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Your source for
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entertainment



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FOR POST-PANDEMIC SHOWS



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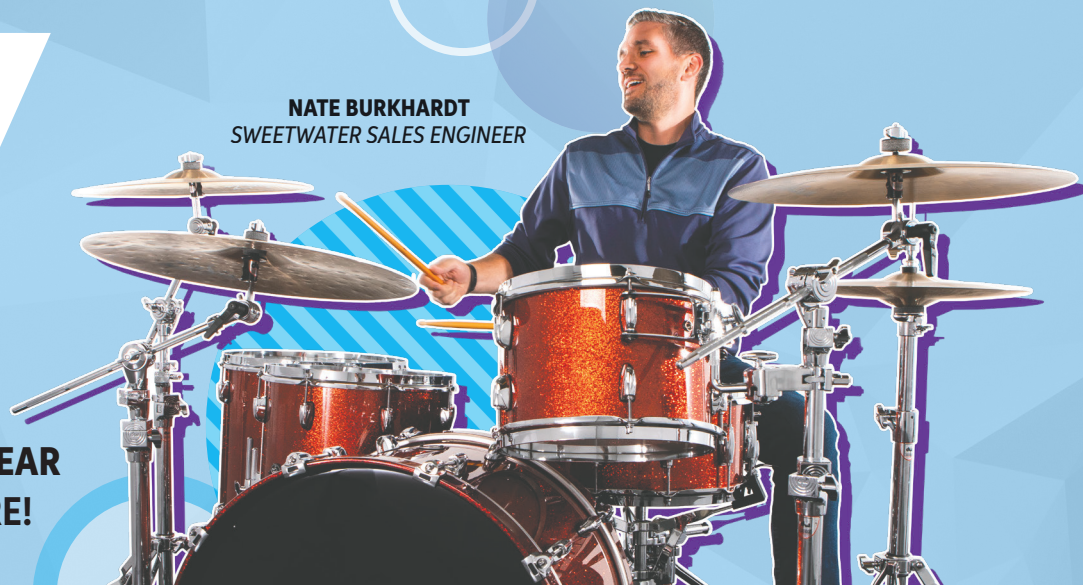
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and event locations. We encourage
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Post-grunge rockers get ready for live shows again

The Kickbacks facing some familiar setbacks

BY MICHELE DeVINNEY

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

With a dearth of gigs in 2020, local bands and performers had to figure out how to proceed with their creative endeavors.

For the Kickbacks, the open slate invited an opportunity to record the music which had been part of their performance sets for some time.

PLAYING ORIGINALS

The group itself is relatively new, though the relationships which brought the band together reach back a few years. Drummer Kris Collier and guitarist Eric Williams came together in the way that many local musicians do, though mutual friends. In this case it was bassist Ryan Boger.

"I went to a Super Bowl party, and Eric was there with his high school band," Collier said. "I knew a bunch of guys in the band, and Ryan introduced me to Eric. We jammed a bit, and it just flowed."

The three played together for a while until Boger left in 2016. Looking for a new bass player, the Kickbacks turned to Jeff Cottle.

"Jeff had been around a lot, sort of our number one fan," Collier said. "Ryan had been a punk/metal guy, but Jeff fell right in line with the post-grunge/alt style that Eric and I liked. There was no push and pull in our styles at all."

In 2018 the Kickbacks released two seven-song EPs featuring their original music.

Finding a balance between being a band with original material, which is how the trio envision themselves, and doing covers has been a bit of a challenge as they try to book themselves into local venues.

"Six years ago, the opportunity to do originals was very slim," Collier said. "We put together a cover set that we could sprinkle in with our originals. A lot of venues know us as a band that plays originals and that we prefer to play original music. How much we can do that depends a lot on the crowds."

SHUTDOWN BLUES

As has been the case across the board, the Kickbacks were hurt by the shutdown and continue to find it difficult to find gigs during these



PHOTO BY DAWN MCCARTHY

THE KICKBACKS

10 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22, and Saturday,
Jan. 23

Martin's Tavern

115 N. Randolph St., Garrett

No cover · (260) 357-4290

cold-weather months. They've instead decided to head into the studio where they're recording their first full-length album, set for a probable late spring release.

"A lot of our shows were getting canceled, and we had a lot of material that we'd written and had been performing live," Collier said. "A lot of the songs were getting a really good reaction, and we wanted to record them."

"This record has 14 songs, including nine newer tracks. There are also a couple of demos that we're re-recording, and some re-imagined acoustic remakes of earlier songs. We just thought if we weren't going to be able to do any shows because of COVID, then we could focus on the recording and writing process."

The band hit a snag in their ability to promote themselves when Facebook shut down their page which had nearly 2,600 followers.

"We played a show at Freimann Square and went live on Facebook with our first set of covers and originals," Collier said. "And after that our Facebook page disappeared. Just poof, it was gone. Everything we had posted was gone."

"We tried to appeal it, but we just set up another page as TKB Band, and right now we have just over 450 followers. We want to promote it more, but it's hard when we have no shows coming up.

There's just nothing to share right now."

That should change as production of the new album continues and, hopefully, more shows can be scheduled. The band is hoping that by that time, shows can be scheduled, especially once the weather allows for outdoor, distanced performances. Another avenue of exposure for them has taken a hit, and some of those aspects of reopening are still unknown.

BACK IN THE STUDIO

"We also lost the large shows, where we'd get to open for larger national acts," Collier said. "Those provide a big injection of fans for us. Our first national show was opening for Nonpoint at Pier's, and we got to play in front of almost 1000 people that night."

In the meantime, the Kickbacks are happy to explore their music through the recording process. Unlike the two EPs in 2018, these feature songs which have a larger Cottle influence which is one way that the band is very different than it was just a few years ago.

"Jeff is even singing on a couple of the tracks this time," Collier said. "And Eric and I have gotten a lot better at ripping samples or little riffs together. And with Jeff we can really be a post-grunge band rather than being pulled to the punk or metal side."

And they're also planning for performing again, whenever and wherever that might be.

"We'll just take it as it comes. We'll get through the recording, and we just met to revamp our cover set list. Once O'Sullivan's open their doors to bands again, I'm going to be knocking down their door. I love them."

Nightlife

469 Comedy: Fort Wayne 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 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

C2G Music Hall
 Music • 323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne • (260) 426-6464
EXPECT: Great live music on one of Fort Wayne's best stages. Diverse musical genres from local, regional and national performers, all in a comfortable, all-ages, family-friendly, intimate atmosphere. Excellent venue for shows, events, presentations, meetings and gatherings. Food catered by local vendors during some shows. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. **HOURS:** Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors one hour earlier. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & wine during shows only. **PMT:** Cash, check

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 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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Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14
Hubie Ashcraft Trio — Americana at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530
Round 2 — '90s rock at Martin's Tavern, Garrett, 10 p.m. no cover, (260) 357-4290

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15
Chris Worth — Variety at Dreamers Hookah Lounge, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. cover, (260) 424-0442
Derek Richards and Bob Phillips — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339
Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, 6-9 p.m. \$5, (260) 637-2980

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
Country Junction — Variety at American Legion Post 296, Fort Wayne, 7:30-10:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 456-2988
Del Suede — Variety at Eagles Post 12889, Syracuse, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (574) 457-4913

Derek Richards and Bob Phillips — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260) 426-6339
Flaw — Metal at Rockstar Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$35, (260) 444-2442
Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra — Funk at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530
Mason Dixon Line — Country at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$5, (260) 483-1311
Mike Almon — Acoustic at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

Double Dragon gets second life at Ted's Beerhall

If you grew up in the 1980s, chances are you've played your share of arcade games —hanging in the local arcade, scrounging for quarters, and enjoying countless hours trying to beat Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, and Space Invaders.

