



Acclaimed vocalist **Ann Wilson** to rock the Honeywell. pg4

We preview the **five big movies** coming this weekend. pg5



288 things to do
in the area

CALENDARS START ON PAGE 6

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From the Heart of rock n' roll

Acclaimed rock vocalist carries fresh music to her Honeywell show

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Watch videos of Heart performing live in the 1970s and try to appreciate how improbable the band was at that moment in rock history.

It was fronted by two sisters: Ann Wilson, who would go on to be widely acknowledged as one of the greatest vocalists in rock music, and Nancy Wilson, whose guitar playing was the equal of any man's.

They did not use sex appeal to sell songs.

BUILDING CREDIBILITY

In a phone interview, Ann Wilson said the biggest challenge for the band in those times was credibility.

"Because there weren't any other women doing it," she said. "So women were just automatically suspect if they tried to do rock."

The Wilson sisters weathered that challenge and many others. They continue to be prominent makers of music and up for any challenge.

Ann Wilson is currently finishing up a solo tour that will bring her to the Honeywell Center in Wabash on December 27.

One thing the sisters are presently weathering is a professional estrangement. The band has been on hiatus since 2016, the year a backstage dispute among family members made a sabbatical seem suddenly necessary.

As unwelcome and unfortunate as this unplanned furlough was in many senses, Wilson said it has been good for everyone involved.

"It's been really nice and healthy," she said. "It was a gigantic, essential palate cleanser. A chance to take a little time off and look around and breathe and not just be pounding it on the road."

Wilson has kept plenty busy the last two years.

ANN WILSON

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27
Ford Theater at Honeywell Center
275 W. Market St., Wabash
\$49-\$100 · 260-563-1102

In September, she released *Immortal*, a tribute to some of the music legends who have passed away recently.

The album was motivated by the shock and sadness that Wilson experienced over those deaths.

"For a while there, it seemed as if we were losing iconic artists at an incredible rate," she said. "Along about the time Chris Cornell passed away, I just knew I had to do something. I had to respond in some way other than just sitting around mourning."

Wilson dug deep into the artists' catalogs, looking for the songs that she responded to the most.

She will be performing some of those cover tunes when she comes to Wabash and also some songs she has written in the last two years.

What she won't be performing is a lot of Heart tunes.

"Fans should not expect a Heart show," she said. "Fans should expect an Ann Wilson show."

Wilson said she doesn't have any special regimen for protecting her voice on these long tours. She just avoids the bad behaviors of the past.

"There are no magic bullets except common sense things," she said. "I don't smoke cigarettes. I don't smoke anything. I don't drink alcohol. It's really just all about making sure your spirit is lit up and ready to go."

Wilson said she grew up singing with her family in their San Diego living room, but it wasn't until she was in her mid-20s that she began to



COURTESY PHOTO

suspect that her voice was special.

At that point, she was performing in an early incarnation of Heart called Hocus Pocus.

"I was still just the chick in the band that sang all the ballads," she said. "And then they decided that they wanted to learn Led Zeppelin stuff and Deep Purple stuff. But they couldn't really sing that high. So it fell to me. That's when I realized I could sing rock."

After scoring a number of hits in the '70s, Heart reinvented itself in the mid-'80s and scored many more. The makeover — which shifted the band's sound from hard rock to slicker arena rock — was not a calculated move, Wilson insists. The sisters just really loved '80s synths.

"It just had to do with the technology that was coming out," she said. "You could mess with the sounds. So, of course, we wanted to use them all."

The pressures of maintaining fame in the '80s — and the negative publicity surrounding Wilson's weight — drove her to destructive behaviors. But that was a long time ago.

Despite the tumult of those times, Wilson said there's nothing she would change if given the power

to do so.

"I think that everything I did and every decision I made I would make again," she said. "Because I have always considered authenticity and honesty to be the prime virtue. If you're going to do something, mean it and have it be real."

MOVING FORWARD AS AN ARTIST

One real thing Wilson continues to do is write new songs. The business model for making and releasing new music collapsed a long time ago, but money has never motivated Wilson to create.

"You do it because you want to," she said. "You get a lot of joy out of the actual creation of new songs or new versions of old songs."

Wilson said she has never been one to approach her career strategically. She never set of goal of where she wanted to be in 2018.

In light of that fact, it's no surprise that Wilson isn't exactly keen on setting goals for the years ahead.

"Whatever thing I am doing at any given moment, I am going to do the best I can," she said. "From there, you move onto the next thing and do that the best you can. At some point, you look back and go, 'Wow! I did all that stuff!'"

Stuff some silver screen in your stocking

Studios serve up five big movies for Christmas break

BY BRENT LEUTHOLD
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

It's the most wonderful time of the year, but if you're not in the holiday spirit yet, Hollywood has you covered. Here are five major releases coming to theaters this holiday weekend:

Aquaman

Starring Jason Momoa and Amber Heard

The latest installment in the DC Extended Universe follows the titular superhero as he leads the people of Atlantis against the evil sea creature Orm. With last year's *Wonder Woman* and *Justice*



League representing the best and worst of what can be found in this Universe, *Aquaman* seems like it could wind up in between the two.

I can't say I'm a big fan of this version of the character based on his two previous appearances, but the digital effects in this entry seem markedly less murky than other recent DC films. This movie has already done almost \$100 million in business since its opening in China. With early screenings already trickling out around the U.S., all signs point to this being another massively successful superhero stint for Warner Brothers.

Bumblebee

Starring Hailee Steinfeld and John Cena

This spin-off of the Transformers franchise (technically a prequel to the first film in the series) focuses on the origin of the titular yellow robot. Set in the late 1980s, there's a good chance this film will lean into pop cultural touchstones from the era to add a bit of personality to the sci-fi action thrills.

It's a bit odd to have a big budget blockbuster like this open in the heart of awards season, especially since the past four Transformers films have opened in June, but I doubt this will affect its financial success overall.

With two likeable leads at its center and *Kubo and the Two Strings* director Travis Knight replacing Michael Bay in the director's chair, there's a good chance this could be a critical success in addition to being a hit at the box office.



Holmes and Watson

Starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly

This is yet another Sherlock Holmes adaptation brought to us by the same goofball team responsible for *Step Brothers* and *Talladega Nights*. The surplus of recent Holmes variations have generally played things straight, focusing on the detective's almost supernatural deduction skills, but it's clear that the strategy here is to play everything for laughs.

I was initially excited for this film when I first caught wind of it, but all the promotional material I have seen so far has made me markedly less eager to see what looks to be pretty flimsy fare. I'm sure there are plenty of laughs that could be wrung from the legendary literary figure, but with gags involving killer bees and selfies present in the trailer, Sony obviously went with the broad approach with this comedy.



Mary Poppins Returns

Starring Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda

This direct sequel to the classic 1964 musical finds the merry and mystical nanny reuniting with two of the children from the original, now grown with children of their own.

Filling the shoes of a screen icon like Julie Andrews is no easy feat, but it looks like Blunt may be a perfect fit to recapture the charm and whimsy that Andrews brought to the role all those years ago.

The trailers so far have teased images that harken back to the hand-drawn animation from Disney's heyday and with original music from Tony-winning composer Marc Shaiman, this film could be quite a delight. Expect it to clean up at the box office when it opens early on Dec. 19.



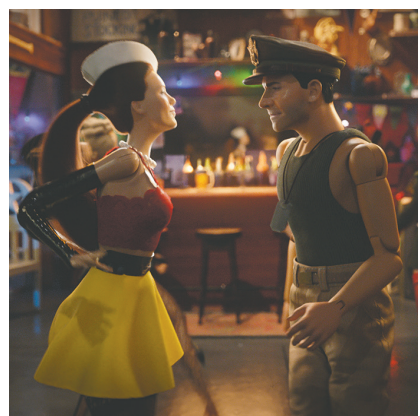
Welcome to Marwen

Starring Steve Carell and Leslie Mann

The film tells the true story of a man desperately trying to reconnect his life after a violent assault leaves him with almost no memory of his previous life. In order to cope with his loss, he constructs a miniature village called Marwen in his backyard populated with dolls that represent his friends and family.

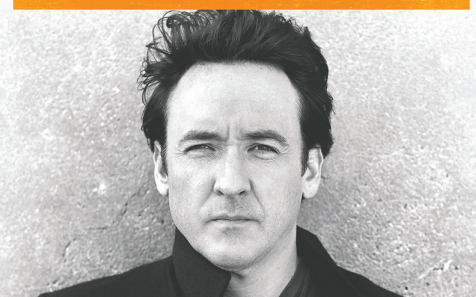
Based on the 2010 documentary *Marwencol*, director Robert Zemeckis looks to blend pathos with technical wizardry together as he did with previous work like *The Polar Express* and *The Walk*.

Carell has proven that he has the dramatic chops for this kind of material. Those looking for an inspiring film around the holidays will likely find what they're looking for here.



A Live Conversation With

John Cusack



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Double Indemnity Jan. 20

Jay Owenhouse Jan. 24
Rudy Jan. 27
Kinky Boots Jan. 29
John CusackFeb. 9
Breaking AwayFeb. 10
John Mellencamp.....Feb. 12
Hoosiers.....Feb. 17
Sunset BoulevardFeb. 24

The Wizard of Oz.....Mar. 3
Finding Neverland.....Mar. 7
Something Rotten!.....Mar. 21
Harry Potter and the Chamber of SecretsApr. 10 and 11
The King and I..... Apr. 16
Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox May 7
Neil deGrasse Tyson..... May 21



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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

Columbia Street West

Rock • 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5055
EXPECT: The Fort's No. 1 rock club. Dance Party with DJ Rich every Friday & Saturday w/ladies in free on Saturdays until 11 p.m. Columbia Street menu features salads, sandwiches, pizzas, Southwestern and daily specials. 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). **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on The Landing. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

Crazy Pinz/Coconutz Restaurant

Games/Music • 1414 Northland Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-2695
EXPECT: Exciting atmosphere for families. Bowling, arcade, laser tag, mini-golf and weekly live entertainment. Coconutz restaurant serves American cuisine daily with food and drink specials. **GETTING THERE:** North on Lima Rd. from Coliseum, past Sam's Club to Northland Blvd. **HOURS:** 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-midnight Thurs.; 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; noon-10 p.m. Sun. **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

Duesy's Sports Bar & Grille

Sports Bar • 305 E. Washington Ctr. Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-484-0411
EXPECT: 27 huge flat screen TVs with all your favorites sports – NASCAR and more; live trivia 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays; kitchen opens at 11 a.m. w/custom burgers, specialty sandwiches, BBQ, flatbreads, salads and wraps. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Washington Center Rd. and Coldwater, just south of I-69. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-midnight or later daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

Dupont Bar & Grill

Sports Bar • 10336 Leo Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311
EXPECT: Great daily drink specials, 3 pool tables, your Nascar headquarters, 16'x10' Megatron, three 6'x4' Minित्रons, 15 flat screen TVs; \$8.99 daily lunch specials; 60¢ wings Wednesdays; Three Rivers Karaoke 9 p.m. Wednesdays. **GETTING THERE:** North of Fort Wayne at Leo Crossing (Dupont & Clinton). **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex

Flashback Live

Dancing/Music • Behind Evans Toyota, Fort Wayne • 260-483-1979
EXPECT: The city's only retro dance club with 80s, 90s and today's music. Live entertainment every Friday & Saturday evening starting at 7:30 p.m. as well as the city's hottest DJ between sets and into the late night! Family friendly from 4-9 p.m. with full menu of appetizers, wings, pizzas and sandwiches. Outdoor patio with a full service bar and dance area! **GETTING THERE:** Behind Evans Toyota at Coliseum Blvd. and Lima Rd. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, ATM on site

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CHILLY ADDAMS

Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

All Ages Open Mic — Hosted by Chilly Addams at Phoenix, Fort Wayne, 6-10 p.m. no cover, 387-6571

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

The Charlie Brown Trio — *A Peanuts* Holiday at Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. free, 436-8080

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 483-1311

Chris Worth — Variety at HT2, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 616-0444

Dan Heath and Friends — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Triangle Park, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 482-4342

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

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/TJ — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at The Woods Too and Lighthouse Lounge, Hudson, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 351-2967

Jeff McDonald — Oldies at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Joe Justice — Variety at Parkview Senior's Club, Fort Wayne, 5-6 p.m. free, 373-4000

Motor Folkers — Acoustic rock at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7 p.m. no cover, 854-3463

Christmas stalking: First Jason at The Ruin

An actor from one of the highest-grossing movies of 1980 is coming to town in a few days. To be honest, it's not a household name, but this actor played Jason Vorhees as a child in the horror cult classic *Friday the 13th*.

Ari Lehman is not exactly an A-list celebrity, but he did share the screen with Kevin Bacon, if that says anything. Lehman didn't do much acting after the film and years later formed a punk-metal band called First Jason which allows him to continue to exploit his small amount of acting fame.

