

whatz'up

Your source for
local music and
entertainment



SWEETWATER ALL STARS

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LOCAL CROSSWORD

PUZZLE FEATURES CLUES BASED ON WHAT'S
GOING ON IN FORT WAYNE AND BEYOND / PAGE 14



NATE UTESCH

LOCAL GRAPHIC
DESIGNER CREATES
ALBUM COVERS FOR
NATIONAL BANDS,
LIKE SMASHING
PUMPKINS / PAGE 4



NOMADLAND

FRANCES McDORMAND
STARS IN CAPTIVATING
MOVIE ABOUT
TRANSIENCE, TRAUMA

★★★★★

REEL VIEWS, PAGE 15



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COVER PHOTOS BY JOHN KUSER

Sweetwater

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Dream team of musicians brings soul, R&B to life

Sweetwater All Stars to perform at Club Room

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

The Sweetwater All Stars have been around for a few years now, but from the very beginning, their goal has been clear.

“Ultimately,” said guitarist Bob Bailey, “we want to have fun – and play some great rhythm and blues!”

The Sweetwater All Stars are a ten-piece R&B band featuring some of the best players and singers in Fort Wayne, most of them recruited from distant climes to work at Sweetwater Sound.

The band, filled with musicians who distinguished themselves nationally and internationally before coming to Indiana, each brought decades of experience with them and put that experienced to good use with the All Stars.

STARTING AT SWEETWATER

The band’s origin story begins at Sweetwater, of course, with a group of musicians in Sweetwater’s Studio A working on a recording project featuring vocalist Kat Bowser.

“It started as a blues record,” said Dave Martin, who was playing bass. “And basically, during the course of the recording process, it became more of a band record.”

At about the same time, Chuck Surack, Sweetwater Sound’s owner, started thinking that a horn-rich R&B band might be fun.

Fortuitously, some of Sweetwater’s recent hires included exactly the right musicians for this sort of project, and all the narrative threads came together. What started as Kat Bowser’s CD became the first Sweetwater All Stars record.

The members of the Sweetwater All Stars rhythm section are musicians who are not primarily known for playing soul and classic R&B. Drummer Nick D’Virgilio built his reputation playing progressive rock, keyboardist Jacob Dupre is recognized as a great jazz musician, and bassist Dave Martin’s traditional country and western swing credits are substantial.

The newest member of the All Stars, percussionist Will Brown, has an extensive background as a both as a producer and as a



PHOTO BY AMANDA BOSS



MORE ON THE WEB

Use your phone’s camera to scan the QR code and watch a recent performance and listen to their 2018 album.

being pigeonholed by that success,” Bailey said. “Here’s the thing. All the people who are in this band, myself included, have a pretty varied background. So what they’re known for isn’t everything they’ve done. It’s just what they got known for.”

Yet this seemingly disparate group of musicians banded together to perform horn-driven soul and R&B tunes.

THE HORN SECTION

The All Stars Horns, with sax player Chuck Surack, Brett Kelsey on trumpet, and trombonist Marcus Farr, bring magic to the Sweetwater All Stars’ sound.

“I love the sound of solid players playing great arrangements,” Martin said. “The horns

vocalist. Although guitarists Bob Bailey and Don Carr are known as rock and pop musicians, each has played more than their share of blues and country guitar.

It might not seem to make much sense at first glance, but with the Sweetwater All Stars, there’s is a lot more to them than what they’re primarily known for.

“Each of the members have had success in a wide variety of genres without

SWEETWATER ALL STARS

8-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20

8-11 p.m. Saturday, March 6

8-11 p.m. Saturday, March 20

The Club Room at The Clyde
1806 Bluffton Road, Fort Wayne

No cover · (260) 407-8530

THEMED CROSSWORD

This issue’s puzzle features clues about the Sweetwater All Stars · Page 14

make the All Stars special.”

While Surack is best known these days as the owner of Sweetwater, he’s been a professional sax player for more than 40 years. That experience shows, whether he’s playing with the All Stars or working with Prime Time, a trio that he and trumpet player Kelsey have performed with for years.

Additionally, Farr is much loved as an educator and band director in Fort Wayne.

‘THAT’S THE ONE’

The last major change to the Sweetwater All Stars line-up happened at the beginning of 2020 when Kat Bowser, the All Stars original vocalist, moved out of state.

The Sweetwater All Stars auditioned 20 to 30 singers.

“Fort Wayne has some great singers and there were quite a few that auditioned who were more than capable of doing the job,”

Martin said. “But we were looking for that ‘special something,’ and we found it in Lisa McDavid.”

“When Lisa sang the first line of the first song at her audition,” Bailey said. “Chuck and I looked at each other — I swear I’ll never forget this — our eyes met and it was like, ‘Yeah, that’s it. That’s the one.’”

Lead vocal duties in the Sweetwater All Stars are split between McDavid, drummer Nick D’Virgilio, and guitarist Bob Bailey.

“Nick has an amazing range, Bob has a wonderful texture to his voice, and Lisa is, quite simply, a force of nature,” Martin said. “Between the three singers, the All Stars can cover a huge amount of ground. From the Temptations to Chaka Khan, from the Isley Brothers to Sam and Dave, and from Aretha Franklin to Tower of Power, we do it all.”

McDavid joined the All Stars in January 2020 but got to play only a couple of dates before the pandemic closed the doors of the All Stars’ original home base, Don Hall’s Guest House. Fortunately, a few outdoor gigs opened back up in the summer, and by fall, restrictions eased enough that the All Stars were able to play for a socially distanced crowd in the newly expanded Club Room at the Clyde. At the beginning of 2021, the All Stars began playing twice a month at the new venue.

The All Stars will return to the Club Room at the Clyde on Feb. 20 and on March 6. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Learn more at thesweetwaterallstars.com.

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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.

Advertising

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

Album covers are speciality of Fort Wayne graphic artist

Utesch is also known for local band Metavari

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Who can forget The Beatles' crosswalk, the Velvet Underground's banana, the Rolling Stones' zipper, Judas Priest's razor blade, Pink Floyd's prism, Nirvana's baby, and Blin k-182's rubber glove? Album cover art has slipped the surly bonds of paper sleeves and become as culturally significant as the music it promotes.

Nate Utesch, a musician and graphic designer based in Fort Wayne, is in the business of designing album cover art and other eye-catching promotional graphics for bands, some of them household names.

Utesch has worked with Smashing Pumpkins, Weezer, Korn, Phoebe Bridgers, Conor Oberst, and comedian/musician Tim Heidecker, among many others.

DIRECTING ART AND REMASTERING MUSIC

It all started in 2014 when Utesch left the local design firm One Lucky Guitar to be the art director for the Secretly Group, based in Bloomington, Indiana.

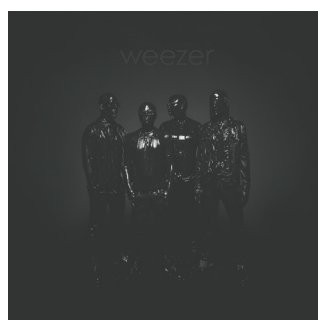
"At that point, I came on as the entire art department," he said in a phone interview with *Whatzup*. "I was the art director for all three labels (Secretly Canadian, Jagjaguwar, and Dead Oceans). Now the art department is four people strong with two art directors. So I am responsible for half of the workload of all the three labels at any given time."