Before you brush those wonderful memories aside, consider stopping out to Ted's Beerhall where you can enjoy all those nostalgic classic games now as a grown up.

Ted's is opening their former wine bar to Double Dragon arcade games. The local partnership came about after Double Dragon Arcade closed its doors after months of struggle due to the pandemic. By coming together, it supports both parties and more importantly keeps money in the community.

The Beercade is now open and folks will be able to play arcade games while enjoying food and beverages from the Beerhall's recently updated menu.

Capacity is at 25 people and there is a \$5 cover charge to play the games.

Masks must be worn while playing and games are to be wiped down after playing. You may have grown up, but your inner child hasn't. Head out to Ted's soon!

NASHVILLE COMES TO THE CLUB ROOM
 Exciting news from The Club Room: They have added Nashville Thursdays to their weekly lineup.

Thursday, Jan. 14, will be the kickoff of the weekly series and will feature **The Hubie Ashcraft Trio** taking



Out and About
 NICK BRAUN

the stage from 7-10 p.m.
 Nashville Thursdays' plan is to bring in the best in local and regional country music to the stage and feature great food dishes such as Nashville Hot Chicken and Macho Cowboy Nachos, available only on Thursdays.
 Future shows include **Kaitlyn Schmit** and **The Move** on Jan. 21 and **The Cowpokes** on Jan. 28. Call The Club Room at (260) 407-8530 to lock in your reservations.

TIMBER RIDGE FOR YOUR VALENTINE
 Looking ahead to Valentine's Day, The Timber Ridge & Club 250 Event Center in Bluffton has an evening lined up for you on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 7-11 p.m.
 That evening, you can take in live music by **The Hubie Ashcraft Band** while enjoying an all you can eat food and dessert buffet from Timber Ridge Catering.
 Tickets are only \$20 and available now through Eventbrite.

TRIVIA NIGHT AT HOPPY GNOME
 The Hoppy Gnome is offering another trivia night on Monday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. *Schitt's Creek* Trivia Night, based off the Canadian television sitcom, will be an evening the whole gang can enjoy.
 Perhaps come dressed as your favorite character or just bring that knowledge with you to take part in trivia, Rosebud Motel food, and a custom Gnometown Beer.
 Tickets are available for \$30 per person or \$25 per person for a team of four of your closest peeps. They can be purchased via Gnometownbrewing.com/events.

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

Nightlife

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

State Grill

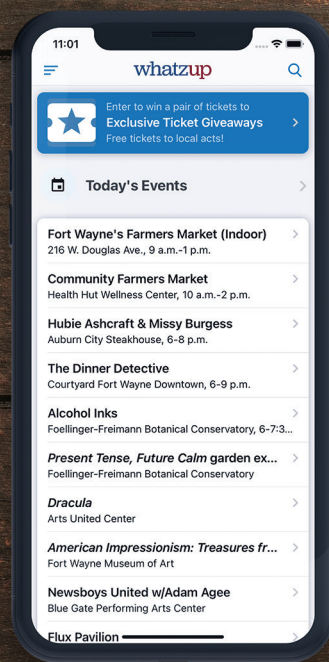
Pub/Tavern • 1210 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • (260) 483-5618
EXPECT: 1st Tavern to pour beer after Prohibition; located in a fun and friendly neighborhood; home of the XKE Cranials & most dangerous jukebox. Daily drink specials include \$2 Tall Boy PBR everyday, get grilled everyday with \$2 Fireball 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

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Hikes and bikes part of Winterval '21

Although there hasn't been much in the way of wintery weather here yet, those who enjoy the season can circle January 30 on their calendars when the city celebrates Winterval 2021.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with a free guided hike through the Lindenwood Nature Preserve which is capped by a chance to enjoy a warming fire at 10:30 with Soarin' Hawk. The Botanical Conservatory hosts programming from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. for the usual admission price (\$3-\$5) though passersby can enjoy the outdoor ice sculpting for free.

Also hosting ice sculpting is the Allen County Public Library downtown plaza which will be taking place from noon until 2 p.m. Those who prefer to put their feet on ice can do so at the Headwaters Park rink 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. (\$4-\$6). Science Central will host fun with Liquid Nitrogen 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and timed tickets can be bought on their website (sciencecentral.org).

The Fort Wayne Community Center on West Main will host the first Warm Heart Market where you can browse homemade and uniquely hand-crafted items noon to 5 p.m. The Community Center will also host the 10th anniversary Winter Carnival (also noon until 5 p.m.), a



News and Venues

MICHELE DeVINNEY

free event which includes live ice carving at 2 p.m., Nine-Hole Miniature Golf, and a Candy Luge.

A free guided eight-mile bike ride begins at the Lawton Park Trailhead at 1 p.m. (helmets encouraged) while Promenade Park hosts Dog Sweater Day, a chance to see which pooch is most stylish. A "Cutest Dog" contest costs a dollar to enter and can earn its winner a free pic. Those who are exploring downtown for all of these events can also look for hidden polar bears throughout the city.

Although a great day to spend time with the family, the grownups can also indulge in a Winter Beer Trail which spotlights 12 local breweries and cideries. The Winterval brochure explains how folks can participate in the Beer Trail:

"Pick up a passport available at any Winterval event, travel to each of the listed breweries, try a featured beverage, collect a stamp, and turn in your completed passport at the Community Center by March 5 or during the *Parks & Recreation* Trivia at Hop River Brewing on March 6 at 2 p.m. Your passport will be entered into a prize drawing."

To download the Winterval brochure, visit fortwayneparks.org and be aware of any changes that might be necessary due to COVID restrictions.

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. cover, (260) 387-5063

Michael Kelsey — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Nathan Timmel and Trevor Gertonson — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Thunderstruck — AC/DC tribute at Rockstar Lounge, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. \$20-\$35, (260) 444-2442

Todd Harrold and Eric Clancy — Variety at Dreamers Hookah Lounge, Fort Wayne, 8-10 p.m. \$5, (260) 424-0442

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

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

Chris Worth — Variety at Edwin Coe Spirits, Churubusco, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 212-8827

Dakota Parker — Acoustic at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

Flyt Rsk — Classic rock at American Legion Post 296, Fort Wayne, 7:30-10:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 456-2988

Hubie Ashcraft & Missy Burgess — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-2537

Namen Namen — Original rock from the Embassy Theatre, virtual performance, Fort Wayne, 7-8 p.m. \$10, (260) 424-5665

Nathan Timmel and Trevor Gertonson — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260) 426-6339

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

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

Todd Harrold and Eric Clancy — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-3442

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

Alicia Pyle Quartet — Jazz at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at HT2, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 616-0444

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

The Cowpokes — Classic country at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

D.J. Dangler — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 9:15 p.m. \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Debutants — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country at Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, 8-11 p.m. cover, (260) 760-1421

