Lincoln.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 2:00, 5:30, 9:00
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:20, 4:45, 8:00
Fri.-Sun.: 11:50, 3:15, 6:40, 9:55
Mon.-Tues.: 1:00, 4:35, 7:50
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.-Wed.: 12:15, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 6:15
Fri.: 5:00, 8:00
Sat.: 2:00, 5:00, 8:00
Sun.: 2:00, 5:00
Mon.-Wed.: 5:45

LOOPER (R) — Bruce Willis says this Rian Johnson time travel flick is the best film he's ever been in. Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Emily Bunt co-star.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:50, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25

3D MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) — Pixar's 2002 animated family comedy starring Billy Crystal and John Goodman returns with the same story and more depth.
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 4:45, 6:50

THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) — Peter Hedges (*Dan in Real Life*, *Pieces of April*) directs this fantasy comedy about a happily married couple (Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton) raising a rather unusual child (CJ Adams).
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:15, 2:35, 7:10

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4 (R) — More home video scares from a franchise who's paranormal activity has become normal activity.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30

THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER (PG13) — Writer Stephen Chbosky directs this adaptation of his own novel about the highs and lows of growing up. Logan Lerman, Emma Watson and Ezra Miller star.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55

PITCH PERFECT (PG13) — Anna Kendrick (*Up in the Air*) stars in this campus comedy about collegiate a cappella singers.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 1:00, 7:00

PLAYING FOR KEEPS (PG13) — Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Uma Thurman, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Dennis Quaid star in this romantic comedy.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
Fri.-Wed.: 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:30, 3:50, 6:50, 9:30
Fri.: 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20
Sat.: 6:45, 9:20
Sun.: 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20
Mon.-Tues.: 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20

SCREENS

ALLEN COUNTY
 Carmike 20, 260-482-8560
 Cinema Center, 260-426-3456
 Coldwater Crossing 14, 260-483-0017
 Coventry 13, 260-436-6312
 Northwood Cinema Grill, 260-492-4234
 Jefferson Pointe 18, 260-432-1732
GARRETT
 Auburn-Garrett Drive-In, 260-357-3474
 Silver Screen Cinema, 260-357-3345
HUNTINGTON
 Huntington 7, 260-359-TIME
 Huntington Drive-In, 260-356-5445
KENDALLVILLE
 Strand Theatre, 260-347-3558
WABASH
 13-24 Drive-In, 260-563-5745
 Eagles Theatre, 260-563-3272
WARSAW
 North Pointe 9, 574-267-1985

Times subject to change after presstime.
 Call theatres first to verify schedules.

• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 5:00, 7:15
Fri.: 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
Sat.: 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
Sun.: 2:15, 4:45, 7:00
Mon.-Wed.: 4:45, 7:00

RED DAWN (PG-13) — A group of teenagers look to save their town from an invasion of North Korean Soldiers.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.-Sat.: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Sun.: 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Mon.: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Tues.: 1:45, 4:30, 10:00
Wed.: 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 9:55
Fri.-Sun.: 4:15
Mon.-Tues.: 1:10, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 11:05, 1:35, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 6:15
• STRAND THEATRE, KENDALLVILLE
Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.: 7:15
Sat.-Sun.: 2:00, 7:15
Mon. Wed.: 7:15

RISE OF THE GUARDIANS (PG) — An animated action adventure about an unlikely group of heroes and starring Jude Law, Hugh Jackman and Alec Baldwin.

• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 12:30 (3D), 1:20, 2:15, 3:00 (3D), 4:00, 4:50, 5:20 (3D), 6:30, 7:15, 7:45 (3D), 9:00, 9:45
Fri.-Wed.: 12:30 (3D), 1:20, 2:15, 3:00 (3D), 4:00, 4:50, 5:20 (3D), 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:10, 1:50 (3D), 3:40, 4:30 (3D), 7:10, 9:40
Fri.-Tues.: 12:50, 3:55, 6:55, 9:25
• EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH
Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.: 7:00
Sat.-Sun.: 2:00, 7:00
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Thurs.: 11:45, 2:05, 4:25 (3D) 6:50, 9:10 (3D)
Fri.-Wed.: 11:40, 2:05, 4:25, 6:50, 9:10
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 4:45, 6:50 (3D)
Fri.: 4:45, 6:45 (3D), 8:45 (3D)
Sat.: 2:30, 4:45 (3D), 6:45 (3D), 8:45

(3D)
Sun.: 2:30, 4:45 (3D), 6:45 (3D)
Mon.-Wed.: 4:45, 6:45 (3D)
• NORTHWOOD CINEMA GRILL, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 6:30
Fri.: 4:00, 6:30, 8:30
Sat.: 12:30, 3:45, 6:15, 8:15
Sun.: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00
Mon.-Wed.: 6:45
• STRAND THEATRE, KENDALLVILLE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 7:15

