

whatzup

ALSO INSIDE

DEBUTANTS
DA 5 BLOODS

GEARFEST 2020 ALL ONLINE

THIS YEAR'S BIG EVENT
WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY ON YOUR SCREEN
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AMONG THE DOZENS AND DOZENS OF GEARFEST ONLINE PRESENTERS:



ALAN PARSONS



NILE RODGERS



LITA FORD



TODD RUNDGREN



FAB DUPONT



ALLEN SIDES



LINDA PERRY



BILLY GIBBONS

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whatzup



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Online



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How to reach us

Whatzup LLC
5501 U.S. Highway 30 West
Fort Wayne, IN 46818
Phone: (260) 407-3198
Fax: (260) 469-1027
info@whatzup.com
whatzup.com
facebook.com/whatzupftwayne
instagram.com/whatzupftwayne
twitter.com/whatzupftwayne

Publisher

Gerson Rosenbloom

Editor

Jon Swerens

Web and App Developer

Brandon Jordan

Calendars and Distribution Director

Chels Thompson

Contributing writers

Nick Braun, Benjamin Dehr,
Michele DeVinney, Dennis Donahue,
Evan Gillespie, Heather Herron,
J. Hubner, Chris Hupe, Mackenzie
Joefreda, Brent Leuhold, Greg W. Locke,
Chloe Miller, Steve Penhollow,
Jennifer Poiry, G. Ryan Smith,
Kevin Smith, Chels Thompson

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as far in advance as space permits
and should be submitted as early as
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and event locations. We encourage
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GearFest goes all online for first time

*Same excitement, but
everything is streaming*

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

In the summer of COVID-19, there are three strategies for dealing with the pandemic's effect on long-planned events: reschedule them, cancel them, or move them online.

Moving events online is easier in some cases than it is in others.

If you want a metaphor for what moving Sweetwater Sound's GearFest online must be like, perhaps this one would suffice: It's like modifying an aircraft carrier so it can be driven over land.

FROM PHYSICAL TO VIRTUAL

It almost goes without saying (or writing) that the decision to move GearFest online was not made lightly.

"It was a very, very difficult decision to make," said Bob Bailey, the trade show's executive director. "Because this is the one time of the year when we get to see a lot of the folks that we have dealings with all year long. We get to see them in person. We get to spend time with them. We get to enjoy music with them."

Ultimately, it became clear to everyone involved that sticking with the original plan wasn't a viable option.

"We got to a point in late April and early May where things were still too up in the air, too fluid," he said, "There were too many unknowns as to where we would be at the end of June."

GearFest, which happens June 26 and 27, is unusual among trade shows. A typical trade show — the fictional "SpatulaFest," for example — brings together storeowners who sell spatulas and companies that make spatulas so the former can become acquainted with the latest in spatula technology and get deals on future spatula stock.

The people who buy spatulas at big-box stores for their home kitchens don't attend SpatulaFest and probably know nothing about it.

GearFest, however, is a festival for everyone who loves music and music technology. And it is always packed with star power: Some of the



Alan Parsons



MORE ON THE WEB

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code above to get info about this year's online event.

the next page for more information about the line-up.)

To be clear: Parsons and Rundgren will not be visiting the Sweetwater campus. They will be patched into a main, streaming GearFest feed from remote locales.

There is no on-site component to GearFest this year, Bailey said. People who are planning to come to the Sweetwater campus during GearFest to participate in, or randomly encounter, something or someone GearFest-related should cancel those plans.

"No one is in the building," Bailey said. "All the streams are coming from outside the building. You aren't going to be able to run into any legends. They're all somewhere else."

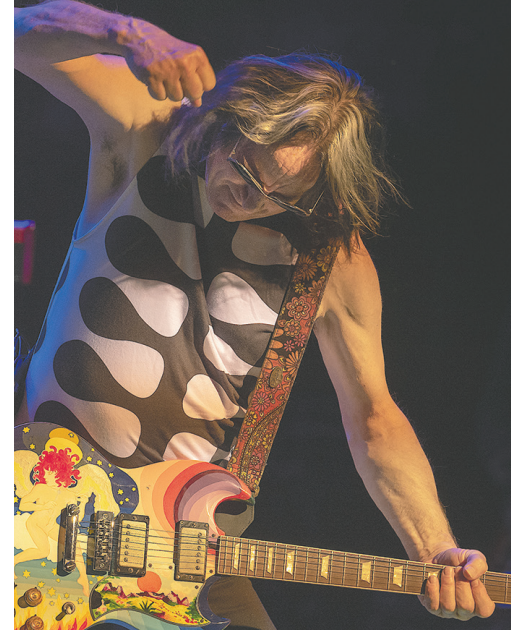
PLENTY OF WAYS TO VIEW

GearFest has offered some streaming content in the past, but it has attempted nothing on the scale of what Sweetwater staffers are preparing to do in a week or so.

This year, all of GearFest's live and prerecorded panels and workshops will be available on one stream that will run all day each day.

The stream will be available on Sweetwater's GearFest page, on Sweetwater's Facebook page, and on its YouTube page.

Viewers will have the ability to interact with speakers and panelists where relevant, Bailey



Todd Rundgren

COURTESY PHOTOS

said.

"We will be accepting questions through chat on the live content," he said.

Vendors who would usually be on site with displays of their wares will be represented this time around with prerecorded videos.

"As of right now, I am sitting on 250 videos and I have literally dozens and dozens more coming," Bailey said. "There will be a virtual vendor booth site. Some of the videos are pretty cool. I've been watching them as they come in."

"A lot of them got really creative with it," he said. "What I can say publicly is that I think there will be some real surprises with these booth videos. You never know what artists you may or may not see."

The logistics of transforming a giant terrestrial festival into a giant virtual one were daunting. (See the sidebar on the next page for that story.)

PROS AND CONS

There are obvious drawbacks to making GearFest digital, but there are some advantages as well.

"We think this could be our best attended GearFest ever," Bailey said.

Normally, GearFest attracts more than 15,000 attendees. An online GearFest could attract 100,000 pairs of eyes.

If 100,000 people are made aware this year of what Sweetwater and GearFest have to offer, visits to the campus might increase next year.

"Our hope is that this just causes people to want to come to Sweetwater that much more," Bailey said. "Because, honestly, unless you've been here...."

During the 2019 edition of GearFest, Bailey was speaking with a customer about the challenges of explaining the event to potential attendees and the customer summed things up quite nicely.

"He's from South Carolina," Bailey recalled. "And in his best Southern drawl, he said, 'Well, Bob, it's kind of like the Grand Canyon. You can look at pictures of it all you want, but until you're standing there looking into the bottom of that thing, you have no idea.' That nailed it."



Nile Rodgers



BT



Billy Gibbons



Lita Ford

Moving a festival online tons of work

Meeting the challenge took preparation and testing

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

The process of moving GearFest online involved setting up a temporary video production and broadcast studio in the Performance Theatre.

It was accomplished by “our team that typically works in the theater on performances and meetings and things like that,” said Bob Bailey, GearFest’s executive director.

“We had to test a lot of technology and make sure that we can securely get the content into the building so it can be streamed back out to the rest of the world,” he said.

MORE HARDWARE

When it became clear that GearFest was going to shift from live on-campus happenings to live-streamed and geographically scattered happenings, Sweetwater’s Director of Technical Services Jimmy Blankenship told his team, “Hey guys. This is something we’re going to have to get really good at.”

They assessed what equipment they had and what equipment they’d need.

“The question was posed: ‘Hey, what can we do to improve what we can do streaming in this room?’” Blankenship recalled. “And I said, ‘Well, a nice piece of

streaming hardware instead of relying on computers would be great.”

BIG MACHINES FOR BIG EVENTS

They ended up purchasing something called the Pearl-2.

“It will do six simultaneous broadcasts and multiple locations,” he said. “You know, Facebook, internal feed, YouTube, whatever...across six outlets.

“We’re combining it with our cameras and mixers as well as computers to pump out videos and that sort of thing,” Blankenship said.

Two computers will be devoted to live content, he said, and one to prerecorded video. A fourth will stand by in case a technological snafu requires some emergency interstitial content.

Sweetwater’s editorial director, Mitch Gallagher, will act as host.

It will take 10 people to run everything, Blankenship said.

“I am going to be the main producer,” he said. “Bob Bailey will be giving me information. We’ll have someone from marketing giving me information. And I will funnel information to the team. And, of course, we will have IT on site.”

EXCITED FOR THE CHALLENGE

By the time GearFest rolls around, the team will have done many dress rehearsals.

One might be excused for likening this to a field hospital during a battle, albeit with zero casualties.

Blankenship said he is excited for the challenge. He is also excited about what this means for the future.

“This is a tool set we get to use,” he said. “I think this is a new reality of things we are going to be doing. This is a long-term thing. I am excited to see how this is going to transpire from here.

Dozens of big presenters from stage performers to behind-the-scenes legends

Including Parsons, Rundgren, Rodgers

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Here are just some of the performers and presenters who are scheduled to participate in this year’s GearFest.