Other interesting work has meandered into Utesch's life in casual and random fashion.

A few years after Utesch started working for the Secretly Group, his band, Metavari, was signed to a label group based in Seattle called Light in the Attic. Light in the Attic reissues obscure rock, jazz, and funk releases through its Tidal Wave label. Utesch was called upon to restore album cover art and also to remaster music.

"It's all sorts of crazy stuff, like horror movie soundtracks that have never been released on vinyl," he said. "I just finished a Chet Baker record that hadn't been re-released in forever."

Utesch has worked on 100 albums for Tidal Wave. And he has worked on 275 releases to date for Secretly Group.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Top left: *Cyr* by Smashing Pumpkins. Bottom left: Weezer's self-titled album. Above: Nate Utesch in his Fort Wayne studio.

COVER ART, BACKGROUND STORY

His highest profile work, however, has happened with an Ohio company called Tension Division.

Through Tension Division, Utesch helped design cover art for The Smashing Pumpkins' *Cyr* and *Shiny and Oh So Bright, Vol. 1*, Korn's *The Nothing*, and Weezer's self-titled release known colloquially as *The Black Album*.

The art deco images of a ghostly figure that grace the two aforementioned Smashing Pumpkins releases were created by Utesch for tour posters. And they were inspired by a Fort Wayne Ballet performance.

"It was the first thing I had ever seen the Fort Wayne Ballet do," he said. "I had taken pictures and was using the male ballerinas as my references for sketches — these crazy, contorted forms."

Smashing Pumpkins' lead singer Billy Corgan wanted Utesch to make use of the same ghostly figure on subsequent projects. And he wanted the images to advance a narrative.

"Billy's idea (for *Shiny and Oh So Bright, Vol. 1*) was like, 'OK, that figure you drew for the poster? I want that figure to also be represented on this cover. It's the same character in my mind. Help me tell that story. Why is he on this cover? What's he doing?'"

Utesch and Corgan ended up composing a backstory for the character that explained his continued appearance on the covers of *Shiny and Oh So Bright, Vol. 1* and *Cyr*.

"No one else may hear (the story), but it was a cool way to have a through-line for us to keep us honest," he said. "That doesn't happen a lot and that's kind of the dream when you get to go that far with it and tell those kinds of stories. Not many artists like to go that far and get that romantic with it. But Billy just absolutely does. He really ate it up and added to it. It was so much fun."

Smashing Pumpkins releases were some of the first albums Utesch owned, so it is understandable that he had a hard time hiding his giddiness while working with Corgan.

"It was crazy, crazy being on those early phone calls with Billy and texting my wife the whole time," he says. "Telling her the crazy things he was saying but also trying to pay attention."

REJECTION AND REJOICING

Being an art director and graphic artist for musicians and record labels isn't always glamorous. It often happens that a band rejects Utesch's ideas or changes them so much that he is far less enthusiastic about claiming them as his own.

Rejection is often painful for Utesch.

"I have had bands who were not fun to work with," he said. "Bands that have thrown stuff out after I have put 30 or 40 hours into a project. People have thrown stuff out and hired someone else. It's always a bummer. It's never any less painful for sure."

Utesch does something seemingly unusual among graphic designers: He posts outtakes and rejected concepts to his website and to his social media pages.

"I have people in the industry say, 'What's your game? You are posting work that was thrown out.' I often have something that was thrown in the trash that I am really proud of. As an active artist, it just makes sense to show the world the things that got pitched. Why not?"

Utesch said his Secretly Group rejects have inspired bands working with Tension Division — one musician's trash thereby becoming another musician's treasure.

Utesch's kid-in-a-candy-store enthusiasm for his work extends to the record store. It thrills him to see his work in a record bin.

"I have had this conversation with people who work at peer labels and it's funny how many people say they don't care about that," he said. "I think it's an incredible thing. An LP is this artifact in the world. And now I am creating these artifacts that someone will find 40 years from now."

"My name is on all this junk I made and I think it's awesome," Utesch said. "There aren't many careers where you're spitting out artifacts into the earth like that."

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

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 USE. **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

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, FEBRUARY 18

Megan Mullins — Country at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Friday Night Vibes w/Julia Meek — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Helicon's Peak — Variety at The Post, Pierceton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (574) 594-3010

Hubie Ashcraft & Megan Mullins — Acoustic at Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 637-2980

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

Motor Folkers — Acoustic variety at Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, 8 p.m. no cover, (260) 854-9463

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Helicon's Peak — Variety at The Post, Pierceton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, (574) 594-3010

Thunderstruck powers up AC/DC in Fort Wayne

Although AC/DC recently released a new studio album, *Power Up*, it's probably going to be some time until we see them live. With that being said, it's a good thing we have **Thunderstruck: America's AC/DC Tribute** out on the road.

The band is no stranger to the Fort having performed here on a number of occasions and, as a matter of fact, will be returning on Friday, April 23, for a performance at the Rockstar Lounge.

If you have yet to see these cats in action, they pack a one-two punch of the songs you know and love from all eras of AC/DC. The wardrobe is near spot on, too. Tickets for the show are \$20 general admission and \$35 VIP (balcony seating and dedicated waitress). They can be purchased via TicketWeb.



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

They are available now for only \$10 through Eventbrite.

DEBUTANTS EP

Debutants have officially released their long-awaited EP, *Indiana Newgrass*.

Five solid tracks can be found on this bad boy, including "Phantom Vibrations" and "Try Not (To Be Scared)." It was recorded and mixed by Tyler Thompson at Studio 110 in Pennsylvania. *Indiana Newgrass* is available for streaming and download at Bandcamp.com.

As of press time, Debutants have no shows scheduled, but I'm sure that will change soon. *Whatzup* will keep you posted. Until then, check out this fine EP.

SMYTH'S SONG

Local singer-songwriter **Dan Smyth** has released a new music video for his tune "Light." Jason Davis of Off the Cuff Sound contributed the drums, guitar, and recording, while Ed Renz can be heard on baritone sax, bass clarinet, and flute.

"This song is about the inner light we all have and that we all to some degree tamp down, ignore, or let others consume," Smyth said.

The nearly five-minute video was made by Frank Louis Allen and can be found on the Dan Smyth Music Facebook page. In addition, you can find "Light" on Bandcamp for your listening pleasure along with another new number, "Before You Waste It."

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



MORE ON THE WEB

Use your phone to scan the QR code above to listen to the new EP by Debutants on Bandcamp.

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

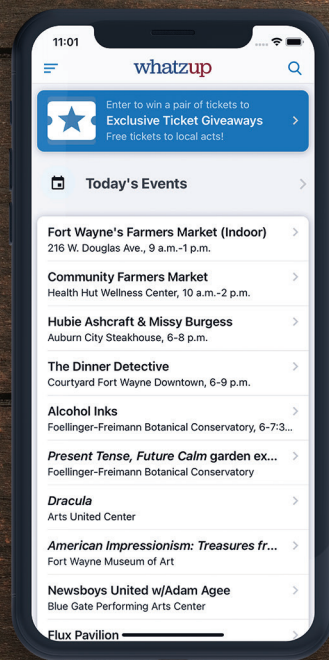
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PFW hosts Black History Month Zoom conversations

Although Black History Month, is soon coming to a close, there are still events to attend (virtually) thanks to Purdue Fort Wayne.