On Saturday, Dec. 22, First Jason will be slashing their way to town to perform at The Ruin along with local favs Grave Robber and Rock N Roll Devils. Lehman is the frontman for the band, screeching Vorhees-influenced lyrics and playing the keytar.

That's right, the dude plays a machete-shaped keytar, which is even more of a reason to come out to The Ruin.

If you're a horror junkie, then consider this band as the inner voice of Jason, since many of the songs reference *Friday the 13th*: "Jason's Bride," "Jason Never Dies!" and "Machete Is My Friend."

Anyhow, this will be an evening worth getting a sit-



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

ter for. If anything, come out and shoot the breeze with Lehman and see what it's like growing up a Vorhees. Five bucks is all this show will run you.

TAKE A SOAK IN EL CAMINO HOT TUB'S NEW EP

A car that was famous back when Friday the 13th was making its run was the Chevrolet El Camino, and its name has been resurrected by a local act.

El Camino Hot Tub is one of the latest funk bands to hit the local scene. This seven-piece outfit has been playing at a championship level and gaining street cred since their formation in July. The band consists of Tophy Beyer (vocals), Michael Newsome (guitar), Ryne Wemhoff (bass), Drew Seabold (drums), Amber Feichter (saxophone), Sawyer Green (trombone), and Ty Fry (trumpet).

Together, the band has performed an abundance of local gigs and has plans to release an EP on Saturday, Dec. 29. The four-song EP, *Glow in the Dim*, will be available on CD and as a download. You'll actually be able to snag a copy at their show that evening at O'Sullivan's, so make sure to bring a few extra bucks with you.

You'll be able to feast your ears on the new numbers and also taking in performances by Three Cities and Fields and Fortress. Until then, you can hit them up on social media to hear the title track. Can't wait to see what's in store for El Camino Hot Tub in 2019.



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Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at Olde 303 Music, Bluffton, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 227-1828

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. cover, 422-5055

Fireball Matinee — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/Eric — Karaoke at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 749-5396

Jai Baker 3 — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Joe Justice — Variety at Byler Lane Winery, Auburn, 5-8 p.m. no cover, 920-4377

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

Jon Durnell — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Karaoke — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m. no cover, 488-3344

Keith "BigMeow" Roman — Acoustic 80s at Chapman's Brewing Co., Columbia City, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 244-6252

Motor Folkers — Acoustic rock at American Legion Post 215, LaGrange, 7 p.m. no cover, 436-4172

My Soul's Revolution, Element: Indigo, Hazensol — Rock at Next Level Bar & Arcade, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. \$10, 715-4919

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Holiday/variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 482-1618

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Club Paradise, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 833-7082

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ w/Bob (Sound Man) — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 925-9805

Smooth Edge 2 — A Cappella at Welch's Ale House, Fort Wayne, 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$5, 456-6542

Sum Morz — Rock at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Sure Shot Karaoke — Variety at Coco-nutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

Todd Harrold Duo — R&B/blues at Summit City Brewwerks, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., 420-0222

Trouble Troubadors — Singer/songwriter at Trubble Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 267-6082

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Acme Band — Classic rock/blues at Alley Sports Bar, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-4421

Big Caddy Daddy — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Electric Winter — EDM at Piere's Entertainment Center, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$10-\$20, 486-1979

Elements — Classic rock/variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 488-3344

Eric Sundberg — Acoustic/holiday at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country at The Venue, Angola, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 665-3922

James Baker Quartet — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Joe Justice — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

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 Taps Pub, Avilla, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. no cover, 897-3331

Paul & Nick's Acoustic Sideshow — Variety at Auburn Brewing Co, Auburn, 7:30-10:30 p.m. no cover, 333-7468

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Plan B — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Reload — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Fremont Bar & Grill, Fremont, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 527-6223

Susan Mae & New Yesterday — Contemporary R&B/Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Susan Mae and New Yesterday — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Todd Harrold Duo w/Special Guest Bob Bailey — R&B/blues at American Legion Post 148, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. no cover, 423-4751

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Drifters, Platters — Rock at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 3 p.m. \$30-\$60, 424-5665

The Mo Show — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-5526

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Open Mic hosted by Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Curly's Village Inn, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 747-9964

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

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

Mark Garr — Acoustic variety at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 436-3512

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Shut Up and Sing — Karaoke at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 483-5681

Three Rivers Karaoke — at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-1311

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

All Ages Open Mic — Hosted by Chilly Addams at Phoenix, Fort Wayne, 6-10 p.m. no cover, 387-6571

Ann Wilson — Rock at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$49-\$100, 563-1102

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Nightlife

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 w/DirectTV (NFL Package during season), internet juke, pool table, karaoke every Friday (9 p.m.), live bands every Saturday (8 p.m.) Memorial Day thru Labor Day. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of roads 1 and 427. **HOURS:** 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa

JD Lounge

Pubs & Taverns • 10366 Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311
EXPECT: Upscale non-smoking atmosphere, craft beers and local wines, NFL Ticket, acoustic music on Thursdays, carryout, lottery, drink and food specials. **GETTING THERE:** North of Fort Wayne at Leo Crossing (Dupont and Clinton), next to Dupont Bar & Grill. **HOURS:** Open 5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

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, \$3 margaritas & \$1 tacos; Wednesdays, \$2.50 well drinks and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. **GETTING THERE:** Where Clinton and Lima roads meet. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 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: 20-plus beers freshly hand-crafted on premises with a full bar featuring craft cocktails and more. Expanded menu full of old favorites and exciting new entrees, “One of the best pizzas in America,” large vegetarian menu. Sunday Carry-out available. **GETTING THERE:** Just southwest of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon-Thurs; 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri-Sat; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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 hand-crafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. Carry-out handcrafted brews available. Live music on Saturdays. Expanded 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.-midnight Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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; seven dock slips; 150-seat banquet facility. Expanded 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.-10 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

Mad Anthony Tap Room

Music/Rock • 114 N. Main St., Auburn • 260-927-0500
EXPECT: The eclectic madness of the original combined with hand-crafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. Expanded 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.-11 a.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

Mitchell’s Sports & Neighborhood Grill

Sports & Music • 6179 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-387-5063
EXPECT: Family-friendly atmosphere, great food, all sports packages on over 40 TVs, craft beers and more. Great food from wings and pizza to gourmet sandwiches and entrees; breakfast and blood Mary bar Saturdays & Sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Getz and Jefferson Blvd., southwest Fort Wayne. **HOURS:** 4 p.m.-close Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-close Friday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

Find out how to put whatzup’s Nightlife program to work for your business. Email info@whatzup.com or call (260) 407-3198.

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Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Chris Worth — Variety at Trolley Steaks & Seafood , Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 490-4322

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/TJ — Variety at Rack & Helen’s, New Haven, 10 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Draft Horse Saloon, Orlando, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 829-6465

Jeff McDonald — Oldies at Don Hall’s Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Maleena Felger — Acoustic at Crescendo Café, Sweetwater, Fort Wayne, noon-1 p.m. free, (800) 222-4700

Michael Patterson — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 426-3442

Open Mic — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 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

Patrick Daley — Acoustic at JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. no cover, 483-1311

Shelly Dixon — Variety at Beamer’s Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 625-1002

Tronic — EDM at O’Sullivan’s Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 422-5896

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

10 Years — Alternative metal at Piere’s Entertainment Center, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$20, 486-1979

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 489-0840

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. cover, 422-5055

The DeeBees — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 482-1618

Eric Clancy Trio — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Exploit Trio — Variety at Don Hall’s Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Fireball Matinee — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/Eric — Karaoke at Rack & Helen’s, New Haven, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 749-5396

Grateful Groove — Grateful Dead tribute at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, 5-8 p.m. no cover, 637-2980

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth’s Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

JFX — Rock at Mitchell’s Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

Joe Justice — Variety at Auburn Brewing Co, Auburn, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 333-7468

Joe Stabelli — Jazz at Don Hall’s Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m. no cover, 426-3411

Karaoke — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m. no cover, 488-3344

Legendary Trainhoppers, elle/The Remnant — Americana at The B-Side at One Lucky Guitar, Fort Wayne, 8:30-11:30 p.m. \$10, 969-6672

Legendary Trainhoppers — Americana at The B-Side at One Lucky Guitar, Fort Wayne, 8:30-11:30 p.m. \$10, 969-6672

Outta Hand — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Saric — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Sidecar Gary’s Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Club Paradise, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 833-7082

Sidecar Gary’s Karaoke & DJ w/Bob (Sound Man) — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 925-9805

Sure Shot Karaoke — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

Todd Harrold Duo w/Special Guest Bob Bailey — R&B/blues at O’Sullivan’s Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 422-5896

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Acme Band — Classic rock/blues at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Chris Rutkowski/Rich Cohen Project — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Chris Worth — Variety at Oakwood Resort, Syracuse, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (574) 457-7100

Exploit Trio — Variety at Don Hall’s Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra — Funk at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. cover, 485-1038

Hot House — Rock at Mitchell’s Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

James Baker Quartet — Jazz at Ruth’s Chis Steak Hosue, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Jared Schneider — Acoustic variety at Trubble Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. no cover, 267-6082

Joe Stabelli — Jazz at Don Hall’s Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m. no cover, 426-3411

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Rain Kings — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Sidecar Gary’s Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Fremont Bar & Grill, Fremont, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 527-6223

U.R.B. — Funk at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Will Certain — Variety at Auburn Brewing Co, Auburn, 7:30-10:30 p.m. no cover, 333-7468

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

The Mo Show — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-5526

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

APQ-Harmonic w/Will Certain — Jazz/variety at Philmore on Broadway, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$65, 745-1000

Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Big Dick and the Penetrators — Rock-N-Roll at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 483-5681

Blac Youngsta — Rap at Piere's Entertainment Center, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. \$45-\$125, 486-1979

The Brat Pack — Rat Pack at Cottage Event Center, Roanoke, 7:30 p.m. \$49, includes dinner, 414-2015

Charlie Coffeen (of Sidewalk Chalk) — DJ set at Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. cover, 267-5303

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at American Legion Post 241, Waynedale, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. cover, 747-7851

FBC Band, Tempest — Rock/Invisible Vets fundraiser at Lester's Banquet Hall, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$40, 747-6306

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Good Night Gracie — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. cover, 387-5063

Joel Young Band — Country/Classic Rock at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 436-3512

John Curran & Renegade — Country at American Legion Post 240, Avilla, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. cover, 897-2225

The Leftovers — Blues variety at Key Palace Theatre, Redkey, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$15, 703-0651

Mason Dixon Line, Cougar Hunter — Country/80s glam rock at Rusty Spur Saloon, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. cover, 755-3465

The Mighty McGuiggans — Irish/rock at JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m.-midnight no cover, 420-5563

Mojo Rising — Classic rock at What's Up Pub and Grub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$5, 489-3488

Motor Folkers — Acoustic rock at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. no cover, 854-3463

Mountain Dewe Boys — Country at Hideaway Lounge, Bluffton, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. no cover, 824-0455

Open Mic hosted by Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Curly's Village Inn, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 747-9964

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 482-1618

Sad Gravity, Drunken Therapy — Punk/rock at The Ruin, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. cover, 399-6336

Scratch N Sniff 2.0 w/ 1/4 Kit Kurt — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Sum Morz w/DJ Trend — Rock/variety at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. cover, 485-1038

Tim Harrington Band — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Ty Causey — R&B/variety at @2104/Fort Wayne Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$55-\$95, includes dinner, 426-6339

West Central Quartet — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. no cover, 426-3442

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Chilly's Talent & Tacos — Open mic at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 9 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

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

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Picks GREAT THINGS TO DO IN FORT WAYNE AND BEYOND

Blac Youngsta

9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31
Piere's Entertainment Center
5629 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne
\$45-\$125 · 486-1979

Sammie Benson, a.k.a. Blac Youngsta, is a rapper in the truest sense of the word. The 27-year-old from Memphis says that when he is recording new tunes or on stage presenting his songs he feels every word in his heart because he has actually lived most of them.

Benson's story is one of a hard childhood, perseverance, and an eventual success story. Now he wants to share his experiences with his fans and show them that if he can make it, they can too. To add to the authenticity, Blac Youngsta has even been known to bring the sub-

jects of his songs into the studio with him, like holding a wad of cash when he is talking about money or actually holding a gun when dealing with issues involving firearms.