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

D.J. Dangler — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Don Smith — Jazz/variety at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. cover, (260) 407-8530

Moser Woods — Rock, virtual performance from the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7-8 p.m. \$10, (260) 424-5665

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

Todd Harrold and Eric Clancy — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-3442

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Alicia Pyle Quartet — Jazz at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Steve Michaels — Acoustic at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

We Are Checkmark — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

I Love Saturdays — R&B/soul/pop at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Jon Shoulders — Acoustic variety at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

Mark Christopher Lawrence and Andy Beningo — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:45 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Mason Dixon Line — Country at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m.-midnight \$5, (260) 387-5063

Night to Remember — Rock/pop, virtual performance from the Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7-8 p.m. \$10, (260) 424-5665

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Alicia Pyle Quartet — Jazz at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Mason Dixon Line — Country at Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, 8:30-11:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 854-9463

Tantric — Post-grunge at Rockstar Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$35, (260) 444-2442

Todd Harrold, Eric Clancy & Bob Bailey — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Aaron Edwards Hall — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Abbie Thomas — Pop/soul at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 563-0111

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

I Love Saturdays — R&B/soul/pop at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

CALLING ALL WORKING

ARTISTS, BANDS, and MUSICIANS

We're seeking subjects for possible cover stories! Are you a good fit? Here are some requirements:

- Supply several high-resolution, professional-level, non-watermarked photos.
- Be active in one way or another, whether with performances, recordings, or exhibitions.
- Offer a way for fans to experience your music, art, or performance online.
- Provide a way for people to follow you online via social media or your website.

Do you think you can make the cut? Send an email to our editor: jon@whatzup.com

whatzup

FREE LIVE MUSIC

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MONDAYS | 7-10PM

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Smooth TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS | 6-9PM

Featuring the best of classic hits, soft rock, and smooth tunes

WEDNESDAY JAZZ SESSIONS

WEDNESDAYS | 7-9PM

Weekly jazz sessions featuring the Alicia Pyle Quartet & friends

NASHVILLE THURSDAYS

THURSDAYS | 7-10PM

The sounds of classic country, bluegrass, Americana & More

FRIDAY NIGHT VIBES

FRIDAYS | 7-9:30PM

An array of regional artists and bands with WBOI's Julia Meek

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SATURDAYS | 8-11PM

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ALBUM OF THE WEEK

MISTERWIVES
SUPERBLOOM

The release from this New York City-based group is an intensely personal reflection on growth in unexpected places. *Superbloom*'s 19 tracks include five tracks from the group's 2019 EP and mark a moment of major transformation for frontwoman Mandy Lee and her bandmates. Available for \$11.99 on CD at all Wooden Nickel and Neat Neat Neat Records locations.

TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 10, 2021

TW LW ARTIST/Album

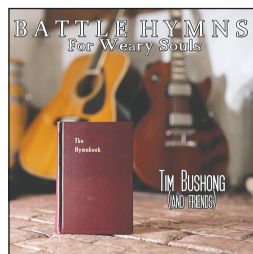
- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | PAUL McCARTNEY
McCartney III |
| 2 | 4 | CHRIS STAPLETON
Starting Over |
| 3 | - | SAMMY HAGAR & THE
CIRCLE
Lockdown 2020 |
| 4 | 3 | TAYLOR SWIFT
Evermore |
| 5 | - | AARON FRAZER
Introducing... |
| 6 | - | BARRY GIBB
Greenfields: The Gibb Brothers' Songbook |
| 7 | 2 | STURGILL SIMPSON
Cuttin' Grass |
| 8 | 10 | KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD
Straight to You: Live |
| 9 | - | MORGAN WALLEN
Dangerous: The Double Album |
| 10 | - | VIAGRA BOYS
Welfare Jazz |

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Tim Bushong

Battle Hymns for
Weary Souls

I'm a prog-rocker, but I absolutely love Christian hymns for one of the same reasons: the utter depth of the lyrics.

Enter Tim Bushong, a Christian hard rocker from a magical age called the '80s who now pastors a congregation in Syracuse, Ind., and commands the board at T-Bush Studio at his nearby home. He's given us this tasty little unicorn of traditional hymns, sung by him and special guests, and backed by the voices of his congregation, captured live inside his church.

Someone once said the difference between gospel and blues is that blues were played by musicians in the juke joints on Saturday nights, and had people up dancing. Gospel is what those musicians played the next morning and had those same people swaying in the pews.

With the acapella opening strains of "Ah, Jesus Lord," Bushong breaks the wall between the two. He took these hymns and gave them the "Saturday night" treatment, keeping the amps plugged in, the dobros whining, and the Leslie cabinet spinning. He also doesn't rob us of the oft-ignored third and fourth verses of these hymns, where the doctrinal depth is the meatiest.

On the next four songs, he has somehow found a perfect balance between Memphis blues, Sunday morning "down-homey-ness," and modern production tastes, so the songs come off as big but not overly polished, quaint but not corny.

On "Lead on, O King Eternal," Bushong becomes a guitar-slinging '80s metal man, complete with driving Motown double time on the snare, to knock over and rock over any devils that happen to get in the way.

The album returns to Memphis with a dash of Tom Petty for the remaining tunes. Bushong gives us a collection that is at the same time familiar and also a needed breath of fresh air. — *Keith Roman*

Taylor Swift

evermore



Unable to tour in 2020, Taylor Swift spent the year in a songwriting frenzy.

She's released two surprise albums, of which *evermore* is the second, in the space of just a few months. This second album is billed as a sibling to the earlier *folklore*, both albums having been produced in the same flannel-clad flurry of creativity. Ironically, *evermore* has a folkier feel than *folklore*, probably because pop producer Jack Antonoff was less involved on the later album.

The sonically varied approach of the National's Aaron Dessner, who produced the bulk of *evermore*, continues to be a good fit for Swift's songwriting. Unexpected instrumentation buoys

Swift's typically uninspiring melodies, and sparse arrangements elevate her poetry out of the realm of bad-boyfriend Instagram rants.

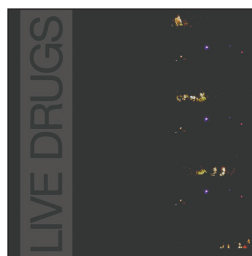
When she's not being autobiographical, Swift plays around with fictional story songs. Unfortunately, the farther she strays from songs of youthful romantic drama, the deeper she gets into fictional clichés.

"no body, no crime" is a formulaic country murder ballad (although given a pop sheen by collaborators HAIM). It's got the melodic bounce of a Carrie Underwood song and the dark subject matter of the Chicks' "Goodbye Earl," but it lacks the wry edge that either of these artists bring. "tis the damn season" and "dorothea" both follow the same rom-com plot line from different points of view. "champagne problems" is a Netflix melodrama about a failed marriage proposal.

On *evermore*, as on *folklore*, Swift finds a sweet spot between her own past pop efforts and the indie-esque tilt of her collaborators. Separately, guests Bon Iver, the National, and Marcus Mumford of Mumford & Sons might be critically dismissed as bland beard-folk hipsters. But with the assist of Swift's superstardom, they're all able to make an album that's significantly greater than the sum of its parts. — *Evan Gillespie*

The War on
Drugs

Live Drugs



I never thought I'd look back on live shows as if they're something from the past. So for now, we can only experience concerts through great live albums.