SAMSARA (Not Rated) — Filmed over five years in 25 countries, this non-verbal documentary from filmmakers Ron Fricke and Mark Magidson (Baraka) is one handful of films shot on 70mm in the past 40 years.
• CINEMA CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 9:00

SAVING GRACE B. JONES (R) — Connie Stevens (yes, *that* Connie Stevens) wrote, produced and directed this indie feature based on a true story and starring Penelope Ann Miller, Tatum O'Neal and Piper Laurie.
• CINEMA CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Friday, Dec. 14 Only
Fri.: 5:00

SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN (PG13) — A documentary about two Cape Town residents trying to find out whatever became of Rodriguez, an American folk singer who never made it stateside but was huge in South Africa.
• CINEMA CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.: 7:00
Sat.: 2:00, 6:30
Sun.: 4:00
Mon.: 9:00
Tues.: 6:30
Wed.: 9:00

SILENT HILL: REVELATION (R) — On the eve of her 18th birthday, a girl plagued by horrific nightmares and the disappearance of her father is led into a demonic world that threatens to trap her forever.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 5:10, 10:05

SINISTER (R) — Ethan Hawke stars in this supernatural horror film directed by Scott Derrickson (*The Exorcism of Emily Rose*).
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Starts Friday, Dec. 14
Fri.-Wed.: 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

SKYFALL (R) — The new James Bond, enough said. Word is it's really, really good.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 12:45, 1:45, 4:00, 5:00, 7:10, 8:10
Fri.-Sat.: 12:45, 1:45, 4:00, 5:00, 7:10, 8:10, 10:30
Mon.-Wed.: 12:45, 1:45, 4:00, 5:00, 7:10, 8:10
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00
Fri.-Tues.: 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 10:00
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 12:10, 3:15, 6:20, 9:20
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW

Thurs.: 6:15
Fri.: 5:00, 8:00
Sat.: 2:15, 5:00, 8:00
Sun.: 2:15, 5:00
Mon.-Wed.: 6:15
• NORTHWOOD CINEMA GRILL, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 6:45
• STRAND THEATRE, KENDALLVILLE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 7:00

TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE (PG13) — Clint Eastwood stars as an aging baseball scout begrudgingly reaching the end of a brilliant career. Justin Timberlake and Amy Adams co-star.
• COVENTRY 13, FORT WAYNE
Daily: 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN- PART 2 (PG13) — The conclusion to the series that enthralled millions. More vampires, more drama, more romance; only this time it's the end.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 1:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:30, 10:00
Fri.-Wed.: 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
Fri.-Tues.: 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:20, 10:05
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Thurs.: 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
Fri.-Wed.: 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 6:15
Fri.: 5:15, 8:00
Sat.: 2:15, 5:15, 8:00
Sun.: 2:15, 5:15
Mon.-Wed.: 6:15

WRECK-IT RALPH (PG) — John C. Reilly voices Wreck-It Ralph, the villain of a video game called Fix-It Felix Jr., in this computer-animated Disney film. Sarah Silverman, Jack McBrayer and Jane Lynch co-star.
• CARMIKE 20, FORT WAYNE
Thurs.: 1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 9:00, 9:30
Fri.-Wed.: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
• COLDWATER CROSSING 14, FORT WAYNE
Times Thru Tuesday, Dec. 18
Thurs.: 1:25, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20 (3D)
Fri.-Sun.: 1:20, 4:05, 6:35
Mon.-Tues.: 1:20, 4:05, 6:35, 9:30
• HUNTINGTON 7, HUNTINGTON
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 11:20, 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30
• NORTH POINTE 9, WARSAW
Thurs.: 4:30, 6:45 (3D)
Fri.: 5:25, 7:45
Sat.: 2:45, 5:25, 7:45
Sun.: 2:45, 5:25
Mon.-Wed.: 5:25

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (Not Rated) — Andrea Arnold (*Fish Tank*) directs this fresh, distinct take on the Emily Bronte novel.
• CINEMA CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Ends Thursday, Dec. 13
Thurs.: 6:30



Cinema Center
 for showtimes - 426.3456 or
 www.cinamcenter.org

NOW SHOWING

Holy Motors, Searching for Sugar Man

Downtown: 437 E. Berry

This Week

CRAFT CAFÉ — Crafting, coffee and conversation, **6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday Dec. 13** at Allen County Public Library, Main Branch, Fort Wayne, free, 421-1210

CHRIST CHILD FESTIVAL — A non-denominational event focusing on the true meaning of the season, **6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14; 12 p.m. Saturday-Sunday Dec. 15-16** at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, free, 482-9502

DECEMBER COOKING DEMOS — How to make date and pistachio balls, **2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**; and sweet potato and parsnip latkes, **1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17** at 3 Rivers Co-op Natural Food & Deli, Fort Wayne, 424-8812, www.3riversfood.coop