On Friday, Feb. 19, from 11 a.m.-noon, Cicelle Beemon, student outreach coordinator, and Alisa Thompson, assistant director, Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, will lead a conversation *The Skin I'm In: Light Skin vs. Dark Skin—Colorism Is Real* which will address stereotypes and the consequences of attitudes toward skin color. To join this Zoom event, use event ID 914 0942 8844 and passcode 898941.

On Monday, Feb. 22, from 5-8 p.m., tune in for a screening of the documentary *Hidden Colors III: The Rules of Racism*, the third in a series of documentaries which tackles the difficult subject of systemic racism. To join this Zoom event, use event ID 914 0942 8844 and passcode 898941.

Events wrap up on Friday, Feb. 26, from 11 a.m.-noon with *Anger Management 101* which addresses “why people of color are considered aggressive when white people are considered assertive.” The discussion will be led by Alice Jordan Miles, director of the Behavioral Health and Family Studies Institute, Department of Human Services. To join this Zoom event, use event ID 982 8333 1325 and passcode 017760.



News and Venues

MICHELE DEVINNEY

WUNDERKAMMER EXHIBIT

Wunderkammer is currently hosting an exhibit, *Creating Community*, which focuses on the ceramic community between colleges in the local Fort Wayne area.

The exhibit highlights student works from Huntington University, Purdue Fort Wayne, and the University of Saint Francis and is running weekends through February 27.

With a suggested donation of \$2 to attend, hours will run 1-6 p.m. on Feb. 20-21 and Feb. 27.

MORE OPTIONS NORTH OF DOWNTOWN

During his recent State of the City address, Mayor Tom Henry announced plans which could bring still more entertainment options to the downtown area.

While still in the development stages, a possible soccer and entertainment venue could likely become a reality in the years ahead, a plan which includes a professional soccer stadium adjacent to an entertainment venue and a fieldhouse.

There are also plans for a hotel and restaurant on the city-owned open land north of Headwaters Park which is the former site of OmniSource.

The Riverfront and our growing downtown have become a great destination for our city after years of dormancy. There seems to be no end to the possibilities.

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

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

Kevin Bozeman — Comedy fundraiser for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana at virtual performance, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$40, (260) 484-9560

Matt Record — Folk at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 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

Sankofa — Hip-Hop at virtual performance, Fort Wayne, 7-8 p.m. \$10, (260) 424-5665

Sweetwater All Stars — R&B/soul 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, FEBRUARY 22

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 23

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Hubie Ashcraft & Missy Burgess — Americana at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 426-2537

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

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

James Adkins Band — Americana at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

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

Friday Night Vibes w/Julia Meek — Variety at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7-9:30 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

Scream at the Sky w/Andrew W. Boss — Hard rock at Carl's Tavern, New Haven, 7 p.m. no cover, (260) 749-9133

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country at The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 407-8530

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

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

PigWeed, Cremated Souls, Blood of Heroes, Coffin Witch — Nu Metal at Carl's Tavern, New Haven, 8 p.m. \$8, (260) 749-9133

The Rain Kings — '80s Rock at Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, 8 p.m. no cover, (260) 854-9463

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Hubie Ashcraft Trio — Country at Double Eagle, Decatur, 3-7 p.m. no cover, (260) 724-8777

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

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

Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

8420 — Classic rock at American Legion Post 47, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 209-3960

Colt Ford — Rap at The Eclectic Room, Angola, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$295, (269) 625-8817

Down the Line 15: Ty Causey, Todd Harold, Fatima Washington, and Institute for the Musically Insane — R&B/soul at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$20, (260) 424-5665

Mike Head — 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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Austin Marsh — Acoustic at 2 Toms Brewing, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. no cover, (260) 402-7644

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

Herbwurm, Fell Advent, Jupiter in July, Crumbs Big Rickets — Rock at The Ruin, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. \$5, (260) 399-6336

Mike Almon — Acoustic at Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, 7-10 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Garry Jones — Variety at Edwin Coe Spirits, Churubuco, 6-8 p.m. no cover, (260) 212-8827

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Molly Hatchet — Rock at The Eclectic Room, Angola, 7 p.m. \$25-\$295, (269) 625-8817

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Alex Ortiz — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$25, (260) 426-6339

BackWater — Country/classic rock at American Legion Post 241, Waynedale, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 747-7851

Ernie Haase and Signature Sound — Southern Gospel at St. Joe United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, 5:30 p.m. \$30 for dinner and show, (260) 485-9681

The Frontmen — Country at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 6 and 8:30 p.m. \$38-\$58, (574) 267-8041

Garry Jones — Easy '70s at Chapman's Brewing Company, Columbia City, 6-8 p.m. no cover, (260) 244-6252

Sponge w/Plan B — Alternative Rock at Rockstar Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$20-\$35, (260) 444-2442

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

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

Alex Ortiz — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$25, (260) 426-6339

Motor Folkers — Acoustic variety at Oakwood Resort, Syracuse, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (574) 457-7100

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

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

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

Fozzy w/Through Fire, Royal Bliss, Black Satellite — Rock at The Eclectic Room, Angola, 6:45 p.m. \$20-\$295, (269) 625-8817

Mr. Showtime — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$25, (260) 426-6339

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Mr. Showtime — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$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

Ron Keel w/Helicon's Peak and Almost Gone — Rock at The Post, Piercetown, 8 p.m. \$10-\$15, (260) 247-5119

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Jason Dixie — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

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

Jason Dixie — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 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

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

The 906 Band — Variety at American Legion Post 241, Waynedale, 8-11 p.m. no cover, (260) 747-7851

Anthem Lights — Pop vocals at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$50, (574) 267-8041

Tracey MacDonald and jus Will — Comedy at 469 Comedy: Fort Wayne Comedy Club, New Haven, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. \$20-\$25, (260) 426-6339

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Celebrations — Pops concert at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, 7 p.m. \$10, (574) 267-8041

Jon Shoulders — Acoustic variety 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

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



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ALBUM OF THE WEEK

LUCERO
WHEN YOU FOUND ME

Building on the themes of their critically acclaimed album *Among The Ghosts*, "family" is at the center of Lucero's new album. The album reimagines family stories as modern fables, with young heroines and storybook lyrics inspired by the fairy tales lead singer Ben Nichols' reads with his daughter at bedtime. Get a CD for \$11.99 at all Wooden Nickel and Neat Neat Neat locations.

TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 14, 2021

TW LW ARTIST/Album

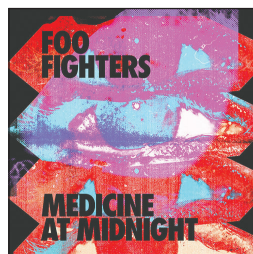
- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | - | WEEZER
OK Human |
| 2 | - | THE PRETTY RECKLESS
Death by Rock and Roll |
| 3 | 1 | FOO FIGHTERS
Medicine at Midnight |
| 4 | 3 | STEVEN WILSON
The Future Bites |
| 5 | - | ROBIN THICKE
On Earth, and in Heaven |
| 6 | - | DIO
Holy Diver Live |
| 7 | 2 | THE WEEKND
The Highlights |
| 8 | 7 | ACCEPT
Too Mean to Die |
| 9 | 8 | PHOEBE BRIDGERS
Punisher |
| 10 | 5 | TRANSATLANTIC
The Absolute Universe: Forevermore |

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Foo Fighters

Medicine at
Midnight

The most common criticism leveled at Foo Fighters is that the band hasn't evolved much in nearly three decades.

