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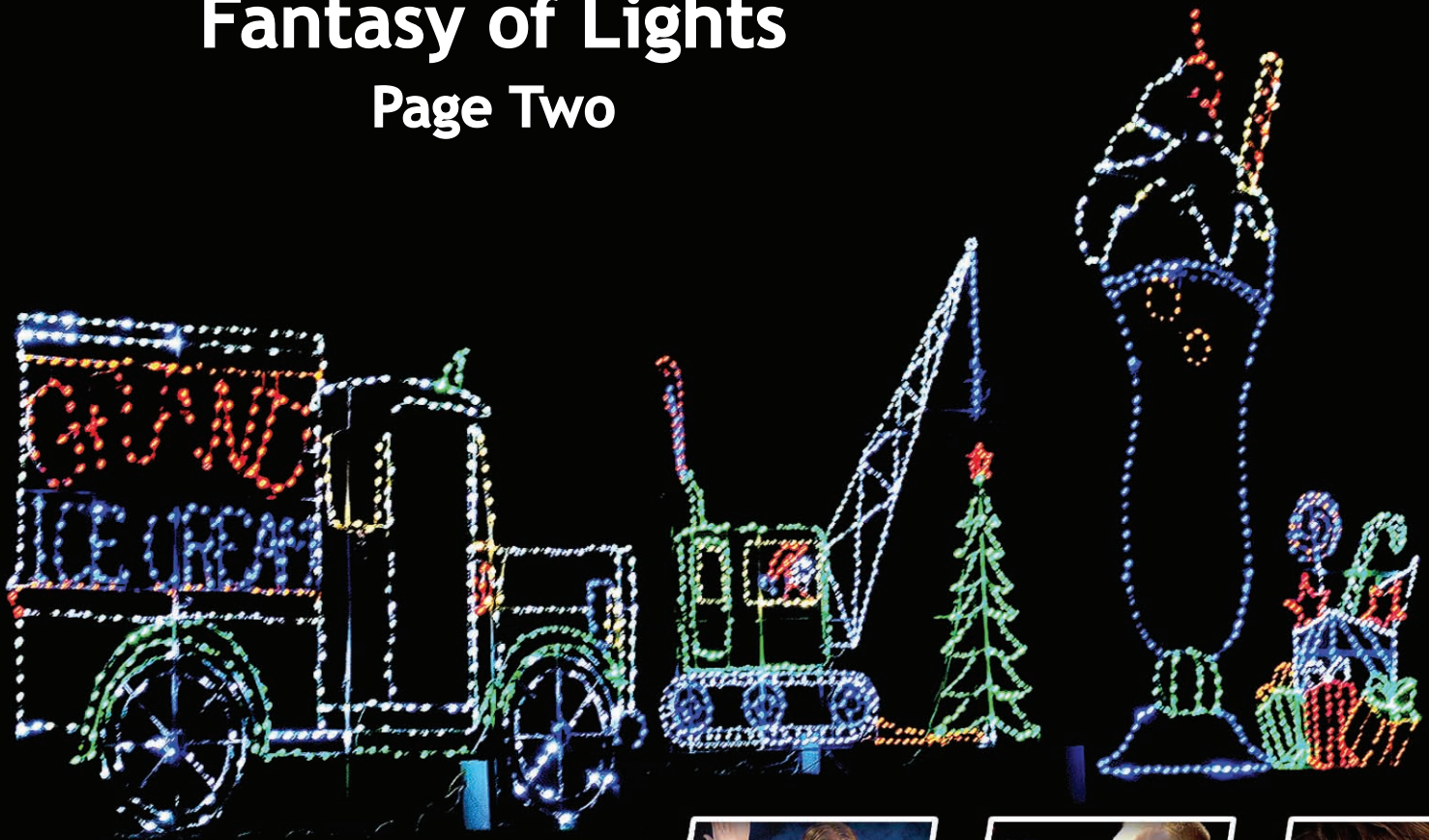
what there is to do.

Free

38,000 Points of Light

Fantasy of Lights

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Music & Book Reviews & More



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Nutcracker**

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Johnny A**

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Feature • Fantasy of Lights

38,000 Points of Light

By Mark Hunter

There are two things most people need more of in their lives: light and fantasy. Well guess what? For six weeks beginning on Wednesday, November 25, ample quantities of each will be available thanks to the 21st Annual Fantasy of Lights at Franke Park.

Some 50,000 people drove the 1.5 mile Fantasy loop through Franke Park last year. And while they came to marvel at the world of lights and winter spirit, it's possible only a fraction knew the good their entry fee was doing throughout the community.

This year things are a bit different, at least behind the scenes. After 20 years under the direction of AWS Foundation Fantasy of Lights has a new host, Blue Jacket Inc.

Blue Jacket is a 10-year-old organization dedicated to helping local disadvantaged residents get back on their feet through job training and career counseling.

According to Blue Jacket events coordinator Natasha Kennedy, the change from AWS to Blue Jacket has been seamless and welcomed.

"AWS have had it for 20 years, and Lynne Gilmore, executive director of AWS, has a good partnership with Blue Jacket. She noticed that we didn't have one big fundraiser, so she decided to give it to us this year," Kennedy said. "We're thrilled to accept the event. It's a community favorite and a family tradition. Here at Blue Jacket we're all about the community and how we can help so we accepted with open arms. We are more than happy to continue the tradition in Fort Wayne of the Fantasy of Lights."

And what a tradition it is. With the theme of Light up Your Silent Night, Fantasy of Lights 2015 promises to deliver all of the spirit and warmth of the season for \$5 a carload (\$10 for 15-passenger vans and \$25 for buses and trolleys).

The Fantasy of Lights is part Christmas celebration, part winter wonderland, part lighted artistic magic and all amazing. As a concept, Fantasy of Lights works on a couple of levels. First and most obvious is the imaginary land where passing vehicles cause lights to turn on and off, where Cinderella shares space with Snoopy and where sequenced lights give movement to stationary objects. More seriously, the dream for many people is to live independently in a home paid for by their own hard work, to have light in their lives to alleviate the darkness of their former existence. The funds raised at the Fantasy of Lights will go a long way toward helping that dream come true every year for up to 300 hundred of our neighbors.

"At Blue Jacket we have a four-week career academy," Kennedy said. "It's a training program, and

that's where the proceeds are going. Blue Jacket helps disadvantaged people in the community looking for a second chance at employment. The four weeks take you through things like resume building, how to be an employee and how to dress."

Proper dress won't be an issue for the people in the 17,000 vehicles expected to to wend their way through the park. Snuggled and cozy in their cars, those folks can wear whatever they want, unless of course they want to follow the example of Santa and Mrs. Claus. On opening night, Father and Mother Christmas will ride around the park in a hand-crafted carriage. Viewing the lights from a convertible with the top down would be a chilly yet unfettered way to experience the display. It's also a good way to show solidarity with the Kringles.

The 80 displays, five more than last year, represent the goodwill of 50 area sponsors and the handiwork of a local Christmas-themed company.

"We work with Herman's Christmasland which is in Pierceton," Kennedy said. "Lincoln Financial are putting a new display in this year. They come to me and say what they'd like; then I work with Herman's Christmasland and we design it, take it back to Lincoln Financial, they approve it and Herman's Christmasland build and then it gets taken to Franke Park."

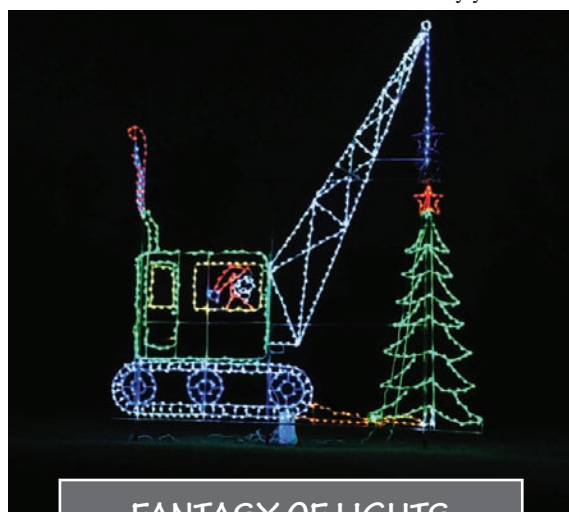
The framework displays built by Herman's hold some 38,000 LEDs and are assembled and synchronized in a way that simulates movement. For

example, Lincoln's display features polar bears putting up a Christmas tree.

Fantasy of Lights is truly a community event. While more than half of the displays are sponsored, Kennedy said, some are given to families who have lost a family member. The rest are simply donated. Then there are the volunteers who brave the Indiana's capricious weather to help with the event.

"A good thing about this year with the changeover is we have volunteers every night," Kennedy said. "They're collecting money, handing out programs. We have about 380 volunteers. Midweek we have five to eight and on the weekends about 15."

Blue Jacket has not only has adopted the Fantasy of Lights from AWS, but several years ago they took over AWS's former location on South Calhoun. With a computer lab, a classroom and numerous counseling rooms, Blue Jacket also has a clothing store where clients can get suits and business attire so when they apply for work they not only have the skills required but they look the part.



FANTASY OF LIGHTS
6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
& 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday,
Nov. 25-Dec. 31
Franke Park
3411 Sherman Blvd., Fort Wayne
Tix: \$ 5/car, \$ 10, 15-passenger
van, \$ 25/bus or trolley,
260-744-1900

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Even though, for some folks, the holiday season kicked off on or around Halloween, for us here at World Headquarters the season begins the moment we get our first whiff of turkey with all the fixings. In other words, now. So, Seasons Greetings to one and all, and thanks for turning to northeast Indiana's one and only free weekly arts and entertainment publication for how to squeeze the most fun possible out of the holidays.

Among this week's features you'll find everything you need to know about Fort Wayne's Fantasy of Lights and the ballet's traditional performances of The Nutcracker. We've also got previews of the Embassy's upcoming concert featuring The Piano Guys and guitarist extraordinaire Johnny A's C2G show. Look beyond the features and you'll find plenty more – everything from Santa and his reindeer to The Queers at the Rail.

If you haven't yet ordered your whatzup Dining Club Cards, you have just a couple of weeks left to take advantage of our pre-Christmas offer. They make wonderful gifts for co-workers, family and friends, gifts that continue to give all year round. Check that offer out on page 16 this week.

Also, please go to whatzup.com and make your nominations for our Best of 2015 whatzup Readers Poll so your favorite artists and venues make it onto January's official ballot.

All that said, enjoy your holiday by getting out and having some fun. When you do, please remember to tell one and all that whatzup sent you.

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The Piano Guys photos by Nicolas Hudak
(cover) and Josh Rissi (page 6); Fort
Wayne Ballet photos by Jeffrey Crane

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Sweetness & Light & More

By Michele DeVinney

Although they stage numerous other productions each year, it is *The Nutcracker* that has put Fort Wayne Ballet front and center over the years, establishing them as the premier dance academy of northeast Indiana. A special part of the city's expanding holiday traditions, *The Nutcracker* is an international tradition at the holidays and has been embraced by this area's festive citizens for decades. Karen Gibbons-Brown, executive and artistic director at Fort Wayne Ballet for almost 20 years, understands the public's affection for it as well as its importance to keeping classic dance in the spotlight.

"I love *The Nutcracker*. It's such a great, magical piece, and it's a great entry point for people to appreciate what we do. People embrace the sweetness and light of it, but it was also the intent of the storyteller, E.T.A. Hoffman, to show the evils that children face. He was telling this story in the 1800s, and all you have to do to see it now is to look at the front page of a newspaper. But the story is great theatre and provides a nice piece of escapism."

The cast for *The Nutcracker* is huge (230 performers in two casts this year) and reflects a wide range of dancers. The ballet's professional company now employs nine dancers, four of them men. That alone signals the growth of the organization and its men's program, a significant shift from the days when FWB had to hire male dancers to round out their casts. The production also includes the ballet's performing-level students, younger students and even dancers from outside their Academy. One dancer is commuting from Ohio for rehearsals and performances, just for the opportunity to dance with Fort Wayne's best.

Some of the local talent will also be seen in productions around the country this year, evidence that the Academy's graduates and current students are ready to shine elsewhere. Talbot Rue, who as a young performer at FWB was often cast as the Nutcracker Prince, is now dancing the part in Richmond while Gibbons-Brown says two other students will be performing in *Nutcracker* productions in Wisconsin.

"Many of our dancers are starting to move onto the next level. I'd love to do a series of stories of 'Where Are They Now?' to find out where some of our former students and dancers are. Some are dancers in other companies, and some have moved on to success in other areas. Maybe next year as we celebrate our 60th anniversary, we can find out what those students have accomplished

since they left here."

Aside from the dancing, there are set and costume needs to be met, and while there are already pieces put aside from previous productions, Gibbons-Brown makes sure that all parts of the show, including props as well, are refurbished and replaced as needed to maintain the luster of the show. Following



THE NUTCRACKER FORT WAYNE BALLET

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 & 11
and Tuesday, Dec. 8

2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday,
Dec. 5 & 12

2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 & 13
Arts United Center

303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne
\$17-\$49, 422-4226

the recent retirement of longtime costumer Tess Heet, the ballet has several volunteers and professional seamstresses to address those issues, and the headpieces have been redone, providing, Gibbons-Brown promises, "literally a different sparkle."