ALAN PARSONS

His band, The Alan Parsons Project, topped the charts with such hits as “Time,” “Eye in the Sky,” “I Wouldn’t Want to Be Like You,” and “Don’t Answer Me.”

As engineer and producer, Parsons worked on The Beatles’ *Abbey Road* and *Let It Be*, Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon*, and Al Stewart’s *Year of the Cat*.

TODD RUNDGREN

Rundgren fronts the progressive rock band Utopia, which has toured sporadically since breaking up in 1986.

As a solo artist, Rundgren had hits with “We Gotta Get You a Woman,” “Hello, It’s Me,” “I Saw the Light,” and “Can We Still Be Friends?”

Rundgren has produced classic albums by Badfinger, New York Dolls, Grand Funk Railroad, Hall & Oates, Meat Loaf, The Tubes, The Psychedelic Furs, and XTC.

NILE RODGERS

Guitarist Rodgers co-founded one of the more respected groups of the disco era, Chic. Chic had hits with “Dance, Dance, Dance (Yowsah, Yowsah, Yowsah),” “I Want Your Love,” and “Good Times.”

As a producer and songwriter, Rodgers has helped create hits for Sister Sledge, Diana Ross, Madonna, INXS, David Bowie, Duran Duran, Daft Punk and Lady Gaga.

BILLY GIBBONS

Gibbons is the lead vocalist for ZZ Top. He also had a recurring role on the Fox series *Bones*.

BT

BT, aka Brian Wayne Transeau, is a DJ, composer, and producer. He has worked with Peter Gabriel, Tori Amos, David Bowie, Depeche Mode,



MORE ON THE WEB

Use your phone’s camera to scan the QR code above for more info on this year’s performers and presenters.

Sting, The Roots, Madonna, and Britney Spears. He has also composed music for films (*The Fast and the Furious*) and TV series (*Smallville*).

LITA FORD

Ford is a heavy metal guitarist and vocalist. In the 1970s, she was a member of

The Runaways, which also featured Joan Jett. She had solo hits with “Kiss Me Deadly” and “Close My Eyes Forever.” The latter was a duet with Ozzy Osborne.

LINDA PERRY

Perry was the lead singer of 4 Non Blondes. She wrote and produced hits for Christina Aguilera, Pink, and Gwen Stefani.

FAB DUPONT

Dupont is a French engineer and producer. He has created music for Shakira, Jennifer Lopez, David Crosby, and Wynton Marsalis.

SALIM AKRAM

Akram is the guitarist for the Boston funk band Bad Rabbits. He has collaborated with Billie Eilish.

RICKY SKAGGS

Skaggs is a multi-instrumentalist and composer who is known primarily as a bluegrass performer, although he spent the early part of his solo career as a country artist. He scored 12 No. 1 hits on Billboard’s country chart.

Skaggs’ bluegrass band, Kentucky Thunder, has won seven Grammy Awards.

THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY

The Immediate Family is a super-group comprised of some of rock music’s most storied sidemen, producers and songwriters: Danny Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Russ Kunkel, and Waddy Wachtel.

Nightlife

Arena Bar and Grill

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EXPECT: Local sports bar and restaurant with 6 beers on tap and 38 different bottles to choose from. Great bar food and known especially for their wings and pizza. It has 14 big-screen TVs to watch all your favorite sports. Karaoke on Thursdays from 8 p.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. **GETTING THERE:** Located at Dupont and Lima roads. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Sunday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** Visa, MC, Disc, AmEx

@2104: Home of 'Fort Wayne Comedy Club'

Comedy, Music & More • 2104 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • (260) 426-6339
EXPECT: Surprisingly exciting performers of comedy, spoken word, and diverse musicians of various genres, all at an intimate speakeasy atmosphere. A great spot for a private comedy show, parties, corporate events, meetings, and social gatherings. Also, try our soon-to-be-famous southern style Fried Catfish, BBQ Bone-In Chicken Wings, and more. **GETTING THERE:** Just shy of downtown on the corner of Butler and Calhoun streets. **HOURS:** Friday and Saturday 6:30 p.m. until 1 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

Bootleggers Saloon & Galley

Pub/Tavern • 2809 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • (260) 387-6307
EXPECT: Golden Tee, jukebox, 3 TVs, free WIFI, deck patio, motorcycle parking available. Daily food & drink specials: \$1 coneys & \$2.50 18 oz. domestics Sun.; 50¢ wings & \$3 pitchers Mon.; \$1 tacos & \$1.50 domestic longnecks Tues.; \$1 drafts & 1/2 price pizza Wed.; \$12 buckets & \$1 sliders Thurs.; \$4 pitchers & smoked BBQ ribs, tips & chicken specials Fri.; \$12 buckets Sat. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson and West Main Street, 2 minutes from downtown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

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 Road 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 Road, 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 USF. **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

Dreamers Hookah Lounge

Music/DJ Hookah Bar • 1407 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • (260) 424-0442
EXPECT: Fort Wayne's only upscale hookah lounge with a full-service bar. Our hookah is all organic with no tobacco or nicotine. Light appetizers and a desert menu. Tuesday acoustic acts, Wednesday Underground DJ sets, Thursday Latin Night, Friday Live R&B/Jazz/Funk Acts followed by DJ Dance, Saturday DJ Dance Party. Dress code enforced. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Calhoun and Brackenridge next to Lincoln Life. **HOURS:** Monday-Thursday 4-11 p.m., Friday and Saturday 4 p.m.-3 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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FRI., JUNE 26TH - SICK WORLD
SAT., JUNE 27TH - FIREBALL MATINEE

Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

The Band Brother — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

Terry LeMaster and Friends — Variety at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$15, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Jess Thrower — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-2537

Pharohound, The Green Leaves, A Burden to Bear, Anti-Clutch — Rock/metal at The Muse on Main, Fort Wayne, 7-11:30 p.m. \$10 at the door, \$8 online presale, (260) 999-4108

Tara Renee — Country at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. cover, (260) 422-5292

The Y's Guys — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Anti-Clutch, Severed Headshop, Withhold the Blood, Ritualist, Gunhands McBuzzsaw, The Outliers — Variety at The Ruin, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$7-\$10, (260) 399-6336

Lucys Basement — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. cover, (260) 422-5292

Static Fly, Damage, In Blood, Anti-Clutch, Desecrated, Black Crown Serpent — Giants No Longer At Rest Music Fest at The Muse On Main, Fort Wayne, 5-11:30 p.m. \$8-\$10, (260) 999-4108

Promenade to the riverfront for tunes, brews

Trubble Riverside Café & Tap continues to flourish at the grounds of Promenade Park with their tasty snacks, mouth-watering brews, and picturesque view of the St. Marys River.

Recently, they started to showcase Fort Wayne's impressive spectrum of musicians with concerts every Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grab a bite and a beer in the café and head to the bier garden for some tunes in the sun.

The lineup of performers includes **Randy Spencer** on June 22, **Kenny Taylor** on June 29, **Mickyle James** on July 6, **Justin Bailey** on July 13, **Adam Baker** on July 20, **Dan Smyth** on July 27, and **Lindsey Becker** on Aug. 3.

The lunchtime concerts are free and open to all.



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

anyone's mantel. The Fort Wayne Indoor is at 1412 S. Anthony Blvd.

HEAVY HITTERS AT THE MUSE

The Muse on Main is back in the saddle with supplying the Fort with all-ages entertainment.

On the weekend of June 20 and 21, the venue will have an array of heavy hitters set to perform for the "Giants No Longer at Rest Music Fest."

Starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, live music will get under way from the likes of **Static Fly, Damage, In Blood, Anti-Clutch, Desecrated**, and **Blood Crown Serpent**. At the same time on Sunday, **Damage, Coffin Witch, Tri-State Killing Spree, Molech**, and **Imaginary Friends** will take to the stage.

Tickets for each show are \$8 in advance at themuseum-main.com and \$10 at the door. You have been thirsty for live music, so here you go!

LIVESTREAMING FROM SASKATOON

The Muse on Main was also set to host **Alien to the Ignorant** from Saskatoon, Canada, next month, but because the Canada-U.S. border is closed, they had to scrap the tour for the time being.

Instead, the post-hardcore band will livestream unique sets on the Facebook pages of different venues they were set to visit during their tour.

If you are a fan of the band, make sure to hop on The Muse on Main page on Monday, July 6, at 8 p.m. to catch a special performance by the band. The good news is that they do plan to come to town once things clear up, so be on the lookout for that in the future.