FANTASY OF LIGHTS — 1.5 mile display of animated Christmas lights and decorations, **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursdays** and **6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday thru Dec. 31** at Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$5 per car, 744-6145, www.awsfantasyoflights.com

HOLIDAY CHILDREN'S GENTLY USED BOOK SWAP & SALE — Used books for toddlers through teens to swap or purchase, storytelling, craft-making and snack, **8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 18-19** and **8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursday Dec. 20** at Community Center, Fort Wayne, free, 427-6028, www.creareeranch.com

MEET DICK BUTKUS — Hall of Fame linebacker and his son will host a convocation encouraging athletes to play clean, **2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, free, 456-1261

PICTURE YOUR PET WITH SANTA — Holiday pet portraits to benefit Allen County SPCA, **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 15-16** at Apple Glen and Maysville Road PetSmart, Fort Wayne, \$9.95, 744-0454, www.aspcap.org

STAR OF BETHLEHEM 2012 — Meet under the Mid-eastern sky of 3 B.C. and follow the Wise Men **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14; 3 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 15; 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16** at Schouweiler Planetarium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$4, 399-8050, www.ssf.edu/christmas

VAN WERT COUNTY HOLIDAY LIGHTS — Drive-thru light show, **5-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday, thru Dec. 25** C, \$5-\$6, 419-238-1214, www.visitvan-wert.org

Lectures, Discussions, Films

FINDING OUR VOICE, SHARING OUR SPIRIT WITHIN AND ACROSS CULTURES — A three part workshop, **9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** at the downtown Allen County Public Library, Meeting Room B, Fort Wayne, free, 420-0765

AN EASTERN CHRISTIAN ASSESSMENT OF VATICAN II — Part of the University of Saint Francis faculty lecture series with a discussion from Dr. Adam DeVille, **3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16** in North Campus Auditorium, USF, Fort Wayne, free, 399-7700

LEGENDS OF CHRISTMAS — Legend Lore presenter Ceci Wiseloge brings the customs of the season to life, **1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20** at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, \$5, 419-238-6722

Storytimes

BARNES & NOBLE STORY TIMES — Storytime and crafts, **10 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays**, Barnes & Noble, Jefferson Pointe, Fort Wayne, 432-3343

STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS AT ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: **ABOITE BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, Baby Steps, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1320

DUPONT BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime for ages 3-5, **1:30 p.m. Tuesdays & 10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, PAWS to Read, **4:30 p.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1315 **GEORGETOWN BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mondays**, Baby Steps, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesdays**, PAWS to Read, **4 p.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1320

GRABILL BRANCH — Born to Read, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1325

HESSEN CASSEL BRANCH — Stories, songs and fingerplays for the whole family, **6:30 p.m. Tuesdays**, 421-1330

LITTLE TURTLE BRANCH — Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**, PAWS to read, **6 p.m. Mondays**, 421-1335

NEW HAVEN BRANCH — Babies and books for kids birth to age 2, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1345

PONTIAC BRANCH — Teen cafe **4 p.m. Tuesdays**, PAWS to Read, **5 p.m. Thursdays**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, 421-1350

TECUMSEH BRANCH — PAWS to Read, **6:30 p.m. Mondays**, Smart Start Storytime for kids age 3-6, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, YA Day for teens **3:30 p.m. Wednesdays**, Wondertots reading for ages 1-3, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1360 **SHAWNEE BRANCH** — Born to Read for babies and toddlers, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **11 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1355 **WAYNE DALE BRANCH** — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**, Born to Read Storytime for babies and toddlers, **10:15 a.m. Tuesdays**, PAWS to Read **4:30 p.m. first and third Wednesdays**, 421-1365 **WOODBURN BRANCH** — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, 421-1370

STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS AT HUNTINGTON CITY-TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY:

MAIN BRANCH — Stories with Santa, **Saturday Dec. 8**, 356-0824

MAIN BRANCH — Storytime for children ages 2 and 3 and 4 to 7, **10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays**, babies to 24 months and children ages 3 to 6, **10 a.m. Wednesdays**, registration required, 356-2900

MARKLE BRANCH — Storytime for children ages 2 to 7, **4:45 p.m. Thursdays**, registration required, 758-3332

MARKLE BRANCH — PAWS to Read for children ages 6-12, by appointment only.

