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Distribution

Whatzup is distributed once per week at more than 650 locations in nine counties — Allen, Whitley, Noble, Wells, Adams, Huntington, Wabash, Kosciusko, Dekalb, and Steuben. Whatzup is distributed on Wednesdays and Thursdays by Whatzup LLC.

Back issues

Back issues are \$3 for first copy, 75¢ per additional copy. Send payment with date and quantity of issues desired, and your name and mailing address, to Whatzup LLC at the above address.

Calendar listings

Must be received by noon Monday the week of publication for inclusion in that week's issue and, space permitting, will run until the week of the event. Calendar information is published as far in advance as space permits and should be submitted as early as possible. Whatzup makes every effort to authenticate claims and accurate times and event locations. We encourage readers to verify information prior to attending events or purchasing tickets.

Advertisina

Space reservations and ads requiring proofs due by no later than the Monday 10 days prior to publication. Cameraready or digital ad copy required by noon Friday the week before publication. E-mail info@whatzup.com or call (260) 407-3198.



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of Fort Wayne Youtheatre's $\emph{A Christmas Carol}$ rehearse on a Zoom call recently.

Dickens' work goes online as the Youtheatre Christmas show

It's another pivot after a COVID cancellation

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

When Fort Wayne Youtheatre was forced to cancel its production of *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* because of COVID-19, the company's director of outreach, Christopher J. Murphy, did something that arts professionals grew adept at doing in 2020.

He pivoted.

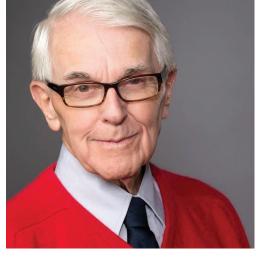
He recalled a production of Dickens' A Christmas Carol that former executive director and current artist-in-residence Harvey Cocks presented in 2011

Murphy thought Cocks' adaptation of Dickens' Christmas classic could be reshaped without too much toil into a radio play for the internet age — not to mention, the COVID-19 age.

A CONCISE CAROL

"It's pretty concise," Murphy said of Cocks' hour-long adaptation. "If you look at most movie versions of it, they clock in at about an hour and a half. He has done a really, really nice job of condensing it."

Cocks wasn't shy about taking some artistic



COURTESY PHOTO

Fort Wayne Youtheatre's artist-in-residence Harvey Cocks wrote the version of *A Christmas Carol* that will be presented this month.

license when he adapted Dickens' text, Murphy said.

"Some of the things he took some freedom in actually benefited the fact that we're doing a radio show," he said.

For example, instead of eating gruel alone in his house at the beginning of the play, Scrooge goes to a restaurant and banters with a waitress.

In a radio show, restaurant banter is not only more interesting to listening to than gruel slurping, it's more informative, Murphy said.

The entire 25-member cast of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* agreed to take parts in *A Christmas Carol*, he said.

That includes the young woman who was set to play the White Witch, Emerson "Emmie" Conner. Conner is now playing Scrooge.

"Emmie has done quite a few shows for me in the last few years, both at Youtheatre and at the Civic Theatre," Murphy said. "She is a senior at Carroll High School and is one of the most talented human beings I know."

A CHRISTMAS CAROL FORT WAYNE YOUTHEATRE

A work in progress that will posted to fortwayneyoutheatre.org by Dec. 21.
Free, but \$20 donation will be encouraged

The audio-only nature of this production gave Murphy more freedom in casting than he might have otherwise had.

"It just seemed like the fact that we only had to worry about vocal performances made this a really good opportunity to give parts to the people who were most right for them and not have to worry about their gender," he said.

Murphy thinks listeners will be blown away by Conner's Scrooge.

"I have been listening to Emmie because we've been rehearsing on Zoom this week," he said. "I will sort of just turn my head away from it and just listen. I think she does such a beautiful job of playing the character that you're either not going to be aware of her being female or, within 30 seconds, it's not going to matter to you."

Another female actor, Kayley White, is playing Tiny Tim.

FOCUS ON TALENTED KIDS

As befits a Youtheatre production, all the roles in *A Christmas Carol* are being played by adolescents and teenagers save one: local theater stalwart and indisputable grown-up Jim Matusik is the narrator of the show.

Murphy said he concocted this backup plan because he wanted to give these talented kids something to focus on in these turbulent times.

The show will be performed and recorded with no audience at Arts United Center, Murphy said.

"There will be some post-production wizardry," he said. "The plan is to spend the week after we record it editing it together."

Murphy hopes to have it posted to the Youtheatre website by Dec. 21.

A Christmas Carol will be free to listen to, but a donation of \$20 will be encouraged.





COURTESY PHOTOS

Legendary restaurant a pearl in **Fort Wayne**

Oyster Bar has been in business since 1888

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

The Oyster Bar has been open continuously

It hasn't always been called the Oyster Bar, but it has always served food and drink, even during prohibition, according to its current owner Steve Gard.

During prohibition, drinking happened "in

a back room," he said.

The interior of the Oyster Bar really hasn't changed much since 1888. A person sitting at the bar in 1888 ostensibly had the same view that a person sitting at the bar in 2020 has.

Of course, because of COVID-19, no one is allowed to sit at the bar at the moment.

A tippler from 1888 wouldn't recognize the rest of South Calhoun Street in 2020, however. The Oyster Bar, now considered part of downtown, was in the middle of nowhere in 1888, Gard said.

Gard acquired it in 1987 after the previous owner declared bankruptcy.

He worked with a skeleton crew for five years or so and was eventually able to make the restaurant a success.

FRESH SEAFOOD

Inveterate easterners tend not to trust seafood served to them in the Midwest... or tend to make a big show of not trusting it.

But the Oyster Bar gets its fish speedily from Dixon Fisheries, a seafood wholesaler that has been catching and selling fish almost as long as the Oyster Bar has been some sort of restaurant.

"We only deal with one- and two-day old boats," Gard said. "It's as fresh as you can get in the Midwest."

Seafood is delivered three times a week.

True to its name, the Oyster Bar serves the titular mollusk seven different ways, including

THE OYSTER BAR

11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 4-9 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays 4-9 p.m. Saturdays Closed Sunday and Monday 1830 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne (260) 744-9490

raw. Daily specials reflect interesting fresh fish acquisitions.

But Gard added a few non-fish dishes that have proved enormously popular over the years including a stuffed raspberry chicken breast, pork ribs, and rack of lamb.

There are newer restaurants in town with a lot more flash than the Oyster Bar, but none of them have the eatery's character.

There may not be a better place in town for a romantic meal or a cozier place to get out of the chill and enjoy a cocktail.

Seating capacity is only about 70 or 80 souls with all bar stools occupied.

Somewhere in Gard's upstairs office, there exist blueprints for expanding the place and adding a second bar.

But with the pandemic going on, Gard says he has no idea when or if those blueprints will be acted upon.

TOUGH TIMES

The Oyster Bar has had its ups and downs over the years, including a second location that fell victim to a mold problem, despite

being in a new building.