Thankfully, there are some truly great live albums that exist, albums that can transport us from the drive home from work or our living room to a grand theater, muddy lawn, or sports arena with hundreds or thousands of screaming fans, including Allman Brothers' *Live at the Fillmore*, Wilco's *Kicking Television*, Hendrix's *Live at Woodstock*, Govt. Mule's *Sco-Mule*, and now The War on Drugs' *Live Drugs*.

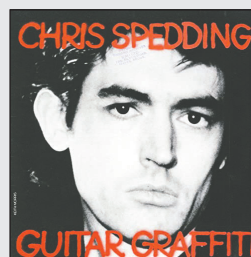
The War on Drugs have proven to be one of the best American rock bands working today with singer/guitarist/songwriter Adam Granduciel creating a hefty classic songbook culled from albums *Slave Ambient*, *Lost in the Dream*, and their most recent, 2017's *A Deeper Understanding*. *Live Drugs* is pulled from several shows with the majority of the songs from their last two releases.

Live Drugs captures the magic, giving us ten tracks at well over an hour. One of the highlights is a cover of Warren Zevon's "Accidentally Like a Martyr," a song that feels very much a part of The War on Drugs' canon.

The War on Drugs also reach back to 2008 for "Buenos Aires Beach" from the band's debut album *Wagonwheel Blues*.

The band has a strength in their live sound, with the driving "An Ocean Between the Waves" opening the album. Granduciel's exploratory and dreamy songwriting is accentuated by the driving

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Chris
Spedding
Guitar Graffiti
(1978)

You've probably heard Chris Spedding, but didn't know who you were listening to. Growing up in England, Spedding was a sought-after guitarist who cut his teeth playing with former Cream member Jack Bruce, Elton John, Roxy Music, and was on the original soundtrack to *Jesus Christ Superstar*. His solo career began around 1970, but this was the first release I heard from the talented guitarist.

The release opens with "Video Life," a track that blends late '70s pop with a light version of new-wave. The guitars float around for just over three minutes, and it forms the template for English pop for the early '80s acts (four chords and synth). "Radio Times" is 90 seconds of Brit-pop, and the psych-pop Brian Eno sound reverberates in "Time Warp." "Midnight Boys" has a groovy guitar and fat bass arrangement that really lets you explore how Redding could be post-punk and sound like The Beatles in the same track. Side one closes with "Walking," a track that I can only describe as a mixture of rock n' roll that blends The Stooges with The Stones.

Side two shuffles out with the pop-reggae number "Breakout." This reminds me of the Clash's *Sandinista* era and is just as good. "Frontal Lobotomy" is a guitar jam disguised as a filler, but Jeff Beck comes to mind when you unwrap this track almost four minutes later. "Hey, Miss Betty" is post-punk, garage-rock with a surf-rock twist and is one of the hidden nuggets on a really good record.

It's hard to describe where Redding fits in the world of rock n' roll, but he proves his guitar worthiness during his whole (almost underground) career that continues even today. His 2015 album *Joyland* featured Robert Gordon, Johnny Marr, and Bryan Ferry and confirms his sainthood in the Church of Guittars. — *Dennis Donahue*

motorik beat. "Strangest Thing" shines like some '80s pop track. "Red Eyes" is pure stadium joy, reaching a kind of ecstatic freedom among a crowd of onlookers.

Hopefully once again we will all meet up at some live show to experience the communal feeling live music. Until that happens, The War on Drugs have us covered. *Live Drugs* will cure what ails ya. — *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.

Kokomo's Kingdom Come Fest gearing up

The organizers of the Kingdom Come Festival are going full speed ahead with plans to hold their gathering June 18-19 at the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Grounds near Kokomo. To prove it, they have just announced this year's headliners and the host.

Emceeding the event is a familiar face in **Matt Moore**. This will be Moore's third year as the face of the Kingdom Come Festival.

Moore, a singer/songwriter from Michigan, has performed Christian music for over a decade and has really grown into the role of host of Kingdom Come, sharing stories and songs throughout the event.

On Friday night, Moore will help bring that night's headliner **The Letter Black** to the stage. The Letter Black is credited for helping to put the festival on the map with their performance in year two. The response to that show was the deciding factor in whether to continue on with the festival or possibly go another way with the ministry.

Disciple will wrap up the



Road Notes

CHRIS HUPE

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	Honeywell Center	Wabash
5 Seconds of Summer	June 6	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
5 Seconds of Summer	June 16	White River State Park	Indianapolis
5 Seconds of Summer	June 18	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Aaron Edwards Hall	Feb. 13	469 Comedy	New Haven
Aaron Lewis	Apr. 17	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Acid Mothers Temple, The Melting Paraiso U.F.O	Feb. 26	Subterranean	Chicago
Agnostic Front, Sick Of It All, Crown of Thornz	Apr. 25	Subterranean	Chicago
Air Supply	June 11	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
The Airborne Toxic Event	Mar. 11	Vic Theatre	Chicago
AJJ	Mar. 21	The Shelter	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 7	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 8	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Albert Cummings	Apr. 3	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Align	May 13	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Amy Grant	Sept. 18	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Andy Woodhull	Dec. 18	469 Comedy	New Haven
Anthem Lights	Apr. 16	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Anthem Lights	May 7	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Aries Spears	Jan. 28-30	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Artie Lange	Feb. 12	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Asleep at the Wheel	Mar. 5	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Atlanta Rhythm Section	June 12	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Banda MS	Apr. 30-May 1	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Barenaked Ladies w/Gin Blossoms, Toad the Wet Sprocket	June 28	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Barenaked Ladies	July 2	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Barenaked Ladies	July 3	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	May 8	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Bill Boronkay and Dan Brown	Mar. 13	469 Comedy	New Haven
Billy Joel	June 26	Notre Dame Stadium	South Bend
Black Stone Cherry	Apr. 24	Eclectic Room	Angola
Blackhawk	May 1	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Bob Zany & Costaki Economopoulos	May 20	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Boney James	Oct. 7	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Brian Culbertson	Apr. 6	The Sound Board	Detroit
Brian Culbertson	Apr. 7	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Brian McKnight	Feb. 25	The Sound Board	Detroit
Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers	June 16	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Building 429	July 9	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Carol Burnett	May 26	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Celtic Woman	Apr. 2	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Celtic Woman	Apr. 8	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Celtic Woman	Apr. 17	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Chicago	May 23	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Chicano Batman	June 11	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Chris Janson	May 8	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Chris Tucker	Mar. 13	Fox Theatre	Detroit