Signed to Yo Gotti's CMG label in early 2016, based on the popularity of his independently released single "Heavy," Blac Youngsta hasn't looked back, putting on wild shows that are often better defined as big parties as he gets the audience moving, bouncing, and hanging on his every word. His single, "Booty," a barebones anthem made up of a drum kit and 2 vocal samples, debuted at #73 on the Billboard Hot 100 and eventually peaked at #22. In typical Piere's New Year's Eve celebration tradition, the venue will have several VIP options available during the night and, of course, there will be a champagne toast at midnight for everybody. — *Chris Hupe*

Fort Wayne PopCon

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30
The Grand Wayne Center
120 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne
\$10-\$90 · 866-544-4007

The first Fort Wayne PopCon takes place Dec. 29-30 at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne. What is a PopCon, you say? PopCon is an event not dissimilar to the ComicCon events most people are familiar with, except it has a twist: It's more inclusive.

The event was founded to celebrate all aspects of pop culture, not just comics and movies, and caters to patrons who have an open mind and a variety of interests. Organizers stress that the event is for anyone and everyone from young to young-at-heart, families, geeks and nerds, cosplayers and plain ol' ordinary people who

just want to have fun.

Take a moment to talk to a podcaster and learn about their work. Engage a gamer or pick up a science fiction book and find out why people enjoy those activities. Take part in workshops, games, virtual reality simulators, and even a retro arcade. And while you're there, don't forget to take in the whole scene as one of the most enjoyable things to do at PopCon is watching others have fun.

In addition, there will be multiple opportunities throughout the weekend to meet celebrities including Star Wars Rebels actor Taylor Gray, actor Barry Bostwick from The Rocky Horror Picture Show, voice actors Monica Rial, Jamie Marchi, and David Sabalov, Star Wars illustrator Joe Corroney, and authors Jody Nye and Eric Flint. Undoubtedly, there will be plenty to do at PopCon, the biggest problem will be finding time to do everything you want. — *Chris Hupe*



UPCOMING PROMOTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC 8 | 7:30 PM

vs. INDY FUEL
STAR WARS™ NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SUNDAY, DEC 9 | 5:00 PM

vs. TULSA OILERS
SEASON TICKET EXCHANGE NIGHT
POST GAME SKATE

FRIDAY, DEC 14 | 8:00 PM

vs. WICHITA THUNDER
FAMILY 4-PACK NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, DEC 15 | 7:30 PM

vs. TOLEDO WALLEYE
KIDS SEAT FREE NIGHT PRESENTED BY



FRIDAY, DEC 21 | 8:00 PM

vs. KALAMAZOO WINGS
FAMILY 4-PACK NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, DEC 22 | 7:30 PM

vs. TOLEDO WALLEYE
FAMILY 4-PACK NIGHT PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY, DEC 27 | 7:30 PM

vs. KALAMAZOO WINGS
KIDS SEAT FREE NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, DEC 29 | 7:30 PM

vs. CINCINNATI CYCLONES
NICKELODEON NIGHT PRESENTED BY



MONDAY, DEC 31 | 7:30 PM

vs. BRAMPTON BEAST
NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH



Nightlife

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. Fort Wayne's Sammy Hagar bar & Beach Bar Rum, Riverbend Pizza. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of State and Crescent. **HOURS:** 4 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

Teds Beer Hall & Wine Bar

Pub/Tavern • 12628 Coldwater Rd., Fort Wayne • 888-260-0357

EXPECT: Lively atmosphere, eclectic tap list, knowledgeable bartenders and the kind of backtalk you usually reserve for family reunions, Thanksgiving and 90s sitcoms set in high school. Kitchen features pizzas, sandwiches, burgers, coffee, ice cream and a kids menu. **GETTING THERE:** Located at the intersection of Coldwater and Union Chapel roads. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Tues.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Beer/Wine. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

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Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Shut Up and Sing — Karaoke at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 483-5681

Three Rivers Karaoke — at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-1311

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

All Ages Open Mic — Hosted by Chilly Addams at Phoenix, Fort Wayne, 6-10 p.m. no cover, 387-6571

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 625-1002

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/TJ — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Jeff McDonald — Oldies at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Motor Folkers — Acoustic at JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. no cover, 483-1311

Open Mic — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 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

Tronic — EDM at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 422-5896

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Bowie Live — David Bowie tribute at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$15-\$30, 426-6434

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. cover, 422-5055

Ellsworth Sharp — Neo-folk at Monument Pizza, Angola, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 319-4489

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/Eric — Karaoke at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 749-5396

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

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

Karaoke — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m. no cover, 488-3344

Kim Richey — Singer/songwriter at The B-Side at One Lucky Guitar, Fort Wayne, 8:10-10:30 p.m. \$15, 969-6672

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Club Paradise, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 833-7082

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ w/Bob (Sound Man) — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 925-9805

Sure Shot Karaoke — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

Topher — Variety at Auburn Brewing Co, Auburn, 7:30-10:30 p.m. no cover, 333-7468

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Acme Band — Classic rock/blues at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at Mad Anthony Tap Room, Auburn, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 927-0500

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Holbrook Brothers Band — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 488-3344

James Baker Quartet — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

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

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Fremont Bar & Grill, Fremont, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 527-6223

Swick and Jones — Acoustic at Chapman's Brewing Co., Angola, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 319-6495

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

The Mo Show — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-5526

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Open Mic hosted by Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Curly's Village Inn, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 747-9964

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Chilly's Talent & Tacos — Open mic at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 9 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

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

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Shut Up and Sing — Karaoke at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 483-5681

Three Rivers Karaoke — at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-1311

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

All Ages Open Mic — Hosted by Chilly Addams at Phoenix, Fort Wayne, 6-10 p.m. no cover, 387-6571

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Throwing a spotlight on the distance between us

First Presbyterian opens an exploration of unity and division

I have a powerful urge to communicate with you, but I find the distance between us insurmountable."

That quote from our upcoming show *The Christians* is at the core of the play's meaning. How do we communicate with others when our beliefs, or our values, or our religion, or our political affiliation so alienate us from the human being who is standing right across from us?

In *The Christians*, Pastor Paul, as a young man, started a small storefront church years ago. In the beginning, he had only 30 members or so. Some 20+ years later his church has grown into a 10,000-member megachurch. And while he should be happy because the church is finally out of debt from a major expansion, he finds himself lost and struggling.



Director's Notes

THOM HOFRICHTER

He is wrestling with what he believes God to be, most significantly whether he believes God condemns people to Hell. Through personal experience and diligent Bible study, Pastor Paul has come to believe that the concept of hell comes from humanity and not from God. And so, on the day that his large facility has been paid off, he gives a sermon that shakes his congregation's beliefs to their very core.

This play is a brilliant examination of the quote from above: How do we communicate with someone when the distance between you seems insurmountable? How do we even start a conversation when we have contempt for those who see God, or the world, differently than we do?

It seems to me that if humanity leaves this question unexamined it could end up being



COURTESY PHOTO
Performers in the First Presbyterian Theater's production of *The Christians* include David McCants as the church elder, Jennifer Poiry as the pastor's wife Elizabeth, Austin Berger as Pastor Paul, Riley Newsome as the pastor's protégé, and Alora Nichole as congregant Jenny.

THE CHRISTIANS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 3-5

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 11-12

2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19

300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne

\$12-\$20

260-426-7421 ext. 121 or

firstpresbyteriantheater.com

extremely damaging to those of us who are Christians, not to mention those of us who are Americans.

In the past, Christians and Americans usually could accept differences among us with the belief that what unites us in stronger and more powerful than what divides us. But we are moving toward a world where this is no longer the case, where that insurmountable

distance silences all meaningful communication, even between friends and families.

If that statement resonates with you, if you feel alienated from people who were once your best friends, or if you avoid family members because you no longer feel as though you can talk to them, then this is a play you must not miss.

The cast for this extraordinary play is Austin Berger as Pastor Paul, Jennifer Poiry as his wife Elizabeth, his younger protégé played by Riley Newsome, and the church elder played by longtime FPT actor David McCants. Rounding out the cast are Alora Nichole as congregant Jenny and Tommy Saul as the musician.

The Christians previews Thursday, Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. (all seats \$12—no presale—available at the door). The play then runs Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. from Jan. 4-19, with one Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on Jan. 13.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$18 for

patrons age 65+, and free for the first 30 full-time students per performance who make reservations. All seating is festival seating (first come, first served) and doors will open 30 minutes prior to curtain.

To reserve a ticket call the Box Office at 260-426-7421 ext. 121; the hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and one hour prior to every performance. Or call another time and leave a message and we will call you back.

At FPT, if you are deciding last minute, most nights you can walk up and get a ticket the night of the show. You can also buy tickets, as well as find out all about FPT, by going to our website, firstpresbyteriantheater.com.

If you would like to participate in a discussion about the show, stop by on Wednesday, Jan. 23, from 6-7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church's T.O.W.N. gathering (Together on Wednesday Nights). A light supper is served from 5:30-6 p.m., and all are welcome.



Saturday, Jan. 4 • 8pm • \$15-\$30
BOWIE LIVE Tribute Band



Saturday, Jan. 19 • 8pm • \$15-\$30
ANTHONY GOMES



Friday, Feb. 15 • 8pm • \$20-\$40
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THE Great Eight OF 2018

BY MICHELE DeVINNEY
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

The Fort Wayne region is blessed with scores of inspirational people who truly care about the welfare of our arts and entertainment initiatives. Space doesn't allow us to honor them all, but here are eight outstanding folks who made a difference in 2018. Thanks to everyone who made this a great year!



Megan Butler Program & Events Director, Riverfront Fort Wayne

When Megan Butler graduated from Northrop High School and left for college in Boston, it was not with the intention to gain some new perspective and return home. She thought she'd left for good.

"When I was in high school, I didn't know anyone who hated Fort Wayne as much as I did," Butler said.

"But when I was living in Boston, I started to think that maybe I wasn't taking advantage of all that Fort Wayne had to offer. I couldn't just stay holed up in my house. I had to get out and do things."

Now Butler helps others see the beauty and opportunities in Fort Wayne through her work as Program & Events Manager for Riverfront Fort Wayne.

A nature lover, she was attracted to the

city's untapped potential which is finally being realized.

"The natural aspect of the rivers really attracted me, and I'm really into history so I loved that aspect, too," she said. "I was a political science major, and my research centered on how people are less and less connected to their communities, and that has an adverse effect on their personal ties to the community and a declining knowledge of public policy issues."

"That has played a big part in the declining voter turnout. If you can connect people to the community again, that can make a big difference in their lives and in our community."

Programming at the rivers has grown steadily as Butler expands many of the Riverfront opportunities, from bird watching

to riverboat tours and dragon boat racing. There's more kayaking and canoeing along with movies hosted along the Riverfront.

The opening in 2019 of Promenade Park will mark a major step forward in Riverfront programs, but there are already other ways for Fort Wayne and area residents to connect.

"We've been rolling out Citizen Science which is another way for people to experience nature," Butler said. "We have a healthy, vibrant ecosystem, and this provides a way for people to experience it hands on, in an active way. It allows regular people to be included in the collection of scientific data."

"We've already done Frog Watch with the zoo, and we'll be partnering with Cornell University ornithology lab for some bird watching."



Kent Castleman Executive Director, Fort Wayne Trails

With a resume in non-profit management, Kent Castleman joined Fort Wayne Trails as its executive director early in 2016. Bringing a business background along with a love of nature to his new position, Castleman hit the trails running and has worked with both the city of Fort Wayne and the Allen County Commissioners to help grow the trails, which have become extremely popular as area runners, hikers, and bicyclists have increased the demand for both functional and aesthetically pleasing places to travel.

With a strong background in fundraising, Castleman has not only secured funds but has established relationships which have helped the Fort Wayne Trails system grow.

"This has been a great year for the trails,"

he said. "We now have a little over 113 miles of trails. We partnered with the city on the Pufferbelly expansion, and the Allen County Commissioners and county highway department are providing a million dollars to trail expansion."

With Fort Wayne already working to develop the Rivergreenway, it became apparent that the real work for Fort Wayne Trails was involving outlying areas of Allen County. For example, the Pufferbelly expansion moves from the heart of the city into areas like Leo-Cedarville while an upcoming expansion will add trails on the north end of Metea County Park.

The commissioners have also agreed to a plan that would add more than three miles

of trails from the Life Bridge Church to Fitch Road.

Castleman says that for many years Indiana was lagging behind in the development of trails, but that's beginning to change primarily because of the work being done in this northeast corner of the state.

"Other states began their 'rail to trail' efforts long ago, taking the abandoned railways and turning them into trail systems," he said. "The Rivergreenway was first planned in 1976, and now 42 years later, we are seeing all of this growth in trails in our area. Indiana has lagged behind in the development of trails, but here in Fort Wayne and Allen County, we're leading the way. And you'll see even more growth in the next few years."



Caleb Young Assistant Conductor, Fort Wayne Philharmonic

When North Carolina native Caleb Young came to town just over two years ago, he'd been educated at Alabama and Indiana universities and had worked in Dallas and Atlanta.