Kid Stuff

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — Enjoy breakfast with Santa, Mrs. Claus and zoo friends, **8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Dec. 16** at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$15, reservation only, 437-2836, www.kidszoo.org

KIDS' ART EXPLORATION — Create a Warhol print inspired by Andy Warhol with instruction by Erin Patton-McFarren, **6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19**, at Artlink Gallery, Auer Center for Arts and Culture, Fort Wayne, \$36, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

DRAWING CLUB — Artist Rebecca Stockert guides ages 11-18 through different formal drawing exercises and techniques, **1-3 p.m. Saturday Dec. 22**, at Artlink Gallery, Auer Center for Arts and Culture, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$200, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

Dance

OPEN DANCES

BALLROOM DANCING — Group class and open dance **8-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14** at American Style Ballroom, North Clinton St., Fort Wayne, \$5, 480-7070

BALLROOM DANCING — Latin dance party **7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** at American Style Ballroom, Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne, \$6, 267-9850

OPEN DANCE — Singles, couples open social dance, **6-10 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 16 and Dec. 30** at Westside Gardens Reception Hall, Fort Wayne, \$7, 609-8877

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE — Participatory circle dancing of meditation, joy, community and peace, **7-10 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 12 and Feb. 9** at Fort Wayne Dance Collective, fragrance-free, freewill donation, 424-6574 or 602-9361, www.fwdc.org/dup

DANCE INSTRUCTION

BALLROOM DANCING — Beginner workshop **10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** at American Style Ballroom, Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne, \$15, 267-9850

CONTRA DANCE — Lessons and open dance with live music **8-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** at North Campus Building, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$8, USF students & employees free w/ID, 224-1905, www.contrafortwayne.org

FITNESS FUN — Group fitness class **3:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16** at American Style Ballroom, Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne, \$5, 267-9850

Instruction

ARTLINK CLASSES — Kids, beginners and adult art classes and ongoing classes, at Artlink Gallery, Auer Center for Arts and Culture, Fort Wayne, times and fees vary, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

DROP-IN YOGA & ZUMBA CLASSES IN THE GARDEN — Yoga and zumba instruction, **5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays** at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$7, 427-6440, www.botanicalconservatory.org

SWEETWATER ACADEMY OF MUSIC — Private lessons for a variety of instruments in rock, jazz, country and classical are available from a variety of professional instructors, **ongoing weekly lessons** at Sweetwater, Fort Wayne, \$100 per month, 432-8176 ext. 1961, academy.sweetwater.com

LEARN TO CURL — Instruction for "curling" involving two teams sliding stones across ice, **5-7 p.m. Sunday Dec. 16** at Lutheran Health Sports Center, Fort Wayne, free, 438-0689, fortwaynecurling.com

JEWELRY MAKING: CONNECTIONS AND COLSURES — with Kevin Van Zuien of IEEE **7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19** at the TekVenture Maker Station, Allen County Public Library downtown, Fort Wayne, free, 432-1095, www.tekventure.org

THE SCOOP ON HOOPS — Create your own custom weighted Hula Hoop using pex water line and an array of tapes with Mikila Cook, **10-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 22** at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$10, \$8 members, 427-6440, www.botanicalconservatory.org

Spectator Sports

BASKETBALL

MAD ANTS — Upcoming home games at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne **FRIDAY, Dec. 14** vs. Maine Red Claws 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, Dec. 15 vs. Springfield Armor, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18 vs. Canton Charge, 7 p.m.

HOCKEY

KOMETS — Upcoming home games at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne **SUNDAY, Dec. 16** vs. Kalamazoo Wings, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 19 vs. Cincinnati Cyclones, 7:30 p.m.

Sports & Recreation

EXTREME DODGEBALL — 4-man teams compete, **9 p.m. Thursdays** at Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, free, 483-4421, www.probowlwest.com

Tours & Trips

JOFFREY BALLET PRESENTS NUTCRACKER — Trip to Chicago to see the *Nutcracker* and visit the magnificent mile, **7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** departing from Northside Park, Fort Wayne, \$115, 427-6000

ROCK WITH DOC IN JAMAICA — Four-, seven- or nine-night excursions with Rock 104s Doc West at the Rio Negril resort in Jamaica, **Thursday, Feb. 7-Saturday, Feb. 16, Saturday, Feb. 9 thru Wednesday, Feb. 13, or Saturday, Feb. 9 thru Saturday, Feb. 16**, costs vary, 434-6618, www.travlead.com

December

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION — Celebration of the season and all it has to offer, **6:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21** at Creeare Ranch, Columbia City, \$25, 229-0874, www.creeare-ranch.com

TOUCH THE WORLD OF THE MOBIUS BAND — Sculptor Chris Rose shares techniques for creating art based on topological space **9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday Dec. 22** at the TekVenture Maker Station, Allen County Public Library downtown, Fort Wayne, free, 432-1095, www.tekventure.org

RUMBLE IN FORT WAYNE — Indoor midget car racing, **2-10:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27; 7 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28 and 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29** at Allen County War Memorial, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$41, www.rumble-series.com

January

2013 WELLNESS RETREAT — Feldenkrais: Awareness through Movement, movement fundamentals, yoga and wellness, **8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5** at Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$35 (includes lunch), register at 424-6574 or www.fwdc.org/register

BRIDAL SPECTACULAR — A look at the new styles of bridal wear for 2013, **12-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday Jan. 5-6** at Allen County War Memorial, Fort Wayne, \$10, 483-6144