Circa Survive	Jan. 14	House of Blues	Cleveland
Circa Survive	Jan. 16	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Circa Survive	Mar. 2	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Colin Hay	Mar. 27	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Colt Ford	Mar. 6	Eclectic Room	Angola
The Cowpokes	Jan. 28	Club Room at The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Crowder	May 8	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
The Cybertronic Spree	Mar. 8	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
D.J. Dangler	Jan. 29-30	469 Comedy	New Haven
D.J. Hughley	May 20	The Sound Board	Detroit
Dabin	Feb. 13	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Dailey & Vincent Bluegrass	June 18	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 8	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 10	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Dance Gavin Dance	Apr. 12	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Daughtry	May 15	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Dave Landau	May 14-15	469 Comedy	New Haven
Dave Matthews Band	June 15	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Dave Matthews Band	June 16	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Dave Matthews Band	June 18-19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Dave Matthews Band	June 22	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Dave Matthews Band	June 29	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Dave Matthews Band	July 2-3	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Davi Crimmins	Apr. 17	469 Comedy	New Haven
David Foster	Jan. 21	The Palladium	Carmel
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 27	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 28	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Delta Spirit	May 2	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Dennis DeYoung	Feb. 19 '22	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Deon Cole	Apr. 22	The Sound Board	Detroit
Deon Cole	May 29	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Derek Richards and Bob Phillips	Jan. 15-16	469 Comedy	New Haven
Dick Fox's Golden Boys	June 26	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
The Dip	Mar. 25	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Disciple	June 19	Howard Co. Vietnam Vet Grounds	Greentown
DragonForce	Mar. 19	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
DragonForce	Mar. 21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
The Driver Era	Feb. 16	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Driver Era	Feb. 19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
DSL	Aug. 29	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Duke Tumatote and the Power Trio	Apr. 22	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Eddie Griffin	Apr. 30	The Sound Board	Detroit
Elton John	Apr. 5	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
The Fab Four	Aug. 29	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Flaw	Jan. 16	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Flora Cash	June 18	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
For King & Country	May 7	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Framing Hanley	May 7	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Fuzz	Feb. 4	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Fuzz	Feb. 5	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Gaither Vocal Band	June 10	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Namen Namen

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Moser Woods

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Night to Remember

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Sankofa

**7 P.M.
45 MIN.
\$10**

Visit fwembassytheatre.org for information and tickets.

Call 260.424.5665 about the 2021 Embassy Snack Pack for \$21 to enjoy while watching the event. All proceeds benefit the Embassy Theatre.



Embassy Theatre
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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Gary Allan	May 15	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic	June 24	The Sound Board	Detroit
Get the Led Out	Mar. 6	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Gladys Knight	May 21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Gladys Knight	Aug. 21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
The Glenn Miller Orchestra	Aug. 31	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Goodie Mob	Apr. 8	The Sound Board	Detroit
Gordon Lightfoot	Mar. 8-9	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Gordon Lightfoot	May 14	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Grand Funk Railroad	May 1	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Greer	May 8	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Gregory Porter	Feb. 16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Gregory Porter w/Ledisi	Feb. 17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Halsey	June 23	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Halsey	June 25	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Halsey	June 26	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Heather McMahan	Jan. 20	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 9	United Center	Chicago
James Taylor	June 11	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 12	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 14	Nutter Center	Dayton
Jamey Johnson w/Whiskey Myers	June 25	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Jamey Johnson	June 26	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Jay Leno	Apr. 22	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Jeanne Robertson	June 9	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jeanne Robertson	Sept. 16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jeff Foxworthy	June 5	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jeff Shaw	Feb. 27	469 Comedy	New Haven
Jess Hilarious	Feb. 19-20	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Jim Stafford	May 28-29	Blue Gate Music Hall	Shipshewana
Jo Koy	Apr. 3	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Jo Koy	Apr. 8-10	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Joe Satriani	Oct. 15	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jolo	May 10	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Jolo Siwa	July 17	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Jonny Lang	Mar. 14	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Josh Turner	June 4	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Joywave	June 16	Subterranean	Chicago
Justin Bieber	June 22-23	United Center	Chicago
Justin Bieber	June 25	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Justin Bieber	June 28	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Justin Bieber	June 29	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Kaleo	June 23	The Fillmore	Detroit
Kaleo w/Matt Maeson, Belle MT	June 19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Kansas	June 26	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Kashmir	Mar. 27	Hobart Art Theater	Hobart
Katrina Brown	Feb. 20	469 Comedy	New Haven
Kaytranada	May 8	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds	Apr. 25	The Sound Board	Detroit
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band	June 12	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Kindo	Apr. 27	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Kingston Trio	June 3	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Kool & The Gang w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Sept. 3	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Lauren Daigle w/Johnnyswim	Mar. 11	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 13	Subterranean	Chicago
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 18	The Deluxe	Indianapolis
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 20	The Shelter	Detroit
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 21	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 23	The Stache	Grand Rapids
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 24	House of Blues	Cleveland
Leanne Morgan	Jan. 15	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Leonid & Friends	June 2	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Leonid & Friends w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Oct. 27	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
The Letter Black	June 18	Howard Co. Vietnam Vet Grounds	Greentown
The Lettermen	Apr. 9	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Lilly Hiatt	Apr. 7	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Little River Band	Feb. 5	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Little River Band	Sept. 11	Honeywell Center	Wabash
The Lone Bellow	Apr. 8	Thalia Hall	Chicago

Los Lobos w/The Summit	Mar. 27	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Lost Dog Street Band	June 5	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 15	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 17	The Fillmore	Detroit
Luke Bryan	June 10	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Lyfe Jennings and Chrisette Michele	June 10	The Sound Board	Detroit
Maks & Val	June 20	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Maren Morris	June 18	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Maren Morris	June 19	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Maria Bamford	Jan. 22	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Mark Christopher Lawrence and Andy Beningo	Feb. 6	469 Comedy	New Haven
Matt Braunger	May 7	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
MercyMe	Mar. 14	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
MercyMe w/Mac Powell, Micah Tyler	Apr. 8	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Michael Bolton	June 25	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Michael Buble	Feb. 23	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Michael Buble	Feb. 26	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Michael Buble	Mar. 18	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Michael Buble	Mar. 20	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Michael Gardner	Mar. 19-20	469 Comedy	New Haven
Michael W. Smith	May 14	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Mike Birbiglia	May 21	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Mike Head	Mar. 5-6	469 Comedy	New Haven
Milky Chance	Apr. 15	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Milky Chance	May 4	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Milky Chance	June 4	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Million Dollar Quartet	Oct. 22	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ministry w/KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 9	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Ministry w/KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 10	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Ministry, KMFDM, Front Line Assembly	Apr. 12	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Molly Hatchet	Mar. 25	Eclectic Room	Angola
Move to the Sanctuary	Apr. 22	The Shelter	Detroit
Murder by Death	Mar. 12	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Murder by Death	Mar. 14	Thalia Hall	Chicago
The Musical Box	May 13	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Nada Surf	Apr. 23	Thalia Hall	Chicago
NateWantsToBattle	Apr. 18	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Nathan Timmel and Trevor Gertonson	Jan. 22-23	469 Comedy	New Haven
Nene Leakes, Adele Givens, Loni Love, Sherri Shepherd, Kym Whitley	Feb. 5	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Night Ranger	July 10	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	May 22	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Nombe	Mar. 27	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Oak Ridge Boys	June 12	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Oak Ridge Boys	Oct. 9	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Omarion, Bow Wow, Ashanti, Pretty Ricky, Ying Yang Twins, Sammie, Soulja Boy	Apr. 9	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Omarion, Bow Wow, Ashanti, Pretty Ricky, Ying Yang Twins, Soulja Boy, Lloyd, Sammie	May 7	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Omarion, Bow Wow	May 8	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Parquet Courts	May 29	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Parsonsfeld	Mar. 28	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Pat Hazell	Mar. 16	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Phil Vassar	Mar. 4	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Poco	June 25	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Pokey LaFarge w/Esther Rose	Feb. 19	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Pokey LaFarge	Mar. 12	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Polaris	June 24	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Powerglove, Immortal Guardian	Mar. 15	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Preacher Lawson	Feb. 5-6	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Pure Prairie League w/The Why Store	Sept. 18	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Purity Ring	May 3	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
PVRIS	Apr. 20	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Residents	May 7	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
The Residents	May 8	The Shelter	Detroit
Robert Cray Band w/Blue Veins	Mar. 19	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Ron White	Jan. 23	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Ronnie Milsap	May 7	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ronny Chieng	Apr. 17	Thalia Hall	Chicago

Road Notes

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

happenings with a performance on Saturday night. The Knoxville, Tenn., based band has twelve albums under their belt in a career that has lasted nearly three decades, so there will be plenty of material to choose from as they rock your face off with messages from the Bible.