But when he landed in Fort Wayne as assistant conductor just ahead of the 2016-17 Fort Wayne Philharmonic season, he made an investment in his new town and has made his own mark. His role as conductor of the Holiday Pops — not only at the Embassy Theatre but also in trips outside of the region — have made him the face of our city for many who might not otherwise see the orchestra.

"The Embassy show has become an embedded tradition in Fort Wayne," Young said. "It's a great responsibility and privilege to offer this to the community and keep adding to the fabric of the Fort Wayne Holiday Pops."

"But the rollout concerts are as big a tradition for people outside of Fort Wayne. When you're in a city with an orchestra, it can sometimes be taken for granted. But for many in these communities we visit, it may be their only opportunity to hear orchestral music, and in that way I feel like an ambassador when we visit places like Logansport, Rochester, Angola, Berne, or Columbia City."

He also tours many nearby communities in the days leading up to Independence Day when the Philharmonic's annual Patriotic Pops concerts makes multiple stops.

Young likes that the music of America can bring people together from different ideologies. He also likes encouraging new audiences to open their world to include orchestral music which has sometimes fallen on deaf ears.

A Philharmonic program, Music + Mixology, has allowed Young to reach out to those who might not otherwise see one of their performances.

"There's always a conversation about classical music dying, that it's just for the 'blue hairs,'" he said. "And that's a legitimate concern but also a question that's been asked for many years. People aren't necessarily exposed to classical music when they're three like I was, so maybe they don't hear it until their 18 or 20 or maybe even 30."

"Programs like these bring people to the performances by partnering them with a social event so tickets will include a drink voucher, and we all go to the Copper Spoon afterward. It makes it very accessible for people, and it's been a highlight of my two years here."



Christiana Danielle Top Ten Finalist, NBC's *The Voice* Season 14

What were the odds that sleepy Fort Wayne in Midwestern Indiana could provide two musical competitors in the NBC series *The Voice* in back-to-back seasons? As it turns out — and perhaps less surprising to those who know the musical community of the city — pretty good.

After Addison Agen drew much interest in the fall season of 2017, a Snider and Huntington University grad, Christiana Danielle, was about to put our community on the map yet again.

"I always loved music growing up," Danielle said. "I was not as outgoing, more private, and I did most of my singing in church. In college, I was determined to be more outgoing and got involved with the gospel choir and worship team."

Although she'd made a profile on the webpage for *The Voice*, it wasn't until she got an email saying that the final auditions were to be held in St. Louis that Danielle decided to ask her father to take her on that long ride for her big shot. She had already planned on a gap year before continuing her education, and that time was quickly filled when she passed her auditions and found herself progressing through the process, making important contacts along the way.

"There were so many great things that came out of it," she said. "The friendships I made, the meetings with the coaches, the encouragement from the community were all huge. I was unsure what I wanted to do before that experience, but I left with so much more confidence."

"Before *The Voice*, I wouldn't call myself a singer, but since then I've been singing and performing and writing songs. I'm working on an EP. It completely changed my trajectory."

This year has been filled with exciting opportunities for Danielle, including a big show at the Clyde Theatre and the chance to open for music legend CeCe Winans earlier this month. As she has worked to put together a band and a record, she still finds it hard to believe how much her life has changed in one short year.

"I had my first performance on *The Voice*. I had my first soldout show at the Clyde, and I put out my first single," Danielle said. "I still can't believe people can go online and buy my music."



Addison Agen Runner-Up Finalist, NBC's *The Voice* Season 13

Performing with her family from a tender age, Addison Agen never aspired to making music. It was just something she'd always done. It wasn't until someone heard her sing the national anthem at her high school, Concordia, that a more determined path in music was forged.

"My Spanish teacher looked up auditions for *The Voice* and saw that they'd be in Chicago that upcoming weekend," Agen said. "She called my mom and asked about going that weekend and offered to drive me. We had to be there two days in a row so she drove 12 hours that weekend to get us there and back for both days."

At that point in the audition process, there were still many rounds to go and Agen was supposed to keep the fact of her own audition secret, so it was a while before she could even

fathom the magnitude of what was going on. Auditions with the coaches followed and the ride continued until the finals, where Agen was runner-up in the contest that ended last December.

After catching her breath, Agen realized her entire life had changed.

"I always knew music would be part of my life, but I thought it would be a hobby," Agen said. "I thought for awhile about being a tattoo artist, of being an engineer, or being an art teacher. But after *The Voice*, I knew music was going to be my A plan."

She began catching up on her studies by switching to online high school and went about launching her career. It started with a bang just weeks after her *Voice* success with two soldout performances at the Embassy Theatre.

"That was huge," she said. "I went from singing in coffee houses to singing one song at a time on *The Voice*. But this was the first time I had ever done a whole show all at once."

This year has also meant putting together a band and working on a new album recorded at Sweetwater. Her area popularity has also led to more singing of the anthem, including one Sunday at a Colts game. She says she's learned a lot this year, about standing up for herself as well as developing her craft and looks forward to sharing her new album early in 2019.

"I've learned a lot about songwriting, and that's my biggest goal, much more than my singing," Agen said. "I'm not even close to where I want to be as a songwriter yet, but that's all right. I'm learning about the kind of artist I want to be, and I'll grow into that."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►



Heather Closson Grant and Program Manager, Arts United

Weisser Park Elementary School is well known for its arts education, so it isn't surprising that Heather Closson would take that early encouragement and run with it.

An early experience playing Baby Angel in Fort Wayne Youtheatre's holiday production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* sealed the deal, and Closson pursued additional outlets for her talents at Northeast School of Dance and Snider High School. After attending Ball State University, Closson moved to New York, returning to Fort Wayne in 2017.

Since her return, she has juggled multiple jobs and projects, all in support of the area's thriving arts community. Having worked at Science Central for a year, she recently accepted a position as grant and program manager for Arts United. She also teaches for Fort Wayne Youtheatre.

"My favorite thing about teaching is being able to give back to an organization that gave me my roots and gave me the confidence to do it," Closson said. "I knew I liked performing, but I didn't realize I could pursue it and didn't know that until I worked with Youtheatre and my dance studio. I want to share that knowledge earlier with the kids I teach and share my love of theater and movement with the next generation."

Closson has also been busy with a variety of diverse projects this past year.

As choreographer for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's recent sellout production of *Elf*, she worked with her mentor Leslie Hormann to bring a dynamic energy to the popular show based on the successful film.

She also provided choreography for Youtheatre productions of *Pinocchio* and *A*

Charlie Brown Christmas, and earlier in the year, she brought an entirely different energy to her work in Three Rivers Music Theatre's production of *Cabaret*.

After talking to TRMT's director Andy Planck about doing the choreography and securing that job, she decided to ask for one more opportunity.

"I never ask anyone to consider putting me in the cast of a show I'm choreographing because it can put too much of a strain on a production," she said. "But it would be a two-for-one on my bucket list, and I'm really grateful," Andy said yes.

"I was also very lucky that my dance friends were willing to learn to sing so they could audition for the show. Usually you get singers who can dance, but I had true and extraordinary dancers to work with in *Cabaret*."



Andy Planck Founder, Triple Threat Performing Arts Academy and Three Rivers Music Theatre

Born and raised in Fort Wayne, Andy Planck was a busy student at Northrop High School and playing trumpet for the marching band. But it was when he joined the show choir that he began tapping into his musical talent — and receiving attention for it.

"I never had any inkling that I was any good at it," he said. "I just did it because my friends did."

But he was further encouraged and inspired by three of his teachers — Barry Ashton, Bill Hines, and Del Proctor — to develop and pursue his talents for performing. After going to Ball State, he moved to New York and was in several touring productions of Broadway musicals which took him all over the country. When he came back to Fort Wayne, he was more clearly able to see a void which

he hoped to fill.

"We have a ridiculous concentration of performing arts talent which is obvious at all of the show choir competitions," he said. "I don't know what's in the water here, but it's extraordinary. I felt like there was nothing on a professional level for students interested in pursuing it."

His solution was to open the Triple Threat Performing Arts Academy, where students can take classes in the performing arts with seasoned professionals in a supportive environment. Planck also opened Three Rivers Music Theatre, which this year tackled some pretty hefty material, from the well-known *Cabaret* to the lesser known *Dogfight*.

"I'm always looking for pieces that Fort Wayne hasn't seen before," Planck said. "I

want pieces that push the envelope a little bit and challenge the narrative of our conservative community. There have always been so many pieces that people would say, 'I love that show but you could never do that here.' But if you do it, you put yourself in the position of leading a shift in the dialogue. In the case of *Cabaret*, it has been seen before but there have been some themes that were shied away from that I knew our company could present in an impactful way."

Coming up this year is the recent Broadway hit *Fun Home*, a coup for the area since it's very newly available. After having his first application rejected, Planck appealed and sent an impassioned plea to bring the show to the community. Three Rivers Music Theatre will be presenting *Fun Home* in February.



Dan Swartz Founder, Wunderkammer Company

Born in Fort Wayne but raised in Leo, Dan Swartz learned to appreciate the opportunities of urban life from his mother who brought him to the city for museums and the libraries. But he also developed a healthy appreciation for rural life and the love of nature it provided. Those interests have served him well as he left Fort Wayne to see a different life in New York, one which exposed him to an artistic culture he came to enjoy.

After returning to the area, he worked for a time at the Downtown Improvement District before looking for a place where he could help foster the same artistic climate he'd seen out east. Wunderkammer was born.

"Wunderkammer is a German word that translates to 'wonder chamber,'" Swartz said. "It's a concept that pre-dates the art world because centuries ago you'd see paintings in

churches or just have portraits of people.

"'Wunderkammer' was a place that you could see the new fashions, the new technology, dinosaur bones. It was a place where new ideas were shared. I really liked the idea of that. It provided something more encompassing than things in the art world because, oddly enough, the art world can be very conservative because there are rules that dictate certain things. But here we want to break the boundaries of art to see what's really happening in arts and culture from every aspect of creative culture and visual art."

In addition to providing artists a place for that first solo show, which is important in establishing new talent, the venue — which is the former Casa D'Angelo restaurant on Fairfield — hosts other creative endeavors, such as a recent writing event with local author

Helen Frost as well as the recurring Creative Women's Night Market.

Beginning this spring, Purdue Fort Wayne will host the student exhibit of its Visual Communication and Design department, having already hosted its fall exhibit for the last few years.

Wunderkammer has hosted musical events and has recently begun partnering with Three Rivers Music Theatre for their productions, with the fall performances of *Dogfight* and the upcoming *Fun Home*.

Another area of art has also benefited.

"We've had a lot of dance groups coming in to perform here because dance is something that really needs a lot of different venues. We have such a vibrant dance scene here, but until now haven't always had the capacity to provide a good performance space."

Wooden Nickel CD of the Week



METAL CHURCH DAMNED IF YOU DO

West coast thrash metal veterans Metal Church are back with their 12th album, *Damned If You Do*. This is the second album with original vocalist, Mike Howe, since his return to the group in 2015, and their first with W.A.S.P. drummer, Stet Howland. *Damned If You Do* features two lead singles, "By the Numbers" and the titular track, with music videos made for each song. The album is 40+ minutes of heavy metal pleasure for longtime and newcomer fans. Get *Damned If You Do* for \$11.99 at all Wooden Nickel Music stores.

TOP SELLERS @ WOODEN NICKEL

Week ending Dec. 16, 2018

TW	LW	ARTIST/Album
1	6	GRETA VAN FLEET <i>Anthem of the Peaceful Army</i>
2	2	THE BEATLES <i>White Album Remix</i>
3	1	QUEEN <i>Bohemian Rhapsody Soundtrack</i>
4	7	JOHN MELLENCAMP <i>Other People's Stuff</i>
5	-	VOLBEAT <i>Let's Boogie</i>
6	-	THE DECEMBERISTS <i>Traveling On</i>
7	4	VAN MORRISON <i>The Prophet Speaks</i>
8	3	THE 1975 <i>A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships</i>
9	-	ERIC CLAPTON <i>Happy Xmas</i>
10	-	BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN <i>Springsteen on Broadway</i>

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Spins LOCAL AND NATIONAL ALBUM REVIEWS

Mumford & Sons Delta



Arguably the only band to evoke nearly as much universal disdain as Nickelback, Mumford & Sons is never going to catch a break.

They couldn't catch a break when they dragged acoustic music onto the pop charts, nor when they changed course on 2015's *Wilder Minds*. And they certainly aren't going to catch a break with yet another stylistic shift on *Delta*, an attempt to nudge their music a little closer to the electronic pop that sells most records these days.

Without question, *Delta* is an uneven collection of songs. The opening track, "42," is a gospel-tinged tune that leverages the band's acoustic chops to transcend the bland electronic beat it's built on. Not as successful are more sparse tunes like "Woman" and "Beloved." The former sounds far too much like Dave Matthews without the complex arrangements. When the album goes in the opposite direction and tries to sound like Coldplay, as on "The Wild," that feels like a misstep, too.