That's not to say they haven't tried, especially with *Medicine at Midnight*, an album that attempts to shift away from guitar rock toward more nuanced pop.

Dave Grohl has compared the album to "Let's Dance," David Bowie's 1983 pop megahit. That's probably not going to sit well with fans partial to the band's heavier stuff. But for those open-minded listeners who share Grohl's love of vintage rock, the album holds some nice surprises.

The album's influences are many and diverse. The title track is built around a groove that wouldn't be out of place in a Michael Jackson song, but it also slinks through a languid verse that evokes both Bowie and '80s U2. "Cloudspotter" is a throwback romp with a classic rock melody and the bright sheen of peak hair metal.

"No Son of Mine" kicks up the darkness a bit more and stops just this side of Black Sabbath. "Holding Poison" walks back toward '80s New Wave, and then "Chasing Birds" mellows out in the vein of a '70s ballad.

If Grohl and company weren't so adept at pulling off the shifts, the effect might be dizzying and offputting, but it's not.

Medicine at Midnight was supposed to go along with a celebratory 25th-anniversary tour, but the pandemic got in the way of those plans. The album is a hopeful, adventurous attempt to simply have fun. Now that there may be light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, the album's original intent feels not entirely inappropriate. — *Evan Gillespie*

Accept

Too Mean to Die



It's impressive that German metal icons Accept have been an ongoing entity for over four decades. There have been a number of member changes, but the sound has remained remarkably consistent.

Guided over the years by founding member and guitarist Wolf Hoffman, Accept refuse to go quietly through the sunset of their career. Case in point is the recently released *Too Mean to Die*, an intense opus that carries on the Accept tradition of gritty, anthemic songwriting and powerful delivery.

The band's sixteenth studio album — and its fifth since longtime vocalist Udo Dirkschneider parted ways with the band — *Too Mean to Die* is full of what we have come to expect from Accept. Though Dirkschneider lent a unique voice to the music, vocalist Mark Tornillo does a mighty fine

job of emulating Dirkschneider on songs like the frenzied "Zombie Apocalypse" and the standout track "The Undertaker."

The band shows some diversity with the ballad "The Best Is Yet To Come" and on the instrumental "Samson and Delilah," but the best moments come when they do what they do best: kick everything into overdrive and deliver anthem after metal anthem. The shred fest of "Symphony of Pain" is a must hear song as is the title track, while "Overnight Sensation" stands tall above the rest as a classic that should be added to their lives show immediately, or whenever touring resumes.

After repeated listens, it's clear that *Too Mean to Die* is not just the name of Accept's latest album. It's also a mantra for the band going forward. Will the band ever call it a day? Eventually that time will come, but with output as inspired as this, it would be a good bet to say that day is not likely to be anytime soon. — *Chris Hupe*

The Besnard
LakesThe Besnard
Lakes Are The
Last of the Great
Thunderstorm
Warnings

Montreal's The Besnard Lakes have been the patron saints of grand psych rock for years now. They're one of those bands that you've never heard of, and then they're all you'll listen to for weeks.

With leader Jace Lasek at the helm, this psych/pop rock behemoth has made records that feel like dizzying dreams with fever-laced soulful sounds that combine the childlike wonder of the Beach Boys with the dark, thunderstorm mind of Pink Floyd and Spiritualized. The Besnard Lakes are contemplative, sweet, sad, and slightly hallucinogenic.

On the band's newest album, the mouthful *The Besnard Lakes Are The Last of the Great Thunderstorm Warnings*, Lasek and his crew tackle death, grief, longing, and remembrance over the course of a double LP. A five-year hiatus has given us the Besnard Lakes' best and densest record yet.

First song "Blackstrap" sounds like the opening of some great novel in which the first paragraph completely blows you away. A mixture of ELO, Radiohead, and '60s pop is all rolled into something Roger Waters would approve of.

The epic "Christmas Can Wait" wavers and wobbles over eight minutes of glorious hallucinogenic grandiosity. With a band like The Besnard Lakes, the devil is in the details, and they give us so many details to get lost in. Layering synths, guitars, and vocals like warm blankets on a cold, winter night, the Lakes treat us to something incredibly deep and special.

"Our Heads, Our Hearts on Fire Again" bring to mind The Polyphonic Spree with its chorus of vocals and symphonic sound. It's as if the Mamas and the Papas and Jesus and Mary Chain combined in the particle accelerator and gave us this amazing song.

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

John Lennon

John Lennon/
Plastic Ono Band
(1970)

After The Beatles broke up, John Lennon and Yoko Ono went into some primal therapy after moving to Los Angeles. This album's theme reflects the self-discovery and explores separation, relationships, and abandonment.

"Mother" opens the record with a dark opening bell before Lennon goes into a narrative about the aforementioned separation. It has a mellow piano from Lennon and is driven by the crisp drumming from Ringo Starr. "Hold On" is a poppy number that clocks in at less than two minutes. "I Found Out" is darker in its arrangement and is more rock than the darker themes found on the rest of the album. "Working Class Hero" is a track that is piercingly political. It explains how the lower class is absorbed into the middle class but are kept below the fray. The beautiful "Isolation" closes the first side, a peaceful protest song that has relevance 50 years later.

Side two kicks off with "Remember," a Beatles-sounding number with Lennon again pounding away on the piano. It has a nice pop sound and sort of takes you away from the central theme. "Love" is another beautiful track that features the late Phil Spector on the piano. Again, it's hard to imagine this not being a Beatles track, but for three and a half minutes, it's pure bliss. "Well Well Well" is probably one of my favorite Lennon tracks musically, but lyrically it is repetitive, even in its mention of revolution as an afterthought. And "God" is Lennon in an almost anti-establishment sentiment, but not because it's bad. The track features a lavish piano from Billy Preston and was more of a love song to Yoko.

The Plastic Ono Band released just a few more albums before Lennon went solo for the decade before his death. — *Dennis Donahue*

There's just so much here to love that going over every track is futile. *The Besnard Lakes Are The Last of the Great Thunderstorm Warnings* is epic and plays like one long, glorious fever dream.

In these times of busy minds, Tik Tok, and texts, there seems to be a lack of patience for something like the album experience. This double LP is reason to get back to sitting, listening, and experiencing music the way it was intended.

The Besnard Lakes have made a masterpiece worth your time, ears, and headspace. — *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.

The Weeknd announces its new tour, but for 2022

There was mixed reaction to **The Weeknd's** Super Bowl Halftime Show. For the most part, older curmudgeonly people like me didn't really know any of the songs while most younger folks who actually watched the game seemed to think it wasn't too bad.

Granted, they probably never saw the **Prince** halftime show in 2007, which is thought of by many as the greatest halftime show of all time, but that doesn't mean The Weeknd's show was a failure. It's a no-win situation to be in really.

Just before the show aired, it was announced The Weeknd would go on a 104-city tour. However, the dates are all scheduled for 2022.

The "After Hours World Tour," originally scheduled to take place in 2020, will instead commence on January 14, 2022, two years after the release of the hit album *After Hours*.