Over the years several innovations have kept the show fresh, providing new wrinkles to the tradition. One of the most popular of these has been the snow, not only that which falls on stage but a sprinkling which falls over the audience at the end of the Act I. This year's twist comes in the cast, where a special opportunity may await a member of the audience.

"This year we're adding a guest party child," says Gibbons-Brown. "Before each performance, I'll go out to the lobby area and find a girl to join us on stage during the party scene. No dancing will be required since she'll be sitting on the sofa with the grandparents throughout the scene. What I'll be looking for is a girl of a certain size, maybe between the ages of 10 and 12, because we have a dress, and she'll need to fit into that dress ... I'll be looking for a girl and, with her parents' permission, she'll be part of our cast for that scene and then will be returned to the audience to enjoy the rest of the show."

One returning element, one which has become very popular and has brought national attention to Fort Wayne Ballet's staging of *The Nutcracker*, will be the "Muttcrackers," adoptable dogs who join the cast and then are available for visiting in the lobby following the first act. Dozens of pets have found new homes in time for the holidays thanks to

the program, and Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control has seen foot traffic increase during those weeks thanks to the exposure of the production. Other companies have followed the ballet's lead, and last year the Fort Wayne Philharmonic had a similar program, Holiday Pops Pups, adding to success.

Contributing to the community has long been part of the Fort Wayne Ballet

mission, and one of the company's other traditions, the collection of stuffed animals for the Fort Wayne Police Department to distribute to children in need, has been particularly successful. In fact, Gibbons-Brown recently saw the program in action.

"I was sitting in my backyard awhile back and heard a loud crash followed by children screaming. I ran to see what had happened, and there was a car that had crashed with a couple of young kids in the back. An ambulance came and the police, and while they were tending to the mother, the police gave the children stuffed animals from the ones we had collected last year. I still start to cry when I think about it. I found myself playing with those stuffed animals with the kids in the back of the ambulance and was able to see this program we've been doing for years in action."

While these other pieces of their mission bring joy in different ways, it has been *The Nutcracker* which has brought holiday joy for many years and will continue for many more. With the first three performances featuring the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, led by Andrew Constantine, and the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, helmed by Jonathan Busarow, there will be nine performances in total plus school shows keeping them busy for 10 solid days. There are also Sugar Plum Parties following the matinees and, for those looking for unique presents to bestow, a gift shop which this year includes handmade Keepsake Shoes, pointe shoes decorated to reflect characters in *The Nutcracker*. With so much involved, Gibbons-Brown admits that the work leading up to this annual production is intense, but it's also worth the effort.

"I'm grateful to be part of this community's annual holiday tradition. Our production has become a brand, and we're all really humbled and flattered to be embraced by this area the way we have."

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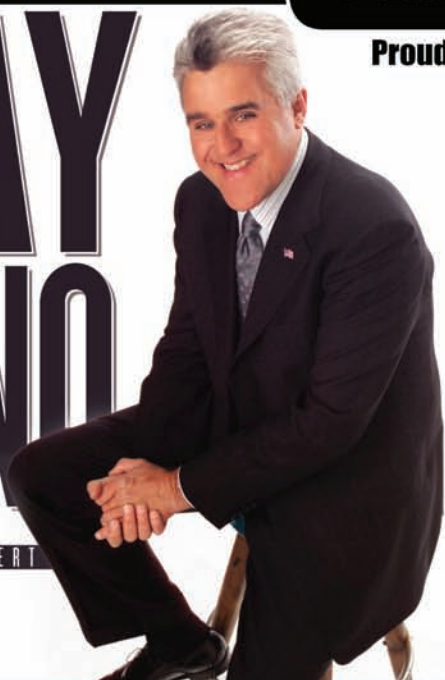
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Sensations of YouTube

By Michele DeVinney

Pursuing a career in music, or in other areas of the arts, can be daunting. And risky, if eating is a habit you wish to maintain. So it's not surprising that Jon Schmidt, the talented pianist from the YouTube sensation The Piano Guys, was not in a hurry to pursue his passion for music professionally. In fact, he notes that concern in his bio, which states, "Schmidt worried about a career in music. He worried that his family would think that sheet music does not taste good with ranch dressing, so in college he studied English with plans to get an MBA." But ironically, it was after he got married that he decided to take that risk.

"It was a joint decision that my wife and I made together," says Schmidt. "I had been playing at fundraisers for schools and fun things on the side like recordings. I did a lot of things here locally in Utah, and I did a series of benefit concerts in Washington D.C. for the homeless, and people started buying my cassette that I had put out. We decided I should try doing it for a year to see what happened. It just felt right."

Schmidt managed to pay the bills through regular gigs like weddings, and his knack for composition provided money through the sale of sheet music, which apparently wasn't required as a canvas for ranch dressing after all. But it was his collaboration with cellist Steven Sharp Nelson that was to ultimately push him into a much higher stratosphere than he could have possibly imagined.

"I started having him come play at some of my shows about 20 years ago. Then we started collaborating much more about eight or nine years ago. It really took off when I put a microphone in from of him at a concert, and he is incredibly comedic. He made me laugh out loud, and he was a big hit with the audience."

They continued to work together more and more, but it was about 10 years ago that they found a vital piece to the puzzle: videographer Paul Anderson who was the first to suggest that they put some videos on a new thing called YouTube.

"He was looking for creative ways to promote his piano store, and he suggested we make some videos and put them on his YouTube channel and billed us as 'The Piano Guys.' He really did some research about how to use YouTube, and he had some insane ideas about what we could do in the videos. At that point, I figured we were just doing Paul a favor, helping him with his piano store. But we started seeing this as a win-win for everyone."

Around this same time, Nelson also picked up an electric cello which had an additional string, providing a range that included cello to violin pitches. He also began experimenting with ways to produce new sounds with the cello, which Schmidt said provided

"20 to 30 new textures that we were able to incorporate into our music."

A video of "Viva La Vida" became an internet sensation even before social media sites like Facebook made sharing such links immediate. But through a growing network of fans who shared the link via email, the word got out, and The Piano Guys were a hit. Unfortunately, without rights to "Viva La Vida," they had to pull the video. Ditto when they tried to post a medley of Michael Jackson songs. But they had figured out how to sidestep such roadblocks.

"The Michael Jackson medley was a cool arrangement, but since we couldn't perform it, we added



THE PIANO GUYS

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3

Embassy Theatre

125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne

Tix: \$35-\$95 thru Ticketmaster and
box office, 260-424-5665

some original music to it and changed it so it didn't sound like Michael Jackson to anyone and called it 'Michael Meets Mozart.'"

The gambit worked. "Michael Meets Mozart"

now has almost 24 million views on YouTube. And their good fortune didn't stop there. A fortuitous meeting took place when Nelson helped a neighbor carry boxes into his new home. That neighbor happened to have a recording studio, and suddenly The Piano Guys were now about to record audio as well as video. They broadened their musical ability by experimenting further with percussive sounds Nelson, who also plays kick drum, was able to discover on his acoustic and electric cellos. Such experimentation was possible thanks to their free studio time. Everything was coming together far better than Schmidt might have imagined when he took that year to try out music professionally. But that doesn't mean he thinks everyone should put all their eggs into one career basket.

"Music is one of those careers where you have to have a backup plan. You have to have some alternative way to make money. I was able to pay my bills playing at weddings and giving piano lessons. If you pursue two careers, then you have something to fall back on if things don't work out. The only real formula for success is lucky breaks. My career developed over many years and has been a series of happy accidents that I never could have counted on."

One of those happy accidents came when they were discovered by Shelley Ross, then the executive producer of *Good Morning, America*. An appearance on that show not only provided an immediate boost to their profile, but Ross's husband, David Simone, is a music executive and manager. Although The Piano

Continued on page 18

Feature • Johnny A. Have Gibson, Will Travel

By Deborah Kennedy

When I caught up with Boston-based guitar guru Johnny A, he was walking down L.A.'s Ventura Boulevard, in search of a Starbucks. It was his 64th birthday, and he hoped to score something special at the famous – and lately infamous – coffee roaster.

“You know this whole cup thing?” he said. “They just better have birthday cups. That’s all I’m saying.”

Johnny A, i.e. Johnny Antonopoulos, was in Los Angeles as part of his stint with the Yardbirds, who’ve been touring the country since October. He’d played with the Yardbirds – the band that launched not only Jeff Beck but Jimmy Page and Eric Clapton – a time or two, but this was his first chance to tour with the band (now led by founding drummer Jim McCarty), and he said it was a dream come true. After all, Beck is one of Antonopoulos’s main influences, and he grew up listening to the Beatles and the Yardbirds and other acts labeled, on this side of the pond anyway, as British invasion.

“It’s been great, being on the road with these guys,” he said. “We’ve had strong attendance at all of the shows and the enthusiasm is definitely there. Fans are having fun, singing along with all the old songs.”

Once the Yardbirds tour is through, Johnny A will get back on the bus, this time headed for the Midwest. His tour stops at Fort Wayne’s C2G Music Hall Friday, December 4, when he’ll take the stage with a small band.

Johnny A is often described as a “guitarist extraordinaire” and a “guitar god.” Back in the 70s and 80s when he was fronting Boston bands like The Streets and Hearts on Fire, he also used to sing, but a bad bout of bronchitis/laryngitis put an end to his singing career, and he refocused his energies on his guitar playing, determined to channel his voice through six strings rather than two cords. His project was to create melodic instrumental music, tunes so catchy yet complex you wouldn’t even miss the lyrics and, while doing so, not to fall prey to the temptation to show off or become just another shredder.

“All of the music that’s influenced me, or 90 percent of it at least, is vocal-based,” he said. “They’re good songs and they’re sung well and so they stay with me. I can be wowed by fantastic musicianship and instrumental prowess, but eventually that kind of stuff wears off for me and I go back to songs with a strong melody. And that’s the inspiration for what I do. I want my guitar to act as a vocalist, for the melodies to come through like lyrics, like words.”



JOHNNY A

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One listen to Johnny A’s radio hit “Oh Yeah” off his 1999 album *Sometime Tuesday Morning* and it’s clear that he achieved that goal. You almost forget no one’s speaking because the guitar has so much to say.

I asked Johnny A to describe his sound, which critics often claim is an amalgam of jazz, rock, soul and Chet Atkins-style country.

“It’s kind of like being in the eye of the hurricane. It’s difficult from my perspective to see what

is achieved. I’m always looking out. I’ve been listening to myself play guitar for 50 years, so I don’t necessarily see anything unique. I guess my sound is a mixture of all my influences – of Chet Atkins, Les Paul, Jimi Hendrix. People tell me, though, that they know it’s me from a note or two, which is good, I guess. You want to have an identifiable sound.”

If you’re Johnny A, you also want to write a lot of songs, and he’s certainly done just that. With four solo studio albums to his credit, including his most recent effort, *Driven*, Johnny A has kept himself busy composing and honing his signature sound. *Driven*, in particular, is a study in what makes him tick. After spending some time trying to record the album with a band, he realized he wanted to go ahead and play all the instruments himself, make a sort of one-man-band album. For someone who’s been playing the drums since he was six and the guitar since he was 11, it ended up being less about labor and more about love.

“At the time I was building a recording studio, and I was throwing down lots of ideas, just spit-balling, and I liked the sound best when I was doing it myself. It was what I wanted to accomplish stylistically, so I went with it.”

Johnny A hasn’t always worked alone. Prior to his time as a solo artist, he played alongside Bobby Whitlock of Derek and the Dominos fame and Peter Wolf from the J. Geils Band. Such session and touring work helped him do what many guitarists only dream of: make a living as a musician. Then, after the groups disbanded, he had the freedom to carve his own path.

He’s also in the enviable position of having a Gibson guitar designed and named for him. Their second-best selling model, it’s been on the market for 13 years, and Johnny A often conducts clinics for Gibson, advising aspiring guitarists about technique, style and gear. What, pray tell, is the advice he finds himself repeating most often?

“Become lawyers,” he joked. “Or doctors. Although, if you’re a doctor, that can get tricky. At least if you’re a lawyer and you don’t do your job well, no one dies.”

Fort Wayne Youth Theatre's HOLIDAZE A Survivor's Guide for the Season!

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Wooden Nickel CD of the Week



MUTEMATH VITALS

The dudes from Mutemath make a kind of music that is almost impossible to label. Is it electronica? Sort of. Is it alternative? Guess so. Post-rock? Indie? Of course, what fans of this foursome from New Orleans know is that what you call the music doesn't matter. What matters is the sound – joyful, weird, joyfully weird – which you can hear for yourself when you pick up Mutemath's latest, *Vitals*, for \$11.99 at any Wooden Nickel Music store.