But Gard said he has never had to ride out anything like this pandemic.

"It's tough," he said. "It's tough right now. It's

Throughout December, Gard will experiment with a heated tent that will cover the patio area. Most local eateries have tried to figure out how to do year-round al fresco dining despite occupying what is known as a continental climate.

These efforts, not always successful, are notable for their spunk and creativity, Gard said. Some restaurants have succumbed to the pandemic, but the Oyster Bar won't be one of them, Gard said.

"We have received two stimulus checks," he said. "We went through the first one, but we haven't touched the second one yet. Our plans are not to touch it unless we absolutely have to."

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The Oyster Bar occupies a special place in the hearts of Fort Wayne diners. Gard said he doesn't quite know how to account for it.

"We treat people very well," he said. "If there's something wrong with their food, they don't pay for it. If somehow we make a mistake, which doesn't happen often, we correct it and buy them something. We take care of them. We take care of the people who come in there. Every single one."

DECEMBER 10-16, 2020 WHATZUP

Nightlife

469 Comedy: Fort Wayne's Comedy Club

Comedy • 1324 Minnich Road, New Haven • (260) 426-6339

EXPECT: Specializing in professional stand-up comedy every week, plus newbie comedy and pro-amateur showcases. Menu is pub style. GETTING THERE: Take I-469/U.S. 30 to Exit 19B. HOURS: Friday and Saturday 6:30 p.m. until 11 p.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 0z. 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 \$3.4 **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

Corner Pocket Pub

Bar/Pool Hall • 3215 St. Joe Center Road, Fort Wayne • (260) 492-7665 EXPECT: Daily drink specials and daily food features. Twenty pool tables, \$1 per game or available to rent for \$10 per hour. Pool leagues Sunday through Thursday if you are interested in weekly competition. Free pool all day Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday, and Thursday after 11 p.m. (reserved for leagues from 6:30-9 p.m.) NFL Ticket on Sundays with plenty of TVs, with one big projector screen that is first come, first served for which game. GETTING THERE: Riviera Plaza, corner of St. Joe and St. Joe Center roads. HOURS: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-midnight Sun. ALCOHOL: Full service. PMT: MC, Visa, Disc, ATM

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 dessert 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

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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Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

Dylan Vattelana — Comedy at 469 Sports & Spirits, New Haven, 8 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339 The Greys — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Melissa McCann — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-10:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety at Byler Lane Winery, Auburn, 5-8 p.m. no cover, (260) 920-4377 ¡FUA!, Roman New Time, The Velvetheads — Variety at The Muse on Main, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$8-\$10, (260) 999-4108

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

The Band Brother — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Dance Party} - \text{Variety at Flashback Live} \\ \text{Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. , (260) 422-5292} \end{array}$

Trainhoppers release double CD, DVD package

It is one thing for a band to put out a new CD, but to release a double CD and a DVD to boot, now that's the cat's meow.

That's exactly what **The Legendary Trainhoppers** have done with their latest effort, *Hard Times*. This masterpiece is a 2-CD and DVD package that includes eighteen songs, a short documentary, studio videos, and two live videos from last year's concert on The Landing.



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

Hard Times
THE LEGERGARY TRAINIPPERS

In addition to five brand new songs, the majority of the release is comprised of hits from their previous EPs, *Not Today*, *It Takes a Lot*, and *Join a Band*. It also includes their pandemic single "(When We're All) Back Together (Someday)."

Hard Times is available as a download or physical release now via trainhoppers.bandcamp.com. Unfortunately, it will not be available on streaming sites until next year.

Whether you are a fan of the Trainhoppers or looking for a stocking stuffer for that special someone, pick this gem up today.

DEBUTANTS OFFER NEW 'JOKE'

Speaking of releases, the **Debutants** just released a new track simply titled "Joke."

The new number is off their upcoming EP that was recorded a few weeks back at Studio 110 in Pittsburgh. That weekend trip saw them in the studio for 24 hours which in the end resulted into five new tracks.

There is no official release date yet but I do know many folks are chomping at the bit for it. As for now, we have "Joke" to get us by, which can be found on all major streaming platforms.

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER PARTY

The Christmas sweater, once thought to be tacky, has made an enormous comeback the last few years. Whether you find one at the local thrift shop or make your own, you will have the opportunity to put it on display at Mitchell's Sports & Neighborhood Grill on Friday,

The Ugly Christmas Sweater Party will get under way at 4 p.m., when you will have the opportunity to display your festive creativity and also take in live music by Fireball Matinee.

LAMPOON CHRISTMAS AT 2TOMS

2Toms Brewing Company is set to host its annual Christmas Vacation party on Saturday, Dec. 19, beginning at noon. Come dressed as your favorite *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* character, take part in the photo booth area, enjoy food specials, and snag a candy cane from good ole Santa Claus.

2Toms would also love for you to bring a new or gently used coat to donate. If you do so, you will receive a free drink.

Out and About covers Northeast Indiana's most interesting music and arts events. Send your announcements to info@whatzup.com.

Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Dylan Vattelana — Comedy at 469 Sports & Spirits, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Mantra of Morta, Mask of Sanity, Voices of The Damned, Cremated Souls, A Burden To Bear, Demons of Wrathica — Metal at The Muse on Main, Fort Wayne, 5 p.m.-midnight \$10, (260) 999-4108

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

Steve Michaels — Acoustic variety at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

Sweetwater All Stars — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Smooth Tuesdays — Soft rock at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

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

Struggle Jennings w/Brianna Harness, Nuke Bushner — Rap at Rockstar Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$35, (260) 444-2442

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Chris Worth — Variety at Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, 6-9 p.m. Call for reservations, (260) 637-2980

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

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Kelsey & Co. — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-10:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

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

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

I Love Saturdays — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

James Baker Trio - Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

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

Jon Durnell - Acoustic variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

Pat Godwin — Comedy at 469 Sports & Spirits, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Jeff McDonald - '60s and '70s Oldies at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Smooth Tuesdays - Soft rock at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at American Legion Post 47, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 209-3960

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra — Funk at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Good Night Gracie — Variety at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Jon Shoulders — Acoustic rock at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

Smooth Tuesdays — Soft rock at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen - Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Helicon's Peak — Variety at Eagles Post 248, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-midnight no cover, (260) 478-2482

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

I Love Saturdays — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen - Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

482-1618

American Idol Karaoke - Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761



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Subject to credit approval. Financing offers include: 1) Same as cash: interest free if paid in full within 24 month period; monthly payments of \$27.32 per \$1,000 borrowed for 48 months at 13.99% APR. 2) Fixed monthly payments for 24 months; monthly payments of \$41.67 per \$1,000 borrowed for 24 months at 0% APR. On purchases of new and in-stock-qualifying Yamaha pianos from November 1, 2020, to January 4, 2021.