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Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Todd Harold Collective — Variety at Soul Pig BBQ, Decatur, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 301-9800

The Why Store — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Damage, Coffin Witch, Tri-State Killing Spree, Molech, Imaginary Friends, The Broken Chord — Giants No Longer At Rest Music Fest at The Muse On Main, Fort Wayne, 5-11:30 p.m. \$8-\$10, (260) 999-4108

MONDAY, JUNE 22

Randy Spencer — Variety at Trubble Riverside, Fort Wayne, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. no cover, (260) 220-8613

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at Union 12, Columbia City, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 203-0239

Joe Justice — Summer Nights at the Embassy at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 5-9 p.m. \$5, (260) 424-5665

Mason Dixon Line — Variety at 13-24 Drive In, Wabash, 5-7 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-5745

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Motor Folkers — Classic rock at Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 854-9463

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Terry LeMaster and Friends — Variety at 13-24 Drive In, Wabash, 5-7 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-5745

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Bulldogs — Variety/oldies at Fremont Music Fest, Fremont, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 316-7262

Fool House — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. cover, (260) 422-5292

Sick World — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

Todd Harold Collective — Variety at Dreamers Hookah Lounge, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 424-0442

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

The Bel Airs — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-2537

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SUNDAY, JULY 5

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country rock at Kasota Island Clear Lake, Fremont, 1-4 p.m., (260) 668-3112

MONDAY, JULY 6

Mickyle James — Variety at Trubble Riverside, Fort Wayne, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. no cover, (260) 220-8613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Sunny Taylor — Summer Nights at the Embassy at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 5-9 p.m. \$5, (260) 424-5665

THURSDAY, JULY 9

The Greys — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety at Brewskies Bar & Grill, Angola, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 833-9676

FRIDAY, JULY 10

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

Randy Spencer — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Todd Harold Collective — Variety at O' Sullivan's, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 422-5896

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Battle of the Bands: The Paper Heart, The Kickbacks, Jupiter IN July, Withered Veins, Calloused, Secret Garden Arcade — Variety at Copper Canyon Tobacconist, Fort Wayne, 4-8 p.m. \$5, (260) 387-6002

Death on Fire w/Severed Headshop, Moiscus, Cremated Souls — Variety at The Ruin, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. \$5, (260) 399-6336

Eli Young Band — Country at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$100, (260) 563-1102

Jess Thrower — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-2537

Jon Durnell — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Mason Dixon Line — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

Nightlife

Duesy's Sports Bar & Grille

Sports Bar • 305 E. Washington Ctr. Road, 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 and Coldwater roads, just south of I-69. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-midnight or later daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, 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

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/DirecTV (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

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:** Southwest of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor Street and 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 East Center Street; 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 Road 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

Nightlife listings work for your business
info@whatzup.com or (260) 407-3198



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Nightlife

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 70 TVs, craft beers, and more. Great food from wings and pizza to gourmet sandwiches and entrees. Bloody Mary bar Sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Getz Road and West Jefferson Boulevard, southwest Fort Wayne.
HOURS: 4 p.m.-close Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-close Friday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

State Grill

Pub/Tavern • 1210 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • (260) 483-5618
EXPECT: 1st Tavern to pour beer after Prohibition; located in a fun and friendly neighborhood; home of the XKE Cranials & most dangerous jukebox. Daily drink specials include \$2 Tall Boy PBR everyday, get grilled everyday with \$2 Fireball add-on special. Golden Tee. Free WIFI. Fort Wayne's Sammy Hagar bar & Santo Mezquila, 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-2 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** Cash only; ATM on site

Teds Beer Hall & Wine Bar

Pub/Tavern • 12628 Coldwater Road, 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

Join our growing list of Whatzup's Nightlife listings.

Put us to work for your business.

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Fort Wayne Children's Zoo finally opens

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, one of the city's most popular attractions, has been unusually quiet for the past two months. Originally set to open late April, the zoo has finally opened and will be available to visit for members only through July 3.

To limit the number of people in the area during that time, timed tickets will be required so that crowds do not grow too large to accommodate proper distancing.

The zoo opens to the general public on July 4.

While they assure that they are taking all precautions to make the zoo safe, they caution that guests will need to be vigilant to assure their own safety through the season which lasts until October. While July 4 will mean the end to capacity restrictions, visitors can expect longer waits for rides because of distancing. Some common areas like drinking fountains and statues, which often encourage crowding, will be unavailable.



News and Venues

MICHELE DeVINNEY

For more information about the free timed tickets for members and other precautions being taken this season, visit kidszoo.org and the zoo's Facebook page.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Several parks and playgrounds will now be opening as well, providing some welcome outdoor activity for families who have spent a lot of time together in recent months.

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation has opened all outdoor playgrounds, and area spraygrounds will also be available for public use again.

Those spraygrounds include Franklin School Park, Buckner Park, McCormick Park, Memorial Park, Shoaff Park, Kreager Park, and Waynedale Park. The Doerner Kids' Canal and Rotary Fountain Sprayground at Promenade Park is also available from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Visitors are asked to respect the continued call for social distancing while visiting the parks.

News and Venues covers Northeast Indiana's music and arts organizations, venues, and colleges, from large to small. Send your news items to info@whatzup.com.

Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Motor Folkers — Variety at Hartland Winery, Ashley, 5-8 p.m. no cover, (260) 587-3301

Remember Pluto — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 488-3344

MONDAY, JULY 13

Justin Bailey — Variety at Trubble Riverside, Fort Wayne, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. no cover, (260) 220-8613

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Brass Quintet — Variety at The James Cultural Plaza, Auburn, 8:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 481-0770

The Glenn Miller Orchestra — Variety at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 2 p.m. \$25, (260) 563-1102

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Bulldogs — Variety/oldies at Adams Woodcrest Assisted Living, Decatur, 5:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 223-4059

Hubie Ashcraft and Marcus Mullins — Variety at Mad Anthony Lakeview Ale House, Angola, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 833-2537

Kent Young — Summer Nights at the Embassy at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 5-9 p.m. \$5, (260) 424-5665

THURSDAY, JULY 16

38 Special — Variety at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$115, (260) 563-1102

Grey Matter — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety at Lunch on the Square, Freimann Square, Fort Wayne, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 833-9676

Ryan Niemiller — Comedy at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$20, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Bulldogs — Variety/oldies at DeKalb Outdoor Theatre, Auburn, 7:30-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 952-2611

Linda Ronstadt Experience — tribute band at Fountain Park, Van Wert, 7 p.m. free, (419) 238-6722

Todd Harrold Collective — Variety at Dreamers Hookah Lounge, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 424-0442

Will Certain — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

SATURDAY, JULY 18

A Sick World — Rock at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m., (260) 483-5681

Chelsea Erickson — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Daughtry — Rock at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$65-\$125, (260) 563-1102

Motor Folkers — Variety at Byler Lane Winery, Auburn, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 920-4377

Purple Thriller — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. cover, (260) 422-5292

Todd Harrold Collective — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-2537

MONDAY, JULY 20

Adam Baker — Variety at Trubble Riverside, Fort Wayne, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. no cover, (260) 220-8613

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Todd Harrold Band — Summer Nights at the Embassy at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 5-9 p.m. \$5, (260) 424-5665

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Joe Justice — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Motor Folkers — Variety at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7:30-10:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 854-3463

Ted Vigil — John Denver tribute at Eagles Theatre, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$15, (260) 563-1102

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Black Crown Serpent w/Salem's Childe, Mujaw Creek, Rattlesnake Mafia — Metal at Carl's Tavern, New Haven, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, (260) 749-9133

Jon Shoulders — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Karkosa, Engraved Darkness, Throne, Well of Night, Burial Oath, Severed Headshop, Mammon, Carrion Vael, Plaguewielder, Into Pandemonium, Shredoroktikon — Variety at The Ruin, Fort Wayne, 3 p.m. \$8-\$20, (260) 399-6336

Motor Folkers — Variety at American Legion Post 215, Lagrange, 7-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 463-4172

Old Crown Brass Band — British brass band at Fountain Park, Van Wert, 7 p.m. free, (419) 238-6722

Plan B — Rock at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, (260) 483-5681

Todd Harrold Collective — Variety at Two EE's Winery, Huntington, 7:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 672-2000

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Austin Marsh — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

Holbrook Brothers Band — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 488-3344

U.S., Canada drive-ins to host Brooks' performance

Garth Brooks, undeniably one of the biggest artists in music over the past three decades, has seized an opportunity when others may be sitting at home licking their wounds.

Brooks announced last week that he will return to performing live later this month, not at the stadiums he is accustomed to but, rather, at drive-in theaters across the U.S. and Canada.



Road Notes

CHRIS HUPE

The concert will actually be performed in Nashville in a venue that adheres to all the current mandated social distancing guidelines but will be sent out to more than 300 venues that will then air the show at dusk in their cities.

Tickets are \$100 per car load so make sure you jam your car full of Brooks fans from your social bubble in order to get your money's worth.

If you want to see what is being billed as a "once in a lifetime experience," the closest drive-ins hosting the show are the Van-Del in Middle Point, Ohio, the Tri Way in Plymouth, Ind., and the Capri in Coldwater, Mich.

Tickets go on sale June 19 and will likely sell out quickly.

OPENING THE BLUE GATE

As of this writing, the Blue Gate Theater in Shipshewana is planning to open its venue in late July.