In addition to playing all of the shows on the original tour, several new stops have been added including Chicago's United Center on Jan. 23-24. Other dates in this region include Little Caesars Arena in Detroit on Jan. 27 and Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland on Jan. 30.

In addition, The Weeknd just released *The Highlights*, an album of 18 tracks that the singer "curated for the Super Bowl."

It goes without saying, I guess, that I would not know any of them but, I imagine, they are some darn fine tunes.

AT THE BLUE GATE

The Blue Gate Theatre just announced **We Are Messengers** have been booked to perform at the Shipshewana venue on April 30.

The band's debut self-titled album reached the Top 10 of Billboard's Christian Albums Chart

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
Adam Carolla	Mar. 26	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Agnostic Front, Sick Of It All, Crown of Thornz	Apr. 25	Subterranean	Chicago
Air Supply	June 11	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Alabama	Apr. 7	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Alabama	Apr. 8	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Alan Jackson	July 10	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Alex Ortiz	Mar. 26-27	469 Comedy	New Haven
Alex Williams	Mar. 12	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Alicia Keys	Aug. 17	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Alicia Keys	Aug. 18	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Alicia Keys	Aug. 20	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Align	May 13	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
All That Remains	May 19	Eclectic Room	Angola
Amy Grant	Sept. 18	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Andrew Dice Clay	July 15	The Sound Board	Detroit
Andy Woodhull	Dec. 18	469 Comedy	New Haven
Angela Perley	Mar. 5	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Anthem Lights	Apr. 16	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Anthem Lights	May 7	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Aries Spears	Aug. 19-21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Armor for Sleep	July 22	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Asleep at the Wheel	Mar. 5	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Atlanta Rhythm Section	June 12	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Backman Cummings	Aug. 22	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Backstreet Boys	July 22	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Backstreet Boys	July 27	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Backstreet Boys	July 30	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Backstreet Boys	July 31	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
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 w/Gin Blossoms, Toad the Wet Sprocket	July 3	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Barenaked Ladies w/Gin Blossoms, Toad the Wet Sprocket	July 4	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Barenaked Ladies w/Gin Blossoms, Toad the Wet Sprocket	July 20	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
The Beach Boys	July 25	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	May 8	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Bill Bellamy	Feb. 25-27	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Bill Boronkay and Dan Brown	Mar. 12-13	469 Comedy	New Haven
Billy Joel	June 26	Notre Dame Stadium	South Bend
Billy Joel	July 9	Comerica Park	Detroit
The Black Crowes	July 29	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
The Black Crowes	Aug. 1	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
The Black Crowes	Aug. 3	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
The Black Crowes	Aug. 4	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
The Black Crowes	Aug. 7	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Black Pumas	Apr. 28	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Black Stone Cherry	Apr. 24	Eclectic Room	Angola
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 17	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 18	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 29	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 30	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Blackberry Smoke w/The Allman Betts Band	July 31	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
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. 4	Southern Theatre	Columbus, OH
Brian Culbertson	Nov. 19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Bruce Bruce	May 7-9	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers	June 16	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Building 429	July 9	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Built to Spill	Aug. 8	Bell's Eccentric Cafe	Kalamazoo
Béla Fleck and the Flecktones	Apr. 5	Southern Theatre	Columbus, OH
Carol Burnett	May 26	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Celtic Woman	Apr. 8	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Chicago	May 23	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Chicago	July 23	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Chicago	July 25	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Chicago	Aug. 1	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Chicano Batman	June 11	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Chris Stapleton	July 17	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Chris Stapleton	Aug. 5	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Christine E. Porter	June 10	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Cody Ko & Noel Miller	July 17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Cody Ko & Noel Miller	July 18	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Colin Hay	Mar. 30	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Colt Ford	Mar. 6	Eclectic Room	Angola
Crowder	May 8	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
D.L. Hughley	Apr. 9-11	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
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
Danielle Nicole	Mar. 11	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Daryl Hall & John Oates	Aug. 17	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Daryl Hall & John Oates	Aug. 19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Daryl Hall & John Oates	Aug. 21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Daryl Hall & John Oates	Aug. 23	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Daryl Hall & John Oates	Aug. 26	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Dave Landau	May 28-29	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 and jus Will	July 24	469 Comedy	New Haven
David Gray	July 17	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
David Gray	July 19	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
David Spade	Aug. 6	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 27	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Dead Can Dance	Apr. 28	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
The Dead South	Aug. 20	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Deftones	Aug. 17	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Deftones, Gojira, Poppy	Aug. 15	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Del McCoury Band	July 9	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Dennis DeYoung	Feb. 19 '22	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Deon Cole	May 29	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Dermot Kennedy	July 31	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Dermot Kennedy	Aug. 17	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Dick Fox's Golden Boys	June 26	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Disciple	June 19	Howard Co. Viet. Vets Grounds	Greentown
Disturbed	Aug. 14	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	July 12	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	July 13	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	July 18	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	Aug. 8	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Disturbed w/Staind, Bad Wolves	Aug. 14	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
DragonForce	Mar. 19	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
DragonForce	Mar. 21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Drew Thomas and Neil Rubenstein	Apr. 23-24	469 Comedy	New Haven
DSL	Aug. 29	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Duke Tumatoe & The Power Trio	Mar. 19	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Duke Tumatoe and the Power Trio	Apr. 22	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
The Fab Four	Aug. 29	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Flora Cash	June 18	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
For King & Country	May 7	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
The Format	July 23-25	Lincoln Hall	Chicago