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Fort Wayne Musicians Association



Call Bruce Graham for more information 260-420-4446



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/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

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 & Cabo Wabo Tequila. River Bend 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

Nightlife listings work for your business

Keep in front of your audience with this affordable option info@whatzup.com or (260) 407-3198

Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Anthony Gomes — Blues/rock at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$20-\$40, (260) 426-6434

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526 Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

At the Movies: Songs of the Silver Screen w/Three Rivers Music Theatre — Variety at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260) 424-5665

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898 Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen

— Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Circa Survive w/Gouge Away — Indie Rock at The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$25, (260) 747-0989

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen
— Variety at The Venice Restaurant,
Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260)
482-1618

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Local theater companies adjust to newest COVID restrictions

If there is a silver lining to all of the current restrictions, it's that there are multiple opportunities to celebrate the holidays in our own home, curled up with a cup of hot cocoa and snuggled in our jammies while talented performers entertain us virtually.



Venues

MICHELE DEVINNEY

FIRE SIDE CABARET

Among the local companies doing just that is Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre which has changed its plan for a Christmas Cabaret into a Fire Side Edition.

The cabaret will be available through a free livestream though donations are appreciated. Through a partnership with Sunspace Films, Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre will pre-record and stream the performance Dec. 18-20. For more information about the performance, check its website at fwsmt.com.

Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre is also part of the larger non-profit Indiana Musical Theatre Foundation which has its new permanent home on Lake Avenue under construction. It's good to know that even in these rough times, plans are moving forward to broaden and expand the stage offerings in our city.

ALL FOR ONE CHRISTMAS

Due to scheduling and venue changes, COVID claimed another victim in all for One's recent production of A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas. Moved back a week, the production ran just one weekend, but the good news is that a performance was recorded and will be available online this coming weekend.

Performances can be viewed at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11, and Saturday, Dec. 12, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. Ticket information can be found at allforonefw.org.

FIRE & LIGHT SUPPORT

Another theater company with big news is Fire & Light Productions, a company of now 100 performers brought together in an atmosphere which inspires and educates young people interested in theater.

A recent contribution from Joyful Creations Studio is allowing Fire & Light to continue its mission even as their productions have been set aside for the time being.

In a recent press release about the Joyful Creations donation, Fire & Light shares its mission and promises much to come when the time is right.

"Fire & Light offers training in all aspects of theater arts: set design, painting, basic construction, sound and light facilitation, music and stage movement, and direction and leadership skills. Fire & Light kids are in rehearsals at this time, preparing to tell the stories of It's a Wonderful Life, Little Women, and Frozen Jr., when they can safely do so before audi-

As the spirit of the season often moves people to share a few dollars with worthy causes, please keep the Fort Wayne arts organizations in mind as they endeavor to stay afloat while still providing entertainment when we need it

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

Grateful Groove — Variety at The Ruin, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m.-3 a.m. no cover, (260) 399-6336

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

SEND US YOUR LOCAL LIVE MUSIC AND COMEDY EVENTS: whatzup.com/submit

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

American Idol Karaoke - Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen - Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

American Idol Karaoke - Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

MONDAY, MARCH 1

American Idol Karaoke - Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Monday Blues Jam Sessions with G Money — Blues at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Laughs at The Mambo Room — Comedy at Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, 9-11 p.m. free, (260) 449-9761

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 482-1618

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

American Idol Karaoke - Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Phil Vassar — Country at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 7:30 p.m. \$22-\$52, (574) 267-8041

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

James Baker Duo — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 444-5898

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

American Idol Karaoke — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (260) 483-5526

Dance Party — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., (260) 422-5292



COOKIES AND COCOA WITH SANTA - \$20

Join us for an hour with Santa! in addition to cookies and cocoa, hear a story and take a socially distanced photo with Santa. Masks are required except when seated at your family unit table and eating and drinking. Dec. 11, 13, 18, 19, and 20

WINTER NIGHTS WITH SANTA - \$30

Come to the Embassy for two hours of Santa programming including story time, food, and a performance by the Fort Wayne Youtheatre, "Best of Youtheatre Christmases." Masks are required except when seated at your family unit table and eating and drinking. Dec. 16 and 23

The Embassy Theatre is following board of health guidelines for patrons, staff, volunteers and performers.



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







whatzup 20 UNDER 20







Calling All Young Musicians!

Does your young musicmaker hit the right notes?

The Sweetwater Academy and Mynett Music are proud to partner with *Whatzup* to acknowledge the wealth of musical talent in northeastern Indiana. The **20 Under 20 Awards** highlight talented young musicians throughout the region. Winners will be featured in a future print issue of *Whatzup* and online at Whatzup.com.

Friends, family, parents, and music educators may nominate musicians from the area. To be considered for this award, the nominee must be under 20 years of age as of March 25, 2021, and live in one of the following Indiana counties: Allen, Wabash, Whitley, Noble, Wells, Adams, Huntington, Kosciusko, Dekalb, or Steuben.

An expert panel of judges will lead in the selection of honored musicians based on criteria including:



Musical Skill & Knowledge



Community & School Music Activities



Academic
Performance & More

Learn more and nominate your young musician at whatzup.com/20under20



Mynett Music

A Sweetwater Company

The Doobies ready to roll into a **202**1 reunion tour

ne band itching to get back on the road is The Doobie Brothers. The legendary classic rockers had planned to spend 2020 traveling around the country celebrating their 50th anniversary as a band, but plans changed

when the world changed.

With promises of a vaccine comes hopes of a "normal" summer concert season. The Doobies are planning to kick off their **Road** 50th anniversary tour during their

51st year together beginning in July.



Notes CHRIS HUPE

The tour kicks off in Florida and makes its way to Detroit on Sept. 2, Toledo on Sept. 5, Cincinnati om Sept. 8, Cleveland on Sept. 9, and Indianapolis on Sept. 11.

The run will mark the first time the foursome of founding members Tom Johnston, Michael McDonald, Pat Simmons, and John McFee will tour together in nearly a quarter

VINYL COUNTDOWN

During this pandemic, many people have turned to their own music collections for entertainment. Many, like myself, have added

The vinyl sales industry is reaping the benefit as that medium will outsell CDs and take over once again as the physical medium of choice.

Vinyl is on pace to take a 62 percent share of the physical medium pie, according to a report from the Recording Industry Association of America.

One celebrity contributing to that statistic is Sir Elton John. John recently revealed he owns more than 15,000 pieces of vinyl. Of course, when you are as rich and famous as Elton John, you have plenty of room to display a collection like that so none of them has gone into storage. John says he likes CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ▶

On the Road National Tours within driving distance

Confirm with the venue about any event you plan to attend.