Having been burnt by critics who just couldn't take a banjo-playing band seriously, Marcus Mumford and company have wandered off in search of something that will both sell records and please critics. But critics are never going to be comfortable with Mumford's morosely sincere lyrics, and no matter how many electronic touches they add, they're never going to be as cool as Halsey. *Delta* isn't going to win any new fans, and it isn't going to win back any old fans who were offended when the band put away the banjo. — Evan Gillespie

Thomas Ragsdale Self Zero



With a new album released in September called *Honley Civic Archives Volume 1*, you'd think it was time for Thomas Ragsdale to regroup and figure out where to go from here. But you'd be wrong. Ragsdale has just dropped a brand new album with the prolific record label Burning Witches Records. *Self Zero* hits the reset button on the quiet and delicate touch of *Archives* and turns the big synth vibes up to 11. The album is boisterous and exudes a heavy Berlin School vibe. *Self Zero* is the kind of end-of-the-year record we need right now.

When Ragsdale went into the process of writing *Self Zero*, he was channeling bands like Blanck Mass, Sunn O))), and Emptyset. That abrasiveness comes through here, though in Ragsdale's hands, it's more like palpable desolation. Album opener "Prophet Knoth" is an expansive 8-minute komische banger that feels like some deep space exorcism. It's constructed beautifully like a good epic track should be, but it never concedes to the listener's expectations.

"Harlow's Experiment" is next and the Froese

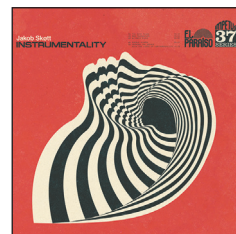
vibes are strong with this one. Thomas Ragsdale leaves the ambient moods at the door and goes straight for the heady synth vibes. The title track keeps those big, expansive feels going. There's an underlying feeling of anxiety lurking just below the surface in this track.

Elsewhere, "Teeth Upon Teeth and Limbs Dangling Beneath" feels cavernous with something dark lurking at the bottom. At times I'm reminded of Wendy Carlos' work in Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*. The subtle voice that comes through only adds to the darkness factor.

"Jamaica Vu" pulsates and snakes its way into your brain like Edgar Froese at his absolute best. "Coquina Clutch" starts as an alarm bell to possibly something sinister but settles into an ominous throb of synthesizer drone. "Heretics" closes the album on a hypnotic note.

Self Zero is a dark, engaging, and illuminating album that shows the diversity in Thomas Ragsdale's sonic playbook, while also gathering big ideas and concepts into one hell of an electronic record. — John Hubner

Jakob Skøtt Instrumentality



Since 2014, Jakob Skøtt has released *Amor Fati*, *Taurus Rising*, and *All The Colours of the Dust*, as well as two Videodrones LPs and five Causa Sui LPs (three studio albums and two live joints). The guy does not sit on his laurels. Not only does he make great music, he designs all his own album art, as well as the majority of the albums his record label, El Paraiso Records, puts out.

Jakob Skøtt has returned with *Instrumentality*, one of his most dense and personal collections of songs yet. The electro grooves remain, as does Skøtt's stellar drum work. But there's an element of pulsation and disorientation here, giving the album a feeling of being lost in one's own head.

The first thing you notice is just how heavy this album is. Opening track "The Dura Plane" blasts out of the speakers with a synth riff that sounds like it could just as well be Tony Iommi blasting Sabbath riffs through Marshall stacks. Skøtt keeps us grounded with his amazing drum work, but the vibe here is on some other plane.

"2nd Foundation" breezes in on a serious groove with the electronics reminiscent of Skøtt's own "Eastman Oyster" off *Amor Fati*. There's a real rawness to the sonic world here.

Back at the beginning of the year, Skøtt developed an immense headache that landed him in the hospital over New Year's. That headache was caused by a CSF leak, or cerebrospinal fluid leak. The docs didn't know what caused it and said Skøtt would eventually heal, which according to him he's about 95 percent there.

I mention this because this is sort of where *Instrumentality* begins. The record wasn't begun as some exercise in therapy, or a project to deal with what he'd gone through. Skøtt started this album like all the others before: loop some synth riffs, hit record, and sit behind the kit and see what

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Peter Tosh Mama Africa (1983)



Everybody knows that Peter Tosh and Bob Marley were in the same band, right? Well, Tosh left The

Wailers in the late '70s after a car crash killed his girlfriend and left Tosh critically hurt. He had a solo career that spanned just over a decade with seven studio records. This was his sixth release, was his highest charted record, and one of the best things he ever produced.

The title track kicks off the release and blends ska with bits of dub, reggae, and some modern jazz. It is an homage to his African roots (although he was born in Jamaica), and features soulful backing vocals and an almost pop guitar that floats along for over eight minutes.

"Glass House" continues the funky reggae-soul that Tosh carried at the end of his career, and dabbles in ska-dub again without getting too busy. Bright and jazzy horns are all over "Not Gonna Give It Up," and even with the lyrics that detail some inequalities from the homeland, is a very luminous number. Tosh was never afraid to be political, even to the point that it may have cost him his life. Great guitars in this track as well, with a gentle solo to bridge the two sections of the song.

"Stop That Train" is another sunny number that has a great backing horn between the tight harmonies and a tropical guitar riff. Tosh covers Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode," but changes the lyrics and arrangement to fit the island vibe. It has a blended guitar that lays down some funk. And finally, "Maga Dog" brings the album full circle, laying down some super-blended reggae with a passive groove that leaves you very peaceful and relaxed. Praise Jah!

Tosh released just one more record, and was murdered during a home invasion in 1987. He was 42. — Dennis Donahue

happens. But the subconscious has a way of taking over and the album we have now is a bit of a journey into the mind.

Take "Altered State," which is filled with woozy synth structures and a methodical rhythm. Skøtt's drum playing here is reminiscent of Stewart Copeland, while the melodies sway like exotic trees off some foreign shore, or rise like wavering heat signatures from sweltering asphalt.

Jakob Skøtt's newest LP sees him going inward, without making an album that feels overtly autobiographical. The songs here are noisy, dense, and filled with electronic brush strokes kept together by Skøtt's drum wizardry.

Even with it not being his intent, *Instrumentality* is a glimpse inside a mind healing. — John Hubner

10 Years	Dec. 28	Piere's Entertainment Center	Fort Wayne
1964 The Tribute	Mar. 22 '19	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
1964 The Tribute	Aug. 17 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, Don Q	Mar. 16 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Adia Victoria	Feb. 25 '19	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Air Supply	Mar. 1 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Alan Jackson w/William Michael Morgan	Apr. 26 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
America	Feb. 15 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Amorphis, Delain, Anneke Van Giersbergen	Sept. 27 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Anderson .Paak	Feb. 15 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Anderson .Paak	Feb. 16 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Anderson East, Lucie Silvas	Feb. 23 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Grizfolk, Flor	Mar. 1 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Grizfolk, Flor	Mar. 2 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Andy Frasco & The U.N., Wild Adriatic	Mar. 2 '19	Martyrs'	Chicago
Anita Renfroe	Feb. 14-16 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Anita Renfroe	Mar. 14 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ann Wilson	Dec. 27	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Anthony Gomes	Jan. 19 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Ariana Grande	Mar. 28 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
The Association	Apr. 13 '19	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Badfish	Feb. 15 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Badfish w/Bumpin Uglies, Roots of Creation	Feb. 22 '19	House of Blues	Cleveland
Banda MS	May 3 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Barenaked Ladies	July 20 '19	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Barenaked Ladies	Aug. 16 '19	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Barenaked Ladies	Aug. 17 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Baroness, Deafhaven, Zeal & Ardor	Apr. 9 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Baroness, Deafhaven, Zeal & Ardor	Mar. 31 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Beats Antique	Jan. 31 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Beirut, Helado Negro	Feb. 22 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Bellamy Brothers	Dec. 28-29	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Between the Buries and Me, Tesseract, Astronoid	Feb. 19 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	Jan. 25 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Blac Youngsta	Dec. 31	Piere's Entertainment Center	Fort Wayne
Blues Brothers	Feb. 22 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Bob Mould	Feb. 22-23 '19	Metro	Chicago
Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band	Jan. 15 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Boombox Cartel	Feb. 16 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Booth Brothers	Jan. 4-5 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Bowie Live	Jan. 4 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Branford Marsalis	Apr. 12 '19	Clowes Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Bring Me The Horizon	Feb. 4 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Bring Me The Horizon	Feb. 5 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Brothers Osborne, The Wild Feathers	Jan. 10 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Brothers Osborne, The Wild Feathers	Jan. 11 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Brothers Osborne, Wild Feathers	Jan. 12 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Buckets N Boards	Mar. 17 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Building 429	Jan. 11 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Candlebox	Feb. 14 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Candlebox	Feb. 16 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Cedric the Entertainer	Dec. 28	Sound Board	Detroit
Celtic Woman	Apr. 14 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Charlie Coffeen (of Sidewalk Chalk)	Dec. 31	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Chelsea Cutler	Feb. 16 '19	Metro	Chicago
Chris Lane, Dan + Shay	Mar. 30 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Classic Deep Purple w/Glenn Hughes	May 2 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
CNCO	Feb. 22 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Cohed and Cambria, Maps & Atlases	Feb. 26 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Collin Raye	Feb. 8 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Drifters, Platters	Dec. 23	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Cypress Hill, Hollywood Undead	Mar. 10 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
The Dandy Warhols	May 11 '19	Metro	Chicago
David Douillet & Jennifer Hayes	Jan. 27 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Davy Knowles	Feb. 15 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Dead & Company	June 12 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Dead & Company	June 14 '19	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Dead & Company	June 15 '19	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Demetri Martin	Mar. 2 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago

Devin Dawson	Feb. 22 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Diamond Rio	Mar. 30 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Dido	June 13 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Disturbed, Three Days Grace	Mar. 8 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Dream Theater	Apr. 2 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Dropkick Murphys	Feb. 19 '19	20 Monroe Live	Grand Rapids
Dylan Scott	Jan. 26 '19	Deluxe	Indianapolis
Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular	Jan. 20 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Eric Church	Mar. 22-23 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Eric Church	Apr. 19-20 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Eros Ramazzotti	June 26 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Fear, Power Trip, Venom Inc	Apr. 27 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
The Four Horsemen	Jan. 19 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Freddy Todd, HeRobust, Defunk	Dec. 22	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 17 '19	The Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 18 '19	House of Blues	Chicago
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 19 '19	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 20 '19	A&R Music Bar	Columbus, OH
Gaelic Storm	Feb. 28 '19	House of Blues	Chicago
Galantis	Dec. 30-31	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Gin Blossoms	Feb. 24 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Grand Funk Railroad	Jan. 26 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Greensky Bluegrass	Dec. 28-31	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Greensky Bluegrass	Feb. 8-9 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Guster w/Saintseneca	Apr. 11 '19	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Guster w/Saintseneca	Apr. 12 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Henhouse Prowlers	Dec. 30	Martyrs'	Chicago
Here Come the Mummies	Feb. 8 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Herman's Hermits feat. Peter Noone	Apr. 27 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Herman's Hermits feat. Peter Noone	Apr. 28 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
The Highwaymen	Jan. 12 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
The Hillbenders	Jan. 18 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Hippie Sabotage	Mar. 1 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Hugh Jackman	June 21 '19	United Center	Chicago
Hugh Jackman	June 24 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
In Flames, All That Remains, All Hail The Yeti	Feb. 21 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
The Infamous Stringdusters, Great Peacock	Mar. 27 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Iron Maiden w/The Raven Age	Aug. 22 '19	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre Tinley Park, IL	
Iron Maiden w/The Raven Age	Aug. 24 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Jake Shimabukuro w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Jan. 26 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
James Bay	Mar. 19 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
James Blake	Mar. 3 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Jamey Johnson	Feb. 2 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Jefferson Starship	Feb. 2 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Jenny Lewis	Mar. 30 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Jimmy Fortune, Lynda Randle, Aaron Wilburn	Dec. 31	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
John Mellencamp	Feb. 12 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Johnny Mathis	July 27 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Josh Groban	Apr. 2 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Josh Turner w/Raquel Cole	Jan. 25 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Judas Priest	May 25 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Justin Moore, Cody Johnson	Feb. 21 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Kamelot	Sept. 19 '19	Harpos Concert Theatre	Detroit
Kamelot	Sept. 20 '19	Agora Ballroom	Cleveland
Kamelot	Sept. 21 '19	Patio Theater	Chicago
Kansas	May 11 '19	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Kasey Chambers	Jan. 31 '19	Old Town School	Chicago
KC and the Sunshine Band	Mar. 2 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Kelly Clarkson w/Kelsea Ballerini	Feb. 22 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Kelly Clarkson w/Kelsea Ballerini	Mar. 21 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Kentucky Headhunters w/Confederate Railroad	Feb. 23 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Killer Queen	July 13 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Kim Richey	Jan. 4 '19	The B-Side @ One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
King's Singers	Feb. 16 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
The Kingsmen	Feb. 1 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Kiss	Mar. 2 '19	United Center	Chicago
Kiss	Mar. 9 '19	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Kiss	Mar. 13 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Kiss	Mar. 16 '19	Nationwide Arena	Columbus

Chicago Open Air Festival returns, ready to hard rock

The Chicago Open Air Festival took the year off in 2018, but looks to come back with a vengeance during the weekend of May 18-19.