The current schedule looks to have **Gary Puckett & Union Gap** kicking off the summer, albeit a little bit late, on July 25. Country superstars **Lonestar** visit on July 31, **Josh Turner** stops on Aug. 7, **Jeff Foxworthy** performs shows on Aug. 8, and **Boz Scaggs** hits the stage on Aug. 11.

Other shows include **Little River Band** on Aug. 20, **Michael Bolton** on Aug. 21, **Martina McBride** on Aug. 28, and **Jamey Johnson** on Sept.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

On the Road NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Aaron Lewis	Aug. 19	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
The Airborne Toxic Event	Mar. 11 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Alabama	Oct. 15	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Alabama	Oct. 23	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Alabama	Oct. 24	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Alan Jackson	July 31	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Alan Parsons	Aug. 29	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Alejandro Fernández	July 25	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
American Aquarium	July 3	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Amy Grant	Oct. 16	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Amyl and the Sniffers	Oct. 23	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Atlanta Rhythm Section	June 4 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
The Australian Pink Floyd Show	Aug. 29	Honeywell Center	Wabash
The Ballroom Thieves	Aug. 30	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Banda MS	Sept. 25-26	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Barenaked Ladies	July 4	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
The Beach Boys	Aug. 21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Ben Bailey	July 25	Park West	Chicago
Bendigo Fletcher	Aug. 12	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Big & Rich	Sept. 5	Van Wert County Fair	Van Wert
Bikini Kill	Nov. 17	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Billy Joel	June 26 '21	Notre Dame Stadium	South Bend
Billy Strings	Dec. 29	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Billy Strings	Dec. 30	The Fillmore	Detroit
Blackberry Smoke, The Allman Betts Band	Aug. 2	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Bob Zany & Costaki Economopoulos	Sept. 10	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Boney James	Sept. 25	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Brubeck Brothers Quartet	Nov. 1	The Palladium	Carmel
Buddy Guy	Oct. 22	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Building 429	July 9 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Built to Spill	Aug. 7	Grog Shop	Cleveland
Built to Spill	Aug. 8	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Built to Spill	Aug. 9	Bell's Eccentric Cafe	Kalamazoo
Built to Spill	Aug. 12	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Carol Burnett	Sept. 20	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Chicago	Nov. 15	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Clannad	Sept. 16	The Fillmore	Detroit
Cody Jinks	Aug. 2	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Coheed and Cambria w/Chon	Sept. 9	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Cold Waves IX w/Front 242, Stabbing Westward, My Life With The Thrill Kill Kult	Sept. 18-20	Metro Chicago	Chicago
Crowder	Sept. 18	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Damon Wayans	Aug. 8	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Dan + Shay	Aug. 7	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Dan + Shay	Aug. 15	United Center	Chicago
Dan + Shay	Sept. 19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Dave Matthews Band	June 15 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Dave Matthews Band	June 16 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Dave Matthews Band	June 18-19 '21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Dave Matthews Band	June 22 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
David Foster	Jan. 21 '21	The Palladium	Carmel
David Gray	July 14	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
David Sedaris	Dec. 3	The Palladium	Carmel
Def Leppard w/ZZ Top	Oct. 9	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Dennis DeYoung	Oct. 3	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Dermot Kennedy	Sept. 21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Doobie Brothers	Aug. 4	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Doobie Brothers	Sept. 11	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Duke Tumatoe and the Power Trio	July 30	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Enrique Iglesias & Ricky Martin	Oct. 1-2	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Evan Giia	Aug. 14	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Fab Four	Aug. 29 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Five Finger Death Punch	Nov. 5	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Flesh Panthers	Aug. 7	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Foo Fighters	Oct. 7	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
For King & Country	July 4	13-24 Drive In	Wabash
Foreigner, Kansas, Europe	July 31	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
The Format	July 21-23	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Fozzy	Aug. 2	The Eclectic Room	Angola

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage our readers to confirm with the venue about any event they plan to attend.

We'll keep updating our calendars as events change and are updated.

Fozzy	Aug. 3	Apollo Theater	Belvidere, IL
Frank Marino & Mahogany Rush	Oct. 22	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Gaither Vocal Band	Nov. 7	The Palladium	Carmel
Gladys Knight	Aug. 18	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Gladys Knight	Nov. 13	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
The Glenn Miller Orchestra	July 14	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Goo Goo Dolls	Aug. 12	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Gordon Lightfoot	Oct. 2	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Greer	Dec. 14	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Gregory Porter	Oct. 20	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Gregory Porter and Ledisi	Feb. 17 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Halsey	June 23 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Halsey	June 25 '21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Halsey	June 26 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Harry Styles w/Jenny Lewis	July 15	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Harry Styles	July 17	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Harry Styles	July 24	United Center	Chicago
I Am He Said	Oct. 3	Niswonger PAC	Van Wert
Iliza Shlesinger	Nov. 21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Jeff Planki	July 24	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Jim Breuer	Nov. 27	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Jimmy Eat World w/The Front Bottoms	Aug. 21	The Fillmore	Detroit

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The Musical
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Annie
November 7-22, 2020

SUNSET BLVD.
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Jimmy Eat World	Sept. 28	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Jo Koy	Nov. 12-13	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
John Cusack	Dec. 5	Masonic Cathedral Theatre	Detroit
John McCutcheon	Oct. 16	Old Town School	Chicago
Johnny Mathis	Dec. 12	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Jonny Lang	Nov. 13	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Judas Priest	Sept. 21	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Judas Priest	Sept. 23	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Juice	Aug. 13	Subterranean	Chicago
Kansas	Sept. 26	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band	Sept. 25	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
King Krule	Dec. 2	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
KISS w/David Lee Roth	Sept. 11	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
KISS w/David Lee Roth	Sept. 12	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
KISS w/David Lee Roth	Sept. 14	Nutter Center	Dayton
Kool & The Gang w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Sept. 3 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Korn & Faith No More	Sept. 10	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Korn & Faith No More	Sept. 15	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Ladies Night Out Comedy Tour	Feb. 5 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Lady Gaga	Aug. 14	Wrigley Field	Chicago
The Last Podcast on the Left	Aug. 12-13	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 11 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 12 '21	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Leonid & Friends w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Nov. 20	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Lindsey Stirling	Aug. 8	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Little Big Town	Oct. 22-23	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Little River Band	Sept. 4	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Los Angeles Azules	Sept. 19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Los Lobos w/The Summit	Sept. 20	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Lost Dog Street Band	Dec. 15	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Marco Antonio Solis	Aug. 15	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Matt Stell w/Chris Bandi and Ray Fulcher	Sept. 19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Melissa Etheridge	Sept. 25	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI

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Michael W. Smith	Oct. 9	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Mike Birbiglia	June 19	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Mike Tyson	July 10	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Milky Chance	Nov. 5	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Ministry w/KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 9 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Ministry w/KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 10 '21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Ministry w/KMFDM and Front Line Assembly	Apr. 12 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Joan Jett	July 3	FirstEnergy Stadium	Cleveland
Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Joan Jett	Aug. 20	Comerica Park	Detroit
Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Joan Jett	Aug. 28	Wrigley Field	Chicago
NateWantsToBattle	Sept. 13	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Negativland	July 26	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Newsboys w/Mandisa	Aug. 25	Northview Church	Carmel
Newsboys w/Mandisa	Aug. 28	Mt. Zion	Clarkston, MI
Newsboys w/Mandisa	Aug. 29	Fair Haven Church	Hudsonville, MI
Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds	Sept. 19	Credit Union 1 Arena	Chicago
Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds	Sept. 21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Nickelback	Aug. 4	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Nicole Atkins	Aug. 12	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Nombe w/Bad Child	Aug. 23	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
OTW & SXM Bluegrass Junction	Oct. 1	The Fillmore	Detroit
Papadosio	Sept. 11-12	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Pat Hazell	Aug. 11	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Poco	June 25 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Pokey LaFarge	Mar. 12 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Polaris	Aug. 7	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Pure Prairie League w/The Why Store	Sept. 27	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
REO Speedwagon	Oct. 30	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Rita Moreno	Oct. 3	The Palladium	Carmel
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	Sept. 4	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	Sept. 5	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers	June 28	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Ron White	Jan. 23 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Russ	May 22 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Ryan Niemiller	July 16	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Ryan Stevenson	Sept. 24	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Samantha Fish w/Southern Avenue	Aug. 27 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Sarah Brightman	Oct. 15	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Shiner	Aug. 13	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Sleaford Mods	Oct. 7	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Smokey Robinson	July 17	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 23 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 25 '21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Styx	Sept. 3	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Styx	July 22 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Tech N9ne	Oct. 16	The Fillmore	Detroit
Tegan and Sara w/Ider and Claud	Aug. 10	The Fillmore	Detroit
Tegan and Sara w/Ider and Claud	Aug. 11	House of Blues	Cleveland
Thomas Rhett	Sept. 11	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Thomas Rhett	June 19 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Three Dog Night	Oct. 23	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Thrice	Sept. 13	The Fillmore	Detroit
Tigran Hamasyan	Sept. 7	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
TobyMac w/Cochren & Co.	Oct. 8	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Tower of Power w/Sweetwater All Stars	June 9 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Trace Mountains w/Jess Thrower	Oct. 13	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Trevor Hall & Brett Dennen	Sept. 4	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Trevor Noah	Nov. 22	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
The Turtles w/Chuck Negron, The Association, Mark Lindsay, The Vogues, The Cowsills	Aug. 16	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Ward Davis	Nov. 19	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Weathers	Aug. 8	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Weeknd w/Sabrina Claudio, Don Toliver	Aug. 28	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Whiskey Myers w/Shane Smith	July 29	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Widespread Panic	Aug. 20-22	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Wild Rivers	Aug. 9	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Xoe Wise	July 9	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Zach Williams w/We the Kingdom and Cain	Oct. 4	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne

Road Notes

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

3. Of course, as we have all come to realize all too well this year, all dates are subject to change.

ONLINE-PALOOZA

The organizers of Lollapalooza had hoped COVID-19 concerns would be alleviated in time to hold one of the country's biggest music events beginning July 30 in Chicago's Grant Park.