38 Special	Apr. 30 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
5 Seconds of Summer	June 6 '21	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Aaron Lewis	Apr. 17 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Acid Mothers Temple, The Melting Paraiso U.F.O	Feb. 26 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Agnostic Front, Sick Of It All, Crown of Thornz	Apr. 25 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Air Supply	June 11 '21	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
The Airborne Toxic Event	Mar. 11'21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
The Airborne Toxic Event	Apr. 27 '21	The Vogue	Indianapolis
AJJ	Mar. 21 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 7 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 8 '21	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Albert Cummings	Apr. 3 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Align	May 13 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Amy Grant	Sept. 18 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Anthem Lights	Apr. 16 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Anthem Lights	May 7 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Anthony Gomes	Jan. 16 '21	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Aries Spears	Jan. 28-30 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Artie Lange	Feb. 12 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Asleep at the Wheel	Mar. 5 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Atlanta Rhythm Section	June 12 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine Univer	•
The Australian Pink Floyd Show	Aug. 29 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Banda MS	Apr. 30-May 1'21		Rosemont, IL
	· · · · · ·		
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	May 8 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Black Stone Cherry	Apr. 24 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
Blackhawk	May 1 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Bob Zany & Costaki Economopoulos	May 20 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Boney James	Oct. 7 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Brian Culbertson	Apr. 7 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers	June 16 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Building 429	July 9 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine Unive	rsity Angola
Carol Burnett	May 26 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Celctic Woman	Apr. 2 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Celtic Woman	Apr. 8 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Celtic Woman	Apr. 17 '21	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Chicago	May 23 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Chicano Batman	June 11 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Chris Janson	May 8 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Chris Tucker	Mar. 13 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Circa Survive	Jan. 14 '21	House of Blues	Cleveland
Circa Survive	Jan. 16 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Circa Survive w/Gouge Away	Feb. 7 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Circa Survive	Mar. 2 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Colin Hay	Mar. 27 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Colt Ford	Mar. 6 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
Crowder	May 8 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
The Cybertronic Spree	Mar. 8 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Dabin	Feb. 13 '21	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Dan Mangan	Jan. 23 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 8 '21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 10 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 10 21 Apr. 12 '21	Old National Centre	
		Honeywell Center	Indianapolis
Daughtry David Foster	May 15 '21	The Palladium	Wabash
	Jan. 21'21		Carmel
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 27 '21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 28 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Delta Spirit	May 2 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Dennis DeYoung	Apr. 16 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Deon Cole	May 29 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
The Dip	Mar. 25 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
DragonForce	Mar. 19 '21	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
	Mar. 21'21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
DragonForce			
The Driver Era	Feb. 16 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
		Newport Music Hall Vic Theatre	
The Driver Era	Feb. 16 '21		Columbus, OH Chicago Fort Wayne

The Fab Four	Aug. 29 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
For King & Country	May 7 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Fuzz	Feb. 4 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Fuzz	Feb. 5 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Gaither Vocal Band	June 10 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Gary Allan	May 15 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Get the Led Out	Mar. 6 '21	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Gladys Knight	May 21 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Gladys Knight	Aug. 21'21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
The Glenn Miller Orchestra	Aug. 31'21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Gordon Lightfoot	Mar. 8-9 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Gordon Lightfoot	May 14 '21	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Grand Funk Railroad	May 1'21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Greer	May 8 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Gregory Porter	Feb. 16 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Gregory Porter w/Ledisi	Feb. 17 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Heather McMahan	Jan. 20 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 9 '21	United Center	Chicago
James Taylor	June 11 '21	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Jay Leno	Apr. 22 '21	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Jeanne Robertson	June 9 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jeanne Robertson	Sept. 16 '21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jeff Foxworthy	June 5 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jess Hilarious	Feb. 19-20 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Jim Stafford	May 28 '21	Blue Gate Music Hall	Shipshewana
Jim Stafford	May 29 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jo Koy	Apr. 3 '21	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Jo Koy	Apr. 8-10 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
JoJo	May 10 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
JoJo Siwa	July 17 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Jonny Lang	Mar. 14 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Josh Turner	June 4 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Kashmir	Mar. 27 '21	Hobart Art Theater	Hobart



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Aragon Ballroom

May 8 '21

Kaytranada	May 8 '21	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band	June 12 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Kingston Trio	June 3 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Kool & The Gang w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Sept. 3 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 11 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 12 '21	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 13 '21	Subterranean	Chicago
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 18 '21	The Deluxe	Indianapolis
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 20 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 21 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 23 '21	The Stache	Grand Rapids
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 24 '21	House of Blues	Cleveland
Leanne Morgan	Jan. 15 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Leonid & Friends w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Oct. 27 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
The Lettermen		•	
Lilly Hiatt	Apr. 9 '21 Apr. 7 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine Univer Schubas Tavern	
	•		Chicago
Little River Band	Feb. 5 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Little River Band	Sept. 11'21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
The Lone Bellow	Apr. 8 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Los Lobos w/The Summit	Mar. 27 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Lost Dog Street Band	Dec. 15 '20	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 15 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 17 '21	The Fillmore	Detroit
Luke Bryan	June 10 '21	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Maggie Rose	Dec. 16 '20	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Malpass Brothers, Doug Church, Aaron Wilburn	Dec. 31'20	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Maria Bamford	Jan. 22 '21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Matt Braunger	May 7 '21	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
MercyMe	Mar. 14 '21	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
MercyMe w/Mac Powell, Micah Tyler	Apr. 8 '21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Michael Buble	Feb. 23 '21	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Michael Buble	Feb. 26 '21	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Michael Buble	Mar. 18 '21	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Michael Buble	Mar. 20 '21	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Michael W. Smith	May 14 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Mike Birbiglia	May 21 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Milky Chance	Apr. 15 '21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Milky Chance	May 4 '21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Milky Chance	June 4 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Million Dollar Quartet	Oct. 22'21	Honeywell Center	Wabash
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
	Apr. 10 21 Apr. 12 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Ministry, KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Mar. 25 '21	Eclectic Room	
Molly Hatchet			Angola
Move to the Sanctuary	Apr. 22 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Murder by Death	Mar. 12 '21	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
The Musical Box	May 13 '21	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Nada Surf	Apr. 23 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
NateWantsToBattle	Apr. 18 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Nene Leakes, Adele Givens, Loni Love,	Fab. E /01	Chicago Thootes	Chianna
Sherri Shepherd, Kym Whitley	Feb. 5 '21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	May 22 '21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Nombe	Mar. 27 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Oak Ridge Boys	Oct. 9'21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Omarion, Bow Wow, Ashanti, Pretty Ricky,	A 0 /01	Little Caesars Arena	Datusit
Ying Yang Twins, Sammie, Soulja Boy	Apr. 9 '21	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Omarion, Bow Wow, Ashanti, Pretty Ricky, Ying Yang Twins, Soulja Boy, Lloyd, Sammie	May 7 '21	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Omarion, Bow Wow	May 8 '21	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
			Cleveland
Parquet Courts	May 29 '21	Agora Theatre	
Parsonsfield Pat Codwin w /Pone Collier	Mar. 28 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Pat Godwin w/Reno Collier	Dec. 31'20	Irving Theatre	Indianapolis
Pat Hazell	Mar. 16 '21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Phil Vassar	Mar. 4 '21	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Poco	June 25 '21	T. Furth Center, Trine Univer	
Pokey Lafarge w/Esther Rose	Feb. 19 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Pokey LaFarge	Mar. 12 '21	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Powerglove, Immortal Guardian	Mar. 15 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Preacher Lawson	Feb. 5-6 '21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL

Road Notes

Chicago

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

them accessible so he can get to them whenever he feels the need to hear something in particular.