FORT WAYNE GUN AND KNIFE SHOW — Guns, knives, archery supplies, military collectibles, army surplus equipment, survival gear and related items on display **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6** at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$2-\$6, 483-6144, www.cpishows.com

CYCLEFEST USA SHOW AND EXPO — Ride-in bike show and expo **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday Jan. 12 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday Jan. 13** at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, tba, 483-6144, www.cyclefestusa.net

FORT WAYNE FARM SHOW — Latest equipment and products in agribusiness **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 15; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 16 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17** at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, free, 483-6144

MIZPAH SHRINE CIRCUS — Three rings of fun, **6:30 p.m. Thursday Jan. 24; 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25; 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday Jan. 26; 1 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27** at Allen County War Memorial, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$20, 483-6144

OUTDOOR SPORTS, LAKE AND CABIN SHOW — Hunting, fishing, camping and outdoor expo, **12-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25; 10 a.m. 8 p.m. Saturday Jan. 26; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27** at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10, 483-6144



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THE CASE OF THE CHRISTMAS STAR — Holiday mystery dinner theatre presented by Bower North Productions, **6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14** at Courtyard by Marriott downtown, Fort Wayne, \$39.95, 579-9226, www.bownorth.com

A CHRISTMAS SURVIVAL GUIDE — Arena Dinner Theatre production of holiday musical revue designed to lighten the stress of the season, **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 14-15** at Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35, 424-5622, www.arenadinnertheatre.org

GLORY AND MAJESTY OF CHRISTMAS — Living Christmas card that features the Webb Family as Victorian carolers and telling the Greatest Story Ever Told, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday Dec. 13-14; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 and 7:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 17-19** at Blue Gate Theater, Shipshewana, \$29-\$44, 888-447-4725, www.riegsecker.com/shipshewana/bluegatetheater

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE — George Bailey learns the power one soul can have on the lives of others in this First Presbyterian Theater presentation, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 14-15; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16** at First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$24, 422-6329, www.firstpresbyteriantheater.com

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET — Play presentation from national tour of the 1947 film Christmas classic, **(call for times) thru Dec. 31** at the Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres, Nappanee, \$6.95-\$45.16, 800-800-4942, www.amishacres.com

NUTS AND CRACKERS — High School students perform original works based on holiday and seasonal themes, **2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16** at South Side High School, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$13, 422-4226, www.fwdc.org/nc/2012

OLIVER! — Musical adaptation of the Dickens novel *Oliver Twist*, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 14-15; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16** at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$13-\$31, 574-267-8041, wagonwheeltheatre.org/

SNAFU IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP — Ecstasities Theatrics production of an original work by Jeanette Jaquish **11 a.m. Saturdays, Dec. 15 and 29** at Cinema Center, Fort Wayne; and **7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20** at Allen County Public Library, downtown branch, \$4, 750-9013

THE SNOW QUEEN — Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale that centers on the struggle between good and evil comes to life in this Fort Wayne Youththeatre production. Opening night preshow reception includes meet and greet with the characters and a cocktail buffet, **6-7 p.m., Friday Dec. 14** (Ice Castle Ball preshow); **7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 15-16** at Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$15, 422-6900, www.fortwayneyouththeatre.org

Asides

AUDITIONS

HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES (FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 16) — Auditions for First Presbyterian Theater production **6 p.m. Sunday Jan. 6** at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 4422-6329, www.firstpresbyteriantheater.com

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA (APRIL 25-MAY 11) — Auditions for First Presbyterian Theater production, **1-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12**, at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 422-6329, www.firstpresbyteriantheater.com

Upcoming Production

DECEMBER

SHREK THE MUSICAL — Movie ogre takes to the stage in this Broadway tour production, **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21** at Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$24-\$52, 563-1102, www.honeywellcenter.org

SHREK THE MUSICAL — Movie ogre takes to the stage in this Broadway tour production, **2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22** at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, \$22-\$57, 419-238-6722, www.npacvw.org

JANUARY

THE LION IN WINTER — First Presbyterian Theater presents a comedy dealing with royal corruption as King Henry II plans to name his successor, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 3-5; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 11-12; 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19** at First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$24, 422-6329, www.firstpresbyteriantheater.com

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST — The classic tale of love gets Disney's magic touch as a Broadway musical production, **7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17** at Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$24-\$52, 563-1102, www.honeywellcenter.org

ALMOST MAINE — John Cariani's series of nine short plays exploring love and loss, **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19 and 25-26 and Feb. 1-2** at Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35, 424-5622, www.arenadinnertheatre.org

Current Exhibits

2012, A YEAR IN REVIEW — Collection of works by artists featured throughout the year **Tuesday-Saturday or by appointment, thru Jan. 18** at Crestwoods Frame Shop and Gallery, Fort Wayne, 672-2080, www.crestwoodsgallery.com