Unfortunately, the disease has claimed this year's event as it has many of the year's other big gatherings.

All is not lost, however, as we are being asked to keep that weekend open in order to witness an online event featuring many of the artists that were already set to perform this year.

In a press release about the cancellation, it was stated that the “health and safety of fans, artists, partners, staff, and community is always the highest priority,” but that they still plan to honor their tradition of bringing Chicago and the world together through the “common bond of community, civic engagement and, of course, music.”

The full schedule of events will be posted later this month.

Lollapalooza will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year with what is sure to be a weekend to remember, no matter who ends up headlining the event.

Road Notes covers concerts within driving distance of Northeast Indiana. Send your news items to info@whatzup.com.

Road Trips

LOCAL ACTS ON TOUR

Bulldogs

June 28	Friends of the Arts, Fort Recovery, OH
July 4	July 4th celebration, Topeka, IN
July 5	Concert in the Park, Elwood, IN
July 20	Madison County Fair, Alexandria, IN
July 25	Hickory Acres Campground, Edgerton, OH
July 31	Final Fridays Concert, Warren, IN
Aug. 1	Stateline Festival, Union City, IN
Aug. 7	Bethel Pointe Health, Muncie, IN
Aug. 19	FROG RV Rally, Elkhart, IN
Aug. 21	Quincy Main Street, Quincy, MI
Sept. 11	Matthews Covered Bridge Festival, Fairmount
Sept. 19	Nappanee Apple Festival, Nappanee
Sept. 25	Ducktail Run, Gas City, IN

Hubie Ashcraft Band

June 19	Berne Clock Tower, Berne, IN
Aug. 1	Edon Days, Edon, OH
Aug. 7	Little Nashville Festival, Ottawa, OH
Aug. 8	Schweizer Festival, Tell City, OH
Aug. 21	Wren Days, Wren, OH
Sept. 6	Park Carnival, Ottoville, OH
Sept. 18-19	T&J's Smokehouse, Put-in-Bay, OH
Oct. 2-3	Country Heritage Winery, Nashville, IN
Nov. 7	Ruli's Bella Luna, Middlebury, IN
Nov. 13-14	Cowboy Up, Mendon, MI
Nov. 21	The Distillery, Toledo

Debutants tuning up for shows this summer

Bluegrass band looks to July performances

BY MICHELE DeVINNEY
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

The backstory for many bands in Fort Wayne often involves years of friendship and musical history. That is certainly the case with the Debutants, a band with a relatively brief history but a friendship that dates back to their teen years at Homestead High School.

TOGETHER AGAIN

“Jon and I have played music together for a long time,” said Lynn Nicholson of his bandmate Jon Swain. “We went to school together, and we had a band here in Fort Wayne, Elephants in Mud, for awhile.

“Then we both split up and went to different places. Jon was in California and Colorado, and I lived in Oregon. We hadn’t played for a couple years, but we both moved back to Fort Wayne around the same time.”

“We had our first band when we were really young before going our separate ways,” Swain said. “We always wanted to be in a band together again, and that was great. But even better was reconnecting with a good friend.”

Nicholson was a drummer, but by the time they reunited he had picked up the mandolin. Both had a love of bluegrass, something they’d shared in their youth as well but hadn’t heavily featured on stage.

The Debutants was the platform for them to finally take that plunge.

FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE

“It all came together in March 2019,” Nicholson said. “We knew we wanted to play together, and someone asked us to open for their show which provided a flame under our butts.”

The original plan was to feature Swain and Nicholson with a rotating slate of musicians playing along, but as the process unfolded, they found a group of performers that fit in perfectly. With Chandler Cashdollar, Michael Newsome, Sean Hoffman, and Lauren Tourkow, Swain and Nicholson knew they’d found their fellow players.



PHOTO BY SEAN O’LEARY

From left are Debutants members Jon Swain, Michael Earl Newsome, Chandler Cashdollar, and Lynn Nicholson. Not pictured are fiddlers Sean Michael Hoffman and Lauren Tourkow.

DEBUTANTS

5-8 p.m. Thursday, July 2
Harley-Davidson of Fort Wayne
6315 Illinois Road, Fort Wayne
Free • (260) 489-2464

“We found the right people to play in the band,” Nicholson said. “We’re all on the same page and have been able to allocate time to play together.”

Except, of course, when they suddenly couldn’t play together.

A scheduled gig at the Brass Rail was canceled in the early days of the quarantine when gatherings were restricted in size.

For a short time they continued to get together for smaller performances until it was time for the band members to shelter in place and not get together anymore at all.

“In the early days of the quarantine, we were getting together to play livestreams,” Nicholson said. “We caught onto the Fort Wayne Quarantunes. One time I turned the camera off, and it said we’d had 1,500 views. If we play the Brass Rail, that’s maybe 300 people, so we were reaching more people. We did that until it was recommended you not even go to a friend’s house anymore.



MORE ON THE WEB

Use your phone’s camera to scan the QR code above and enjoy Debutant’s most recent Facebook video concert.

But we also each got to spend a lot of time practicing so everyone’s really up in their game now. And we got time to spend with our families which has been great. I think it’s made us all more excited to return.”

“It gave us all time to work on our craft,” Nicholson agreed. “We had time to practice a little more, and it helped us get out of the box a bit more.

“It’s good to have to adapt and get outside of that box. I think we all fell a bit more in love with music during this time, and I think that

“Now that things are loosening up a bit more, we hope to do a few things later in the summer.”

Both Nicholson and Swain saw some advantages to their forced sabbatical.

“It was a shock and a big change,” Swain said. “We had things planned, and suddenly there was a big stopper in everything for the summer. We were quick to do the Quarantunes which was a unique way to keep things going.

really speaks to the power of music.”

PURSUING THEIR PASSION

The move to an acoustic/folk/bluegrass direction has allowed the duo to really pursue a passion they’ve shared for a long time.

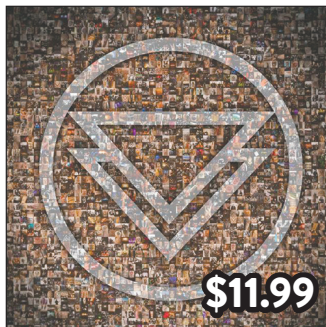
“I really got into bluegrass in high school,” Swain said. “Lynn and I were always messing around with bluegrass but then moved into more reggae. It took us 10 years for it to surface in our band.”

As restrictions are lessening, the Debutants have a few dates on the horizon including July 2 at the Harley Davidson Block Party, July 7 at the Junk Ditch Brewing Company Food Truck Rally, and — if Rock the Plaza resumes later in the summer — an August 1 date at the library plaza.

“We’ve been careful, but our calendar is slowly filling up again,” Nicholson said. “We have those dates in July and August, along with a few private parties that are on a smaller scale. Most bars and music venues won’t open until July or later.

“The name of the game now is adapting, and all of this has been a learning experience. But it’s good to know that we can livestream and by turning on a camera, you can put your music out there.”

ALBUM OF THE WEEK



THE GHOST INSIDE
THE GHOST INSIDE

The L.A.-based metalcore band is back with a new album. Placing equal emphasis on personal vocals, urgent riffing, and pile-driving breakdowns within the framework of their melodic, emotional modern hardcore, the group persists with dedication even after a fatally dangerous bus crash in 2015. The album features the lead single, "Aftermath." Get *The Ghost Inside* for \$11.99 on CD at all Wooden Nickel Music stores.

TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING JUNE 14, 2020

TW LW ARTIST/Album

- 1 - **NORAH JONES**
Pick Me Up Off the Floor
- 2 - **BUILT TO SPILL**
Built to Spill Plays the Songs of Daniel Johnston
- 3 - **THE 1975**
Notes on a Conditional Form
- 4 1 **MAC MILLER**
Circles
- 5 4 **KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD**
Chunky Shrapnel
- 6 - **TYLER, THE CREATOR**
Igor
- 7 2 **JIMMY BUFFETT**
Life on the Flip Side
- 8 6 **LADY GAGA**
Chromatica
- 9 8 **JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT**
Reunions
- 10 - **LIAM GALLAGHER**
MTV Unplugged

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Kanaan

Your Life Is a
Record



The Norwegian power trio which consists of Ask Vatn Strøm (electric and acoustic guitars), Ingvald André Vassbø (drums, percussion, and organ), and Eskild Myrvoll (bass, synths, electric and acoustic guitars) have had a busy couple of years.

Blowing minds at the end of 2018 with their El Paraiso Records debut *Windborne*, the group played shows for most of 2019 honing their fusion/progressive/psych vibes.

Now Kanaan are back with a proper follow-up. *Double Sun* gets the band back on course with a six-track suite of grand rock n' roll statements. Touches of post-rock, Krautrock, and psychedelia are scattered about *Double Sun* as the band turns in their best album yet.

"Worlds Together" opens the album with an almost Yes vibe, yet there's always a folksy sound with Kanaan's work, as if you could hear their songs played on all acoustic instruments and they'd still come off as equally striking. But this is just an entrance into the mammoth "Mountain." All powerful drums and fuzzed-out guitar, "Mountain" is an epic 12 minutes of molten riffage. Even when toying with Sabbath heaviness, there's an air of elegance to Kanaan's work, and that holds true here. Toward the end, the song shifts from Black Sabbath weight to almost King Crimson angular vibes. Lead single "Öresund" has a jazzy rhythm to it, churning the track into an epic psych swing manifesto.

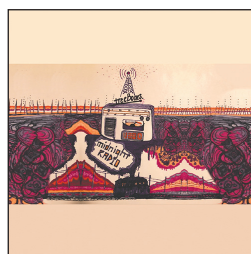
One of the heaviest tracks is the scorcher "Worlds Apart." On this three-minute barn-burner, the Kanaan fellas let their freak flags fly at full mast, turning in something that resembles Blue Cheer jamming with Electric Miles on the Isle of Wight stage circa 1970.

The final two tracks are a suite of sorts, as "Double Sun pt. 1" and "Double Sun pt. 2" fill out the final ten minutes of *Double Sun* with mind-expanding glee and spaced-out grooves.

Double Sun shows these young lads from Norway are expanding their sonic palate and musicianship in big ways. It's an album of elegant melodies and epic soundscapes that take you out of the current and blast you into the ether. — J. Hubner

Treebones

Midnight Radio



There's a haunted quality to the music of North Carolina-based electronic artist Treebones (aka Leif Murray Fox), like coming across a dilapidated calliope in the middle of a forest. As you pass by, it heaves to life and plays a long-lost melody that's comforting and terrifying.

Though Treebones isn't frightening, the

music is ethereal and dreamy, with subtle beats like Boards of Canada, except the melodies are brighter. There's a bit of downtempo, a touch of darkwave, and some glitchy goodness thrown in for good measure.

The EP *Midnight Radio* keeps good on the promise of the single "Introverted Dreamer" released back in January. Each track is a carefully measured drop of hi-fi psychedelic electronic, bringing to mind strange dreams and late night hallucinations. Melodies percolate to the surface from deep bass and fuzzy electronics, making *Midnight Radio* truly feel like signals arriving over late night radio waves.

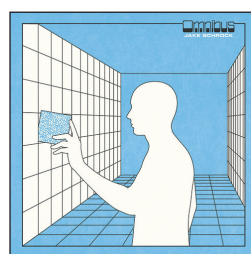
"Neon Mirror Road" opens *Midnight Radio* with downtempo vibes. It's all ambient textures and melancholy sway. Single and title track "Midnight Radio" is a beautiful track, full of wonder and a sort of low-key optimism despite its nighttime drive vibes. "Empty Streets" reminds the listener of some lost early '80s soundtrack.

The six-minute "Heavy Stars" has a dream pop sensibility, like a music box version of Cocoteau Twins. And with first single "Introverted Dreamer" as the closer, *Midnight Radio* goes off the air, bidding us adieu from the other side.

Treebones is such a unique electronic project, buzzing our brains with both ominous and endearing melodies. *Midnight Radio* is the soundtrack to somewhere between conscious and subconscious. — J. Hubner

Jake Schrock

Omnibus



Jake Schrock makes music that seems out of time. His 2018 Holodeck Records debut, the tranquil and exotic *Tropical Depression*, was a stunning work that stood toe to toe with German electronic music pioneers like Rudiger Lorenz, Klaus Schulze, and Kraftwerk. His analog language, spoken with vintage synths and drum machines, was familiar yet alien.

Schrock returns to us with *Omnibus*, a seven-track album that continues his unique musical vision. While building off the magic of *Tropical Depression*, Schrock pushes forward into dystopian, futuristic vibes.

"Grey Skies" opens the album with a striking shift of tone from what we heard in 2018. Tangerine Dream-meets-Mark Isham vibes permeate this excellent track. No matter what the mood, Schrock has a gift for creating melody and "Grey Skies" gives us one to latch onto. If "island electronic" is the next great electronic music genre, then Schrock is its Godfather.

"Deep Sea" works up a synthetic breeze as the sun cooks our already leathery skin under translucent skies. "Gewitter" goes full-on Krautrock with a motorik beat and sparse pulsing synth melody. It's a skeletal frame of a rhythm that Schrock hangs a muscular melody onto. This is pure Berlin School bliss.

One of my favorite tracks here is the slick and strutting "Wormhole." Where some would go

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Beck, Bogert
& Appice

Beck, Bogert &
Appice (1973)



This blues-rock record is earnestly one of the best things Jeff Beck ever did. With Carmine Appice on drums and bassist Tim Bogert (both from Vanilla Fudge) keeping time, the album draws from the Memphis Blues and continues the Zeppelin/Foghat sound that was at its peak in the mid-70s.

Opening with "Black Cat Moan," Beck grabs the mic (his only vocals on the album) and grinds away on this classic written by Don Nix. "Lady" follows; Bogert's bass is some of the best on the album. It has a Yardbirds feel to it, yet rocks a little more as Jeff Beck was a creative genius with his arrangements and high production (perfectionist) values.

And yeah, Carmen Appice could sing pretty well behind the kit. "Oh to Love You" brings the pitch down, but you'll need it as side one closes with Stevie Wonder's "Superstition." Actually, Beck collaborated and played guitars on Wonder's recording, so it's only fair to hear it weaponized for rock n' roll.

Side two doesn't disappoint, as the beautiful "Sweet Sweet Surrender" struts around before the power-pop "Why Should I Care" comes at you. Think Grand Funk but with groovier guitars. Jeff Beck has a gift and could make any song bluesy without even trying. But he is trying on the progressive "Lose Myself with You," and yeah, Bogert could sing too.

"Livin' Alone" is boogie-woogie rock, and may be the most underrated song on the release. It really has the '70s blues-rock stamp on it and showcases each musician within their own range.

The record closes with a dreamy cover of Curtis Mayfield's "I'm So Proud."

If you're sick of your music from quarantine, and need something new, check out this under-the-radar, one-and-done album from three legends. — Dennis Donahue

full hazy Komische bliss with a name like this, Schrock turns in a full-on electro strut. A prominent electronic drum beat with some seriously gritty synth hung onto it for good measure makes this track as hypnotically corrupt as it is intrinsically funky.

"Patterns" closes the record on the same Exit/Le Parc vibes that "Grey Skies" opened on. It's a sound that suits Schrock well. — J. Hubner

Local bands: Send two copies of new CD releases to Whatzup, 5501 U.S. Hwy 30 West, Fort Wayne, IN 46818. Or send links to downloadable files to jon@whatzup.com. Also email any bio information, publicity photos, and cover art. Only professionally produced CDs or EPs are accepted. Submitted materials cannot be returned.

With not a lot slated, park hopes to chalk up a success

Promenade Park takes advantage of its space

BY MICHELE DeVINNEY

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

One of the highlights of Fort Wayne's busy 2019 was the opening of Promenade Park, the first phase of the city's riverfront development. It was a big event for many in the city who had worked for years to bring the park into being, and Riverfront program director Megan Butler had been on the frontlines of that plan for several years.

With the park opening late in the summer, a full slate of fall and winter programs proved that the park was not to sit idle for part of the year, but of course there were big plans for summer 2020. The realization that all of those plans would be scrapped came over the course of a couple weeks.

TAKING A STEP BACK

"In March we took a definite pause in what we were doing," Butler said. "As the pause went into week two, it became apparent that we were going to have to make significant alterations. We had things planned for late April that we had to cancel, but it took a couple of weeks to see that we were looking at the programs through May and the summer."

How to best approach those significant alterations came upon Butler and her team gradually, with the first thought being to make the programs they had planned smaller.