John says the first album he ever owned was a **Doris Day** album his mother bought him after having a tooth pulled at the dentist's office. The most valuable item he owns is an original pressing of the first **Beatles** album *Please Please Me* on the Parlophone label.

Vinyl is not the only thing John owns in abundance as he also has somewhere in the neighborhood of 120,000 CDs in his possession. But he still says he prefers LPs.

I, for one, am keeping this information in mind for the next time my wife complains about the size of my collection. I finally have proof that it could be worse.

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May 3 '21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
•		Columbus, OH
May 7 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
May 8 '21	The Shelter	Detroit
Mar. 19 '21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Jan. 23 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
	Honeywell Center	Wabash
-	Thalia Hall	Chicago
June 12 '21	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
May 22 '21		Chicago
June 3 '21		Sterling Heights
		Chicago
•		Wabash
		Angola
		Fort Wayne
		Schaumburg, IL
	• '	Shipshewana
		Rosemont, IL
		Indianapolis
		Royal Oak, MI
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		Northfield, OH
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Mar. 4'21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Mar. 26 '21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Feb. 7'21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Feb. 9 '21	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Dec. 17 '20	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Mar. 13 '21	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, Mi
July 22 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Mar. 22 '21	Token Lounge	Westland, Mi
May 23 '21		Westland, M
May 22 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Mar. 23 '21	The Vogue	Indianapolis
May 23 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
May 28 '21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
May 29 '21	The Fillmore	Detroit
Apr. 18 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
May 8 '21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
May 12 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Apr. 29 '21	Eclectic Room	Angola
May 13 '21	Vic Theatre	Chicago
June 10 '21	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
May 3 '21	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Jan. 30-31'21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Jan. 13 '21	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
June 9 '21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Mar. 18 '21	Hobart Arena	Troy, OH
May 21 '21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
•	Vic Theatre	Chicago
<u> </u>	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, M
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WOODEN NICKEL AND NEAT NEAT

ALBUM OF THE WEEK



BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG NO FUN MONDAYS

With touring paused, Billie Joe Armstrong got to work. "While we've all been in quarantine, I've been reflecting on the things that matter the most in my life. Family, friends, and of course music." No Fun Mondays started as a new cover every Monday on YouTube. Now all 14 covers are in one place and on CD at Wooden Nickel and Neat Neat Records for just \$11.99.

TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 6, 2020

TW LW ARTIST/Album

1 1 AC/DC

Power Up

- 2 3 KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD Straight to You: Live
- 3 2 SMASHING PUMPKINS
- 4 6 JOE BONAMASSA Royal Tea
- 5 9 CHRIS STAPLETON Starting Over
- 6 KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD K.G.
- 7 SHAWN MENDES Wonder
- 8 ARCTIC MONKEYS
 Live at the Royal Albert Hall
- 9 WHITE STRIPES Greatest Hits
- 10 4 DREAM THEATER
 Distant Memories:
 Live in London

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Spins local and national album reviews

JD3 & The Jondo Trio

Something Good

JD3 & The Jondo Trio's website says the following: "You may know us as The Jondo Trio or as JD3. Either



way, if you are a fan of swamp stomp, southern rock, the blues, fried food, or Jesus, you're in the right place."

It's as simple as that. Crunchy riffs with plenty of meat on the bone, soulful vocals, and touches of brass give the proceedings a bit of Memphis sass and a sort of call-and-response jubilation that causes you to reach for the volume in the car and crank it.

On Something Good, the latest from local band JD3 & The Jondo Trio, the formula isn't messed with. Tight, impenetrable grooves, Midwest-flavored blues rock with nods to cats like Albert Collins, Buddy Guy, and Joe Bonamassa. If you're coming around looking for thoughtful ballads and hipster indie rock, you might as well just get back in your hybrid and search elsewhere. JD3 are here to eat BBQ and rock n' roll, and they're just about out of BBQ.

"Restless Soul" comes barreling out of the gates like a bull in a china shop, all fuzz guitar and sassy brass. As far as blues rock goes, JD3 do it right and better than most. "No Fools" locks into some serious ZZ Top vibes, a rock n' roll strut right into the Texas sun, or in this case Northeast Indiana sun. Speaking of the Lone Star state, "Texas" gets into a down and dirty groove that brings to mind primo-era Bad Company. Album closer "Whatchucan" continues the bulldozing riffing and stellar background vocals.

There are some moments of levity, like the soulful "Tangentially" which is peppered with clean guitar, piano, and bit of southern rock hospitality. "Holding on Tight" has some funky guitar and "Tower of Power" horns, while "Try, Try, Try" works some Memphis soul into the proceedings.

Once again JD3 & The Jondo Trio worked with the Midwest legend Tim Bushong at his studio hidden away in the wilds of Syracuse, Ind. His sonic wizardry behind the board lends itself perfectly to the raw, live feel of JD3. Something Good sizzles and pops thanks to this bluesy pairing.

If you're looking for a cure for the 2020 blues, look no further than JD3 & The Jondo Trio's Something Good. — J. Hubner

Garth Brooks

Fun

Garth Brooks is banking heavily on nostalgia. He's tested his fans' patience by making his latest album available for pre-order back



in 2018 and then holding off releasing it until almost the end of 2020.

Fun finally arrives close to Thanksgiving as

part of a marketing blitz with major retailers that also includes the re-release of a 2018 live album. Brooks is counting on his fans still being hungry for '90s-style pop country grandeur, and *Fun* is just that.

In his songs, Brooks has never seemed to be telling true stories about himself, and he still doesn't. "The Road I'm On" talks about the grind of being a touring musician, but Brooks has only done one major tour in the last two decades (granted, that tour did last several years). "That's What Cowboys Do" might be semi-convincing coming from George Strait, but Brooks never seemed like a guy who wallowed in the mud with cattle. Ditto for songs like "All Day Long" and "Dive Bar" (a duet with Blake Shelton). Even if he has friends in low places, Brooks himself doesn't come off as a hard partier. "Where the Cross Don't Burn" tries to make a statement about racism but mostly dodges the issue by creating a fantasy scenario in which the problem doesn't exist.

More authentic sounding are songs like the gospel-flavored "Amen" and the inspirational "The Courage of Love." They're formulaic, but Brooks has always been earnest in his love of melodrama. A cover of "Shallow" benefits from the contribution of Brooks' wife Trisha Yearwood.

None of the album's missteps are fatal if Brooks is right that his fans simply want another taste of his '90s glory days. A few of the songs could comfortably nestle alongside his greatest hits in a stadium-concert set list, and that's all that matters.

— Evan Gillespie

Miley Cyrus

Plastic Hearts

Miley Cyrus has always seemed as if she could have a distinct character as a musical artist. But with each of her albums, she has pre-



sented a different constructed image based on musical influences created by someone else.