TOP SELLERS @

WOODEN NICKEL

(Week ending 11/22/15)

TW	LW	ARTIST/Album
1	-	ADELE 25
2	2	BILLY GIBBONS & THE BFG'S Perfectamundo
3	4	NEIL YOUNG Bluenote Café
4	-	ROGER WATERS The Wall
5	-	GRATEFUL DEAD Fare Thee Well
6	-	RUSH R40 Live
7	3	JEFF LYNNE'S ELO Alone in the Universe
8	1	BOB DYLAN The Best of the Cutting Edge
9	8	THE BEATLES 1
10	-	ENYA Dark Sky Island

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Drug Church

Hit Your Head

Leave it to Drug Church to title their sophomore release *Hit Your Head* after a means of self-injury.

"You got high at the wedding! You got drunk at the wake!" vocalist Patrick Kindlon wails in the sort-of title track "Hit Your Head, Greedy," while his band grinds away at a repetitive riff in the background. It's a moment that neatly sums up the band's modus operandi: misanthropy with a sly sense of humor and an eye for detail backed by ugly, jackhammer riffs. They're heavy, but they are definitely not metal. Their sound harkens back to the heavy alt-rock of the 1990s; think Quicksand or Helmet with a splash of Shellac. It's a certain type of post-hardcore that was once a vital subgenre, but fell into obscurity with the ascent of emo and pop-punk in the early 2000s. There seems to be a bit of a revival going on, and Drug Church are a prime example.

For a band that makes its bed in a heavy and loud sound, they sure know how to use quiet to good effect. They may hammer away at a riff for a while, but they know how to change things up, shift into a drum-and-bass segue or simply pause for a moment before coming screaming back to life. Kindlon usually hoarsely screams out lyrics, but every once in awhile he'll quiet down and shift into a low speaking voice for a moment, the way someone might when they want only you to hear what they're saying. It's a surprisingly effective contrast; it almost seems like he's taking a moment to pull you aside and mutter something for only you to hear. He puts his inside voice to good use on closing track "What," an interesting and slightly mysterious spoken-word sojourn. It sounds like he's essentially reading a short story aloud, a seemingly mundane one at that, about someone (you) going about some run-of-the-mill daily activities, only to have something waiting for you at home. "What" it is, is the mystery.

Intriguing as the album's coda may be, *Hit Your Head* isn't for everybody. The word that the band uses the most to bill itself is "ugly," and that's a good summation of its sound. The riffs are big, but the guitar tones are dirty, making for a sound that would fit in more at a dingy heavy industrial factory than it would in a cleaner, dancier club. But people who are into certain types of metal or the harder shade of hardcore should find some common ground to appreciate the ugliness contained on *Hit Your Head*. (Ryan Smith)

Pinkish Black

Bottom of the Morning

Pinkish Black are a Gothic synth band that came out of the ashes of the Denton, Texas experimental rock band The Great Tyrant. That band's bass player Tommy Atkins killed himself in a bathroom and left keyboardist Daron Beck and drummer/synthesizer player Jon Teague to carry on. Instead of carrying on as The Great Tyrant, Beck and Teague became Pinkish Black, a name that stands as both a memorial and last memory of their former bandmate.

On their third full-length LP Pinkish Black have finally found their sound. A mixture of Teague's dark synth and propulsive drumming and Bauhaus' Gothic doom, courtesy of Beck's mix of growl and croon vocals, *Bottom of the Morning* is an amazing journey into the dark places we avoid and only visit in our nightmares.

Beck and Teague recently said the title of album opener, "Brown Rainbow" came from the two of them watching lots of *The Price Is Right* reruns from the 70s and 80s. Host Bob Barker displayed nearly every shade of brown in his suits, giving rise to the term "Brown Rainbow." The song opens like an old horror film, all organ and doom which quickly morphs into a propulsive drum beat and kicks into something like Zombi being fronted by Ian Curtis. The vocals at first throw you off, but quickly become engaging. They push the songs from just instrumental gloom into something deeper. "Special Dark" is menacing. Synth stabs like knives to the gut, drums masterfully beaten to a pulp. Beck's vocals are reminiscent of A Place To Bury Strangers' Oliver Ackermann and even Merchandise's Carson Cox before the chorus explodes into a cacophony of pained screams. "I'm All Gone" is a slow, menacing groove.

There seems to be this omnipresent fuzz or film that covers these tracks. No matter how hard you scrub and clean, it never goes away,



BACKTRACKS

Greg Kihn Band

Rock Kihn Roll (1981)

Greg Kihn was born in Maryland and moved to California in his early 20s to become a rock star. His job at a record store (Rather Ripped) led him to meet some musicians where he was able to form a band; soon after they signed with Beserkley Records. This, the sixth album from Kihn, featured his biggest hit, "The Breakup Song."

The record opens with "Valerie", a poppy little rock song that sounds like other bands from the same era (The Knack, The Kings). "The Breakup Song" follows and touches on a couple of things. First, the singer describes his recent breakup; he then goes on about how they just don't write good breakup songs anymore. "Womankind" sounds a little like early 80s Mellencamp or Don Henley with its harmony and heavy keyboards, as does the breezy "Can't Stop Hurtin' Myself." "Trouble in Paradise blends the simple mid-60s tempo with the new wave hum of the early 80s. The band also covers Tommy Roe's 1962 single "Sheila." "Nothing's Gonna Change" continues the simple arrangements behind poppy rock guitars from an above average band that produced 10 albums in 10 years. The album closes with the toe-tapping "When the Music Starts" and the respectable "True Confessions."

Kihn (and his various line-ups) produced about a dozen studio albums and a few greatest hits and live versions of previously released songs. His 1983 single "Jeopardy" reached No. 2 on the charts (behind Michael Jackson's "Beat It"). His success diminished as hair bands and grunge dominated the airwaves.

Kihn still plays regionally, and has enlisted his son as lead guitarist. He also sings national anthems for Bay Area sports teams like the San Francisco Giants. (Dennis Donahue)



leaving your ears numbed by the moan under the surface. "Burn My Body" is a reprieve from the buzz and fuzz and tells the story of the last survivor on an abandoned cruise ship as he waits his fate that will be served up by a boat filled with carnivorous, man-eating rats. It's a feel-good kind of song. It's also a showcase for Beck's rather impeccable baritone voice.

"Everything Must Go" is not a cover of a Steely Dan song, but it does evoke the same sentiment. We're all doomed, so we're slashing prices, as this crap means nothing anymore. This song also brings to mind all those great Giallo soundtracks you pull out around this time of year (or for me all year). Title track "Bottom of the Morning" is nine and a half minutes and sort of a centerpiece to the album. Drums almost jazzy as the synthesizer wavers in the air like some psychedelic analog snake. "The Master Is Away," the only instrumental track on the record, evokes an almost dizzying sense of moving on, amidst all the dark psychedelia contained on the album. "New Dawn Fades" feels like the end – the end of an album, or simply the end of everything. This song should soundtrack the fade out shot of some science fiction epic. Someday maybe.

Bottom of the Morning is a beautifully dark album. As a synth heavy record, it stands among some of the best, but Beck's vocals push it into new territory. While standing in the shadows and covering some pretty heavy material, Pinkish Black seem to be trying to reach for some light in the darkness. (John Hubner)

LIGHTS - From Page 2

Named for the great Shawnee war chief Wayapiersenwah (Chief Blue Jacket), Blue Jacket was formed in 2003 and started local operation in 2005 with the mission of giving ex-offenders the tools to become productive member of society. That mission has now grown to include everyone in the community who needs assistance getting back on their feet.

For Kennedy, Fantasy of Lights represents an opportunity for members of the community create lasting holiday memories while helping people they don't even know.

"I'm going to be out almost every night taking pictures of cars and families and putting them on our Facebook page," she said. "The scale of the event and the good that it brings the people of Fort Wayne is impressive."

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ALLEN COUNTY

4D'S BAR & GRILL
Tavern/Sports Bar • 1820 W. Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-6488
EXPECT: Great food and drink specials and live entertainment; \$2 drink specials daily; \$1 tacos on Mon.; \$1.50 domestic longnecks & \$1 tacos on Tues.; Paul & Brian at 7 p.m. & 39¢ wings on Wed. (3-11 p.m., dine-in only); \$1 sliders & \$1.50 longnecks on Thurs.; live music Fri. & Sat.; buy one-get one half off entrees on Sat. (5-8 p.m.); \$7.50 14", 3-topping pizza on Sun. **GETTING THERE:** NW corner of Dupont & Lima. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri.; noon-3 a.m. Sat.-Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

AJ'S USA BAR & GRILLE
Sports Bar/Tavern • 2472 Getz Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-434-1980
EXPECT: Karaoke every Wednesday and Saturday night, live music, NFL package on 10 screens, billiards, darts, good food, daily specials Monday-Friday, all in a friendly atmosphere. **GETTING THERE:** Located in Canopy Corners on Getz Road between Covington and Illinois. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-3 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

Thursday, November 26

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 27

2 BEFORE NOON — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

4TH DAY ECHO — Alternative rock at Bar 145, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 209-2117

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

BROTHER — Rock at Taps Pub, Avilla, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 897-3331

CADILLAC RANCH — Classic rock at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 488-3344

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — R&B/variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 557-1563

DANCE PARTY w/DJ RICH — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

JANICE ANNE & MISS KITTY'S REVENGE — Country at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

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

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

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

JUKE JOINT JIVE — Classic rock/funk at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

JUNK YARD BAND — Variety at American Legion 499, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 483-1368

KILL THE RABBIT — Rock at Traxside Bar & Grill, Garrett, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 357-4287

LIVE DJ — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

MAANNHEIM STEAMROLLER — Holiday at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 3 & 7:30 p.m., \$32-\$68, 563-1102

MASON DIXON LINE — Country at The Post, Piercetown, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 574-594-3010

PAUL NEW STEWART & KIMMY DEAN (WHO DAT) — Variety at Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 482-1618

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

SECRET MEZZANINE — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

SHANNON PERSINGER QUARTET — Jazz at Annrith's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 459-7687

TODD HARROLD BAND — R&B/blues at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

WAILHOUNDS — Variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

ZAN w/Todd McCombs — Comedy at Snickerz Comedy Bar, Fort Wayne, 7:30, \$9.50, 486-0216

Saturday, November 28

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/SCOTT — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

Your Momma Can't Stop You Now

Good news for all you cult classic/B-movie enthusiasts out there: the Fort Wayne Cinema Center's Not Safe Fort Wayne (NSFW) film series is bringing cult classics to the Summit City on a regular basis. They're the kinds of movies you weren't allowed to watch as a kid, and if you did manage to see them, you probably wondered how such a movie could be made. Thanks to NSFW, you now have the opportunity to see some of these thrillers, horror shows, comedies and sci-fi head trips that you're not going to find at the local Redbox.

This weekend (November 27-28) NSFW presents the 2005 flick *Dangerous Men* at the Cinema Center. Drew McWeeny of HitFix hails the movie as "the most profoundly insane piece of personal filmmaking ever produced." ComingSoon.net says "A constant, terrifying reminder that God has built the universe wrong."

The Friday showing will be a special evening featuring both the film and live music from punk rockers Flamingo Nosebleed. If there's a band that can set the mood for a cult classic showing, it's Nosebleed. There will also be a cash bar, and Affine Food Truck will be on site serving up some goods. Being Black Friday, the Cinema Center will be opening its poster vault for a huge sale of movie posters, some dating back decades. Most of the posters will be on sale for \$10. If you're not interested in any posters, then \$7 will get



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

you in the door. Music, a movie and a cold beer — what better way to spend your Friday?

What do the bands Spork, Little Green Men, Octopussy and former Performers of the Year Plow have in common? They all rocked, for sure, but they also featured guitar wiz Eric Bair. After taking his talents to the East Coast for a few years, Bair returned to the Fort in 2014 to perform with Little Green Men at Down the Line 8. Their astonishing set of Van Halen tunes goes down as one of my favorite DTL performances of all time. Perhaps something special happened that evening, as Bair has recently moved back to town and is wasting no time adding to his resumé.