Chicago Open Air is a Danny Wimmer Presents festival, just like the new Sonic Temple Art + Music Festival in Columbus the same weekend. Seems a bit odd to have two hard rock festivals the same weekend just 300 miles apart, but maybe it was easier to book that way since the two festivals will have many of the same names appearing.

The Saturday lineup in the Windy City features **System of a Down** as the headliner with **Ghost**, **Meshuggah**, and **Beartooth** also scheduled. Sunday will be topped off with an appearance from **Tool**, preceded by **The Prodigy**, **Gojira**, and **In This Moment**. With the exception of Tool, all of those bands are also scheduled to play Sonic Temple.

Chicago Open Air takes place in Seatgeek Stadium, formerly Toyota Park, in Bridgeview, 13 miles south-west of Chicago.

PUNK ROCK FEST IN LEGEND VALLEY

A new punk rock music, camping, and craft beer festival will launch in 2019 at Thornville, Ohio's Legend Valley, just outside Columbus. The three-day extravaganza, called Camp Anarchy, takes place May 31-June 2 and features **The Offspring**, **Rancid**, and **NOFX** as headliners.

Joining those legendary bands over the weekend are **Bad Religion**, **Less Than Jake**, **Sick of It All**, **The Damned**, and **TSOL**, among others. In addition to the on-stage happenings, there will be beer tastings, fair games, and the all-important dodgeball arena.

COUNTRY CONCERT IN OHIO

There's a lot of news out there regarding tours, but I am going to stay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ►



Road Notes

CHRIS HUPE

On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Kiss	Mar. 17 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Kiss	Aug. 29 '19	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Kiss	Aug. 31 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Knocked Loose	Dec. 21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
The Kooks	Feb. 21 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Kurt Vile and the Violators w/ Jessica Pratt	Dec. 22	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
LANY	May 8 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Lennon Stella	Mar. 28 '19	Metro	Chicago
Leslie Odom Jr. w/ Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Mar. 2 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Lettuce	Jan. 15 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Lewis Black	Mar. 29 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
The Little Mermen	Feb. 2 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Los Lonely Boys	Mar. 15 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Lotus	Dec. 30-31	Park West	Chicago
LP	Feb. 8 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Madmen Across The Water	Jan. 4 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Magic Giant, Castlecomer	Feb. 15 '19	Metro	Chicago
Maggie Salute	Jan. 24 '19	Piere's Entertainment Center	Fort Wayne
Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 21	Wharton Center	East Lansing
Marco Antonio Solis	Mar. 31 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
MercyMe	Apr. 28 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Metallica	Feb. 1 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Metallica w/ Jim Breuer	Mar. 11 '19	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Metric, July Talk	Mar. 25 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Metric, Zoë, July Talk	Mar. 22 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Michael Bublè	Mar. 17 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Michigan Rattlers	Jan. 26 '19	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Mighty Pines	Jan. 11 '19	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Mike Walker	Jan. 18 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Mo w/ Abra	Jan. 25 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Montgomery Gentry	Jan. 19 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Mumford & Sons	Mar. 9 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Mungion	Dec. 31	Martyrs'	Chicago
Musical Box	Mar. 19 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Nate Bargatze	Apr. 6 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Nellie "Tiger" Travis	Apr. 27 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Neon Indian	Dec. 30	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
New Kids on the Block, Naughty By Nature	Mar. 4 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	May 2 '19	US Bank Arena	Cincinnati
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	May 4 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	May 5 '19	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	June 13 '19	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	June 14 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	June 15 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	June 18 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
New Kids on the Block, Salt-N-Pepa, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany	June 22 '19	Schottenstein Center	Columbus
Newsboys United, Danny Gokey, Mandisa, Rend Collective	Mar. 28 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Oh Pep!	Mar. 21 '19	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Old Dominion w/ Jordan Davis, Morgan Evans	Jan. 18 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Old Dominion w/ Jordan Davis, Morgan Evans	Feb. 16 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Orgy, Lords of Acid, Genitorturers, Little Miss Nasty	Mar. 8 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Our Last Night, State Champs	Mar. 2 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Pancho Barraza	Apr. 13 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Papa Roach, Asking Alexandria, Bad Wolves	Aug. 23 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Paul McCartney	June 3 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Phil Wickham	Feb. 9 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Philips, Craig and Dean	Mar. 8 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Pink	Apr. 26-27 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Pink	Apr. 30 '19	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Pop Evil w/ Don Jamieson, Them Evils	Feb. 8 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Postmodern Jukebox	May 7 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne



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Umprey's McGee with Moser Woods	Feb 21
Boney James	Apr 25

Los Lobos with Neal Francis	Mar 2
Classic Deep Purple Live with Glenn Hughes	May 2

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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

The Purple Xperience	May 4 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Queen + Adam Lambert	July 27 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Queen + Adam Lambert	Aug. 9 '19	United Center	Chicago
Queen + Adam Lambert	Aug. 13 '19	Nationwide Arena	Columbus
Quinn XCII, Ashe	Mar. 15 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Quinn XCII, Ashe	Mar. 20 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Rain	Mar. 17 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Rainbow Kitten Surprise w/Mt. Joy	Feb. 8-9 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Rascal Flatts, Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Lady Antebellum	Dec. 31	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Rayland Baxter	Jan. 15 '19	The B-Side @ One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band	Dec. 28	Martyrs'	Chicago
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder	May 24 '19	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Roberto Carlos	Mar. 21 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Robyn	Mar. 6 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Rodney Crowell	Mar. 14 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Rok Hollywood	Dec. 28	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Roots of Creation, Bumpin Uglies, Badfish	Feb. 22 '19	House of Blues	Cleveland
Roseanne Barr	May 17 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Russ Taff	Apr. 4 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Russell Dickerson and Carly Pearce	Jan. 26 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
The Sadies, Kurt Vile	Feb. 21 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Sam Harris	Jan. 28 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Sanctus Real	Apr. 14 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Sandi Patty w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Mar. 30 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Scott Bradley's Postmodern Jukebox	Feb. 1 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Shawn Mendez	Aug. 5 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Shinedown w/Papa Roach, Asking Alexandria	Mar. 7 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Sixteen Candles	Dec. 22	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Skism, Zomboy, Trampa, Badklaat	Feb. 8 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Slayer, Lamb of God, Cannibal Corpse, Amon Amarth	May 16 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Slayer, Lamb of God, Cannibal Corpse, Amon Amarth	May 19 '19	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Snail Mail	Jan. 17 '19	Metro	Chicago
Snarky Puppy	May 17 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Snarky Puppy	May 18 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Sonata Arctica, Kamelot	Sept. 20 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Space Jesus, Buku, Toadface, Huxley Anne	Feb. 17 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Spafford	Feb. 1 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 21-23	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Switchfoot w/Colony House, Tyson Mostenbocker	Mar. 3 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Switchfoot w/Colony House, Tyson Mostenbocker	Mar. 8-9 '19	Park West	Chicago
Terri Clark, Pam Tillis, Suzy Boggus	Mar. 9 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Texas Tenors	Mar. 16 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Tim Hawkins	Apr. 26 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Todd Snider	Apr. 18 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Train w/Goo Goo Dolls, Allen Stone	July 20 '19	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Train w/Goo Goo Dolls, Allen Stone	July 21 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Train w/Goo Goo Dolls, Allen Stone	July 23 '19	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Train w/Goo Goo Dolls, Allen Stone	July 24 '19	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Train w/Goo Goo Dolls, Allen Stone	Aug. 14 '19	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 28	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 30	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Travis Tritt	Mar. 2 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Trevor Hall, Dirtwire	Mar. 22 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Umphrey's McGee w/Moser Woods	Feb. 21 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Vince Staples, JpegMafia	Mar. 12 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Vince Staples, JpegMafia	Mar. 12 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Walk Off The Earth	May 21 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Walk Off The Earth	May 22 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Weird Al Yankovic	July 2 '19	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Wet, Kilo Kish	Mar. 12 '19	Metro	Chicago
Whitesnake	May 15 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Why Don't We	Apr. 12 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Winner	Jan. 24 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Wisin & Yandel	June 7 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Yuri, Pandora	Mar. 16 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Zhu	Feb. 23 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland

Road Notes

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

on the festival subject for one more bit of info. Country Concert, in Fort Loramie, Ohio, about an hour and a half from Fort Wayne, takes place July 11-13, 2019.

Headliners for that event are **Thomas Rhett**, **Chris Stapleton**, and sometimes rocker, sometimes good ol' boy **Kid Rock**. Others heavyweights on the bill include **Aaron Lewis**, **Kip Moore**, **Gary Allan**, **Granger Smith**, and **Dustin Lynch**.

HEADBANGING WITH SLAYER

Slayer have announced the final North American tour dates for their farewell tour. Continuing the quest to achieve their goal of playing "as many places as possible," this fifth leg of the tour will see the band stop by Indianapolis on May 16 and Detroit on May 19.

These promise to be amazing shows as you will not only get to see Slayer one last time, but also openers **Lamb of God**, a band that can headline just about any other tour, Viking metallers **Amon Amarth**, and the biggest-selling death metal band of all-time, **Cannibal Corpse**. Heads are guaranteed to be banging all night long.

Road Trips

LOCAL ACTS ON TOUR

Adam Baker & The Heartache, Three Cities

Jan. 19 '19 Bobby T's Campus, West Lafayette

Buldogs

Jan. 26 '19 Key Palace Theatre, Redkey
Mar. 30 '19 American Legion Post 470, Coldwater, OH

May 11 '19 2nd Saturday, Peru
May 30 '19 Egg Festival, Mentone
June 7 '19 Central Park, Warsaw
June 9 '19 Callaway Park, Elwood
June 15 '19 Randolph Nursing Home, Winchester
June 21 '19 Clock Tower, Berne
July 5 '19 1st Friday, Wabash
July 12 '19 Music Fest, Fremont
July 15 '19 Madison Co. Fair, Alexandria
July 27 '19 Hickory Acres Campground, Edgerton, OH

Aug. 3 '19 State Line Festival, Union City
Aug. 9 '19 Bethel Pointe, Muncie
Aug. 23 '19 Main Street, Quincy, MI
Aug. 31 '19 Fish Lake Family Resort, Fremont
Sept. 5 '19 Covered Bridge Festival, Roann
Sept. 21 '19 Nappanee Apple Festival, Nappanee
Sept. 27 '19 Ducktail Run, Gas City

Gypsy Bandit

Dec. 22 Eagles Post 2233, Bryan, OH

COMING NEXT WEEK

Our New Year's Eve
events guide!



COURTESY PHOTO

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, starring the voice talents of Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, and Hailee Steinfeld, has reviewers saying this is the best on-screen version of Spider-Man ever.

Vivid animation plus a rich story makes new film best Spidey ever

Two major questions loom large over the latest from Sony Pictures Animation: Does the world really need another superhero movie, and more importantly, does it really need another Spider-Man movie? *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* answers both of these questions early and often with an emphatic “yes.”

This is not only the most electrifying superhero film of the year, but it's also the best on-screen version of the web-slinger that I've ever seen.

Packed to the brim with vivid and vibrant animated flourishes that call back to the rich comic book heritage of this series, this is a film that honors the mythology of its central character while expanding on it beautifully.

At the center of this Spider-Man story is Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), a bright teenager who develops unusual abilities after being bitten by a genetically modified spider.

While this part of the story is certainly familiar, the new twist this time around is the introduction of a particle accelerator that allows for access of parallel universes. This leaves the gateway open for other inter-dimensional iterations of Spider-Man, including Peter Parker (Jake Johnson) and Spider-Woman (Hailee Steinfeld), among others. Together, they all have to come together to stop Kingpin (Liev Schreiber), along with two other major foes, as they try to destroy New York City.

The design of this film is unlike any other that I've seen from another animated picture before, weaving together the aesthetics of various genres from anime to Looney Tunes-era cartoons in a spectacularly clever manner. It also incorporates the use of purposefully misaligned colors to out-of-focus objects in the background, which replicates the look and feel of comic books from the 1960s where Spider-Man was born.