The annual two-day Christian rock event is totally free and open to the public.

THE LIVESTREAMING VIBE

In this age of livestreaming, I know from experience that the vibe is totally different as a viewer. But I've have wondered how different it might be for the performers who are basically playing to an audience of just a few people in the room and getting very little immediate feedback to how the show is being received in homes across the world.

Fort favorites **Sevendust** live-streamed a show on Jan. 8, performing their album *Animosity* in its entirety.

Asked by Aftershocks TV how he felt the gig went, drummer Morgan Rose said, "It was terrible. We were excited to be able to play together again, but there was some anxiety. With the people not being there, it felt like when we were first starting out, going on tour and having three or four people out there. We had a few crew guys and a few lighting guys out there and that was about it."

"So, I just tried to go inside and imagine. I played with my eyes closed on that and tried to envision people there. But we're going to do another one and we will be a little more prepared for what to expect. I love playing, but (that experience) was weird."

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

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Rumours	June 12	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Russ	May 22	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Russ	June 3	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Russell Howard	May 20	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Ryan Niemiller	Feb. 25	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Saliva	Jan. 16	Eclectic Room	Angola
Samantha Fish w/Southern Avenue	Aug. 27	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Scotty McCreery	Mar. 27	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Scream at the Sky w/Andrew W. Boss	Feb. 26	Carl's Tavern	New Haven
Sebastian Bach	June 9	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Sebastian Bach	June 23	Harpos Concert Theatre	Detroit
Silverstein	Feb. 8	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Silverstein	Feb. 9	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes	May 20	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Sponge	Mar. 6	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 23	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 25	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood	June 26	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Straight No Chaser	Mar. 26	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
STRFKR	Feb. 7	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
STRFKR w/The Undercover Dream Lovers	Feb. 9	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Struggle Jennings w/Brianna Harness, Nuke Bushner	May 13	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Styx	Mar. 13	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Styx	July 22	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Swallow The Sun, Infected Rain	Mar. 22	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Symphony X, Primal Fear, Firewind	May 23	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Symphony X	May 22	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Tab Benoit	Mar. 23	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Tantric	Feb. 12	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Tech N9ne	May 23	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Tech N9ne	May 28	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Tech N9ne	May 29	The Fillmore	Detroit
Tennis	Apr. 18	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Tennis	May 8	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Terry Fator	May 12	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Theory of a Deadman	Apr. 29	Eclectic Room	Angola
They Might Be Giants	May 13	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Thomas Rhett	June 17	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Thomas Rhett	June 18	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Thomas Rhett	June 19	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Three Dog Night	May 6	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Thunderstruck	Jan. 22	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Tigran Hamasyan	June 10	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
TobyMac	May 3	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Todd Rundgren	Jan. 30-31	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Tower of Power w/Sweetwater All Stars	June 9	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Trapt	Apr. 9	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Travis Tritt	Mar. 18	Hobart Arena	Troy, OH
Travis Tritt	May 21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Trevor Hall	Apr. 23	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Trey Kennedy	Apr. 25	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Tyler Toney, Cody Jones, Garrett Hilbert, Coby and Cory Cotton	June 24	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland, OH
Walk Off the Earth	Feb. 17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Ward Davis	Mar. 6	The Stache	Grand Rapids
Warrant w/Eric Martin of Mr. Big and P.J. Farley of Trixter	July 31	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Watsky	Apr. 14	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Weathers	Feb. 28	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Weeknd w/Sabrina Claudio, Don Toliver	June 21	United Center	Chicago
The Weeknd w/Sabrina Claudio, Don Toliver	June 24	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Whiskey Myers w/Bones Owens	July 30	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Widespread Panic	Apr. 1-3	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Willie Nelson	Apr. 23	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Wyclif Jean	May 2	The Sound Board	Detroit
Zach Williams w/We the Kingdom and Cain	May 21	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Zoë Keating	May 19	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Zucchero	Mar. 10	Vic Theatre	Chicago

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6709 W. Jefferson Blvd.

CURRENT 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, through Feb. 24**, Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 399-7999

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**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection — Forty-one American paintings originally from the private collection of Arthur Dayton and Ruth Woods Dayton, **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

Breakout 2021 — Emerging artists coming into the art scene with refreshing and innovative works of art, **Fridays-Sundays, Jan. 15-Feb. 7, opening reception 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15**, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, free, (260) 704-5400

Bye, Bye 2020 — Artwork on exhibit, **Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 30**, free, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, (260) 426-6568

Creating Community — Exhibition of ceramic art highlighting student works from Huntington University, Purdue Fort Wayne, and University of Saint Francis, **1-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 20-21, and Saturday, Feb. 27, opening reception 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13**, free, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, wunderkammercompany.com

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**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Jamie McCann Photography — Nature photography, **noon-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays through Jan. 30**, 2nd Floor Gallery & Studio, Churubusco, free, (260) 633-6957

Larry Burrows: Life in Vietnam — Photos captured during the Vietnam War, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, through Feb. 28**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

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

Woodworking & Valentine Hearts — Works in wood plus hearts in clay, metal glass, wood, and on canvas, **11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, closed Sundays, through Jan. 30**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 436-0927

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

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-April 10**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

Lost Man Blues: Jon Schueler — Art and War — A veteran of World War II wove his war memories and undiagnosed PTSD into his abstract expressionist paintings, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, March 27-June 13**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$20, (260) 422-6467

NOW PLAYING

The Dinner Detective — America's largest interactive comedy murder mystery dinner show, **6-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23; 6-9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14; 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20**, Courtyard by Marriott, 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

Four Old Broads — Women in assisted living deal with a conniving nurse and her assistant while trying to make plans for a cruise, **7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28**, Huber Opera House, Hicksville, Ohio, \$15 for show, \$30 for show and dinner, (419) 542-9553

MARCH

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

APRIL

Buckets N Boards — A high-energy show full of percussion, ridiculous songs, tap dancing, and more, **7:30 p.m. Thursday,**

April 8, Eagles Theatre, Wabash, \$15, (260) 563-1102

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

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

Things To Do

CURRENT

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

Festival of Trees — Forty-four spectacular trees to view virtually, **through Sunday, Jan. 31**, virtual, \$25, (260) 424-5665

Headwaters Park Ice Skating — Outdoor rink open the the public with skater rentals available, **1-8 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, noon-10 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturdays, and noon-8 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays except noon-8 p.m. on Jan. 18 and Feb. 15, through Feb. 28**, Headwaters Park Ice Arena, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, (260) 422-7625