ON the Road NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE			
Fozzy	May 6	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Fozzy w/Through Fire, Royal Bliss, Black Satellite	Apr. 2	Eclectic Room	Angola
Framing Hanley	Mar. 13	Hobart Art Theater	Hobart
Framing Hanley	May 7	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
The Frontmen	Nov. 14	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Gaither Vocal Band	June 10	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Gary Allan	May 15	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Gary Owen	June 18-20	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Gene Watson	July 10	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic	June 24	The Sound Board	Detroit
Gladys Knight	May 21	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Gladys Knight	May 22	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Gladys Knight	Aug. 21	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
The Glenn Miller Orchestra	Aug. 31	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Goo Goo Dolls	Aug. 6	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Goo Goo Dolls	Aug. 8	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Goo Goo Dolls	Aug. 11	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Gordon Lightfoot	May 14	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Gordon Lightfoot	July 15-16	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Grand Funk Railroad	May 1	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Green Day w/Fall Out Boy, Weezer, the Interrupters	Aug. 10	Comerica Park	Detroit
Greer	May 8	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Greg Howe w/Stu Hamm, Joel Taylor	Aug. 27	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Guns N' Roses	July 18	Lucas Oil Stadium	Indianapolis
Guns N' Roses	July 21	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Guns N' Roses	July 24	Comerica Park	Detroit
Hall and Oates w/KT Tunstall, Squeeze	Aug. 17	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Hall and Oates w/KT Tunstall, Squeeze	Aug. 19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Hall and Oates w/KT Tunstall, Squeeze	Aug. 21	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Hall and Oates w/KT Tunstall, Squeeze	Aug. 23	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Hall and Oates w/KT Tunstall, Squeeze	Aug. 26	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Halsey	June 23	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Halsey	June 26	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Hot Mulligan	June 26	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
J.B. Smoove	May 27	The Sound Board	Detroit
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	June 9	United Center	Chicago
James Taylor w/Jackson Browne	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 w/Whiskey Myers, Folk Uke	June 26	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Jamey Johnson	Aug. 8	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jason Dixie	Apr. 9-10	469 Comedy	New Haven
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 Dunham	July 7	Nutter Center	Dayton
Jeff Foxworthy	June 5	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Jeff Shaw	Apr. 30-May 1	469 Comedy	New Haven
Jeremy Piven	May 13	Hobart Art Theater	Hobart
Jess Hilarious	Feb. 20	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Jess Hilarious	July 23-24	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Jim Breuer	Mar. 12-14	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Jim Norton	Mar. 20	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Jim Stafford	May 28-29	Blue Gate Music Hall	Shipshewana
Jimmy Buffett	July 10	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Jimmy Buffett	July 13	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Joe Russo's Almost Dead	Aug. 19	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Joe Satriani	Oct. 15	Honeywell Center	Wabash
John Conlee	July 8	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Johnny Mathis	June 11	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Jolo Siwa	July 16	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
JoJo Siwa	July 17	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Jolo Siwa	July 18	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
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
Katrina Brown and Larry Greene	Feb. 19-20	469 Comedy	New Haven
Kaytranada	May 8	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds	Apr. 25	The Sound Board	Detroit
Kenny Chesney	Aug. 14	Ford Field	Detroit
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band	June 12	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Kidz Bop	July 30	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Kidz Bop	Aug. 27	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Kidz Bop	Aug. 28	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Kindo	Apr. 27	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
King's Brass	Aug. 12	Blue Gate Music Hall	Shipshewana
Kingston Trio	June 3	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Kool & The Gang w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Sept. 3	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Lady Gaga	Aug. 27	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Lauren Daigle	Sept. 24	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 13	Subterranean	Chicago
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 18	The Deluxe	Indianapolis
Lauren Sanderson	Apr. 20	Saint Andrew's Hall	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
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. Viet. Vets Grounds	Greentown
Lilly Hiatt	Apr. 7	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Lindsey Stirling	Aug. 6	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Lindsey Stirling	Aug. 10	Huntington Bank Pavilion	Chicago
Lindsey Stirling	Aug. 11	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Lindsey Stirling	Aug. 12	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Lindsey Stirling	Aug. 14	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Little River Band	Aug. 13	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Little River Band	Sept. 11	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Los Lobos w/The Summit	Nov. 6	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Lost Dog Street Band	June 5	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Louis the Child	Aug. 20	Masonic Temple Theater	Detroit
Louis The Child	Aug. 21	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Louis Tomlinson	Apr. 17	The Fillmore	Detroit
Lucky Chops	May 13	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Luke Bryan	June 10	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Luttrell	Aug. 13	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Lyfe Jennings and Chrisette Michele	June 10	The Sound Board	Detroit
Maks & Val	June 20	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Maren Morris	July 9	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Maren Morris	July 10	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Maria Bamford	Aug. 21	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Maroon 5	Aug. 21	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Maroon 5	Aug. 23	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Maroon 5	Aug. 26	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Matchbox Twenty	Aug. 24	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Matchbox Twenty	Aug. 25	Toledo Zoo Amphitheatre	Toledo
Matchbox Twenty	Aug. 27	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Matt Braunger	May 7	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Mavericks	July 16	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Megadeth and Lamb of God	July 27	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Megadeth and Lamb of God	July 28	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Megadeth and Lamb of God	Aug. 6	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Megadeth, Lamb of God, Trivium, In Flames	July 9	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Megadeth, Lamb of God, Trivium, In Flames	July 14	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Michael Bolton	June 25	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Michael Buble	Aug. 20	Heritage Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Michael Buble	Aug. 21	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Michael Gardner	Mar. 19-20	469 Comedy	New Haven
Michael W. Smith	May 14	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Mike Head	Mar. 5-6	469 Comedy	New Haven

Road Notes

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

and the 2019 follow-up EP, *Honest*, reached Number 7. Tickets start at \$20.

CHIN UP WITH LENO BENEFIT

A chance to see former Tonight Show host **Jay Leno** from the comforts of your couch comes in the form of Forgotten Harvest's 28th Annual Comedy Night on April 22.

The comedian will perform a full live set from Jay Leno's Garage in Burbank, California. Proceeds from the show are set to benefit Forgotten Harvest, Detroit's only food rescue organization.

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Answer key for puzzle on Page 14

S	D	N	E	d	X	E		S	L	S	S	V
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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Milky Chance	Apr. 15	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Milky Chance	May 3	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
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
Monsta X	May 2	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Monsta X	May 5	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Joan Jett	July 10	Comerica Park	Detroit
The Mountain Goats	Aug. 26	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Mr. Showtime	Apr. 2-3	469 Comedy	New Haven
Murder by Death	Mar. 12	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Murder by Death	Mar. 13-14	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
Nicole Atkins	Aug. 13	Lincoln Hall	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
Palaye Royale	July 10	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Parquet Courts	May 29	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Pat Hazell	Sept. 21	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Peach Pit	May 11	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Phil Vassar	Nov. 13	Wagon Wheel Theatre	Warsaw
Phish	Aug. 6-8	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
PigWeed, Cremated Souls, Blood of Heroes, Coffin Witch	Feb. 27	Carl's Tavern	New Haven
Poco	June 25	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Polaris	June 24	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Primus	July 15	Express Live	Columbus, OH
Primus	July 16	Jacobs Pavilion	Cleveland
Primus	July 17	Mich. Lottery Amphitheatre	Sterling Heights
Primus	July 19	PNC Pavilion	Cincinnati
Primus	July 20	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Primus	July 21	White River State Park	Indianapolis
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
Rage Against the Machine	July 12-13	United Center	Chicago
Rage Against the Machine	July 26-27	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Rage Against the Machine w/Run the Jewels	Aug. 20	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland
Reba McEntire	Aug. 7	Huntington Center	Toledo
Reba McEntire	Aug. 13	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Reba McEntire	Aug. 14	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Renée Fleming	May 22	Ohio Theatre	Columbus, OH
REO Speedwagon	July 31	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
The Residents	May 7	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
The Residents	May 8	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 15	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 21	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 23	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Rod Stewart w/Cheap Trick	July 28	Blossom Music Center	Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Ron Feingold and Vikram Balji	May 7-8	469 Comedy	New Haven
Ron Keel w/Helicon's Peak and Almost Gone	Apr. 3	The Post	Piercetown
Ronnie Milsap	May 7	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ronny Chieng	Apr. 17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Russ	May 22	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Russ	June 3	Mich. Lottery Amphi.	Sterling Heights, MI

Russell Howard	May 20	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Russell Peters	Mar. 19-21	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Ryan Niemiller	Sept. 30	Eagles Theatre	Wabash
Saliva	May 1	Eclectic Room	Angola
Samantha Fish w/Southern Avenue	Aug. 27	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Samuel J. Comroe	July 29-31	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 3	Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre	Tinley Park, IL
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 5	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 9	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Santana w/Earth, Wind & Fire	July 10	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Scream at the Sky w/Andrew W. Boss	Feb. 26	Carl's Tavern	New Haven
Sebastian Bach	June 23	Harpos Concert Theatre	Detroit
Smokey Robinson	July 10	Four Winds Casino	New Buffalo, MI
Southern Fried Chicks	Aug. 21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshewana
Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes	May 17-18	City Winery	Chicago
Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes	May 22	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH

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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Sponge w/Plan B	Mar. 26	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
Steve Trevino	May 29-30	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Stokley Williams	July 18	The Sound Board	Detroit
Struggle Jennings w/Brianna Harness, Nuke Bushner	May 13	Rockstar Lounge	Fort Wayne
Struggle Jennings	May 16	Hobart Art Theater	Hobart
Styx	July 22	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Sunny Sweeney	May 1	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Symphony X	May 22	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
T.J. Miller	Apr. 16-18	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Tab Benoit	Mar. 25	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Tab Benoit	May 29	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Tab Benoit	June 6	City Winery	Chicago
Tanya Tucker w/Walker County	Aug. 10	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Tech N9ne	May 23	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Tech N9ne	May 28	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Tech N9ne	May 29	The Fillmore	Detroit
Ted Nugent	Aug. 14	DTE Energy Music Theatre	Clarkston, MI
Tedeschi Trucks Band	July 14	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Tennis	Apr. 18	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Tennis	May 8	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Theory of a Deadman	Nov. 30	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	Nov. 27	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Tigran Hamasyan	June 10	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Tim Dillon	Mar. 2-6	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
TobyMac	Feb. 25	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
TobyMac	Nov. 14	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Tommy Davidson	June 25-27	Chicago Improv	Schaumburg, IL
Tommy Emmanuel	Apr. 24	Riffe Center	Columbus, OH
Tommy Emmanuel w/Joe Robinson	July 29	Kalamazoo State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Tower of Power w/Sweetwater All Stars	June 9	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Tracey MacDonald and Jus Will	Apr. 16-17	469 Comedy	New Haven
Trapt	Apr. 9	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Travis Tritt	May 20	Hobart Arena	Troy, OH
Travis Tritt	May 21	Blue Gate P.A.C.	Shipshevana
Trial by Fire	Mar. 13	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
The Turtles w/Chuck Negron, The Association, Mark Lindsay, The Vogues, The Cowsills	Aug. 15	MGM Northfield Park	Northfield, OH
Ty Segall	Aug. 12-13	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Ty Segall and the Freedom Band	Aug. 14	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Tyler Toney, Cody Jones, Garrett Hilbert, Coby and Cory Cotton	June 24	Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	Cleveland, OH
Umphrey's McGee	Aug. 28	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Walter Trout w/Papa Kiszka	Apr. 24	Token Lounge	Westland, MI
Ward Davis	Feb. 25	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Ward Davis	June 19	The Stache	Grand Rapids
Warrant w/Eric Martin of Mr. Big and P.J. Farley of Trixter	July 31	Sweetwater Pavilion	Fort Wayne
Warrant, Firehouse	Aug. 7	Pine View G.C.	Monticello, IN
Watsky	Apr. 14	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Watsky	Apr. 16	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Weezer, Green Day, Fall Out Boy, The Interrupters	Aug. 15	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Whiskey Myers	July 29	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
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
The Woods	Mar. 17	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Wyclif Jean	May 2	The Sound Board	Detroit
Yacht Rock Revue	Aug. 14	White River State Park	Indianapolis
Zach Williams w/We the Kingdom and Cain	Oct. 29	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Zoë Keating	May 19	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Zucchero	Mar. 10	Vic Theatre	Chicago

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

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, through April 10**, 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

Creating Community — Exhibition of ceramic art highlighting student works from Huntington University, Purdue Fort Wayne, and University of Saint Francis, **Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 20-21, and Saturday, Feb. 27**, free, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, wunderkammercompany.com

Figurative Clay and Valentine Hearts — Message bottles by artist Kimberly Rorick, plus hearts in a variety of media by several artists, **11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, closed Sundays, through Feb. 27**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 436-0927

Fort Wayne Artists Guild — Guild members' work on display, **9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, and noon-5 p.m. Sundays, through April 17**, Gallery at Three Rivers Luxury Apartments, Fort Wayne, free admission, fortwayneartistsguild.org

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

Metamorphosis — Abstract paintings by Angie Brooks, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, closed Sundays-Mondays, through March 31**, Jeffrey Benjamin Hair, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 704-8802

Open Call 2021 — Open call show for 2D and 3D artists in the local, regional, and national area, **5-8 p.m. Fridays, 4-7 p.m. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Sundays, other days by appointment, through March 14**, 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

Valentine's Show — RFeaturing national and local artists including Nancy King Mertz, Susan Suraci, Randall Scott Harden, Jody Hemphill-Smith, CW Mundy, Fred Doloresco, Doug Runyan, Rick Wilson, Michael Poorman, Chuck Marshall, and Hilarie Couture, **Friday-Saturday, Feb. 19-20; and Friday-Saturday, Feb. 26-27; or by appointment**, Castle Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 426-6568

Voices — Photographs by DJ E-Clyps of the 2020 George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests in Fort Wayne, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays-Wednesdays, through March 21**, Artlink Contemporary Gallery, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 424-7195

COMING EXHIBITS

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, Feb. 20**, Courtyard by Marriott, Fort Wayne, \$59.95, (866) 496-0535

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY

Love Notes — The most famous love duets in dance, from *Spartacus* and *Spring Waters* to *The Sleeping Beauty*, **6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, through Sunday, Feb. 21**, Fort Wayne Ballet, virtual performance, \$30, (260) 422-4226

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

Charlotte's Web — Festive children's ballet based on the classic story, **10 a.m. and noon Saturday, Feb. 27**, Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company, North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 422-4226

SEND US YOUR EVENTS:
whatzup.com/submit

Pre-Professional and Trainee Showcase — Highest-level students perform classical variations, **4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27**, Fort Wayne Ballet Auer Academy, North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 422-4226

MARCH

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

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 Color Purple — Legendary musical about a girl trying to remain hopeful when she is given to an abusive husband, **3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27, and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 28**, Indiana Performing Arts Theatre, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$45, (260) 424-5665

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

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 — Fifty vendors including farm and garden, home-based, natural products, and local artisans, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through May 8**, 216 W. Douglas St., Fort Wayne, free, contact@ftwaynesfarmersmarket.com

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, through Feb. 28**, Headwaters Park Ice Arena, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, (260) 422-7625

Historic Southside Farmers Market — Meat and egg counter open, **8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through April 24**, 3300 S. Warsaw St., Fort Wayne, free, (260) 244-3288

Tales & Trails — Hear a tale and hike a trail with your preschooler, **9-10:30 a.m.**

Tuesday, Feb. 23, Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center, Albion, free, (260) 799-5869

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, through April 4**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, (260) 427-6440

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

The Underground Railroad in Fort Wayne — Lecture by Michael Galbraith about local abolitionists and historic sites, **11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20**, livestream by ARCH, free, (260) 426-5117

Ylni Farmers Market — Fresh local produce, plants, meats, baked goods and homemade crafts in a cultural setting, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through April 24**, 350 Pearl St., Fort Wayne, free, market@ylni.org