If you've enjoyed Bair's work over the years, you can now catch him shredding with Surface as well as Demonwolf. It should be a lot of fun to watch Bair tackle the heavy riffage of Surface and the pit-inducing anthems of Demonwolf. At press time, neither act had any dates booked, but be on the lookout for some in the near future. Welcome home Eric!

nickn76@yahoo.com

ALLEY SPORTS BAR

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

EXPECT: Sports on 21 big screen TVs all week. Sandwiches, wraps, soups and salads. \$10 buckets every Sunday. **GETTING THERE:** Inside Pro Bowl West, Gateway Plaza on Goshen Road. **HOURS:** 1-10 p.m. Mon.-Tues., closed Wed., 1-11 p.m. Thurs., 1 p.m.-1 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-9 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

ARCOLA INN & ALE

Pub/Tavern • 11517 Arcola Rd., Arcola • 260-625-4444

EXPECT: Golden Tee, pool table, jukebox, live weekend entertainment, 3 TVs, free WIFI, patio, fire pit. Drink specials: \$3 domestic pitchers \$2 Fire & Ice Sun.; \$1 domestic drafts, \$2 craft drafts, \$3 Captain Mon.; \$2 well drinks Tues.; \$2 Reds, \$3 bombs Wed.; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$3 craft/import longnecks Thurs.; \$5 domestic pitchers Fri.; \$3 Beam or Canadian Mist Sat. **GETTING THERE:** Arcola Rd. & Eme, less than 10 minutes from Fort Wayne. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

BAR 145

Gastro Pub • 4910 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne • 260-209-2117

EXPECT: Pairing premium spirits and beer with gourmet food in an ambient, energetic setting offering live entertainment. Full menu. \$10 lunches including sandwich, side & drink, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; \$15 bottled house wine/\$5 glasses Tues.; \$5 Burger & \$5 Martinis Wed.; \$4 Craft Bottles Thurs. **GETTING THERE:** Between Coliseum and Washington Ctr. on North Clinton. **HOURS:** 11:30 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun.-Tues., 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. Wed.-Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-3 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

BEAMER'S SPORTS GRILL

Sports/Music/Variety • W. County Line Rd. & Highway 30 • 260-625-1002

EXPECT: Big Ten, Nascar, NFL Sunday Ticket, pool tournaments, live music Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays. No cover. New owners & management. Complete menu featuring homemade pizza, burgers, steaks, sandwiches and salads. Serving fresh Didiere meats. **GETTING THERE:** A quick 10 minutes west of Coliseum on U.S. 30. **HOURS:** Open daily at 11 a.m., noon on Sunday. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc

BOOTLEGGERS SALOON & GALLEY

Pub/Tavern • 2809 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-387-6307

EXPECT: Golden Tee, jukebox, 3 TVs, free WIFI, deck patio, motorcycle parking available. Daily food & drink specials: \$1 coney & \$2.50 18 oz. domestics Sun.; 50¢ wings & \$3 pitchers Mon.; \$1 tacos & \$1.50 domestic longnecks Tues.; \$1 drafts & 1/2 price pizza Wed.; \$12 buckets & \$1 sliders Thurs.; \$4 pitchers & smoked BBQ ribs, tips & chicken specials Fri.; \$12 buckets Sat. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson & West Main St., 2 minutes from downtown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

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. Food catered by local vendors during some shows. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. **HOURS:** Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors one hour earlier. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & wine during shows only; **PMT:** Cash, check

NIGHTLIFE

CALHOUN STREET SOUPS, SALADS & SPIRITS "CS3"

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

EXPECT: Great atmosphere, DJ Friday night, live shows, weekly drink specials, private outdoor patio seating. 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.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat.; closed Sun. **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. Great drink specials. 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: Free WIFI, all sports networks on 10 TVs. Live rock Thursday thru Saturday. Kitchen open daily with full menu and the best wings in town. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Lima and Till roads. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Fri., 12 noon-3 a.m. Sat., 12 noon-2 a.m. 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. Also visit Bourbon Street Hideaway, our New Orleans-style restaurant, in the lower level of C-Street; open at 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (260-422-7500). Large menu 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

CURLY'S VILLAGE INN

Pub/Tavern • 4205 Bluffton Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-747-9964

EXPECT: Beautiful deck with seating overlooking Saint Marys River. Family owned since 1969. Karaoke every Friday & Saturday, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Voted Fort Wayne's Best Onion Rings in 2011! Daily food and soup specials made from scratch. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Bluffton and Engle roads, in Waynedale. **HOURS:** Open 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 1-9 p.m. Sun. Kitchen open at 5 p.m. daily. **Alcohol:** Full Service **Pmt.:** MC, Visa. Disc. Amex

DEER PARK PUB

Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg 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. 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 21 TAPS

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

EXPECT: Family-friendly, laid back atmosphere; Great tunes; Large selection of beers; Beautiful patio; Cornhole on Wednesdays. Brand new menu! Daily lunch specials under \$8. **GETTING THERE:** 2 blocks north of State St. on Maplecrest at Georgetown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun.-Mon., 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Tue.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Amex, Visa, Disc

DUPONT BAR & GRILL

Sports Bar • 10336 Leo Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311

EXPECT: Great daily drink specials, 3 pool tables, NFL Ticket, 16'x10' Megatron, three 6'x4' Minitrans, 12 flat screen TVs, Shut Up and Sing Karaoke w/Mike Campbell every Wednesday at 8 p.m.; live music every Friday & Saturday. \$6.99 daily lunch specials; 50¢ wings Wednesdays; Fishy Fridays w/\$10 Fish Bowls & \$6.99 Fish Tacos. **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

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Shannon Persinger

SATURDAY, NOV. 28 • 9PM-1AM
Chris Worth

THURSDAY, DEC. 3 • 6:30-9:30PM
Live Music

ANNRITA'S LOUNGE AND GRILL
6330 W. JEFFERSON BLVD.
FORT WAYNE || 459-7687

Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

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

BACKWATER — Country rock at The Post, Piercetown, 9:30 p.m., \$3, 574-594-3010

BROTHER — Rock at Taps Pub, Avilla, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 897-3331

CADILLAC RANCH — Classic rock at American Legion 499, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 483-1368

CAMPFIRE CASSETTES w/ADAM BAKER & THE HEARTACHE, BARKY & SPEAKER, AUSTIN PARISH — Folk/variety at Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 267-5303

CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY — R&B/variety at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 459-7687

THE DERECHOS — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

DJ TREND — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

HEARTFALL — Variety at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

J ANTHONY — Comedy at Phoenix, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., \$27-\$43, 387-6571

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

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

JOSH MEYERS — Acoustic variety at Chapman's Taproom, Angola, 7:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 866-221-4005

KEROSEC — Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

KILL THE RABBIT — Rock at Traxside Bar & Grill, Garrett, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 357-4287

MARK GARR — Acoustic variety at Eddie Merlot's, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 459-2222

NASHVILLE REBELS — Country at Hook & Ladder, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 747-5652

RAGING KINGS — Rock at Bar 145, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 209-2117

SUCH A NIGHT — The Last Waltz at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$15-\$30, 426-6434

SWICK & JONES — Acoustic at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

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

TODD HARROLD BAND — R&B/blues at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

U.R.B. — Funk at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

Wednesday, Nov. 25 • 8-11pm

**Dicky's Annual
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Raging Kings
Saturday, November 28 • 10pm

Kid Friendly Until 10pm

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**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25
THE BEST PARTY
IN TOWN
DANCE w/DJ RICH**

**THURSDAY, NOV. 26
HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

**FRIDAY, NOV. 27 • 10PM
FORT WAYNE
FUNK
ORCHESTRA**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 28 • 10PM
TESTED ON
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AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 • 10-2
JOE FIVE
 EVERY SUNDAY • 9-1
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\$2.75 IMPORTS • \$1.00 TACOS
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----- Calendar • Live Music & Comedy -----

ZAN w/TODD McCOMBS — Comedy at Snickerz Comedy Bar, Fort Wayne, 7:30, \$9.50, 486-0216

Sunday, November 29

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

W.R. SANDERS w/TY CAUSEY — Blues/CD release party at Calhoun Street Soups, Salads & Spirits, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., \$15, includes CD & appetizers, 456-7005

YESTERDAY'S HEADTRIP — Variety at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

Monday, November 30

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

DJ — Variety at O'Reilly's Irish Bar & Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 11 p.m., no cover, 267-9679

KINGS ROAD — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8:30 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

Tuesday, December 1

IPFW PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE — Percussion at Auer Performance Hall, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

KT & THE SWINGSET QUARTET — Blues at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Dan Smyth at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

STRINGS STUDIO SHOWCASE — Orchestral strings at Rhinehart Recital Hall, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-7, 481-6555

USF GUITAR ENSEMBLE AND ELECTRONIC MUSIC ENSEMBLE — Variety at USF North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., free, 399-7999

Wednesday, December 2

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/JOSH — Karaoke at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Acme Bar and Grill, Fort Wayne, 8:30-10:30 p.m., no cover, 480-2264

FORT WAYNE COMEDY CONNECTION — Comedy at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

G-MONEY BAND — Open jam at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

IPFW GUITAR ENSEMBLE — Guitar at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

KARAOKE w/BUCCA — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

LAST COMIC STANDING LIVE — Comedy at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$22-\$50, 563-1102

MICHAEL PATTERSON & QUINCY SANDERS — Blues/soul at Main Street Bistro, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, 420-8633

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Mike Mowry at Pedal City, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 415-6167

PAT & FAYE — Variety at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10:30 p.m., no cover, 490-6488

PAUL NEW STEWART & KIMMY DEAN (WHO DAT) — Variety at Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., \$1, 482-1618

RENEE GONZALES w/CHRIS RUTKOWSKI AND KEVIN PIEKARSKI — at Kozé Thai Cuisine, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, 755-6802

Thursday, December 3

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — Karaoke at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/DAVE — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

BUCCA KARAOKE w/BUCCA — Karaoke at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at Trolley Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 490-4322

CORY BRANAN — Country/folk/punk at B-Side, One Lucky Guitar, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., \$7, 969-6672

IPFW SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE — Wind instruments at Auer Performance Hall, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

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

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

JOE JUSTICE — Variety at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 854-3463

LIVE DJ — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8:30-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

OPEN STAGE JAM — Hosted by Pop 'n' Fresh at Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 478-5827

THE PIANO GUYS — Classical at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$35-\$95, 800-745-3000

THE QUEERS w/FLAMINGO NOSEBLEED, THE SNARKS — Punk at Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., \$8, 267-5303

ROBBIE V AND HEIDI DUO — Variety at American Legion Post 409, Leo, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 627-2628

SHUT UP & SING w/MICHAEL CAMPBELL — Karaoke at North Star, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 471-3798

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA — Holiday at War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$34.50-\$67.50, 483-1111

UNIVERSITY SINGERS — Christmas concert at USF North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., free, 399-7999

Friday, December 4

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

BEATLELABBAND — Beatles tribute at Holiday Inn, IPFW & Coliseum, Fort Wayne, 8:45 p.m., \$24.99, includes dinner buffet, 482-3800

BIG CADDY DADDY — Rock/variety at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 489-0286

COMMON GROUND — Southern gospel at Cupbearer Café, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 920-8734

CONTINUUM — Funk/jazz at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

DANCE PARTY w/DJ RICH — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

DISGRUNTLED CLOWN w/MICHAEL DAVID STANLEY — Comedy at Snickerz Comedy Bar, Fort Wayne, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m., \$9.50, 486-0216

FORT WAYNE FUNK ORCHESTRA — Funk at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 483-1311

FREDDY & THE HOT RODS — Oldies at American Legion Post 178, Garrett, 7:30 p.m., no cover, 357-5133

GREGG BENDER BAND — Variety at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 459-7687

HOLIDAY JAZZ SWING CONCERT — Holiday jazz at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

JOHN CURRAN & RENEGADE — Country at American Legion Post 241, Fort Wayne, 8:30-11:30 p.m., no cover, 747-7851

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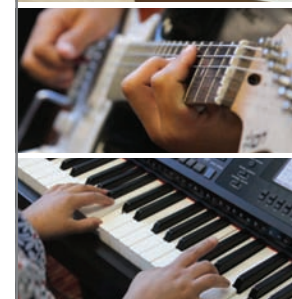
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FIREFLY COFFEE HOUSE

Coffeehouse • 3523 N. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-373-0505
EXPECT: Peaceful, comfortable atmosphere; local artists featured monthly; outdoor seating. Free wireless Internet. 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

GREEN FROG INN

Pubs & Taverns • 820 Spring St., Fort Wayne • 260-426-1088
EXPECT: Great atmosphere at one of Fort Wayne's true landmarks. Great food, great drinks and great friends. Wing Fest Grand Champion wings every Monday and Wednesday for just 50¢ apiece. **GETTING THERE:** Just north of downtown at the corner of Spring and Sherman. **HOURS:** Open 10 a.m.-12 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Fri., 12 p.m.-3 a.m. Sat. and 12:30-8 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc

LATCH STRING BAR & GRILL

Pubs & Taverns • 3221 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5526
EXPECT: Fun, friendly, rustic atmosphere. Daily drink specials. Mondays, \$2.75 imports; Tuesdays, \$2.50 import bottles & \$1 tacos; Wednesdays, \$2 wells and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; comedy improv/open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. **GETTING THERE:** Where Clinton and Lima roads meet, next to Budget Rental. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-12:30 a.m. Sun. **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. 4-1/2 star menu, 'One of the best pizzas in America,' large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Just south-west of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. **HOURS:** Usually 11 a.m.-1 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

NICK'S MARTINI & WINE BAR

Dining & Music • 1227 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-482-6425
EXPECT: Specialty martinis, craft beers and cocktails served up in a classic martini lounge with live music nightly. Serving a variety of small plate appetizers with weekly featured tapas plates and drink specials. **GETTING THERE:** One block east of Crescent on State Blvd., next to the Rib Room. **HOURS:** Open at 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