Savor Fort Wayne — Twelve delicious days of menu deals at participating restaurants, **Wednesday, Jan. 13-Sunday, Jan. 24**, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-3700

The Tiki Bowl Play Garden — Play the ancient Hawaiian bowling game, Ulu Maika, while enjoying the living garden, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, noon-4 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays, Jan. 9-April 4**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

Winterval 2021 — Hikes, bike rides, ice skating, craft market, ice carving, cutest dog contest, and beer trail, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30**, many events free, others \$3-\$9, various locations around downtown Fort Wayne, (260) 422-7625

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Tiki Sessions — Explore customs of Polynesia through activities, crafts, and tattoo art designs, **11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21-Saturday, Jan. 23**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

The Scottsdale Auction in Auburn — Hand-selected prewar automobiles, classics, sports, exotics, and select American muscle cars, **1-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23**, Kruse Park, Auburn, \$30-\$150, (260) 925-6789

FEBRUARY

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

Tiki Sessions — Explore customs of Polynesia through activities, crafts, and basket weaving, **11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18-Saturday, March 20**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

MARCH

Tiki Sessions — Explore customs of Polynesia through activities, crafts, and bark papermaking, **11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, March 25-Saturday, March 27**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

APRIL

Home & Garden Show — More than 650 exhibitors with contemporary home and garden products and services, **11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 15-16; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, April 17; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, April 18**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$10, (260)



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Venue aims to bring more rock shows to city

New Rockstar Lounge opens on N. Coliseum

BY CHRIS HUPE

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Opening a club, bar, or entertainment complex during a pandemic seems like a crazy idea.

But Santino Zurzolo is aware of the challenges that lay ahead and is more than willing to meet them head on in order to bring more live music to Northeast Indiana.

STATE-OF-THE-ART CLUB

Zurzolo, owner of the Rockstar Lounge, said in a recent interview with *Whatzup* that the intention to create a new rock venue for Fort Wayne began in early 2020, before social distancing became a part of our daily vernacular.

The plan was to transform the former Shaugri-La East building into a state-of-the-art club that would fill a need in our community for a small venue that could present bands that music fans might want to see live without having to travel to another city.

"It was January when we decided we were going to go ahead and do this," Zurzolo said. "It just happened to be bad timing."

But he and his team remained on course, staying closed most of the year while waiting out the pandemic, renovating, and making the space the best it could be.

An impressive 400-square-foot stage was built on the south side of the room and a new, permanent sound system is being installed piece by piece with a goal of having a complete PA system in-house in the very near future.

"We had to rent a system for our first show in November," Zurzolo said. "But with every show, we want to get a little closer to owning a permanent system."

TAKING CARE OF CUSTOMERS

Fort Wayne favorites Trapt headlined that first show and by all accounts, it was a success. An unexpected tightening of the COVID-19 restrictions caused Zurzolo and company to have to pivot unexpectedly at the last minute, but they were prepared enough to pull the show off without a hitch.

Zurzolo was happy with the result as he and his crew knew from the start that the first night wasn't going to be about an opportunity to make money on a show, rather it was about "getting everything right, showing the people what this place is about, and finding out what we can do better. In the end, the band was happy and the people were happy," which is about as much as you could ask for in an inaugural event.

Careful thought has gone into keeping in line with COVID-19 regulations as the venue goes forward, though Zurzolo knows it will be a challenge as he has to abide by ever-changing regulations from both state and local authorities.

"Masks are required, obviously, and signs are



COURTESY PHOTO

ROCKSTAR LOUNGE

1002 N. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne
(260) 444-2442

FLAW

7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16

THUNDERSTRUCK

7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22

TANTRIC

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12

SPONGE

7 p.m. Saturday, March 6

up all over the building stating that fact," he said.

Social distancing is encouraged, and the venue is operating under mandated reduced capacity.

"We had to move a bunch of tables and chairs that were already set up (for the first show), but we kept them on hand in case there was something that would require us to need them," Zurzolo said. "We were ready for anything like that."

Extra care was given to making sure that all regulations were followed throughout the night.

"If the authorities were to come in and check us out, I wanted everything to be in place to let them see that we were following everything correctly."

FINDING BANDS STILL TOURING

Another challenge of the times was that of finding bands that are actually touring. Most artists have been off the road since March of last year, choosing to ride the storm out at home rather than piecemeal some kind of tour together at venues that are still able to host events.

Zurzolo receives input from many sources when booking bands including social media, agents that have previously booked shows in the area, other promoters, and friends and family.

The 2021 concert schedule is quickly taking shape beginning with another Fort favorite, Flaw, set to headline the first show of the New Year on January 16.

Thunderstruck, America's AC/DC Tribute Band, a group that Zurzolo is particularly excited about hosting since they have developed a huge following in our area, stops by six days later on January 22.

Tantric hits the Rockstar Lounge stage February 12, just in time for Valentine's Day, and Sponge will round out a busy two months on March 6.

Though most of the bigger bands just aren't touring yet and not committing to bookings before summer, Zurzolo said it hasn't been a problem so far.

"A lot of the bands that are just a little bit smaller are very easy to work with," Zurzolo said. "They want to do the best they can and are willing to work with you to try to put a show on."

Zurzolo said that one of the future goals for the venue, once people have discovered it and have seen what it has to offer, is to open during the week to host local bands while also being available for private parties and events like weddings and receptions. But for now, the Rockstar Lounge will concentrate on bringing great music shows back to The Summit City.

"Fort Wayne has been dying for some rock shows and we are going to help fill that void," Zurzolo said.

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 5

20 UNDER 20

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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.

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Looking back on an unusual year of film

For most of the 12 or so years this column has been around, we've focused on box office and industry trends, with commentary taking a secondary role to industry babble.

With Covid-19 keeping most people home in 2020, the theater industry has not really been worth covering, and so this column has taken on a few different shapes.

We've talked about streaming, old movies, TV shows, even sports. And, also, of course, we've talked about how 2020 has affected the industry and will continue to affect the industry.

With a vaccine starting to get out, we can finally begin looking forward a little bit, cautiously. In the event the vaccine is a grand slam and Covid numbers drop and we can start going back to the theater in 2021 (highly unlikely), it'll very possibly be one of the great years in cinema history, as pretty much all of the blockbusters and prestige films that were supposed to come out in 2020 were shelved until theaters were safe to attend again.

But before we look forward, let's take a week to look back at the anomaly that was the 2020 box office year at the movies. Here are the Top 10 grossing films in America, with some thoughts on each of them.



**Screen
Time**

GREG W. LOCKE



COURTESY PHOTO

Margot Robbie in *Birds of Prey*.

6. BIRDS OF PREY

DIRECTOR: CATHY YAN

ScreenTime readers know by now that I'm not a DC Comics fan. I think the comic book trend is killing an artform. That being said, I loved this movie. I watched it because, real talk, I wanted to look at Margot Robbie's face for two hours. Turns out *Birds of Prey* is super fun, cool, and well made. And yeah, Margot. She's incredible. (\$84 million).

5. STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

DIRECTOR: J.J. ABRAMS

I tried hard to like this one. Couldn't finish it. A total mess that's not worthy of the Skywalker name. (\$124.5 million in 2020).

4. JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL

DIRECTOR: JAKE KASDAN

So fun. Maybe the most I had watching a film in 2020. Typically I hate when Hollywood revisits old IP, but Kasdan and his crew do it right with their new *Jumanji* films. So. Dang. Fun. And funny. (\$124.7 million in 2020 million).

3. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

DIRECTOR: JEFF FOWLER

I have nothing to say about this one. Ha. I like Jim Carrey, I played Sonic a lot growing up, but I'm a 41-year-old man, and I'm pretty sure I'd fall asleep before this movie got rolling. That being said, it probably did well enough that we're going to get a second Sonic film. If it makes kids happy, that's great. And I suppose it's fun to see Jim Carrey in the limelight again. (\$146 million).

2. 1917

DIRECTOR: SAM MENDES

Released at the very end of 2019, *1917* was able to make some decent money before Covid set in. A great war flick that will be remembered as more of a technical accomplishment than a memorable story. And that's okay! It's great to see an original movie that's this well made do so well at the box office. (\$158 million in 2020).

1. BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

DIRECTOR: ADIL AND BILAL

Admittedly, I've not seen this one yet. I'm not much of a Will Smith fan these days and was pretty bummed to learn that Michael Bay wasn't directing the third *Bad Boys* film. I'll see it eventually, though. Probably. Supposedly it's a lot of fun. (\$204 million).

That's \$1.114 billion brought in by the Top 10 films of 2020. Compare that to the \$4.37 billion that the Top 10 of 2019 brought in for context. Not nearly as bad as I thought, but still, whoa.

10. THE CALL OF THE WILD

DIRECTOR: CHRIS SANDERS

It's cute, it's fun, it has dogs in it, Harrison Ford looks super cool as a mountain man, and the whole family can watch it. Is it great cinema? No, of course not. But it has dogs in it. Dogs trump cinema. (\$62 million).

9. THE INVISIBLE MAN

DIRECTOR: LEIGH WHANNELL

I can't deny it anymore, Elisabeth Moss is a movie star and can lead a film. But it wasn't this ho-hum horror remake that did it for me. It was Alex Ross Perry's excellent *Her Smell*, which probably should have won Moss an Oscar and is much, much more worthy of your time than another remake of a classic. (\$64 million).

8. LITTLE WOMEN

DIRECTOR: GRETA GERWIG

I like Greta. I really do. I've been on her side since *Hannah Takes the Stairs* came out on DVD in 2008. At that time I thought we'd found the new Meg Ryan. I've followed her closely all along, and even saw her proper directorial debut, 2008's *Nights and Weekends*, when it came out. I understand that she is now a symbol for gender inequality in Hollywood, and I'm on her side. That being said, I'm not a blind supporter of anything. I consider *Lady Bird* to be maybe the most overrated modern film. It's not a classic, it's a John Hughes film updated for millennials. And another *Little Women* remake? Hard pass. Pretty sure this movie will be largely forgotten. (\$70 million).

7. DOLITTLE

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN GAGHAN

I don't have much to say about this one other than that I'm shocked it was made by Stephen Gaghan and it's a prime example of Hollywood leaning way too hard on established IP. (\$77 million).



Eli Goree plays Muhammad Ali, Kingsley Ben-Adir plays Malcolm X, Aldis Hodge plays Jim Brown, and Leslie Odom Jr. plays Sam Cooke in the new biopic *One Night in Miami*.

COURTESY PHOTO

Biopic brings '60s black icons to life

Based on the smash stage play by Kemp Powers, the enthralling new biopic *One Night in Miami* depicts a fictionalized meeting between four burgeoning icons in the mid-1960s.

We meet the first of the four, Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali (Eli Goree), in the ring during the opening scene as he whales on a fellow boxer in Wembley Stadium. This victory leads to a title match in Miami against then-champion Sonny Liston, where Ali shocked the world by becoming the youngest fighter at the time to win the heavyweight belt.

To celebrate his win, Ali invites his friends Malcolm X (Kingsley Ben-Adir), Jim Brown (Aldis Hodge), and Sam Cooke (Leslie Odom Jr.) over to his hotel room to share drinks and reflect on their past successes along with their future challenges.

One Night in Miami is the directorial debut by Regina King, the Academy Award-winning actress who most recently headed up the acclaimed HBO series *Watchmen*. Behind the camera, King establishes herself as a true actor's director, bringing out the very best in each of the four talented performers despite the majority of the film's "action" taking place within the confines of a single room.

Films based around plays, like the fellow Oscar contender *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, typically face issues translating the limited settings of their source material to the screen.

But King proves that you don't need to punch up the material to make it compelling. The way that she vividly catalogs the convictions and concerns between these four dominant male personalities is especially impressive for a first-time effort.

Adapting his play, screenwriter Kemp Powers (who also co-wrote Pixar's *Soul*) considers the positions of each of the four legends at this point in history and how a hypothetical conversation between them might go. Their dialogue is vibrant and revealing, finding the quartet playfully ribbing at each other one moment and more sternly questioning one another the next.

There are many topics covered during their all-night hangout, but many of the exchanges center around each of the famous figures' responsibility towards their race during the Civil Rights Movement. As to be expected, Malcolm X is the most confrontational toward each of



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI

Rated R for language throughout

1 hour 54 minutes

Streaming on Amazon Prime starting Jan. 15



his cohorts, pressing them explicitly on what they are doing in their respective crafts of music and sports to further progress for African-Americans.

With limited settings and dialogue as the primary driving force, the performances are critical for the film to operate and each of the actors brings something special to bring out the most in their real-life icons.

Ben-Adir brings both the righteous anger and thoughtful introspection that we tend to associate with Malcolm X but also adds a dimension of childlike exuberance when he brings out his camera to capture the moment.

Goree lends tremendous physicality and the obscene confidence that define Ali's persona, but he peels back the layers to reveal a young man who isn't as sure-footed as he seems.

Hodge is portraying Jim Brown, who is arguably the least well-known of the four characters but feels right at home with an easy charisma and warmth.

Best of all is Odom Jr., who broke out as Aaron Burr in *Hamilton* and follows through with a deeply soulful and moving performance. As Cooke, he comes across as an easy target for Malcolm X's repudiation but turns the tables in rope-a-dope fashion on the activist, whose life was cut short a year after the events of the film. We know that Odom Jr. is a talented singer, but the way that he conjures the legendary singer's tender timbre is magical, particularly in the film's concluding moments.

One Night in Miami is a stylish rumination on race and responsibility through the eyes of four larger-than-life figures whose human qualities are brilliantly presented.

ALSO NEW TO STREAM THIS WEEKEND

Making a last-minute debut on HBO Max is *Locked Down*, a pandemic-set heist film starring Anne Hathaway and Chiwetel Ejiofor about a quarreling couple of diamond thieves who put aside their differences to pull off a lucrative new job.

Debuting on Netflix is *Outside the Wire*, a sci-fi action movie starring Anthony Mackie and Damson Idris about a drone pilot who is sent into a deadly militarized zone and must work with an android officer.

Available to rent on demand is *MLK/FBI*, a documentary that explores the investigation and harassment of Martin Luther King Jr. by The Federal Bureau of Investigation using newly declassified documents.

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