Then it became evident that it had to be something more drastic.



COURTESY PHOTO

"We wanted to stay true to the mission, the vision, and the values of the Riverfront project," Butler said. "It would have been easy to get distracted and jump at the first thing that occurred to us, but we had to run everything through our standards. As we looked at the programs planned, we saw that we could make the changes that complied with social distancing guidelines, but the programs would lose their value. What they were about wouldn't be what they were about anymore. So in May we scrapped everything and started over, looking at four months of programming to take us through summer. I really challenged my staff and asked them to come up with four months of programming in two days."

PUBLIC ART

The answer came in a somewhat surprising form: chalk.

"I told them I had come up with an idea, gave them some guidance, and let them run with it," Butler said. "I follow interactive public art installations around the world, and the use of chalk and chalkboards are used to pose simple questions that allow for people to answer them. It's used to break down barriers and let people in a bit more. Chalk is colorful and easy to use, and it has the ability to change and adapt since you can write and erase which seemed symbolic of what we're doing right now."

With different themes each week — beginning this week and running through October

3 — and different topics each day, people will be invited to visit Promenade Park and participate in this interactive and potentially revealing activity which is both engaging and allows for social distancing.

"We have a lot of concrete at the park," Butler said. "There's a lot of space to use. We've placed these areas in a strategic place that can easily allow for foot traffic and flow that will make it possible for people to interact without having to get too close. And hopefully it won't come to that, but we can and will tap someone on the shoulder and remind them to be mindful of distance if we need to."

The seven topics include Wellness on Sundays, Literature on Mondays, Games on Tuesdays, Dance on Thursdays, Science on Fridays, and Art on Saturdays.

Perhaps most intriguing is Wednesday when the focus is on The Great Conversation. It's a more philosophical endeavor which will pose questions which require some thought, allowing for discussion between those who are there at the same time and interaction with those who may arrive later to see the responses. With different topics daily and different themes weekly, no two days will be the same.

Butler and her staff have already done some dry runs to see how those who visit the park enjoy the exercises. She became emotional remembering one particular example.

"Having people discuss these philosophical questions can bring some really interesting

CHALK IT UP THEMES

June 15-20	Adventure
June 21-27	Community
June 28-July 5	Colorful
July 5-11	Downtown
July 12-18	Unite
July 19-25	Growth
July 26-Aug. 1	Nature
Aug. 2-8	Movement
Aug. 9-15	Inspiring
Aug. 16-22	Heart
Aug. 23-29	Pride
Aug. 30-Sept. 5	Sustainable
Sept. 6-12	Fun
Sept. 13-19	Transformational
Sept. 20-26	Respect
Sept. 27-Oct. 3	Thriving

responses. One question posed was, 'What do you want to accomplish before you die?' A six-year-old girl said, 'I'd like to write a book.' When her father responded, he said, 'I'd like to read that book.' And we will also be interacting over these activities with perfect strangers."

ADAPTING TO THE RESTRICTIONS

One of the Riverfront activities over the winter was Dance Promenade. This will be revamped in a way to allow for current restrictions.

"We'll have boxes on the ground, and you'll be told to do a silly dance or do a cool dance," Butler said. "Your feet stay on the sidewalk, and it will allow for social distancing but with people close enough to still interact safely."

As summer is finally beginning, Butler is happy with what they've been able to accomplish in such a short time. While even 2021 is still up in the air, there is hope that the summer planned for this year might still take place. But in the meantime, there's plenty to look forward to now.

"I'm excited and proud about what we have planned and that we didn't just take what we already had planned and make it smaller. That just doesn't feel right, and I'm happy that we've been able to adapt."

"The Riverfront is helping us get back to connecting with human endeavors and activities while bridging gaps using topics that may seem inaccessible but have been made accessible."



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9

Tickets: \$5

More info online:
fwembassytheatre.org/2020-summer-nights

SUMMER NIGHTS AT THE EMBASSY 2020			
Joe Justice	June 24	Hubie Ashcraft	Aug. 5
Chris Worth.....	July 1	Fatima Washington	Aug. 12
Sunny Taylor	July 8	Q & The Coldfusion.....	Aug. 19
Kent Young	July 15	West Central Quartet	Aug. 26
Todd Harrold Band.....	July 22	Mason Dixon Line	Sept. 2
Shelly Dixon Band.....	July 29	Salsa Dancing feat. Melisa's Latin Beat	Sept. 9

EMBASSY



Embassy Theatre
 125 W. Jefferson Blvd.
 Fort Wayne, Indiana
fwembassytheatre.org

Impressive film by Spike Lee is unapologetic

More than a visionary director or bold storyteller, I think of Spike Lee as a teacher. Not the boring high school instructor who drones on with the same prepared lectures year after year, but the passionate educator who puts a fresh perspective on commonly accepted material.

Each film of Lee's is a re-education in American history. His new Netflix Joint *Da 5 Bloods* is no exception.

This time, Lee takes aim at the Vietnam War and the inequalities leveled against the black community at a time when the civil rights movement suffered a huge setback in the loss of its defining leader, Martin Luther King Jr. But this isn't just Lee's commentary on the war. It's a full-on war movie with thrilling action sequences and high entertainment value all around.

At the outset, in present day, we meet a group of Vietnam veterans who reunite in the country that made them brothers in arms. Paul (Delroy Lindo), Otis (Clarke Peters),



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD



Jonathan Majors, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Norm Lewis, Clarke Peters, and Delroy Lindo star in *Da 5 Bloods*, streaming on Netflix.

COURTESY PHOTO

DA 5 BLOODS

Rated R for strong violence, grisly images, and pervasive language
2 hours 34 minutes



Melvin (Isiah Whitlock Jr.), and Eddie (Norm Lewis) have returned, at least seemingly, to find the grave of their fallen captain Stormin' Norman (Chadwick Boseman). However, we learn through flashback that the squad recovered a case of gold bars in the cabin of a downed plane and buried the treasure throughout the hillside with the intention of digging it up someday.

Aiding them in their decades-long pact are French exporters Hedy (Mélanie Thierry) and Desroche (Jean Reno), who offer to transport their vast fortune out of the country for a cut of the sum.

As a film historian, Lee can't help but visually reference other well-known Vietnam War pictures from *Apocalypse Now* to *Platoon*, although his most clear influence is John Huston's *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, whose most famous quote is cleverly reappropriated.

Like that 1948 classic, the story is less about the titular prize and more about the collection of troubled personalities that pursue it. Each of the Bloods certainly have their issues but "troubled" doesn't quite begin to cover Paul, a cantankerous and paranoid force of nature whose emotional wartime trauma has manifested into PTSD and an estrangement from his son David (Jonathan Majors).

Lindo has played smaller on-screen roles in the past (I'm embarrassed to say his work in *Gone in 60 Seconds* was previously my main point of reference for him) but he's never been better than he is here. As the de-facto "leader" of the Bloods, he has a haunted acrimony to his demeanor that is at once repellent yet transfixing. His third-act monologues, delivered direct to camera with the fervor and ferocity of Colonel Kurtz, recall the "mirror" speech given by Edward Norton in Spike Lee's post-9/11 opus *25th Hour*. He delivers a searing and multi-faceted performance that is undoubtedly one of the year's best.

Lee throws plenty at his audience during the staunch 154-minute runtime. While not every single concept or idea works entirely,

New streaming releases to watch

With theaters still closed, most studios are opting to release their films using video-on-demand services like iTunes, Prime, and Netflix. Here are a few new releases worth checking out.

DA 5 BLOODS

DIRECTOR: SPIKE LEE

Lee, one of our national treasures, doesn't always succeed. He makes a lot of films and he takes a lot of chances and he works in a lot of different ways. Sometimes he shoots his films with his NYU students, sometimes he has the studio support to hire all the best collaborators in the business. Sometimes he writes his own scripts, sometimes he shoots scripts written by other writers. His best work tends to be when he's working on a story he's passionate about with a brilliant director of photography and supportive producers. His 2018



Screen Time

GREG W. LOCKE

masterpiece, *BlackKkKlansman*, for which he won the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar, is such a film. So is the just-released *Da 5 Bloods*. Beautifully photographed and starring Delroy Lindo, Jonathan Majors, Clarke Peters, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Paul Walter Hauser, Jean Reno, and Chadwick Boseman, *Da 5 Bloods* tells the story of five black Vietnam-era soldiers who return to Vietnam many years later to recover a locker of gold bars they found while at war. It's a war film. It's a heist film. It's a political film. It's an art film. It's a film I highly recommend, shot by Newton Thomas Sigel, best known for his work on *Drive*, *Three Kings*, *The Usual Suspects*, and the forever underrated *Pump Up the Volume*. This is perhaps the movie of 2020 so far. (Netflix)