O'REILLY'S IRISH BAR & RESTAURANT

Irish & Sports Bar • 301 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-267-9679
EXPECT: Friendly, extremely accommodating atmosphere & staff. 12 flat screen TVs & projector TV. Kid friendly until 10 p.m. NFL football Sun., Mon. & Thurs.; trivia 7:30 p.m. Wed.; karaoke 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Fri.; college sports Sat. Menu includes Irish specialties & vegetarian options; catering available. **GETTING THERE:** Inside the Harrison Building downtown between Fairfield and Webster. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Sat.-Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, ATM

SNICKERZ COMEDY BAR

Comedy • 5535 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-486-0216
EXPECT: One of the nation's premiere comedy clubs with the brightest comics in America every Friday & Saturday night. Sandwiches, chicken strips, fish planks, nachos, wings & more. **GETTING THERE:** In front of Piere's. 2.5 miles east of Exit 112A off I-69. **HOURS:** Showtimes are 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: 1st Tavern to pour beer after Prohibition; located in a fun and friendly neighborhood; home of the XKE Cranials & most dangerous jukebox. Daily drink specials include \$2 Tall Boy PBR all day, everyday, great craft beer selection. Golden Tee. Free WIFI. Friendly staff: Jonesy, Theresa and Andy. Riverbend Pizza. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of State and Crescent. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon., 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Tues.-Fri., noon-3 a.m. Sat., noon-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Cash only; ATM on site

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JOHNNY A. — Blues at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., \$15-\$30, 426-6434
LIVE DJ — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038
MICHAEL BOLTON — Rock/pop at T. Furth Center, Trine University, Angola, 8 p.m., , 665-4990
PHIL'S FAMILY LIZARD — Rock/variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526
ROBBIE V AND HEIDI DUO — Variety at The Woods Too and Lighthouse Lounge, Hudson, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 351-2967
SHANNON PERSINGER & ERIC CLANCY — Jazz/Toys for Tots fundraiser at Cottage Event Center, Roanoke, 7:30 p.m., \$10, 483-3508

TODD HARROLD BAND — R&B/blues at Downtown Eatery & Spirits, Warsaw, 10 p.m., no cover, 574-267-6000
USF JAZZ ENSEMBLE w/ELECTRONIC MUSIC ENSEMBLE — Jazz/variety at USF North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., free, 399-7999
WEST CENTRAL QUARTET — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442
ZACK ATTACK — Rock at Bar 145, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 209-2117

80D — Rock at Market Street, Huntington, 10 p.m., no cover, 356-9997
AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL — Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896
AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/SCOTT — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526
BIG DICK AND THE PENETRATORS — Classic rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$5, 483-1311
DISGRUNTLED CLOWN w/MICHAEL DAVID STANLEY — Comedy at Snickerz Comedy Bar, Fort Wayne, 7:30 & 9:45 p.m., \$9.50, 486-0216
DJ TREND — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

Saturday, December 5

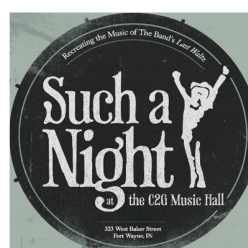
2 BEFORE NOON — Jazz at Friendly Fox, Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m., no cover, 745-3369

whatzup PICKS

SUCH A NIGHT

8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28
C2G Music Hall
323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne
Cover: \$15-\$30 thru c2gmusic hall.com, 260-426-6434

How does that clichéd saying go? Lightning never strikes twice in the same place? Well, whoever believes that has never heard of "Such a Night: Recreating the Music of The Last Waltz." The show, which gives musicians a chance to stage The Band's magical final performance, a concert filmed by Martin Scorsese on Thanksgiving Day in 1976, began as a tribute to Levon Helm. Helm, The Band's legendary drummer, died in 2012, and performers around the country wanted a fitting way to say thanks for the songs, the memories, the legacy. "Such a Night" was the result.



Thanks to an Indianapolis-based version of The Band, comprised of Bill Mallers, Tad Armstrong, David England and Wade Parish, along with Johnny Socko alums Eric Evans Matt Wilson, Josh Silbert and Charlie Krone and some of Fort Wayne's best and brightest, "Such a Night" is coming back to C2G Music Hall Saturday, November 28 for another lightning strikes kind of performance. Local musicians Kenny Taylor, Dave Todoran, Mar'nee, G Money, Johnny Mendez and Kenny Jackson and others will appear as The Band's famous guests Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Muddy Waters, Neil Diamond and Paul Butterfield, and the evening will unfold as "The Last Waltz" did, with joy and jams and bittersweet surprises.

And who knows? Maybe someday "Such a Night" will fulfill the tagline that accompanies *The Last Waltz* — "It started as a concert. It became a celebration. Now it's a legend."

LAST COMIC STANDING
Feat. MICHAEL PALASCAK,
DOMINIQUE, CLAYTON ENGLISH,
ANDY ERICKSON & IAN BAGG
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2
Honeywell Center
275 W. Market St., Wabash
\$22-\$50 thru honeywellcenter.org,
260-563-1102



MICHAEL PALASCAK

NBC's *Last Comic Standing* is the definition of a tough room. Week after week, comics compete against each other in front of a live studio audience, whose members get to up-vote those they think show promise and down-vote those they want to send home. It's not your

grandmother's living room, in other words. In order to advance in the competition, you have to be not only funny, but quick on your feet and demonstrate clear potential in a field that is notoriously fickle.

The five comics coming to Wabash's Honeywell Center Wednesday, December 2 as part of the Last Comic Standing Live Tour are the proverbial cream that rose to the top in the show's most current season. Comedy fans will have a chance to hear the unique comic stylings of Wabash's own Michael Palascak, as well as Dominique, Clayton English, Andy Erickson and Ian Bagg.

Hoosiers might be particularly interested in Palascak's performance, given that his routines often touch on his Midwestern roots and his choice to pursue a life in comedy from the safety of his parents' basement. In addition to his work on *Last Comic Standing*, he's performed on *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, *Conan* and *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Now's your chance to see him at a nice, normal time, aka 7:30 p.m.

THE QUEERS

w/FLAMINGO NOSEBLEED & THE SNARKS
9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3
Brass Rail
1121 Broadway, Fort Wayne
\$8, 260-267-5303



THE QUEERS

The Queers are proof that three-chord, three-man punk is here to stay. Around since the 80s and, as far as we can tell, not about to ride off into the sunset anytime soon, Joe Queer and company — aka Dangerous Dave and Lurch Nobody — are going strong and fixing to rock the Brass Rail Thursday, December 3. Flamingo Nosebleed and the Snarks will open the show.

Having got their start in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1981, the Queers have about as many former and fill-in members as Brian Wilson had grains of sand in his study, but the current lineup has been together for nine years and has put out two studio albums together — 2007's *Munki Brain* and 2010's *Back to the Basement*. They've also six-handedly helped keep pop punk alive, for which their legions of head-banging fans are eternally grateful.


Often known to cover the Beach Boys and the Ramones, the Queers have an impressive catalogue of originals, including "Squid Omelet" and "Booberella" (off 1990's *Grow Up*) and "I Can't Stop Farting," "Granolahead" and "Monster Zero" (off 1993's *Love Songs for the Retarded*). Their music is irreverent — duh, punk — and shot through with a wicked/puerile sense of humor. Grow up? No thanks.

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Green Frog INN

Hours:
10am-12am M-Th.,
10am-3am Fri.,
12pm-3am Sat.,
12:30-8pm Sun.

820 Spring Street, Fort Wayne
260.426.1088



O'REILLY'S
Irish Bar & Restaurant

Sundays, Mondays & Thursdays

NFL FOOTBALL

Wednesday ~ 7-9pm
TRIVIA

Sundays: \$3 Pints, 16 Taps (exc. Guinness & Smithwick's)
Thursdays: \$2 domestic pints/\$6 domestic pitchers

301 W. Jefferson, Fort Wayne
Inside the Harrison at Parkview Field
260.267.9679



Calendar • Live Music & Comedy

JIM BRICKMAN — Variety at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., \$25-\$60, 481-6555

JOE STABELLI — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

JOHN CURRAN & RENEGADE — Country at Silver Inn, Silver Lake, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 352-2870

MERCYME — Christian at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, 7:30 p.m., \$30-\$45, 419-238-6722

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

QUINCY SANDERS QUARTET — Funk/jazz at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ — Karaoke at K-Ville Pub, Kendallville, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 349-1677

SWAGG — Rock at Bar 145, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 209-2117

TIM HARRINGTON BAND — Variety at American Legion 499, Fort Wayne, 8-11:30 p.m., no cover, 483-1368

TODD HARROLD BAND — R&B/blues at Annrita's Lounge & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 459-7687

TON TRIO — Blues at Cupbearer Café, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 920-8734

Sunday, December 6

CHRIS WORTH — Variety at North Star, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 471-3798

DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS — Christmas jazz at Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, 7:30 p.m., \$30-\$50, 419-238-6722

IPFW FLUTE STUDIO — Flute at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

YESTERDAY'S HEADTRIP — Variety at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

Monday, December 7

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE — Karaoke at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

DJ — Variety at O'Reilly's Irish Bar & Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 11 p.m., no cover, 267-9679

IPFW HOLIDAY CONCERT — Holiday variety at Auer Performance Hall, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

SMOOTH EDGE 2 — Vocal jazz at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m., free, 422-6329

Tuesday, December 8

JOHN TWO-HAWKS w/JOHANNA KURKELA — Variety/TRACK fundraiser at Sweetwater Performance Theatre, Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m., \$25-\$55, 432-8176

KT & THE SWINGSET QUARTET — Blues at Latch String, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

MANTRA KARAOKE w/JAKE — Variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

OPEN MIC — Hosted by Dan Smyth at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

Wednesday, December 9

AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/JOSH — Karaoke at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

FORT WAYNE COMEDY CONNECTION — Comedy at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

G-MONEY BAND — Open jam at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

whatzup PERFORMERS DIRECTORY

ACOUSTIC VARIETY

Adam Strack.....260-418-2070

Jon Durnell.....260-797-2980

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

BLUES

Big Daddy Dupree and the Broke & Hungry Blues Band.....708-790-0538

CLASSIC ROCK & COUNTRY

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

CLASSICAL

The Jaenicke Consort Inc.260-426-9096

COUNTRY & COUNTRY ROCK

BackWater.....260-494-5364

HORN BAND

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

INDIE ROCK

James and the Drifters.....717-552-5240

KARAOKE/DJ

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke/DJ.....260-343-8076

OLDIES ROCK

The Bulldogs.....260-357-3694

ORIGINAL & COVER ROCK

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

ORIGINAL ACOUSTIC

Dan Dickerson's Harp Condition.....260-704-2511

The Holy Rebels.....260-460-7009

ORIGINAL HIP-HOP

UpShott Entertainment.....upshotthiphop@gmail.com

ORIGINAL ROCK

FM90.....765-606-5550

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Jacobs Well.....260-479-0423

ROCK

80D.....260-519-1946

Big Caddy Daddy.....260-925-9562

The Rescue Plan.....260-750-9500

ROCK & BLUES

Mr. Grumpy's Revenge.....260-701-9709

ROCK & VARIETY

The DeeBees.....260-579-6852

ROCK N' ROLL

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

STANDARDS

Cap'n Bob, The Singin' Skipper.....800-940-2035

Pan Man Dan.....260-232-3588

TROP ROCK & CLASSIC ROCK

Party Boat Band.....260-438-3710

VARIETY

Dueling Keyboard Boys (Paul New Stewart) 260-440-9918

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

Night to Remember.....260-797-2980

Triple Play.....520-909-5321

Who Dat (Paul New Stewart).....260-440-9918

For more information on these performers, or to sign your band up for this directory, click the Musicians Finder link at www.whatzup.com

NIGHTLIFE

WRIGLEY FIELD BAR & GRILL

Sports Bar • 6527 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-485-1038

EXPECT: Fort Wayne's No. 1 Sports Bar. BS Sports Show, 7-9 p.m. Monday; Karaoke, 10 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday & 7-11 p.m. Friday; Live DJ, 10 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; live bands; all PPV events on 45 TVs. Full menu; 49¢ wings (including boneless), 4 p.m.-close Tuesday & Thursday, dine-in only; soup & salad lunch/dinner buffet, Mon.-Fri. **GETTING THERE:** At Maplecrest and State, east on State, left at first spotlight. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, ATM on site

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

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. Carry-out handcrafted brews available. Live music on Saturdays. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. **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

DEKALB COUNTY

MAD ANTHONY TAP ROOM

Music/Rock • 114 N. Main St., Auburn • 260-927-0500

EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Take I-69 to State Rd. 8 (Auburn exit); downtown, just north of courthouse. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

STEUBEN COUNTY

HAMILTON HOUSE

Neighborhood Bar • 3950 E. Bellefontaine, Hamilton • 260-488-3344

EXPECT: Great atmosphere with a beautiful view of lake; 20 beers on tap, 6 large HDTVs, NFL Package (Sunday games), internet juke, Golden Tee, pool table, karaoke every Saturday (9 p.m.); lunch and dinner specials, jumbo wing special every Thursday (50¢ eat-in only). **GETTING THERE:** Corner of roads 1 and 427. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Wed.; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Sat.; 12 noon-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