On top of these homages to other mediums, the film is also astonishing in its implementation of cutting-edge computer animation, especially during the climactic



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

PG for frenetic sequences of animated action violence, thematic elements, and mild language

1 hour 57 minutes



showdown that shuffles objects from one dimension to another.

It would be enough if this was simply the best-looking Spider-Man movie, but thanks to co-writer Phil Lord (also behind last year's similarly hilarious *The LEGO Batman Movie*), it's also the funniest. The movie respectfully pokes fun at the different interpretations of Spider-Man that have appeared in comics through the years, from 1930s detective styled Spider-Noir (voiced by Nicolas Cage) to Spider-Ham (voiced by John Mulaney), who has the power to “float in the air at the smell of a delicious pie.”

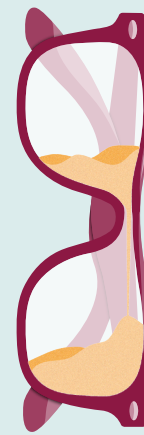
It also has some fun with superhero tropes like the down-to-the-wire heroics; at one point, Parker quips, “There's always a little time before people die and that's where I do my best work.”

What I appreciated most is that these jokes and the accompanying kinetic animation style don't detract from the fact that this has an excellent origin story at its core that, spider-bite aside, is very different from what we've seen in a film up to this point. The self-referential humor can be cheeky but not in a way that tries to tear down the myth behind the superhero; the trio of directors behind this movie clearly have a great reverence for the character and his lineage.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse is the most invigorating superhero film I've seen since *The Avengers* in 2012 and proves that even in an over-saturated market, fresh ideas can still be found.

COMING TO THEATERS THIS WEEKEND

Turn to page 5 in this issue of *Whatzup* to read my feature story about the five big movies being released for the Christmas holiday season.



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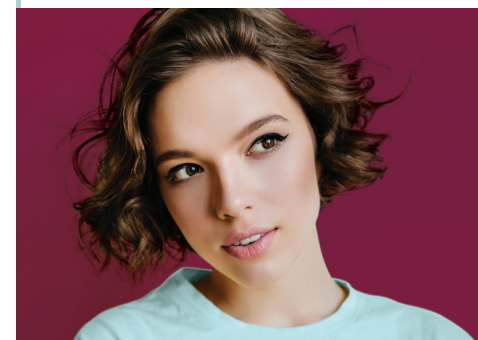
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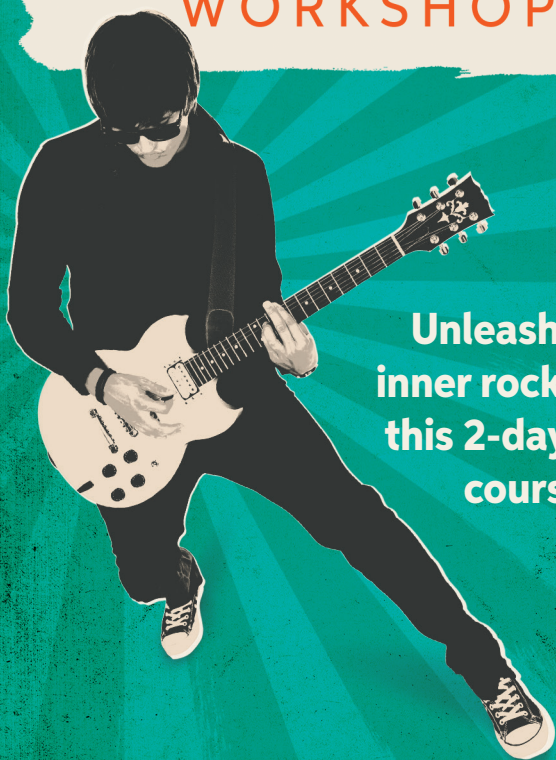


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COURTESY PHOTO
Our reviewer's top
film of 2018 is easily
Isle of Dogs, the Wes
Anderson stop-
animation feature.

Countdown to the top films of 2018

Since the box office isn't much of a topic in December, I figure that this week we'll blow through all the talk of new releases and box office results and instead talk about the best films of 2018.



**Screen
Time**

GREG W. LOCKE

TOP OF THE BOX

Animated flick *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* took the No. 1 spot at the U.S. box office with \$35 million in sales over its first weekend of release, while Clint Eastwood's Oscar bait flick, *The Mule*, stumbled, taking the No. 2 spot at the box with just \$17 million in sales. There's not much else to note this week, aside from the failure of *Mortal Engines*, a film that cost well over \$100 million to make. The movie made just \$7.5 million while playing on over 3,100 screens. Oof.

TOP 25 FILMS OF 2018 (SO FAR)

In a typical year I do my best to see everything. By this time of year I've usually seen somewhere around 150 new films. I revisited my columns from past years and found that no matter how many movies I saw in a given year, there were still only around 25 or so each year that I really loved and was glad I made the effort to see. That's one out of six. This year, however, I've been busy, and thus more selective than usual. Here they are, the 25 films I've liked the most so far in 2018:

25. *Love, Simon* (dir. Greg Berlanti)
24. *Paddington 2* (dir. Paul King)
23. *A Quiet Place* (dir. John Krasinski)
22. *Flower* (dir. Max Windler)
21. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (dir. Susan Johnson)
20. *Three Identical Strangers* (dir. Tin Wordle)
19. *Private Life* (dir. Tamara Jenkins)
18. *Annihilation* (dir. Alex Garland)
17. *Solo* (dir. Ron Howard)
16. *Tully* (dir. Jason Reitman)
15. *How to Talk to Girls at Parties* (dir. John Cameron Mitchell)
14. *Lizzie* (dir. Craig William MacNeill)
13. *Eighth Grade* (dir. Bo Burnham)
12. *Creed II* (dir. Steven Caple, Jr.)
11. *Sorry to Bother You* (dir. Boots Riley)
10. *Roxanne* (dir. Michael Larnell)
9. *The Other Side of the Wind* (dir. Orson Welles)
8. *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* (dir. Coen Brothers)
7. *Hereditary* (dir. Ari Aster)
6. *First Man* (dir. Damien Chazelle)
5. *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot* (dir. Gus Van Sant)

4. *First Reformed* (dir. Paul Schrader)
3. *Blackklansman* (dir. Spike Lee)
2. *You Were Never Really Here* (dir. Lynne Ramsay)
1. *Isle of Dogs* (dir. Wes Anderson)

25 FILMS I REALLY WANT TO SEE

While it feels unlikely that any movie will surpass Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* for me this year, but here are the 25 movies (ranked according to how badly I want to see them) I'm looking forward to seeing most:

25. *Bohemian Rhapsody* (dir. Bryan Singer)
24. *midgots* (dir. Jonah Hill)
23. *The Sisters Brothers* (dir. Jacques Audoard)
22. *Halloween* (dir. David Gordon Green)
21. *A Star Is Born* (dir. Brad Cooper)
20. *Incredibles 2* (dir. Brad Bird)
19. *The Rider* (dir. Chloe Zhao)
18. *Green Book* (dir. Peter Farrelly)
17. *Mission: Impossible - Fallout* (dir. Christopher McQuarrie)
16. *The Old Man and the Gun* (dir. David Lowery)
15. *Lean on Pete* (dir. Andrew Haigh)
14. *Suspiria* (dir. Luca Guadagnino)
13. *Cold War* (dir. Pawel Pawlikowski)
12. *Zama* (dir. Lucrecia Martel)
11. *Widows* (dir. Steve McQueen)
10. *Shoplifters* (dir. Hirokazu Koreeda)
9. *Support the Girls* (dir. Andrew Bujalski)
8. *Wildlife* (dir. Paul Dano)
7. *Let the Sunshine In* (dir. Claire Denis)
6. *Burning* (dir. Chang-dong Lee)
5. *Minding the Gap* (dir. Bing Liu)
4. *If Beale Street Could Talk* (dir. Barry Jenkins)
3. *Vice* (dir. Adam McKay)
2. *The Favourite* (dir. Yorgos Lanthimos)
1. *Roma* (dir. Alfonso Cuarón)

So yay, after a ho-hum 2017, 2018 looks to be a truly great year at the movies.

GUESSING MY FINAL TOP TEN FILMS OF 2018

Here's what I'll guess my year-end top 10 list for 2018 will look like after I've seen everything:

10. *midgots* (dir. Jonah Hill)
9. *Support the Girls* (dir. Andrew Bujalski)
8. *If Beale Street Could Talk* (dir. Barry Jenkins)
7. *First Reformed* (dir. Paul Schrader)
6. *Vice* (dir. Adam McKay)
5. *The Favourite* (dir. Yorgos Lanthimos)
4. *Blackklansman* (dir. Spike Lee)
3. *You Were Never Really Here* (dir. Lynne Ramsay)
2. *Roma* (dir. Alfonso Cuarón)
1. *Isle of Dogs* (dir. Wes Anderson)

That's a list I think I would be very happy with. Send your year-end lists my way at gregwlocke@gmail.com.

ASIDES

AUDITIONS

Bach Collegium — Auditions for new collegium members, by appointment, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, 485-2143

Ben Butler (April 18-May 4) — Roles for 15-20 actors of all genders and races for Civil War drama directed by John O'Connell, **6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 426-7421 ext. 121, thofrichter@firstpres-fw-org

A Comedy of Tenors (March 8-23) — Roles for four men and three women in comedy by Ken Ludwig (Lend Me a Tenor), **7 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Jan. 20-21**, Arena Dinner Theatre Rehearsal Hall, 1020 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, 424-5622

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (April 26-May 5) — Auditions for all for One productions' stage adaptation of the 2006 book by Kate DiCamillo **7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26**, First Missionary Church, Fort Wayne, 422-4226

Pippin (April 26-May 11) — Roles for three to four men, three to four women and a chorus in Stephen Schwartz musical, **7 p.m. Sunday-Monday, March 10-11**, Arena Dinner Theatre Rehearsal Hall, 1020 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, 424-5622

Rapunzel (May 16-18) — Auditions for Fort Wayne Youtheatre production, **4-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, April 9-10**, East Hall, Arts United Center, 422-4226

SPECIAL EVENTS

SNAFU in Santa's Workshop — Ecstatic Theatrics production with gift-making activities, games, and selfies with Santa, **2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**, TekVenture, Fort Wayne, \$3, 750-9013

Breakfast with Santa Preshow Party — Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus prior to Fort Wayne Youtheatre's production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, **10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15**, McKay Hall, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$30, 422-4226

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

JANUARY

The Christians — Lucas Hnath's drama examining a church's dispute over doctrine, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 3-5 and Friday-Saturday, Jan. 11-12; 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 426-7421 ext. 121

Swan Lake — National Ballet Theatre of Odessa's production of classic Tchaikovsky ballet, **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$60 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

Love/Sick — A collection of nine slightly twisted, hilarious short plays by John Cariani (Almost, Maine), **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19, Jan. 25-26 and Feb. 1-2**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

The Magic School Bus — Musical adaptation based on the original Scholastic book series featuring Mrs. Frizzle, **10 a.m. and noon, Wednesday, Jan. 30**, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, 563-1102

Kinky Boots — Broadway at the Embassy's production of Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award-winning musical, **7:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, Jan. 29, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$70 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

FEBRUARY

After the Miracle: Helen Keller — Gregory Stieber's adaptation of the Helen Keller story for Fort Wayne Youtheatre's Linda L. Ruffolo Young Heroes of Conscience Series, **7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8; 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10**, Black Box Theatre, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, 422-4226

Love Notes — Fort Wayne Ballet's annual Valentine-themed production, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 15-16**, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for the Arts & Culture Fort Wayne, \$20 (\$50 VIP package), 422-4226

The Wedding Gift — Fort Wayne Civic Theatre musical production about 1950s scam artists who target wealthy bachelors, **8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17; 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Feb. 22-24**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$30, 422-4226

An Ideal Husband — all for One's production of Oscar Wilde's PG-rated romantic comedy, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 3**, Black Box Theatre, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$20, 422-4226

Once Upon a Mattress — Purdue Fort Wayne Department of Theatre's production of the musical loosely based upon the story of "The Princess and the Pea," **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 28-March 2**, Williams Theatre, Purdue Fort Wayne, \$5-\$18 through Purdue Fort Wayne box office 481-6555

Aladdin — Fort Wayne Ballet Family Series production, **10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23**, Fort Wayne Ballet Studios, Auer Center for the Arts & Culture Fort Wayne, \$10, 422-4226

Twelfth Night — Shakespeare comedy of love, revelry and gender identity, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 28-March 2 and Friday-Saturday, March 8-9; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 426-7421 ext. 121

MARCH

The Wizard of Oz — Broadway at the Embassy musical production based on the 1939 movie and Frank L. Baum novels, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$65 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

Rise Up, O Men — A Church Basement Ladies musical comedy, **3 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 5**, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$18-\$25, 563-1102