ART FARM HOLIDAY STUDIO SHOW — Booths by 12 artists featuring paintings, prints, glass, metal, fiber, ceramics, jewelry and mixed media pieces, hosted by Lisa Vetter and Paul Seifert **Monday-Saturday or by appointment thru Dec. 30**, The Art Farm, Spencerville, 238-4755, www.artfarm.shutterfly.com

ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS — Porcelain, clay, raku fired, mixed metal and blown glass ornaments and sculptures by area artists **daily thru Dec. 31** at The Orchard Gallery, Fort Wayne, 436-0927, www.theorchardgallery.com

BREACH OF PEACE — Portraits of the 1961 freedom riders in a then and now by Eric Etheridge, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 30** at Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.org

BRUSHED NOT STIRRED — Paintings and ceramics by artists Norman Bradley, Penny French, Kristy Jo Bebera and Cindy Husar, **Tuesday-Saturday thru Dec. 15** at the PottersWife Gallery, Fort Wayne, 420-8300 www.delaney-s1421broadway.com

CASH & CARRY HOLIDAY EXHIBIT — One-of-a-kind art sale, **daily, thru Jan. 6** at Clark Gallery, Honeywell Center, Wabash, 563-1102, www.honeywellcenter.org

DANIEL DIENELT: EXPERIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY — Experimental photography by local multi-media photographer and artist **Monday-Saturday thru Jan. 7** at Frame Art & Design, Fort Wayne, 489-6373, danieldienelt-studio.tumblr.com

DECATUR SCULPTURE WALK — Art event featuring original life-size sculptures by local artists, **daily thru May 31** at Second Street business district, Decatur, free, www.decatursculpturewalk.com

DISEASE DETECTIVES — Examining the emerging and re-emerging diseases that plague mankind, **Wednesday-Sunday thru Jan. 6** at Science Central, Fort Wayne, \$8, 424-2400 ext. 441, www.sciencecentral.org

FREEDOM RIDERS AND BUS BOYCOTTERS: THREADS OF A STORY — Eighty-two portraits of peaceful protesters in the 1960s by Charlotta Janssen, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 27** at Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.org

HOLIDAY SHOW — Artwork by national and regional artists, **Tuesday-Saturday thru Jan. 31** at Castle Gallery, Fort Wayne, 426-6568, www.castlegallery.com

HOLIDAY SHOW — Local artist display of paintings, drawings, clay and mixed media, **Tuesday-Saturday thru Dec. 31** at Crestwoods Frame Shop and Gallery, Roanoke, 672-2080, www.crestwoodsgallery.com

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS — Featuring scenes from Whoville **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 6** at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, 427-6440, www.botanicalconservatory.org

JOEL FREMION: MASTER OF THE 21ST CENTURY COLLAGE — Highlights of the artist's evolution of "fabric collage" — a process of sewing thousands of scraps into a pictorial whole, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 20** at Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.org

ODE TO MY ARCHITECT: HARMONY OF ISLAMIC ART BY UZMA MIRZA — Fine art including lyrical paintings, drafting elements and Islamic calligraphy, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 6** at Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.org

PAUL DEMAREE AND REBECCA STOCKERT — Paintings from local artists, **daily thru Dec. 31** at Firefly Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 373-0505, www.fireflycoffeehousefw.com

RISEING STARS — Artwork by Weisser Park Middle School students, **daily thru Dec. 30** at the First Presbyterian Church Gallery, Fort Wayne, 426-7421, www.firstpres-fw.org

RAT ART — Featuring oil paintings and giclees by Terry Ratliff, **Saturday-Sunday thru Dec. 30** at the Firehouse Gallery, Fort Wayne, 414-6238

ROBERT VANDERMARK: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY — Large-formatted photographic images from a recent safari in Namibia, Africa, **Monday-Friday or by appointment thru Dec. 14** at Mount Memorial Art Gallery, Grace College, Winona Lake, 574-372-5100, www.grace.edu

SENIOR BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS EXHIBIT — Graduating seniors display their thesis projects, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 16** at the Spectorator Lounge, Cinema Center, Fort Wayne, 426-3456

SOCA ALUMNI AND FACULTY EXHIBITION — Artwork displaying a wide variety of media and artistic approaches, **daily thru Dec. 16** at the Weatherhead Gallery, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7700 ext. 8001, www.sf.edu/sf/art/events/galleries

WHITE TO BRIGHT — Community public art project **Tuesday-Sunday, thru Jan. 16** at Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

Artifacts

ART EVENTS

SHIPSHEWANA ICE FESTIVAL — Individuals and teams of ice carvers create themed sculptures, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 27-29** throughout Shipshewana businesses, 768-4725, www.shipshewana.com/festivals

CALL FOR ENTRIES

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS — Eligible photos will be black and white and reflect the theme of success, achievement, innovation and inspiration. Submissions must be by artists 18 and older, three submissions per artist and due by **Thursday, Dec. 13** at Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

Upcoming Exhibits

JANUARY

SHARON GERIG EXHIBIT — Photography focusing on nature and landscape images, **Tuesday-Sunday, Jan. 3-Feb. 26** at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under free), 427-6640, www.botanicalconservatory.org