MAD ANTHONY'S LAKEVIEW ALE HOUSE

Eclectic • 4080 N 300 W, Angola • 260-833-2537

EXPECT: Twelve handcrafted beers on tap; also featuring Indiana craft beers and local wines. Patio with seating for 100; 7 dock slips; 150-seat banquet facility. 4-1/2 star menu, including famous gourmet pizza, unique eats and vegetarian fare. **GETTING THERE:** Located on beautiful Lake James above Bledsoe's Beach. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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17th Floor	Dec. 19	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
1964 the Tribute	Dec. 5	Lafayette Theater	Lafayette
4th Day Echo	Nov. 27	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
Aaron Lewis	Dec. 4	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
The Academy Is	Dec. 17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Air Supply (\$30-\$60)	Feb. 6 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Anderson East	Feb. 19 '16	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Andrew Bird w/Jason Adasiewicz	Dec. 7-10	Fourth Presbyterian Church	Chicago
The Arcs	Dec. 2-3	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Arctic Clam	Dec. 11	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
Awolnation w/The Struts, Meg Myers	Dec. 5	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
B.J. Thomas	Feb. 27 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Bastille w/The Wombats, Circa, Waves	Dec. 4	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Beach House	Feb. 29 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
BeauSoleil (\$25-\$50)	Dec. 6	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The Beggars e/MPV, The Blueflowers	Dec. 3	Magic Bag	Ferndale, MI
Big Head Todd & the Monsters w/Mike Doughty	Feb. 9 '16	Vogue	Indianapolis
Bob Saget	Jan. 17 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Bobby Rush & Joe Louis Walker w/Wayne Baker Brooks, Shawn Holt and the Teardrops	Feb. 12 '16	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Brain Regan	Dec. 4	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Brandi Carlile	Dec. 30	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Brandi Carlile	Dec. 31	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Brian Regan	Dec. 4	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Brian Regan	Jan. 14 '16	Victory Theatre	Evansville
Bridgett Everett	Dec. 4	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Buckwheat Zydeco (\$20)	Feb. 18 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Campfire Cassettes w/Adam Baker & the Heartache, Barky & Speaker, Austin Parish	Nov. 28	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Catie Curtis w/Maia Sharp (\$15)	Jan. 11 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Chris Cagle	Dec. 11	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Chris Hillman & Herb Pedersen (\$25)	Apr. 7 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Chuck Prophet	Mar. 24 '16	B-Side, One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
City and Colour w/Greyhounds	Jan. 30 '16	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Cole Swingell w/Adam Sanders	Dec. 5	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood	Dec. 11	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Common Ground	Dec. 4	Cupbearer Café	Fort Wayne
Cory Branan	Dec. 3	B-Side, One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
Craig Wayne Boyd	Jan. 23 '16	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Damon Williams	Dec. 31	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Dan Bern (\$15)	Jan. 20 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Dark Star Orchestra	Feb. 26 '16	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Dark Star Orchestra	Feb. 27 '16	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Dark Star Orchestra	Feb. 28 '16	LC Pavilion	Columbus, OH
Dave Koz & Friends	Dec. 6	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Dave Koz w/Jonathan Butler, Candy Duffer, Bill Medley	Dec. 11	The Palladium	Carmel
Dave Koz w/Jonathan Butler, Candy Duffer, Bill Medley	Dec. 12	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
David Allie & Mayaeni	Nov. 28	Magic Bag	Ferndale, MI
David Phelps	Dec. 13	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Death Cab for Cutie w/Best Coast	Dec. 3	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Deer Hunter w/Atlas Sound	Dec. 12	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Deer Hunter w/Atlas Sound	Dec. 13	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Del McCoury Band w/Jeff Austin Band feat. Don Julin, Billy Strings Trio	Jan. 16 '16	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Delbert McClinton (\$50)	Dec. 16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The DePue Brothers	Dec. 17	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Dustin Lynch w/Chris Lane	Nov. 27	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Eli Young Band	Dec. 3	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
The English Beat feat. Dave Wakeling	Nov. 29	Magic Bag	Ferndale, MI
Experience Hendrix feat. Buddy Guy, Zakk Wylde, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Jonny Lang, Dweezil Zappa, Eric Johnson & more	Mar. 11 '16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 12 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 13 '16	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 15 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
The Fab Four	Feb. 12 '16	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Dec. 20	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Frankie Ballard (sold out)	Dec. 19	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Greensky Bluegrass	Nov. 27-28	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Griffin House (\$15)	Dec. 13	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Henry Rollins	Feb. 13 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Here Come the Mummies	Feb. 26 '16	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Hermans Hermits w/The Buckingham, The Grass Roots	Jan. 30 '16	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Hinder w/Within Reason	Dec. 2	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Home Free	Dec. 12	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Il Volo	Feb. 27 '16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Il Volo	Feb. 24 '16	State Theatre	Cleveland
Il Volo	Feb. 26 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Iris DeMent (\$35)	Dec. 10	The Ark	Ann Arbor
J Anthony	Nov. 28	Phoenix	Fort Wayne
Jack & Jack w/Daya	Feb. 21 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Jackyl	Nov. 27	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Jackyl w/Tru-Burn	Dec. 5	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Jam Star	Nov. 28	Key Palace Theatre	Redkey
Janet Jackson	Jan. 29 '16	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Janet Jackson	Feb. 1 '16	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Janet Jackson	Feb. 2 '16	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Janet Jackson	Feb. 5 '16	Palace at Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Jason Isbell	Feb. 19 '16	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Jason Isbell w/Shovels & Rope	Feb. 20 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Jason Isbell w/Shovels & Rope (\$27.50-\$55)	Mar. 1 '16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	
JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound	Nov. 28	House of Blues	Chicago
Jeff Dunham	Dec. 6	Nutter Center	Dayton
Jennifer Nettles w/Brandy Clark, Lindsay Ell, Tara Thompson	Jan. 16 '16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH

It seems like bands break up these days just so they can start planning their inevitable re-union tours. Rumors have been circulating for weeks now that at least three-fifths of the original **Guns N' Roses** lineup have been talking about a 2016 tour that would likely fill outdoor sheds across America all summer long, or at least as long as **Slash** and **Axl** can coexist on the same stage. We've all known this would happen sooner or later, even as **Axl Rose** kept putting his band of unknowns out on the road as Guns N Roses and tricking fans into paying for a show that was really nothing more than a tribute act that happened to feature the original lead singer. Fans can't, and won't, be fooled all of the time, even if they allow themselves to be fooled some of the time, and so they are demanding to see the two most famous members of the band back together again. News of the impending tour is about to be announced. They're just figuring out whose bank accounts will receive which shares of the undoubtedly lucrative gross sales. I'd expect some pretty high ticket prices for this one when they finally go on sale.

In other reunion news, Gene and Dean are reforming the ultra-hip **Ween** for some shows next year. The band has not toured since 2011 and officially broke up in early 2012 with **Gene Ween** stating his desire to record solo material. Well, that didn't go so well, I'm guessing, or maybe the guys just miss each other. Who knows? Regardless, the duo has booked a few dates in California for next year to kick off a reunion tour of their own. No other dates have been announced as of press time, and though they won't sell out summer sheds like GNR, they should be able to fill some decent-sized venues when the cities on the rest of the tour are finally announced.

Rumors of a 2016 **Poison** summer tour are gaining steam with **Bret Michaels** telling a Pennsylvania newspaper that he thinks they will "do something special" next year. Before you break out your Aqua Net and acid washed jeans, remember that Michaels said just about the same thing last year at about this time, hinting around about a 2015 Poison tour that never happened. Throw in a mini-feud between Michaels and drummer **Rikki Rockett** over accusations that Michaels is the one holding the band back so that he can concentrate on his solo act, suddenly a tour doesn't seem so inevitable. The band never officially broke up, so reunion may not be the proper word to use, but I'd expect Poison to announce their first tour together since 2012 sometime early next year, shortly after the ink dries on the promoters contracts guaranteeing them a fairly large sum of money. It's all about the money folks, especially when you haven't put out any new material in over a decade.

Meanwhile, Michaels continues to tour on his own and has a December 3 date at The Machine Shop in Flint on his itinerary. I was thinking that The Machine Shop was further away than it actually is, but I made the drive last week and it's do-able in less than three hours from The Fort. That's not bad if you really want to see a band. And The Machine Shop is an attraction in itself, as it has hosted so many legends of music that it would be nearly impossible to list them all. In addition to Michaels, The Machine Shop just booked legendary rockers **Y&T** for a show on March 11. Y&T don't make it to this part of the U.S. very often, so this show is indeed something to look forward to if you are a fan of the band or just rock in general. They put on a great show, and I'll bet you know more of their songs than you think you do.

christopherhupe@aol.com

Jim Brickman	Dec. 5	Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW	Fort Wayne
Jim Brickman w/Anne Cochran, Tracy Silverman	Dec. 20	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Joanna Newsom w/Alela Diane, Ryan Francesconi	Dec. 16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
John Berry	Dec. 13	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
John Gorka (\$20)	Jan. 24 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
John Oliver	Dec. 30	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
John Scofield, Joe Lovano	Feb. 6 '16	The Palladium	Carmel
John Two-Hawks w/Johanna Kurkela	Dec. 8	Sweetwater	Fort Wayne
Johnny A.	Dec. 4	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Johnny A. w/Gene Deer	Dec. 15	The Rathskeller	Indianapolis
Jojo	Dec. 16	Magic Bag	Ferndale, MI
Jon Pardi	Jan. 7 '16	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Jorma Kaukonen (\$30)	Dec. 20	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band	Jan. 29 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Kaki King (\$20)	Jan. 18 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Kenny G	Dec. 16	MotorCity Casino	Detroit
Kenny Rogers	Nov. 27	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Kenny Rogers	Nov. 28	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Killing Joke w/The Soft Moon	Feb. 9 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Ladysmith Black Mambazo (\$45)	Feb. 3-4 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deatheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 28 '16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deatheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 29 '16	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deatheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 30 '16	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Lamb of God w/Anthrax, Deatheaven, Power Trip	Jan. 31 '16	Orbit Room	Grand Rapids
Last Comic Standing Live	Dec. 2	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Leon Bridges	Mar. 11 '16	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
LoCash	Dec. 31	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Lotus	Nov. 27-28	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Lupe Fiasco	Feb. 12 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Machine Gun Kelly	Dec. 20-21	House of Blues	Cleveland
Madisen Ward and the Mama Bear	Dec. 9	Deluxe at Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Mannheim Steamroller	Nov. 27	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Mannheim Steamroller	Nov. 30	DeVos Performance Hall	Grand Rapids
Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 13	Aronoff Center	Cincinnati
Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 18	Fox Theatre	Detroit
March On w/Comrade, Barky & Speaker, Eric McMiller and the Clashville Sound	Dec. 10	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne

MercyMe	Dec. 5	Niswonger Performing Arts Center	Van Wert, Ohio
Michael Bolton	Dec. 4	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Michael Bolton	Dec. 6	The Palladium	Carmel
Monica	Dec. 2	House of Blues	Chicago
Muse	Jan. 14 '16	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Mustard's Retreat (\$20)	Feb. 26 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
My Sinatra feat. Cary Hoffman	Dec. 5	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Mystikal	Nov. 29	House of Blues	Cleveland
Oak Ridge Boys	Dec. 20	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Over the Rhine (\$30)	Dec. 9	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Parquet Courts	Feb. 16 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Peter Mulvey (\$15)	Dec. 4	The Ark	Ann Arbor
The Piano Guys	Dec. 3	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
The Piano Guys	Dec. 5	Miller Auditorium	Kalamazoo
The Queens w/Flamingo Nosebleed, The Snarks	Dec. 3	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
The Ragbirds (\$20)	Dec. 11-12	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Raging Kings	Nov. 28	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
Railroad Earth w/Horseshoes & Hand Grenades	Dec. 30	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Railroad Earth w/Commel	Dec. 31	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Railroad Earth	Jan. 29 '16	Vogue	Indianapolis
Red Wanting Blue (\$20)	Dec. 5	The Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Relient K	Nov. 27	House of Blues	Cleveland
Rev. Peyton's Big Damn Band w/The Easthills	Nov. 27	Vogue	Indianapolis
Richard Marx	Feb. 5 '16	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Robert Gordon	Jan. 23 '16	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Rodriguez	Dec. 11	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Ron White	Feb. 25 '16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Rusted Root	Jan. 7 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Ryan Bingham	Jan. 28 '16	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Sebastian Maniscalco	Nov. 28	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Shawn Colvin (\$40-\$65)	Feb. 16 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Siegel-Schwall Band	Dec. 18	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
Silversun Pickups w/Foals, Highly Suspect	Dec. 6	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Sleater Kinney w/Waxahatchee	Dec. 4	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Sleep	Jan. 26 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Sleep	Jan. 27 '16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Steel Panther	Dec. 12	House of Blues	Cleveland
Stephen Kellogg (\$17-\$20)	Feb. 23 '16	The Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Steve Forbert	Jan. 24 '16	B-Side, One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
Steve Hackett	Dec. 4	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Steve Lippia	Feb. 5 '16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Steve Poltz, Grant-Lee Phillips (\$20)	Feb. 9 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 9	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 11-13	Murat	Indianapolis
STS9	Feb. 13 '16	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
STS9	Feb. 14 '16	House of Blues	Chicago
Such a Night	Nov. 28	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Swagg	Dec. 5	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
Temptations Revue feat. Dennis Edwards, The Spinners, Dramatics, The Manhattan, Enchantment	Nov. 27	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
The Tenors	Jan. 23 '16	Clowes Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Third Eye Blind	Dec. 5	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Todd Rundgren	Dec. 10	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Tommy Emmanuel	Feb. 14 '16	DeVos Performance Hall	Grand Rapids
Tommy Emmanuel (\$40)	Feb. 24 '16	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Ton Trio	Dec. 5	Cupbearer Café	Fort Wayne
Tori Kelly w/Alex Angelo, Becky G, Max	Dec. 10	Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW	Fort Wayne
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 3	War Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 4	U.S. Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 5	Nutter Center	Dayton
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 6	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 26	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 28	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 29	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 30	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Twenty One Pilots w/K. Flay, Grizfolk	Dec. 3	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Vance Joy w/Reuben and the Dark	Jan. 22-23 '16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
The Verve Pipe w/Crashing Cairo	Dec. 12	Magic Bag	Ferdale, MI
The Walkers	Jan. 14 '16	House of Blues	Chicago
Warren Haynes and The Ashes & Dust Band	Feb. 26 '16	House of Blues	Cleveland
Widespread Panic	Feb. 21 '16	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Wizards of Winter feat. Ted Nugent and Greg Smith	Dec. 11	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Wizards of Winter feat. Ted Nugent and Greg Smith	Dec. 12	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Wizards of Winter feat. Ted Nugent and Greg Smith	Dec. 20	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Your Villain, My Hero	Dec. 12	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
Zack Attack	Dec. 4	Bar 145	Fort Wayne
Zan w/Todd McCombs	Nov. 27-28	Snickerz Comedy Bar	Fort Wayne

Memories of the King feat. Brent A. Cooper
Dec. 5 Ohio City Community Bldg., Ohio City
Ratnip
Dec. 31 Eagles Post 2246, Montpelier, OH
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Gift-Wrapped Family Dysfunction

Love the Coopers is a holiday film in a style that started taking hold with *Love Actually*. A multigenerational family with some dysfunction or crisis navigates a holiday together with old loves and friends meeting new loves and friends. *Love the Coopers* is as dysfunctional as the family it depicts, but there are moments matriarch Charlotte (Diane Keaton) hopes to achieve – moments of love and understanding, of comfort and joy – that are what the holidays are supposed to bring.

Charlotte and husband Sam (John Goodman as the regular guy he plays so well) have been married 40 years and are about to separate. Superficially, the split is happening because Charlotte is refusing to go on a tour of Africa, a trip they planned when they were young activists and before life got in the way.

Sam has recently retired and wants to take the trip. Charlotte won't go, so Sam is moving out. But he agrees to one more Christmas together surrounded by family, so Charlotte can have her "moments." Charlotte is becoming an ossified woman. She doesn't want change. She wants tradition, calm and her family surrounding her.

Keaton and Goodman are enough to get me to a holiday film. T. Bone Burnett is credited as musical architect, and the soundtrack is on my wish list.

The whole movie floats on the extended prelude of Nina Simone's original mash-up of "Little Girl Blue" and "Good King Wenceslas." Simone never sings that song, but it nevertheless haunts the female characters. We do get Simone's version of the brothers Gibb classic "To Love Somebody," some modern takes on traditional characters, a dose of Otis Redding, and a lot of early Bob Dylan.

Less encouraging is the fact that the movie is narrated by a dog. He's a really cute dog, and the voice



Flix
CATHERINE LEE

is Steve Martin. He's not listed in the opening credits, and it was a little disconcerting to hear his familiar voice and adjusting to Rags giving out dog wisdom.

The movie needs a narrator because the stories are many, and some are more believable than others. Alan Arkin plays Bucky the Grandfather, and he's feeling disconnected from his family and very connected to his waitress. Ruby is played by Amanda Seyfried who's on her last day of work and hasn't told Bucky she is leaving for Hot Coffee, Mississippi. She's a sad case, and this storyline falls flat.

The kids are not all right. Ed Helms plays son Hank, an out-of-work portrait photographer in the middle of a divorce. Hank's three kids, on the other hand, are turning out nerdy but okay. Their small adventures are a giggle.

Olivia Wilde plays daughter Eleanor, a playwright who hasn't had a hit in awhile. She dreads going home because Mom always says it's fine that she's not in a relationship, so she is hanging out at the airport putting off the inevitable. She meets a handsome young soldier named Joe (a hunky Jake Lacy) in a bar, and immediately starts giving him trouble, sure he is a Republican who doesn't believe in evolution. Jake is sharper than Eleanor understands. He at least can recognize their chemistry. He agrees to her pleading to come home with her and pretend to be her boyfriend. These two have the happy task of falling for each other.

Continued on page 18

Mockingjay Rules the Weekend

Tops at the Box: As expected, the final *Hunger Games* film, *Mockingjay, Pt. 2*, took the No. 1 spot at the U.S. box office last weekend, selling a whopping \$101 million in tickets over its first three days of release. Whoa, Katniss, whoa. And get this: the film has already made another \$146 million in sales abroad. For those with no math skills, that means *Mockingjay, Pt. 2* sold \$247 million in tickets over its first three days of release. Here it comes, guys: another billion dollar film. Now the studio has to figure out how to do a prequel or a sister project or something. Because milk and greed. Pretty great that the biggest actress in the world, Jennifer Lawrence, is also one of the best. That doesn't really happen.

Also at the Box: Sam Mendes' *Spectre* took the No. 2 spot at last weekend's box office, selling another \$14.6 million and upping the flick's 17-day total to \$153 million in the U.S. and \$677 million worldwide. *Spectre* should end up the second highest grossing Bond flick of all-time at this rate. Taking the No. 3 spot was *The Peanuts Movie* with another \$13 million, bringing the film's 17-day total to just under \$100 million in the U.S. Not bad, kids. The Seth Rogen-penned Christmas film *The Night Before* came in at No. 4, selling a disappointing \$10 million over its first three days of release. Rogen is maybe the biggest name in comedy these days, yet his movies don't really sell. I hear *The Night Before* is fantastic, and I believe it, as Rogen writes good comedy and the film is directed by the very solid Jonathan Levine (*50/50*, *The Wackness* and *Warm Bodies*). Rounding out last weekend's Top 5 was the U.S. remake of the great *The Secret in Their*



ScreenTime
GREG W. LOCKE

Eyes, starring Julia Roberts, Dean Norris, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Nicole Kidman. The movie sold \$6.6 million in tickets over its first three days of release, a criminally low number for a film starring Roberts. Oh, how the great have fallen, I guess. Looks like a pretty great remake to me. Also of note, Todd Haynes' amazing *Carol* opened on four screens last weekend, selling an impressive \$248,000, good enough for a record-breaking \$62,000 per-screen average. Look for this flick, which features notable performances by ScreenTime favorites Rooney Mara and Cate Blanchett, to be a big part of the Oscar conversation.

New This Week: Finally, this Thursday comes the release of the should-be-great continuation of the Rocky saga, *Creed*. The film focuses on Rocky mentoring a young boxer named Adonis Johnson, the son of Rocky's classic rival, Apollo Creed. The film was written and directed by Ryan Coogler, best known for his amazing collaboration with Michael B. Jordan (who plays the lead opposite Sylvester Stallone) on the film *Fruitvale Station*. This is like an indie re-writing of the Rocky universe. Tonight, while talking about the film with a friend, we agreed that Jordan instantly becomes the best actor to ever be in a Rocky film. Kid's got some serious chops.

gregwlocke@gmail.com

-----Calendar: Art & Artifacts-----

Current Exhibits

AMERICAN BRILLIANT CUT GLASS — Highlights form the American Cut Glass Association Permanent Collection, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 6**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

AMERICAN LANDSCAPES — Works by Karen Moriarty, Penny French-Deal, Nazar Harran, Beth Forst, Randall Scott Harden, Rebecca Justice-Schaab, Tom Kelly, Terry Pulley and Lauren Brady, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 6**, Artworks Galleria of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 387-7589

ART2 — 12"x12" panels in various mediums from local and regional artists, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 31**, Artworks Galleria of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 387-7589

ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS — Handmade ornaments and nativities, **Monday-Saturday thru Dec. 31**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

ART YOU CAN USE — Works of clay, oil, fiber, wood and more, **Tuesday-Saturday thru Jan. 15**, Crestwoods Frame Shop & Gallery, Roanoke, 672-2080

HIDDEN TREASURE FROM GOLDEN LAND — Burmese sand painting, gems painting, embroidery and lacquer ware, **Friday-Sunday and by appointment thru Dec. 6**, 3R Gallery, Fort Wayne, 493-0913

AUTUMN ABLAZE — Mixed media fall inspired pieces from local and regional artists, **Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment thru Nov. 28**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

#DTFW ARCHITECTURE — Historic images of relevant downtown Fort Wayne architecture paired with contemporary images from area photographers, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 2**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

FORT WAYNE PHOTOGRAPHERS CLUB — Exhibition of photographs, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 2**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

FOUR SEASONS AND A PERSIAN NIGHT — Abstracts of Nazar Harran, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 6**, Artworks Galleria of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 387-7589

GARDEN IN LIGHTS — All garden areas decorated for the holidays, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 3**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION — High school student work on display, **daily, thru Dec. 12**, Visual Arts Gallery, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 481-6705

KATHY PALMITER & NANCY MILLER — Gourd sculptures, stone paper weights and fiber art, **Sunday-Friday thru Nov. 29**, First Presbyterian Art Gallery, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 426-7421

MAURICE PAPIER: A RETROSPECTIVE — Over 70 pieces by Papier and dozens of paintings by his former students, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 15**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

THE NATIONAL: BEST CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY 2015 — Contemporary photography from invited and juried artists, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 3**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

"A NORTH WOODS CHRISTMAS" GARDEN EXHIBIT — A rustic setting feat. a cabin during the holidays, **Tuesday-Sunday, thru Jan. 3**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TARA DENNY — Photographs, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 2**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

Artifacts

SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE — Meet-and-greet, light refreshments and discounts on art purchases, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

MONTHLY TEEN WORKSHOP — Workshop for teens on graphic design, **2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17**, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, free, 417-8846

CALL FOR ARTISTS

MAGNIFICENT MAPS — Open national call for entry for artwork depicting real or fictitious maps. Artists may incorporate collage pieces of maps or create new map-themed works of art. All media exhibit for artists at least 18 years of age, residing in U.S. Eligible artwork may be two or three-dimensional. Artwork cannot be larger than 60" x 60" including frame and weigh no more than 70 lbs., including base for 3-D submissions. Submission deadline **Tuesday Dec. 1**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

36TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRINT EXHIBITION — All artists, 18 years of age, residing in U.S. are eligible. All original printmaking media are eligible that meet Artlink's exhibition criteria (available at www.artlinkfw.com). No photography, computer generated, or digitally altered prints accepted. Works must have been completed in the last 2 years, may be no larger than 54" in any direction and may not have been exhibited at Artlink previously. Submission deadline **Friday Jan. 22**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

Upcoming Exhibits

NOVEMBER

JOHN LEAVELL — Acrylic, large-canvas works, **Saturdays, Nov. 28-Dec. 31**, The Gallery at Prana Yoga, Fort Wayne, 627-9642

DECEMBER

CAROL POPP BENNETT & SARAH THOMPSON — Acrylic paintings, "Carol and Corky" TV nostalgia and pottery, **Sunday-Friday, Dec. 4-Jan. 10**, First Presbyterian Art Gallery, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, 426-7421

ART FARM HOLIDAY POP UP GALLERY — Feat. 13 national and local artists offering ceramics, jewelry, fiber, metal, glass, mixed media, **Dec. 5-Dec. 27**, 17612 N. County Line Rd E, Spencerville. 740-8725

CASTLE GALLERY HOLIDAY SHOW — Local and national artists, **Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment Dec. 5-Jan. 2**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

SOCA STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: COMPUTER ART, ANIMATION, AND FILM — Works by current students, **daily, Dec. 5-Dec. 20**, (opening reception **6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5**), Goldfish Gallery, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999



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EXIT Laughing

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Directed by Brian H. Wagner

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Now Playing

DISNEY'S PETER PAN — Musical adaptation featuring Peter Pan, Wendy, Tinkerbell, Captain Hook and the rest of the Neverland crew, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 27-28; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5 and 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 10-12**, Pulse Opera House, Warren, \$5-\$14, 357-7017