Plastic Hearts gives us yet another new Miley. It's a largely successful image shift, but it's still built on appropriations. That, once again, stubbornly gets in the way of seeing Miley as an artist with a unique identity.

The theme this time around is '80s pop rock. Sometimes, the theme is expressed literally via guest appearances by actual '80s rockers or samples of vintage songs. Bonus tracks include capable covers of Blondie's "Heart of Glass" and The Cranberries' "Zombie" (technically a '90s song), along with a mashup of Miley's "Midnight Sky" and Stevie Nicks' "Edge of Seventeen," the song Miley sampled as the foundation for her own song.

The album works best when Miley approaches rock through fresher influences. Opener "WTF Do I Know" owes more to the rock influences of P!nk and Lady Gaga than it does to the original source material, and it works. The song's confessional nature works, too, as does the personal bitterness of "Golden G String."

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Ike & Tina Turner

River Deep — Mountain High (1966)



It would be irresponsible to overlook Ike and Tina

as it relates to their contribution to rock n' roll. With Phil Spector on the controls, this duet was a force in the blending of soul with a groovy rock beat buried in American blues.

It opens with the title track and takes off from there. Turner's vocals may have been underappreciated to this point, but the range she projects in this track was just a sample of what she would become over the next 50-plus years.

"I Idolize You" comes off as a poppy Motown number but has more pain and regret than the typical Detroit standard. Even "A Love Like Yours" with all of its fancy arrangements fills the room with the bright vocals from Tina and the sensational backing harmonies from The Ikettes. Spector would overproduce often, but this was grandiose for 1966. And the bluesy "Make 'Em Wait" with Ike on backing vocals is complimented by some brilliant horns that step up the cadence.

"Hold on Baby" is a funky number that was danceable and quick with its tempo. More backing vocals give it the soul that the mid-sixties made famous. "Oh Baby" has a rock beat that writer Kent Harris captured with other artists during the period such as Bo Diddley and the Coasters. More horns in this one give it a punchy vibe that gave it a funkier groove than what Motown was putting out during the period. Ike Turner wrote "Such a Fool for You," and although his history with Tina was violent, he could still pen some crafty songs about love and relationships. The album closes with "You're So Fine," a beautiful love song that straddled the bridge between pop and soul.

This release is one of the best from their 20-album, 20-year arc as partners and performers. — *Dennis Donahue*

The more blatant appropriations are less successful. If you've been curious about what Auto-Tune might do to Billy Idol and Joan Jett, this is the album for you. Less interesting is a collab with Dua Lipa, "Prisoner," that cribs from Olivia Newton John's "Physical" to bland effect.

Of all the Miley incarnations we've witnessed over the past several years, this is arguably the best one. At any rate, it feels much less cynical than 2017's Younger Now. — Evan Gillespie

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.



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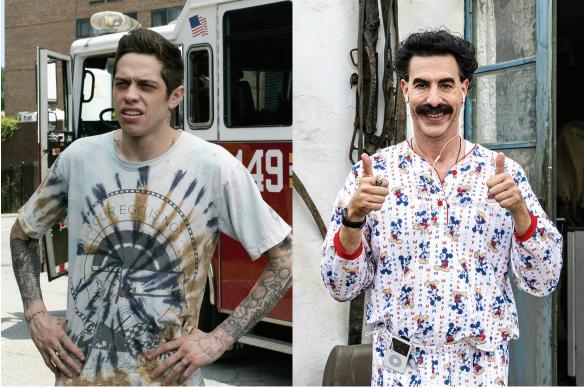
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Will Pete Davidson and Sacha Baron Cohen be nominated for Best Actor at this year's Academy Awards?

Screen

GREG W. LOCKE

Time

2020 is a sneaky good year for films

This year very well might go down as the worst year in modern history for the release of new films. Makes sense, though, right? Given that most people have avoided going to movie theaters since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

But here's the thing about that very common opinion: I think it's wrong.

I overheard a friend saying that the only competition Mank has at the awards shows are Tenet and Sonic, so why care about awards shows.

But I think he's wrong.

I think that 2020 ended up maybe being a sneakygood year for movies. Maybe just maybe.

Yeah, some of the films we were dying to see (e.g. The French Dispatch, whatever the Bond film is called, all the other ones) were pushed back until after a vaccine is in play. But a whole lot of the smaller studio films, art house films, foreign films, and documentaries were still released.

And while they didn't fill seats in theaters, most of them were quickly flipped to VOD, streaming, and home media, and ultimately were reported to be more successful than expected.

The Andy Samberg comedy Palm Springs, for example, is considered to be one of 2020's most successful films despite bringing in less than a million at theaters. After making a splash on the film festival circuit, this \$5 million film was bought by Neon and Hulu for around \$17 million.

It played in theaters briefly before becoming one of the year's biggest streaming hits. In addition to being as widely watched as just about any blockbuster ever made, Palm Springs is actually a pretty decent mainstream comedy.

I'm not sure how the streaming values break down, but movies like Palm Springs, Da 5 Bloods, I'm Thinking of Ending Things, The King of Staten Island, Borat Subsequent Moviefilm, Mank, The Trial of the Chicago 7, The Social Dilemma, Hubie Halloween, and Never Rarely Sometimes Always are all considered to be massive hits due almost entirely to their streaming revenue.

So how about that: Some indie and indie-centric studio films survived the Great Everything Plague of 2020. It would seem a lot of smaller movies might have a chance at getting some awards season attention that might not have otherwise been possible.

Take Kelly Reichardt's incredible First Cow, for example. This one was released in theaters just as theaters started closing down and people started staying home. It was released to the kind of glowing reviews every filmmaker dreams of, but no one was paying attention. The world was too otherwise engaged.

But now, as all the critics start listing it as their favorite film of the year, we're beginning to see a new interest in the movie.

With this being an unprecedented year for the film industry, it will be fun to watch the year-end and awards season conversations unfold. I like to think that we'll end up with the kind of awards season that includes films like I'm Thinking of Ending Things, Da 5 Bloods, Nomadland, and possibly even both The King of Staten Island and Borat Subsequent Moviefilm.

Just picture it: Pete Davidson and Sacha Baron Cohen fighting it out with Gary Oldman (Mank), Riz Ahmed (Sound of Metal), and Bill Murray (On the Rocks) for the Best Actor statue.

What a year.

Stay tuned next week as I continue with part two of this awards season preview.

What was your favorite film of 2020? Send your thoughts my way at gregwlocke@gmail.com.

Gorgeous animated feature enraptures

uch like the Portland-based stop-motion outfit Laika, **▲**the Irish animation studio Cartoon Saloon has been building a strong resume over the past decade, even if their work has underwhelmed when it comes to box office numbers.

Though all three of their films to this point have been nominated for Oscars in the Best Animated Feature category, they have yet to take home the trophy. But this year may present them with their best opportunity yet.



Reel **Views** BRENT LEUTHOLD

Their latest feature, the gorgeous and magical Wolfwalkers, follows a similar narrative path to hits like How to Train Your Dragon and Pixar's Brave but distinguishes itself with dazzling 2D animation. It has the kind of crossover appeal that could finally put Cartoon Saloon on the map for American audiences.