ART FACULTY EXHIBIT — Recent works from art department faculty members **Monday-Friday or by appointment Jan. 14-Feb. 1 (opening reception 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18)** at the Mount Memorial Art Gallery, Grace College, Winona Lake, 574-372-5100, www.grace.edu

FIGURATIVE CERAMICS EXHIBIT — Pieces from nationally recognized artists Lisa Clague, Nancy Kubale and Diana Farfan, **daily, Jan. 19-Feb. 17 (opening reception 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19)** at the Weatherhead Gallery, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7700 ext. 8001, www.sf.edu/sf/art/events/galleries

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY EXHIBITION — Faculty and selected graduate students from IPFW, Huntington and St. Francis universities each display one piece, **Tuesday-Sunday, Jan. 25-Feb. 27** at Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

MARCH

DON KRUSE AND AL MARTIN EXHIBIT — A collection of prints, drawings and ceramics, **daily, March 1-April 21 (opening reception 5:30-7:15 p.m. Friday, March 1)** at the First Presbyterian Church Gallery, Fort Wayne, 426-7421, www.firstpres-fw.org

HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBITION — Featuring works of art by regional high school students, **daily, March 3-24** at the Weatherhead Gallery, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7700 ext. 8001, www.sf.edu/sf/art/events/galleries

ASSEMBLAGE, COLLAGE, MIXED MEDIA EXHIBIT — Works from area artists, **Tuesday-Sunday, March 8-April 17** at Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

ART CLASSES

Adult Date Night
December 15, 7-10 p.m.
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Teen Drawing Club
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A Mommy Blog Memoir

Let's Pretend This Never Happened (A Mostly True Memoir)
by Jenny Lawson, Amy Einhorn
Books, 2012

Have you ever been disappointed because you woke up in the middle of a good dream and didn't get to find out how it ended? Why were you disappointed? Why couldn't you just make up an ending for the dream after you were awake? Why wouldn't that be just as satisfying as finishing the dream in your sleep? Because finishing the story when you're awake doesn't count, that's why. The dream is only satisfying when it's out of the control of your conscious mind; when your unconscious mind is running the show, there's an air of reality about it, as if you can't just change things to make them happier or more fun or more interesting.

That's why people hate fake memoirs. They're masquerading as dreams, but they're really just stories that someone finished after she woke up. What might have been interesting if it had really happened becomes just another story if it's fictionalized. So, all questions of morality aside, that's why James Frey and all of the other autobiographical fictionizers are bad memoirists.

All this has little to do with the actual substance of Jenny Lawson's "mostly true" memoir, but it has a lot to do with how she presents her book. Lawson is trying to take advantage of the controversy over faked memoirs to suggest that her book is edgy because it walks the line between truth and fiction. The truth is, though, that the untruths in the book are not things that you're likely to mistake for truth. Lawson writes things like, "I grew up a poor black girl in New York. Except replace 'black' with 'white,' and 'New York' with 'rural Texas.' The 'poor' part can stay." She lied to us, but the lie wasn't very convincing – the author photo on the cover tells us she's not a black girl – and she confesses the truth in the next sentence. In effect, the "mostly true" memoir is true.

Lawson isn't playing with the fuzziness between fiction and non-fiction. She's trying to be funny. Her lies are a stab at comedy, and in my opinion it's a particularly frantic, desperate kind of comedy. It's screaming, "Look at me! I'm quirky, crazy, different, special! I can't be trusted! I'm too wacky!" It gets old, and it gets old very, very fast.

The facts of Lawson's life are this: She grew up in rural Texas,



On Books
EVAN GILLESPIE

in a town called Wall. She writes, "In Wall, when people refer to gin they're talking about the Cotton Gin, which is the only real business in town and is like a factory that turns cotton into ... something else. I honestly have no idea. Different cotton maybe?" One has to wonder why, even if she hadn't questioned until now what the only business in her hometown did, she couldn't have looked it up on Wikipedia while she was writing the book. (Answer: it's funnier if she doesn't know.)

She also is a mom, loves taxidermy and suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, depression, OCD and an anxiety disorder. Right there, she's got a cornucopia of stuff suitable for modern memoir: parenthood, quirkiness and affliction. Throw in the absurdist sense of humor and you've got some great stuff.

Lots of people think so, at any rate. We have this memoir in hand – an actual hardcover book – thanks to the popularity of Lawson's blog, TheBloggess.com, which is apparently very big on the mommy-blog circuit. Her blog, according to the book's jacket copy, is "award-winning and extremely popular, and [Lawson] is considered one of the funniest writers of our generation by at least three or four people." How absurdly funny! How quirky! I think it's safe to assume that Lawson herself wrote the book's jacket copy.