Finding Neverland — Broadway at the Embassy's production of the musical based on the Academy Award-winning movie about playwright J.M. Barrie, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$65 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

A Comedy of Tenors — Ken Ludwig's (Lend Me a Tenor, Moon Over Buffalo) comedic farce set in 1930s Paris, **7 p.m.**


dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, March 8-9, March 15-16 and March 22-23, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

The Very Hungry Caterpillar — Children's book classic transformed into a love show through puppetry, **2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, March 10**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, \$15-\$35 through box office, 419-238-6722

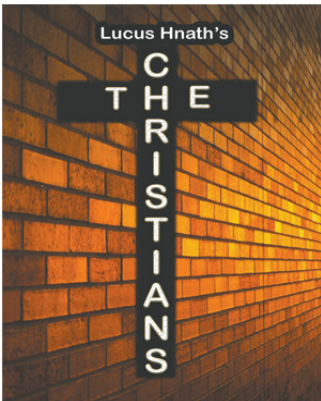
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike — Fort Wayne Civic Theatre dramatic production partially derived from the works of Anton Chekhov, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 22-23; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 24; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 29-30; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 31**, PPG Arts Lab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$26, 422-4226

Something Rotten! — Broadway at the Embassy's production of the hit musical about two brothers who set out to write the world's first musical in the year 1595, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$65 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

Cinderella — Fort Wayne Ballet Main Stage production of the classic fairy tale ballet (w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic), **7:30 p.m. Friday, March 22; 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 24**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$19-\$44, 422-4226



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CURRENT

Fantasy of Lights — Two-mile drive-through featuring more than 300 illuminated light displays to benefit Blue Jacket, **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, through Dec. 31**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$10 personal vehicle, \$20 commercial van, \$40 trolley or bus, 744-1900

Old Time Country Christmas Festival of Lights — 1800s themed Christmas village with thousands of lights, holiday music, Christmas trees, and general store, **4-8 p.m. daily through Dec. 22**, Moose Lake Christian Craft Village, LaOt-to, free, 637-2372

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AUTHORS, READINGS & FILMS

Susan Man McCulloch: Heirloom Fruits and Traditional Recipes — George R. Mather Lecture by John Beatty, **2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6**, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

The Maltese Falcon — Showing of the 1941 film starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor as part of the Film Noir at the Embassy series, **3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$10, 424-5665

Double Indemnity — Showing of the original 1944 film as part of the Film Noir at the Embassy series, **3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$10, 424-5665

Rudy — Showing of the 1993 film about a struggling athlete and student trying to make the Notre Dame football team as part of the Sports Flicks movie series, **3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$10, 424-5665

David & Jenn Doubilet — Underwater and wildlife photographers share their photos and stories from their National Geographic assignments, **3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, \$20-\$35, (419) 238-6722

For the Union, First, Last, and Always? — Jane Gastineau examines Allen County during the Civil War as part of the George R. Mather Lecture Series, **2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3**, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

John Cusack Plus High Fidelity — Screening of the 2000 film with live conversation and Q&A with John Cusack to follow, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9**,

Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$42.50-\$203.50, 424-5665

KIDS STUFF

Countdown to Noon — Balloon drop, noisemakers, science demonstrations, face painting, party hats, and more, **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31**, Science Central, Fort Wayne, \$9, 424-2400

Countdown to New Year's — Kid friendly celebration with crafts, count-down, music, dancing, and apple juice toast, **11 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31**, main branch, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, free, registration requested, 421-1220

Kids NYE Lock-In — Sports, games, music, movies, countdown to midnight, dinner, breakfast, and snacks, **8 p.m.-8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31**, Game Day Sports Camp, Ash Center, Fort Wayne, \$50, 225-3440

Young Naturalist Series: History of Groundhog Day — Educational presentation, Groundhog Day predictions, crafts and snacks for ages 5-10, **10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19**, Psi Ote Lower Pavilion, Northside Park, Fort Wayne, free, 427-5166

INSTRUCTION

Fort Wayne Ballet — Dance classes for ages 3 and up with live accompaniment and personalized training, dates and times vary, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, fees vary, 484-9646

Purdue Fort Wayne Community Arts Academy — Art, dance, music and theater classes for grades pre-K through 12 offered by Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, fees vary, scholarships available, 481-6059

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

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Ice Skating — Ice skating for all ages and abilities, **noon-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17-Jan. 8; 1-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9-March 3**, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, skate rental \$2, 422-7625

SPECTATOR SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Mad Ants — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne **Friday, Dec. 28** vs. Delaware, **7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30** vs. Greensboro, **5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4** vs. Wisconsin, **7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7** vs. Stockton, **7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11** vs. Erie, **7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14** vs. Agua Caliente, **7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19** vs. Lakeland, **7 p.m.**

Harlem Globetrotters — Exhibition basketball featuring theater, athleticism, and comedy, **1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$19-\$259, 483-1111

HOCKEY

Komets — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne **Friday, Dec. 21** vs. Kalamazoo, **8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22** vs. Toledo, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27** vs. Kalamazoo, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29** vs. Cincinnati, **7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31** vs. Brampton, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5** vs. Indy, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12** vs. Utah, **7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13** vs. Kalamazoo, **5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16** vs. Kalamazoo, **7:30 p.m.**

KICKBOXING

Kickboxing in the Fort VI — Kickboxing competition to benefit Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana, **7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26** at Empowered Sports Center, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$35, 602-7039

RACING

Flat Track Motorcycle Racing — Motorcycle racing on a 1/8th-mile short track covered in Coke syrup, **5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22** at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, 483-1111

Rumble in the Fort — Midget, quarter midget, and 600's racing, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29** at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$20, 483-1111

DANCE

Embody Dance — Guided dancing for adults of all ages and abilities to exercise the mind, body, and spirits, **1:23 p.m. every Sunday**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$10 suggested donation, 244-1905

DECEMBER

Kwanzaa Celebration — Music, dancing, poetry, Kwanzaa feast, concert performance by Majestic, **6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27**, Weissner Park Youth Center, Fort Wayne, free, 427-6780

PopCon — Celebrity guests, YouTubers, board gaming, video gaming, laser tag, panels, workshops, podcasts, cosplay contest, and more, times **10 a.m.-midnight Saturday, Dec. 29**, and **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30**, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$90, (866) 544-4007

NYE Ball Drop — Live music, fireworks, countdown to 2019, ball drop, and more, **7 p.m.-midnight Monday, Dec. 31**, Parkview Field, Fort Wayne, free, VIP gala \$45, fwballdrop.com

Time Travelers Ball — Games, light appetizers, characters from the past, present, and future, countdown to midnight, door prizes and raffles, and more, **7 p.m.-12 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31**, Game Annex, Fort Wayne, \$20, 459-4263

New Year's Eve Grand Gala — DJ Rello, cash bar, photographer, dancing, hors d'oeuvres buffet, and appearances from Big Kress and Whitney White, **8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31-1 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1**, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$1000, 424-3700

NYE Masquerade Ball — Costumed party with Billy & Jodie Ballenger and Break the Grey; alcohol-free event **8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31-1 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1**, Life Bridge Church, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$75, 338-0700

JANUARY

Gun and Knife Show — Archery, military collectibles, army surplus, survival gear and related items on display and for sale, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5**, and **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$7, 493-6144

Bridal Spectacular — Bridal show featuring over 100 booths of wedding related items and services, door prizes, samples, runway show, and more, **noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6**, and **noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10, 438-3395

Savor Fort Wayne — Twelve days of menu deals from dozens of local restaurants, **hours vary per locations, Sunday-Thursday, Jan. 9-20**, various locations, Fort Wayne, prices vary per location, visitfortwayne.com/savor

Fort Wayne Farm Show — Farm expo with heavy equipment and farm machinery on display, CPR classes, auctions, and marketplace, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16; and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, free, 483-1111

Jay Owenhouse: Family Magic, Experience the Impossible — Magic and illusion performance featuring tigers and acts originally performed by Harry Houdini, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$34.50-\$79.50, 424-5665

Mizpah Shrine Circus — Aerial performances, elephants and big cats, circus clowns, feats of dexterity, daredevil acts, and more, **7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25; 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26; 1 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$14-\$22, 483-1111

Health & Wellness Expo — Healthy living products, sporting competitions, vendors, and more, **8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26**, Empowered Sports Center, Fort Wayne, \$8, 602-7039

Nouvelle Annee — Living history reenactment of the French and Indian war, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26**, Historic Old Fort, Fort Wayne, free, 427-6000

Winter Cozy — Heated tent with cozy furniture featuring cocktails, food for purchase, live music, games, ice sculptures, and drink luges, **8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26**, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, \$10, ages 21 and up, 427-6248

RV & Camping Show — Hundreds of RVs, motor homes, fifth wheels, park models, and toy haulers on display and for sale, **11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1; noon-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$20, 483-1111

FEBRUARY

ChocolateFest — Riley Children's Hospital fundraiser with three chocolate dipping stations, dinner and cash bar, live band, and silent auction, **6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8**, Orchid Event Center, New Haven, \$40, 749-4901

WMEE Baby Fair & Family Expo — Products and services for a healthy family, giveaways, Kids Kingdom, and live stage performances, **9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, free, 483-1111

Boat Show & Sale — Boats, water skis, water toys, lifts, piers, docks, boat covers and patio furniture on display and for sale; DNR water safety classes, **3-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 14-15; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10, 483-1111

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All profits will benefit Invisible Vets, a local non-profit assisting homeless veterans.

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CURRENT EXHIBITS

1026 West Berry Street: The Fort Wayne Art School — Pieces loaned by students, friends, family, and faculty from the "Old Art School," **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Feb. 10**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

The Art Show of Traveling — Oil paintings by Rodka "Roddy" Dammeyer, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday through Dec. 30**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

Daniel Clayman: Shift — 8-10 diverse forms sculpted in minimalist style, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Feb. 24**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

Fall 2018 BFA Exhibition — Purdue Fort Wayne senior thesis projects in graphic design and photography, **6-9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday through Dec. 28**, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, 481-6977

Fort Wayne Artist Guild Exhibitions — Works by Karen Bixler at Active Day of Fort Wayne, Jerry Hertenstein at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Carey Collie at Allen County Retinal Surgeons, Valerie McBride at Citizens Square 2nd floor, Nancy Longmate at Citizens Square 3rd floor, Fort Wayne Artists Guild Members' Show at Heritage of Fort Wayne, Linda Hall and Nancy Longmate at Ophthalmology Consultants (Southwest), Mary Johnston at Ophthalmology Consultants (North), Lynne Padgett at Pat Bryan Insurance Agency, Brenda Stichter at Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne, Carol Bennett at Town House Retirement, Barb Yoder at Visiting Nurse Hospice, and Dick Heffelfinger and Mary Lou Hutter at Will Jewelers **through Dec. 31**, fortwayneartistguild.org.

From It To Thou — Photographic works from Jim Gabbard and graphic design works from Peter Bella, **5-8 p.m. Friday, 4-7 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, and by appointment, through Dec. 23**, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, 704-5400

Holiday Themed Art — Ornaments, Nativity scenes and other holiday-themed art, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday through Dec. 31**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

Holiday Show — Artist invitational featuring works from Nancy Haley, Charles White, C.W. Munday, Michael Poorman, Donna Shortt, Forrest Formsma, Randall Scott Harden, EJ Paprocki, Fred Doloresco, Joseph Orr, and Pamela Newell, **11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday through Jan. 5**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

Holiday Pop Up Gallery — Works in a variety of mediums including ceramics, fiber, jewelry, mixed media, sculpture, glass, metal, and more on display and for sale, **noon-6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday through Dec. 30**, Art Farm, Spencerville, 740-8725

Medieval to Metal: The Art and Evolution of the Guitar — Exhibition showcasing the history and evolution of the guitar, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 6**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

A Moveable Feast — Graphic designs, sketches, 3-D compositions, sculptures, and oil and acrylic paintings by Dale White, **7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday through Jan. 5**, Conjure Coffee Roastery & Cafe, Fort Wayne, 422-7770

Reclamation: The Art of Lucien Shapiro, Ben Venom, and Ravi Zupa — Works made from discarded items in a variety of mediums, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 27**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

Stream of Consciousness — Works in a variety of mediums from Bob Cross, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Feb. 24**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

JANUARY

Regional Exhibition — Juried art show featuring works in a variety of mediums from local and regional artists, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4-Feb. 8**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

FEBRUARY

Mother Sea, Haha Naru Umi: Sayaka Ganz — Recycled items sculptures, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-March 22**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

Trace Evidence: Claudia Berlinski — Photography examining the fugative nature of personal history and memory, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-March 22**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

MARCH

39th National Print Exhibition — Juried show featuring contemporary print media, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, March 29-May 3**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

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