Set in 17th century Ireland, the story concerns the tenacious hunter Bill Goodfellowe (Sean Bean) and his teenage daughter Robyn (Honor Kneafsey) as they seek to disband wolf packs that threaten their walled-in village. While venturing outside the city's fortress one day, Robyn and her pet hawk Merlyn meet Mebh (Eva Whittaker), who belongs to a clan of "wolfwalkers," magical half-humans who have the ability to take the form of wolves as they sleep overnight.

We learn that Mebh is searching for her mother, who



THE WEB

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code above and watch the movie trailer. transformed into her animal form but hasn't been able to reunite with her human body. As the barbarous "Lord Protector" Oliver Cromwell (Simon McBurney) seems to be Mebh's mothers's most likely captor, Robyn and Bill seek to set her free while changing the town's attitude towards the forbearing creatures that lie outside their borders.

Incorporating aspects of both Celtic folklore and modern Japanese animation, Wolfwalkers celebrates the talented hands that crafted it within every beautifully

composed and detail-laden frame. While more recent animated films have tended to strive for precision and photorealism, Cartoon Saloon's output recalls watercolor paintings that are intended to evoke emotion over

Co-directors Tomm Moore and Ross Stewart set most of their story in an autumnal forest landscape where no two leaves seem to have the same exact color. The film's jaw-dropping art design is a perfect fit for the magical and mystical qualities of the alluring tale at its center but also leaves room for some witty visual humor, as when a group of sheep plop out of an enclosure in one predefined cube.

Another manner in which Wolfwalkers separates itself from the pack of family-oriented animated films is in its breathtaking use and balance of light and shadow in each exquisite shot. As characters are exposed to more sunlight when it pokes through the tree cover of the woods, their translucent colors begin to softly fade and subtly remind one that this otherworldly landscape has long existed in darkness. The light scatters differently in this mystical forest, casting contours that don't behave in the way that we expect and give us a new lens



COURTESY PHOTO

WOLFWALKERS

Rated PG for sequences of violence and peril, scary images, some thematic elements and brief language

1 hour 43 minutes

Streaming on Apple TV+ starting Dec. 11



with which to gaze upon this captivating and surprising world. The technological improvements in computer-generated animation over the past 25 years have allowed the artform to improve by leaps and bounds, but the goal of the artistry behind this film isn't merely to impress but to inspire.

As in Laika's most recent films Kubo and the Two Strings and Missing Link, Wolfwalkers is beyond impressive when it comes to its artistic prowess. But it comes up a bit short when it comes to narrative invention. Kids likely won't mind and may even feel more at home with a more conventional story, but it will be impossible for parents not to be able to recognize tropes from other family-friendly adventures.

While Pixar has all the money in the world to throw at top-tier animation and some have accused them of thematic repetition, their ability to craft story beats of unparalleled poignancy is something that independent animation studios still have yet to emulate.

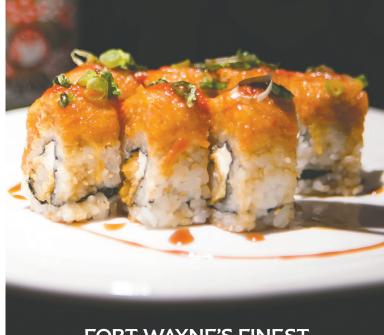
Nevertheless, Wolfwalkers is Cartoon Saloon's strongest effort yet and will hopefully enrapture enough audiences at home with its enchanting and vibrant

ALSO NEW TO STREAMING THIS WEEKEND

Streaming on Netflix is The Prom, a Broadway-adapted musical comedy starring Meryl Streep and James Corden about a troupe of theater stars who converge onto a small Indiana town in support of a high school girl who wants to take her girlfriend to the prom.

Available on HBO Max is Let Them All Talk, a Steven Soderbergh-directed dramedy starring Meryl Streep and Lucas Hedges about an author who goes on a trip with her friends and nephew to find fun and come to terms with her past.

Debuting on Disney+ is Safety, a sports biopic starring Jay Reeves and Corinne Foxx about a Clemson University freshman football player who secretly raised his younger brother on campus.



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Things To Do LOCAL CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Fantasy of Lights — The 26th season of a two-mile route with 127 holiday light scenes and holiday market on select days, presented by Blue Jacket, 6 p.m. nightly, through Dec. 31, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$10 per car, (260) 427-6000

Oh? Christmas Tree! — An array of different cultural Christmas trees, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-4 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Jan. 3, 2021, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

Holiday Window Light Displays — Park scenes captured by a local photographer are turned into large papercut light boxes displayed in the Park Foundation Pavilion windows, through Jan. 3, 2021, Promenade Park, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6028

Christmas Caroling — Outdoor caroling from the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, 5:15-6:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

Festival of Gingerbread — Gingerbread creations by local artists from Pre-K students to professionals, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, The History Center, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, (260) 426-2882

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa
— Story time and socially distanced photo opportunity as well, 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11; 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13; 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18; 3:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$20, (260) 424-5665

The Days of Holly Shopping — Shop small every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Saturday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 19, downtown Fort Wayne, free, (260) 420-3266

Reindeer Saturdays — Interact with reindeer and the Animal-Grams, "Reindeer Experts," noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 19, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

Yule Time Stroll — Beautifully lit Charley Creek Gardens open to the public, 6-9 p.m. daily, Dec. 13-23, Charley Creek Gardens, Wabash, free, (260) 563-1102

Winter Nights with Santa — Story time and performance by Fort Wayne Youtheatre, "Best of Youtheatre Christmases," 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 16 and Dec. 23, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$30, (260) 424-5665

OTHER CURRENT EVENTS

South Side Farmers Market — A wide variety of seasonal items, as well as, hand-crafted items, antiques, fresh baked goods, eggs, local honey, and hormone-free pork and chicken, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, through

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December, South Side Farmers Market, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 244-3288

Fort Wayne's Farmers Market (Indoor)
— Fifty vendors including farm and garden, home-based, natural products, and local artisans, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through May 8, Fort Wayne's Farmers Market, Fort Wayne, free, contact@ftwaynesfarmersmarket.com

Parks n' Rec Night — Parks and Recreation trivia, food, and beer, 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, The Hoppy Gnome, Fort Wayne, \$30, (260) 422-0070

Comedy Game Night — Play Trivia, Fibbage, and Quiplash to win prizes, **8-9** p.m. Wednesdays, through Dec. **30**, Mambo Room, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 449-9761

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2021

Winter Bridal Spectacular — Northern Indiana's premier bridal show with everything you need for your wedding day, noon-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 2-Jan. 3, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 482-9502

Wintery Walks in the Woods — A monthly hike featuring a different wintery topic each time, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, and Saturday, Feb. 6, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6740



Stage & Dance LOCAL CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Christmas Belles — A Southern farce where a church's Christmas program spins out of control, available to stream Dec. 11-13, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$20, (260) 422-4226