It's all true, though, I think. Lawson was rated by Nielsen as one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Mom Bloggers, and TheBloggess was named by Forbes as one of the Top 100 Websites for Women. Of course, I got this info from Wikipedia, which is a mostly true reference source, so do with it what you will. The bottom line is this: if you're into mommy blogs (particularly if you're a mom yourself, and you think no one gets you because you're just so darn quirky) you're probably going to like Lawson's work. One could argue that this style of rambling, lightweight, self-conscious quirkiness doesn't work nearly as well on the printed page as it does on a computer monitor, but that's maybe being a little too critical. If you like TheBloggess, you'll like this. If you don't, you won't.

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Indies Worth Watching

As the movie year heats up with the release of many of the most anticipated awards season films, we thought we'd take a week to plug a few of the lesser known movies from 2012. Check back next week for our annual year-end list of favorite films.

Bernie (dir. Richard Linklater): There's so much right, yet also so much wrong, with *Bernie*. Jack Black's performance in the title role is his best since his last outing with Linklater, *School of Rock*, and the story, a true one, is most definitely interesting. Had Linklater made the movie a little juicier, a little grittier, a little darker, a little more cinematic, I think he would've had an indie hit.

Shut Up and Play the Hits (dir. Will Lovelace and Dylan Southern): Sure, this rock documentary about the last week in the life of the band LCD Soundsystem is often contrived and staged, but the music is good and frontman James Murphy appears to be an artist worth spending time with. Mostly, I liked the production style and the idea of the film – putting cameras on a band during its final days.

Sleepwalk With Me (dir. Mike Birbiglia): Another comedian telling his sad story of blind endurance, right? Well, sure, pretty much. But Birbiglia, who also wrote and directs, is a really likable, average, relatable guy, and he's found a story-telling device that keeps things interesting. Funny and sweet.

Excision (dir. Richard Bates Jr.): This horror flick, featuring "90210" star AnnaLynne McCord in a very complex and powerful performance, is more of a dark comedy – or even a gross-out drama – than it is a proper horror film. McCord's character, an oddly confident, totally deranged high school kid who aspires to be a self-taught surgeon, is one of the most over-the-top screen protagonists of recent memory. McCord goes back and forth between uber sexual and completely disgusting, stunning us in the final act. There's blood, guts and sex and, more than anything else, a whole lot of style and visual beauty.

Goats (dir. Christopher Neil): A stoner flick? A coming of age piece? Another Holden Caulfield-inspired story of intellectual rebellion? An oddball ensemble drama? *Goats*, featuring a great score by Jason Schwartzman's Coconut Records, is a weird beast of a film that reminds, here and there at least, of a Wes Anderson movie. *Goats'* protagonist, played by Graham Phillips, is a mature prep school kid surrounded by quirky, irresponsible, fleeting adults. The story? Meh. It's decent. Come for the style.



ScreenTime GREG W. LOCKE

Womb (dir. Benedek Fliegaur): Similar to 2010's *Never Let Me Go*, *Womb* is a different kind of sci-fi film. Set in the future, *Womb* tells the story of a woman who, using her boyfriend's DNA and some sort of new technology, births a clone of her boyfriend. I won't tell you what happens after the clone kid goes through puberty (and mom is still super hot) because that's not really what this movie is about. It's about love and science, class and motherhood. Eva Green stars as Rebecca, our mom/girlfriend, in a great performance. The real star of this show, though, is cinematographer Péter Szatmári.

The Comedy (dir. Rick Alverson): In *The Comedy* Tim Heidecker plays the ultimate hipster. He's aging; he comes from endless family money; everything he does is ironic; he has no goals or purpose; his friendships are based on nothing more than witty, racy banter. Heidecker's Swanson lives in Williamsburg and more or less spends his days passing time, doing a whole lot of nothing. When he does do something, it's usually rude, selfish, destructive and nasty. At one point he takes a girl home with him and, when she has an intense seizure, he sits still, drinking, waiting it out. The point of Alverson's great freewheeling new movie? Not sure, but it certainly not friendly to rich kids or this sincerity-lacking generation of supposed hipsters. Mostly, it's a really funny New York City movie that features a great soundtrack and some memorable gags.

The Innkeepers (dir. Ti West): A mood piece, totally. West's second consecutive classic is every bit as subtle, suspenseful and thrilling as his last flick, *The House of the Devil*. West sets up his slow-moving scenes carefully and his miniature story arcs perfectly. If you like classic-era Hitchcock thrillers, you just might like *The Innkeepers*.

Being Flynn (dir. Paul Weitz): I'm not sure why this Boston-based drama starring Robert De Niro, Paul Dano, Julianne Moore and Olivia Thirlby didn't see more love from the critics and art house fans. Weitz' direction is right on, as is Dano's performance as Nick Flynn, a struggling writer who gets to know his father, a con man and self-proclaimed poet, when he starts working at a homeless shelter. Gritty, poetic, sad and beautiful – and maybe De Niro's best performance since 1999's *Flawless*.

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