THE KING OF STATEN ISLAND

DIRECTOR: JUDD APATOW

Apatow makes very watchable, sometimes funny, always flawed populist comedies that get a lot of attention. His muse for *The King of Staten Island* is the It Boy of two years ago, Pete Davidson. It's another stab at modern hipster appeal from Apatow, who has never been as "cool" as he thinks he is, but has never been shy about trying. That being said, Davidson, who essentially plays himself, can be an undeniably electric screen presence. Supporting

performances from Bill Burr, Steve Buscemi, the forever underrated Bel Powley, and ScreenTime Hall of Famer Marisa Tomei make *Staten* a film worth watching. Sure, it's painfully hip and Davidson isn't for everyone, but it's a breezy, fun watch that announces, in my opinion, Bill Burr as a movie star. That's right, Bill Burr is now a movie star. (iTunes)

CAPONE

DIRECTOR: JOSH TRANK

Rotten reviews. Pending Razzie nominations. Bad makeup. This one isn't for everyone. But it stars one of the most interesting leading men in the movies today, Tom Hardy, who is known for taking weird chances that don't always pay off. It's directed by Josh Trank, who has yet to live up to his promising debut film, *Chronicle*. With music by El-P (Company Flow, Run the Jewels) and cinematography by Peter Deming (*Lost Highway*, *Hollywood Shuffle*, *Mulholland Drive*), *Capone* is worth seeing if you have an interest in the subject, in the mafia, or in oddball performances. Otherwise, I think it's safe to skip this one. (iTunes)

CRIP CAMP

DIRECTORS: NICOLE NEWNHAM AND JAMES LEBRECHT

Camp Jened, a summer camp in New York for crippled teens, is the focus of an excellent



MORE ON THE WEB

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code above to watch the movie trailer.

there are more than enough successes to score a winning ratio.

Among his better stylistic impulses is the inclusion of numerous Marvin Gaye tracks from dance hit "Got To Give It Up" to a stunning acapella rendition of "What's Going On" that simply gave me goosebumps in its implementation. On a more surface level, the flashback firefights and present-day

conflicts are both shot and edited with just the right amount of visual flourish for maximum impact.

Urgent and unapologetic, *Da 5 Bloods* is another impressive statement from one of our most vital filmmakers.

NEW TO STREAMING THIS WEEKEND

Debuting on demand is *You Should Have Left*, a psychological horror film starring Kevin Bacon and Amanda Seyfried about a screenwriter who travels with his family to a remote cabin to pen his next script only to suffer a severe case of writer's block.

Streaming on Amazon Prime is *7500*, an action thriller starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt about a beleaguered airline pilot whose flight from Berlin to Paris is hijacked.

Available on Netflix is *Wasp Network*, a true story starring Penélope Cruz and Ana de Armas about five Cuban political prisoners who had been imprisoned by the United States since the late 1990s on charges of espionage and murder.

new documentary from Higher Ground Productions, the production company started by Barack and Michelle Obama. It's a fun, moving, hippie-era story about a group of campers who become activists for the disability rights movement, and dang, it's a good one. In what has been a dark year so far for all of us, *Crip Camp* is a small ray of light. Oh, and it won the Audience Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival. (Netflix)

SPACESHIP EARTH

DIRECTOR: MATT WOLF

We humans sure do some crazy things, don't we? The story of *Spaceship Earth* is being touted as "too crazy not to be true," and I think that's a spot-on illustration of the story this Matt Wolf (*Wild Combination*, *The Town I Live In*) film tells. In 1991 a group of eight scientists spent two years quarantined inside a self-engineered replica of Earth's ecosystem. Why? Because humans are ruining Earth and might have to someday find another large rock to inhabit. And, to do that, we'll have to engineer our own environment. Sounds wild, right? Well that's just the nugget that gets the story going. I'll leave the rest of the thrills a mystery for you to explore. The score by Owen Pallett is incredible, as is the film's art direction. It's a new sci-fi classic. (Hulu, iTunes)

Art & Exhibits LOCAL CALENDAR

CURRENT EXHIBITS

A Slice of Life — Sarah Creason's oil and acrylic paintings depicting various aspects of everyday life plus pottery by Tom Sherbondy, **11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, through June 30** Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 436-0927

Here and Now: A Survey on New Contemporary Art — Eleven artists who contribute to the New Contemporary Art movement highlighting an expansion of style since postmodernism, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Aug. 30**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Hidden Truths: New Paintings by Francisco Valverde — Valverde's work utilizes plastic materials to build complexity with the themes of obsession and freedom, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Aug. 30**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Hope Dies Last: The New Armenia — Photographer Michelle Andonian traveled to the historic land of the Armenians to chase the ghosts of her ancestors, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Sept. 27**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Salvador Dali's Stairway to Heaven — Illustrations originally made for a 1934 edition of *Les Chants de Maldoror* and a 1960 edition of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Aug. 16**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

ART EVENTS

Plein Air — An informal group of artists enjoying the beauty of painting outside, **8 a.m. Wednesdays**, various locations, Fort Wayne, free, www.fortwaynearartists-guild.org/plein-air

Pop-Up Art Gallery — Watch painters create before your eyes "en plein air," **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 27**, Parkview Field, Fort Wayne, free, www.fortwaynearartistsguild.org

Critter on Canvas — Paint a live critter on canvas (must pre-register and pre-pay ten days in advance), **2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12**, Fox Island County Park, Fort Wayne, \$30, (260) 449-3180

Art This Way Art Crawl — A live band, artist performing live, and gallery show at each various downtown location, **5-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18**, downtown Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 420-3266

COMING EXHIBITS

The Art of Judith Peck — Figurative oil paintings by Washington, D.C., area and internationally shown artist Judith Peck, **Mondays-Thursdays by appointment, 5-8 p.m. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays, June 26-Aug. 2**, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, free, (260) 704-5400

Color X Color: Selections from the Chuck Sperry Archive — Sperry continues to add to his thousands of posters for hundreds of bands, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, Oct. 24-Jan. 31**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$8, (260) 422-6467

Things To Do LOCAL CALENDAR

CURRENT

Chalk It Up! — Explore the medium of chalk with provided supplies, daily and weekly themes: Sundays, Wellness; Mondays, Literature; Tuesdays, Games; Wednesdays, Conversation; Thursdays, Dance; Fridays, Science; Saturdays, Art; **2-8 p.m. daily, through Oct. 3**, Promenade Park, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6000

Salomon Farmers Market — Baked goods, honey, crafts, food, entertainment, and children's activities, **4-4:30 p.m. Seniors & Higher Risk Individuals, 4:30-7 p.m. General Public, Wednesdays**, Salomon Farm Park, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6028

Full Moon Hikes — A moonlit adventure to experience nature through a new perspective, **8 p.m. Youth, 9:15 p.m. Adult, Fridays**, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6028

Fort Wayne's Farmers Outdoor Market — Products ranging from farm and garden, home-based and professionally prepared foods, natural products, and local artisans, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through July 4**, Parkview Field, Fort Wayne, free, ftwaynesfarmersmarket.com

Ylni Farmers Market — Fresh produce, a wide variety of organic fruits and vegetables, hand-made jewelry and crafts, local artwork, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 26**, corner of Wayne and Barr Street, Fort Wayne, free, www.ylni.org

Present Tense, Future Calm — Showcase Garden designed to help you pause, relax, and reflect, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 pm Thursday**,

noon-4 p.m. Sunday, closed Mondays, through Nov. 15, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

COMING EVENTS

JUNE

30th Annual Flat 50 Plus Bicycle Ride — Options of 20, 35, 50, 62, or 100 miles with well-marked routes, maps, vehicle assistance, and SAG stops through farmland, **7 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 27**, Belmont High School, Decatur, \$20, (260) 728-9949

JULY

July 4th Celebration — Camping, food, live music, and fireworks, **5-11 p.m. Saturday, July 4**, Buck Lake Ranch, Angola, free, (260) 665-6699

Online Virtual Reality Camp — Create your own virtual worlds, experience life-like interactive animated holograms, and learn how this emerging technology shapes the way we educate, create, and learn, **9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 6-10 and July 13-17**, online, \$199, (260) 481-6059

Cruis'n To The Ranch & BBQ Competition — Annual classic car show and BBQ cook-off competition, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, July 11**, Buck Lake Ranch, Angola, free, (260) 665-6699

Project WILD Teacher Workshop — Teachers and environmental leaders who want to encourage wildlife literacy in their students are invited to utilize the Project WILD educator curriculum guide, park entry, and nature center classrooms, **10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, July 11**, Fox Island County Park, Fort Wayne, \$35, (317) 233-7417

Stage & Dance LOCAL CALENDAR

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

JULY

Legally Blonde The Musical — Based off the hit movie, a bubbly college student is set to win back her ex-boyfriend through pursuing Harvard Law School, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 25, 2 p.m. Sunday, July 26; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9**, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-5220

AUGUST

Play On! — A theater group attempts to put on a play despite the interferences of an author who keeps revising the script, doors and cash bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., curtain at 8 p.m., **8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 7-8; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 14-15; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16; and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 21-22**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-5622

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