EXIT LAUGHING — Three southern ladies lose a friend and a bridge partner and decided to take her ashes from the funeral home for one last bridge game which quickly becomes the most exciting night of their lives, **8 p.m. (7 p.m., dinner) Friday-Saturday, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, Dec. 11-12; 2 p.m. (1 p.m., dinner) Sunday, Dec. 13 and 8 p.m. (7 p.m., dinner) Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35, includes dinner and show, 424-5622

Asides

AUDITIONS

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) [REVISED] (JAN. 22-FEB. 6) — Auditions for 3 performers, **7 p.m., Sunday-Monday, Nov. 29-30**, Arena Rehearsal Hall, Fort Wayne, 424-5622

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (FEB. 13-28) — Casting for 7 principals and 8-12 ensemble cast members for Mel Brooks comedy, **5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6** (callbacks 7-10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7), Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne, 422-8641 ext. 226 or ewadewitz@fwcivic.org to sign up (required)

WIT (MARCH 3-19) — Casting for 4 men and 4 women ages 20-60, **7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 422-6329

Upcoming Productions

DECEMBER

THE SANTALAND DIARIES — David Sedaris' account of working as an elf at Macy's Santaland in New York City during the holiday crunch, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6; 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12; 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 422-6329

SUPPER CLUB HOLIDAY SHOW — Retro Vegas-style crooner entertainment with holiday themed buffet, **6:30 p.m. (dinner), 7:30 p.m. (show), Thursday-Friday, Dec. 3-4; 1 p.m. Dec. 5 (show only); 6:30 p.m. (dinner), 7:30 p.m. (show) Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 5-6; Thursday-Sunday Dec. 10-13 and Dec. 18-20**, Huntington Supper Club, Huntington, \$35 (show only), \$49 (includes dinner & show) thru box office 454-0603

YULETIDE FOLLY — A Bower North mystery/comedy dinner and show, **7 p.m. (doors at 6 p.m., champagne toast at 6:30 p.m., dinner buffet at 7 p.m.) Friday, Dec. 4**, Hotel Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, \$35.95, 484-0411, ext. 7378

NUTCRACKER — Fort Wayne Ballet's performance of the Tchaikovsky classic, **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 (w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic); 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 (w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic) 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13** Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$49, 422-4226

ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA — The Tony Award-winning musical that is a contemporary take on the classic fairy tale, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20**, Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts, Warsaw, \$14-\$32, 574-267-8041

Laughing All the Way

A really well written, high quality Christmas show is incredibly difficult to find. Trust me. Arena's play reading committee, on which I serve, has read them all!

In searching for shows for our current season, I came across a script by playwright Paul Elliott entitled *Exit Laughing*. By the time I had finished reading it, I knew I wanted to direct it and slate it as our holiday offering this year.

The play centers around four long-time friends who, for the past 30 years, have gotten together once a week for bridge. When one of the foursome inconveniently dies, what do you do? If you're Connie (Molly McCray), Leona (Donna Frey) and Millie (Becky Niccum), you break into the funeral home and "borrow" your friend's ashes for one last game of bridge that erupts into the wildest night of your lives, complete with a police raid, a male stripper (Kevin Boner) and a thoroughly embarrassed daughter (Gloria Minnich). By the end of the show, the three women have a whole new way of looking at life and all the fun you can have when you're truly living.

Yes, I'm aware that this doesn't sound at all like a traditional Christmas show. Again, you'll have to trust me when I say that not only is it hysterically funny (my cast of seasoned theater veterans still can't get through an entire rehearsal without breaking up), but the message that this show imparts about living your life to the fullest and, when your time comes, to exit this life laughing is a message that everyone needs to be reminded of from time to time.

To quote the character of Connie, "Tonight was an adventure, and I want a million more. I don't want to ever have a red dress in my closet I didn't wear. It's all the way. Nothing less. To life!"

I know that's how I wish to live my life and, at this holiday season, it's what I wish for all of you.

Arena is also very happy to be partnering on this show with the Allen County SPCA. Making their stage debut in our production as Butter Butt the cat is an adorable, adoptable feline from their facility. If you would like to give a shelter animal a home for the holidays, we will be very happy to arrange that for you with the help of Jessica Henry and her staff from the ACSPCA!

So come and spend some time with us at Arena Dinner Theatre over the holidays. I can promise that you won't be disappointed you did and that you'll exit the theater laughing!



Director's Notes

BRIAN H. WAGNER

EXIT LAUGHING

7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain Friday-Saturday, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, 11-12 & 18-19

1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. curtain Sunday, Dec. 13

Arena Dinner Theatre
719 Rockhill St., Fort Wayne
Tix.: \$35, 260-424-5622

THE PIANO GUYS - From Page 6

Guys had intentionally avoided the hassles of a record company contract, Simone encouraged them to let him find one. They ultimately landed a lucrative contract with Sony Music.

Recent concerts in Red Rocks and Carnegie Hall were recorded, and The Piano Guys continue to stay busy writing, recording and touring. But Schmidt says that all of them are mindful to balance their success with family.

FLIX - From Page 17

er.

Charlotte's sister, Emma (Marissa Tomei), also dreads the holiday. She is single and compares herself very unfavorably to her big sister. She's so nuts she shoplifts a brooch and gets caught immediately. It is a silly set-up for a great pay-off. Anthony Mackie is the officer charged with taking her in. Mackie and Tomei (the film is lucky to have her) have one of best scenes in the film, even though she's in the back seat of the squad car he's driving.

"There is so much going on, and we don't know how to do all the stuff we have the opportunity to do. But we're all family men — we have 16 kids between us — and if we're performing too much, we can't do that right. Our productions could be a full-time job and performing could be a full-time job and doing our videos could be a full-time job. We just have to find the right balance so we can still spend enough time with our families."

Very few holiday films find an easy way to "classic" status. *It's a Wonderful Life*, which plays for a few seconds in the background, didn't catch on for years. I doubt *Love the Coopers* will age that well, but in a few years when you google "holiday films," it will show up just under *Love Actually*. And if you are looking for a few laughs and a few tears, *Love the Coopers* gives you a few moments of each and comes through with a happy ending.

ckdexterhaven@earthlink.net

Featured Events

FORT WAYNE DANCE COLLECTIVE — Workshops and classes for movement, dance, yoga and more offered by Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, fees vary, 424-6574

IPFW COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY — Art, dance, music and theater classes for grades pre-K through 12 offered by IPFW College of Visual and Performing Arts, fees vary, 481-6977, www.ipfw.edu/caa

SWEETWATER ACADEMY OF MUSIC — Private lessons for a variety of instruments available from professional instructors, ongoing weekly lessons, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, call for pricing, 432-8176, academy.sweetwater.com

This Week

FESTIVAL OF TRAINS — Model train sets demonstrated by local train groups and enthusiasts, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 27-28 and 12-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29**, Science Central, Fort Wayne, \$8, 424-2400

Holiday Events

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — Breakfast, meet and greet with Santa & Mrs. Claus and admission to Festival of Trees, **9:30-11 a.m. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 27-29**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$12.50, 800-745-3000

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — Breakfast with Santa, live reindeer and early admission to conservatory gardens, **9-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5**, Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$13, 427-6440

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM — Live music, horse drawn wagon rides, crafts, St. Nicholas, holiday vendors and more, **1-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5**, Salomon Farm Park, Fort Wayne, \$5, 427-6005

FANTASY OF LIGHTS — Drive-thru holiday light event featuring over 70 animated light displays depicting holiday scenes; horse drawn carriage rides available Friday-Sunday, **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday thru Dec. 31**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$5 per car, \$10 per 15 passenger van, \$25 per bus or trolley, 744-1900

FESTIVAL OF TREES — More than 55 trees decorated for the holiday season by local artists and businesses, Santa Land and Animated Holiday Windows, **4-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 26; 12-8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 27-29; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30** (family photo night, \$50 per family); **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 1-2**; (family photo night and Fort Wayne Children's Choir sing-along, **5-9 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 2**, \$50 per family), Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$7, 800-745-3000

FESTIVAL OF GINGERBREAD — Over 100 gingerbread creations, games, storytelling and visits from Santa, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 27-29; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 1-3; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 4-5; 12-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Dec. 7-10 and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13**, History Center, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, 426-2882

HOLLY TROLLEY SHOPPING TOUR — Free trolley rides to local shops, galleries and attractions in downtown Fort Wayne and along the Wells Street Corridor, **11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28**, various locations, Fort Wayne, free, 420-3266

INDIANA ARTISAN HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE — Locally made artisan crafts, jewelry, wine, and more, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29**, Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$7, 317-607-5243

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS — Coats for Kids coat drive featuring flashlight only ghost hunt through the Haunted Jail, **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17; 7-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday Dec. 18-19 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20**, Columbia City Haunted Jail, Columbia City, admission is a gently used or new coat or \$13, www.columbiacityhauntedjail.com

SANTA AND THE REINDEER — Visit with Santa and live reindeer and tour the conservatory gardens, **12-4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19**, Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, 427-6440

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY AND TREE LIGHTING — Tree lighting (**6-8 p.m.**), cocoa and cookies, canned food drive, gift card drawings, letter to Santa writing for children, **business hours vary, Saturday, Nov. 28**, various locations, North Anthony Corridor, Fort Wayne, free, 420-3266

WALK TO BETHLEHEM — Guided tours depicting the scenes from Jesus' birth featuring live nativity, marketplace, Roman soldiers, a potter, wool spinner and other characters of the time, **5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13**, First Christian Church, Fort Wayne, free, 744-3239

WHITLEY COUNTY LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE — Christmas parade with Santa, performances by the Whitley County Children's Choir and Columbia City High School Marching Band, lighting of the tree and more, **6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27**, parade begins on Van Buren Street, downtown Columbia City, followed by Festival of Trees and Festival of Gingerbread, free, 630-8000

WINTERVAL AT THE CONSERVATORY — Breakfast with Santa, live reindeer and early admission to conservatory gardens, **9-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5**, Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$13, 427-6440

Storytimes

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 and 10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 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, 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 finger-plays for the whole family, **6:30 p.m. Tuesdays**, 421-1330
LITTLE TURTLE BRANCH — Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**, 421-1335
MAIN LIBRARY — Babies and Books, **10 a.m. Fridays; Family Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**; Storytime for preschoolers, daycares and other groups, **9:30 a.m. Wednesdays; Toddler Time, 10:30 & 11 a.m. Fridays**; 421-1220

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**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, 421-1350
TECUMSEH BRANCH — 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**, 421-1365
WOODBURN BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, 421-1370

Tours and Trips

CHICAGO SHOPPING TRIP — Bus trip to downtown Chicago for holiday shopping, **7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2; and 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$55, 427-6017

PURDUE CHRISTMAS SHOW — Bus trip to a performance of Purdue University's 82nd annual Christmas Show, includes private luncheon at Honeywell House in Wabash, **9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$105, 427-6017

WHITE CHRISTMAS: THE MUSICAL — Chicago bus trip to see the Irving Berlin classic performed at the Drury Theatre; lunch and continental breakfast included, **7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10**, departs from Bob Arnold Park, Fort Wayne, \$99, 427-6017

Sports and Recreation

WIFFLEBALL WORLD SERIES — Elimination tournament, **9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 28** SportOne Fieldhouse, Fort Wayne, \$120-\$150 per team, 471-5100

Spectator Sports

BASKETBALL
MAD ANTS — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne
FRIDAY, Nov. 27 vs. Bakersfield, 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, Nov. 29 vs. Erie, 5 p.m.
FRIDAY, Dec. 4 vs. Canton, 7:30 p.m.
HOCKEY
KOMETES — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne
THURSDAY, Nov. 26 vs. Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, Nov. 28 vs. Toledo, 7:30 p.m.

Dance

MUSIC BOX DANCERS OPEN DANCE — Open dancing, **6-9 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6**, Lighted Gardens, SR 1, Ossian, \$7-\$10, 622-4023

December

CHRISTMAS AT HOME WITH THE SWINNEY SISTERS — Christmas celebration featuring syllabub, sweets, savorys, tea and music from the Hearstone Ensemble, **2-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 and 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5**, Historic Swinney Homestead, Fort Wayne, \$20, reservations only, 747-1229

EMBASSY FESTIVAL OF TREES

NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 2

Beautifully decorated trees and youth performances wrapped in the splendor of the Embassy Theatre

TICKETS

On sale Nov. 2
 \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under
 Available at the Embassy box office,
ticketmaster.com or call 260.424.5665

HOURS AND EVENTS

Night of Lights
 Nov. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
 Nov. 27, 28, 29, Noon-8 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day
 Nov. 26, 4-8 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
 Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Nov. 27, 28, 29, 9:30-11 a.m.
 Tickets: \$15 per person

COMMUNITY SING-ALONG

w/the Fort Wayne Children's Choir
 Dec. 2, 5-9 p.m.
 with sing-along starting at 7 p.m.
 Tickets: \$10 adults, \$3 children

FAMILY PHOTO NIGHT

Nov. 30, 5-9 p.m.
 Tickets: \$50 per family
 Limit 100 families



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AT 7:00PM**

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