The Nutcracker — A magical story of a young girl, a Nutcracker prince, and the evil Mouse King, virtual showings 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, through 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, \$50, (260) 484-9646

NOW PLAYING

The Dinner Detective — America's largest interactive comedy murder mystery dinner show, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12; and 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, Courtyard Fort Wayne Downtown, Fort Wayne, \$59.95, (866) 496-0535

AUDITIONS

Bach Collegium — Auditions for new collegium members, by appointment, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, (260) 485-2143

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

The Pout-Pout Fish — Mr. Fish sets out on an adventure to find Miss Clam's pearl, 10 a.m. and noon Wednesday, Feb. 10, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

Mary's Wedding — Charlie and Mary are about to be married, however they are on different sides of a social divide in their small town, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19-20; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, all for One Productions, ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$20, (260) 422-4226

MARCH 2021

Theresa Caputo — America's favorite Long Island medium entertains with her psychic abilities, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$39.75 & up, (260) 424-5665

The Odd Couple: Female Version

— Florence Unger and Olive Madison replace the original duo in this twist of the Neil Simon classic comedy, **7:30 p.m.**Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13; 2
p.m. Sunday, March 14, Wagon Wheel
Theatre, Warsaw, \$15, (574) 267-8041

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap — A group of strangers is stuck in a boarding house amid a snow storm, and one must be discovered as a murderer, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 12-13; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 14; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 19-20; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-5220

Ragtime — A musical that tells of people seeking the American Dream, 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, March 12-13; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 19-20; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21; and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday March 26-27, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-5622

The Sleeping Beauty — A wicked fairy casts an evil spell on the baby Princess Aurora to die on her 16th birthday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 26; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28, Arts United Center,

Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-0646

Pete's Big Hollywood Adventure — Pete the Cat and his buddy Callie sneak into the Hollywood Studios, 10 a.m. and noon Monday, March 29, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

APRIL 2021

Lyrical Pursuit — Game show featuring knowledge of lyrics, audience participation, and a murderous twist, 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$20, (574) 267-8041

The Charitable Sisterhood of the Second Trinity Victory Church — A comedy about three women sorting through a donation pile for a relief effort, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 23-24; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 30-May 1; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2, all for One Productions, ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$20, (260) 422-4226

Frindle — Nicholas Allen creates a new word that spreads across the country to the chagrin of his teacher, 10 a.m. and noon Tuesday, April 27, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

Night Watch — A thriller involving woman who claims to see the body of a dead man, 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, April 30-May 1; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 7-8; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 9; and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday May 14-15, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-5622

MAY 2021

Bill O'Reilly — Journalist, author, and former television host, **7 p.m. Saturday,** May **8**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$65-\$250, (260) 424-5665

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum — A crafty slave trys to win the hand of a courtesan for his master, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 9; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 14-15; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16; 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 21-22; and 2 p.m. May 23, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Fort Wayne, season tickets available, (260) 424-5220

JUNE 2021

The Wizard of Oz — A Kansas farm girl travels over the rainbow to discover the magical power of home, 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 2; 7 p.m. Thursday, June 3; 8 p.m. Friday, June 4; 7 p.m. Saturday, June 5; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 6; 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, and Wednesday, June 9; 2 and 8 p.m. Thursday, June 10; 8 p.m. Friday, June 11; 7 p.m. Saturday, June 12, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$15-\$40, (574) 267-8041

The Explorers Club — Set in London 1879, the Explorers Club's president wants to admit a woman who has discovered a Lost City, (Doors & cash bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., curtain at 8 p.m.) 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 11-12; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 18-19; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 20; and 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 25-26, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-5622

Art & Exhibits LOCAL CALENDAR

HOLIDAY EXHIBITS

Art Farm Holiday Pandemic Pop Up Gallery - Ceramics, fiber, jewelry, mixed media, sculpture, glass, and metal, noon-6 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, through Sunday, Jan. 10, The Art Farm, Decatur, free, (260) 740-8725

Cash & Carry Holiday Exhibit -Holiday art for purchase, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays through Jan. 3, 2021, Honeywell Center, Wabash, free, (260) 563-1102

Holiday Art — Trees with handmade ornaments, nativities, and other holiday themed art, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, closed Sundays, through Dec. 31, Orchard Gallery of Fine Arts, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 436-0927

Holiday Pop Up Gallery — More than 150 items from 35 local artists, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, closed Sundays-Tuesdays, through Dec. 26, 256 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, free, fortwayneartistsguild.org

CURRENT EXHIBITS

A Year of Making Meaning: New Additions to the Collection 2020

 Showcasing some of the museum's brightest stars from the past year, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Jan. 31, 2021, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection — Featuring 41 elegant American paintings, originally from the private collection of Arthur Dayton and Ruth Woods Dayton, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Art Gone Wild — Canvases painted by wild animals, benefit for Black Pine Animal Sanctuary, **4-9 p.m. Thursdays,** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays through Sunday, Dec. 20, Trubble Brewing, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 267-6082

Historic Indiana En Plein Air — Sixty works by 42 artists of the Indiana Plein Air Painters Association including historic places from Indiana, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Jan. 31, 2021, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Indiana Heritage Barn Paintings - Twenty-five of Gwen Gutwein's original paintings, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, closed Sundays and Mondays, through Dec. 31, Crestwoods Frame Shop & Gallery, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 672-2080

More Is More: Bob Cross and Christian Smith — Large abstract acrylic and oil paintings, 5-8 p.m. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. Saturdays, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays, other hours by appointment, through Dec. 20, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, free, (260) 704-5400

Static Energy: Sculpture by Dale **Enochs** — A collection of unique sculptural techniques that incorporate both figurative and abstract forms in stone and metal, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through March 14, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Undergraduate Student Highlights Exhibition — Works by undergraduate students from the 2019-20 academic school year, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Dec. 18, Lupke Gallery, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7700

 ${\bf Window\ to\ the\ Soul-} Works\ {\bf created\ by}$ 19 artists born in, and currently residing in Myanmar, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, through Sunday, Jan. 3, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-7195

ART EVENTS

Ashley Beatty and Cara Wade Artist Lecture — Artist will present their work and studio practice as it relates to contemporary photography, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, University of Saint Francis North Auditorium, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7700

COMING EXHIBITS

2020 Alumni/Faculty Exhibition — Works by alumni and faculty of USF Creative Arts, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 11-Feb. 24, 2021, Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260)

2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Featuring the Gold and Silver Key winning art and writing by students in grades 7-12 from Northern Indiana and Northwest Ohio, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, Feb. 13, 2021-April 10, 2021, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

45th Annual USF Creative Arts Student Exhibition — Works by students enrolled at USF Creative Arts, reception 4-6 p.m. Saturday, April 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Sundays, Apr. 5-28, 2021, Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260)

Alphonse Mucha: Master of Art Nouveau - Most remembered for his role in shaping French Art Nouveau, featuring lithographs and proofs, drawings, an oil painting, a pastel, and more, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, June 5, 2021-Sept. 26, 2021, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

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