COMING EVENTS

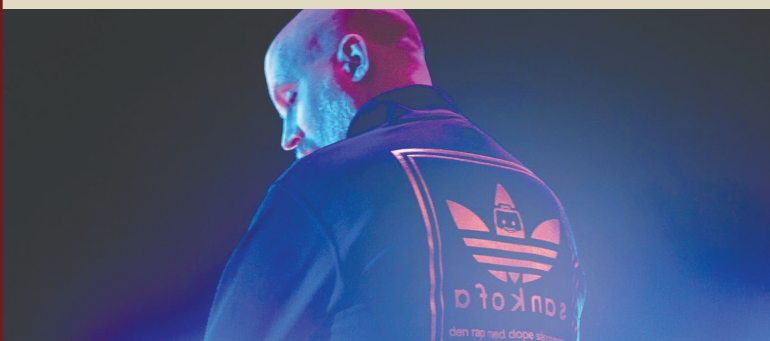
FEBRUARY

All American Outdoor Expo — From RVs to boats and powersports, **noon-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28**, \$10, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, (260) 482-9502

MARCH

Winter Bridal Spectacular — Everything you need to plan your wedding, **noon-4 p.m. Sunday, March 7**, \$10, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, (260) 482-9502

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WHATZUP CROSSWORD

Here is our second Whatzup crossword puzzle! Puzzle creator Glen Oldiges will create a fresh crossword for our readers every week. And every puzzle will have local clues.

This puzzle features clues about the Sweetwater All Stars. Story on Page 3.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13								14				
15								16				
17							18	19				
20				21		22				23		
			24		25					26		
27	28	29					30	31	32			
33						34	35					
36				37				38		39	40	41
42			43						44			
45						46	47	48				
49						50						
51						52						

‘ON THE STAGE TONIGHT’

- Across**
- 1. Technical drawer
 - 8. Go with the flow
 - 13. Shine
 - 14. More tender
 - 15. Rare
 - 16. Latin word for horn
 - 17. Dissolve
 - 18. A doctrine that the physical and mental universe is composed of simple indivisible minute particles
 - 20. Arrangement
 - 22. Tit for ____
 - 23. Big shot
 - 24. Place for a boutonniere
 - 26. Map abbr.
 - 27. * “Bob Bailey, Lisa McDavid, and Don Carr on ____”
 - 30. Swiss cottage
 - 33. Portfolio part, in brief
 - 34. Church recesses
 - 36. Canine command
 - 37. With 38-Across, “The Sweetwater ____-____,” noted nine-piece rhythm and blues band from Fort

- Wayne. (And a hint to the answers of the possible performance shout-outs you might hear for the four starred clues)
- 38. See 37-Across
 - 42. Use up
 - 44. ____ vera
 - 45. Ness of “The Untouchables”
 - 46. Attribute
 - 49. Copy
 - 50. Quick fried
 - 51. Office aides, abbr.
 - 52. Uses up, as energy
- Down**
- 1. * “Nick D’Virgilio on ____”
 - 2. Hindu queen
 - 3. Mature
 - 4. An abnormal connection between two organs, often from the result of Crohn’s disease or ulcers
 - 5. Fraternity letter
 - 6. Pilot’s announcement, briefly
 - 7. Pertain
 - 8. Fancy tie

By Glen Oldiges

- 9. Dire fate
 - 10. Touchdown
 - 11. Dreamily thoughtful
 - 12. * “Brett Kelsey on the ____”
 - 19. Soft minerals
 - 21. Buddy
 - 25. Sacred hymn
 - 27. Guts
 - 28. A.L. East team
 - 29. Addictions for many a kitty
 - 31. “For ____ a jolly ...”
 - 32. Ancient fertility goddess
 - 35. “The magic word”
 - 37. Sedans, Compacts, etc.
 - 39. Roswell crash victim, supposedly
 - 40. Clothed
 - 41. Top competitors, often
 - 43. Work with mail
 - 47. * “And Chuck Surack on the ____”
 - 48. Trophy, often
- Answer key on Page 10

Don’t miss these ten favorite biopics

This past weekend I ventured out to the theater to see Shaka King’s *Judas and the Black Messiah*. There were seven people in the theater and all of us appeared to adore the film. I’d call it the best film I’ve seen in the last year or so. It’s a love story, a political story, a spy story, an art film, a period piece and an unconventional biopic.

The film tells the story of the final years of Illinois Black Panther Party Chairman Fred Hammond’s life. It’s a beautifully shot and edited movie that features incredible performances by Daniel Kaluuya and LaKeith Stanfield, both of whom should be nominated for Oscars for their work. I also think the movie deserves nominations for Best Cinematography (Sean Bobbitt), Best Director (Shaka King), Best Supporting Actress (Dominique Fishback), and Best Picture, but could also see it getting completely shut out. It truly is a special film, a wholly American story told at the highest level of artistry.

On that note, I thought that I’d use this week’s column to put together a list of my 10 favorite biopics ever.

A lot of people don’t like biopics. In fact, most of the movie snobs I know avoid them. Why? Because they’re usually cheesy impersonation pieces that duck much of the “real” (i.e. less glamorous) events in a person’s life. Mostly, they tend to be corny and overly sentimental.

But there are some great biopics out there (including *Judas*, which would probably make this list if I were to be less cautious about recency bias). Here are my favorites.

10. MARIE ANTOINETTE
DIRECTOR: SOFIA COPPOLA

After making her name with the excellent one-two punch of *The Virgin Suicides* and *Lost in Translation*, Sofia Coppola was pretty much given the keys to the castle for *Marie Antoinette*. Boy, did she (and her then-muse Kirsten Dunst) run with it. It’s a pink-splattered punk rock period piece about the pitfalls of class divide and has gained a reputation as an oddball masterpiece.

9. AMADEUS
DIRECTOR: MILOS FORMAN

Milos Forman directing a fantasy film about a fictional rivalry between Antonio Salieri (an incredible F. Murray Abraham) and Mozart, that also manages to be something of a biopic for Mozart. That’s a heck of an elevator pitch. Also, if it matters to you at all, *Amadeus* is often considered to be one of the best films ever made, recently ranking as the 53rd best film on the AFI list.

8. THE SOCIAL NETWORK
DIRECTOR: DAVID FINCHER

I’m not sure I agree that this one is a proper biopic, but that’s the consensus in the film world. I’m also not sure that I think this movie is as good as the critics think it is, but yeah, it’s solid. Best film so far of the current century? Nah, but certainly a relevant, Shakespearaiian story made by an absolute master.

7. MILK
DIRECTOR: GUS VAN SANT

This very straight forward Harvey Milk biopic serves as proof that Van Sant, when he wants to, can make prestige films for the masses. Sean Penn gives a powerful,



Screen Time
GREG W. LOCKE

Oscar-winning performance as Harvey Milk, but Van Sant is the star.

6. I’M NOT THERE
DIRECTOR: TODD HAYNES

A true art film that’s as unlikely as anything the film’s subject, Bob Dylan, ever did. Here we have a handful of this generation’s best actors (Christian Bale, Cate Blanchette, Heath Ledger, etc.) embodying an abstract version of the Dylan character (which itself is a creation by Robert Zimmerman) at different periods in his life. It’s one of the great modern soundtracks and one of the most successful modern art films.

5. RAGING BULL
DIRECTOR: MARTIN SCORSESE

Like the No. 1 pick on this list, I don’t feel as if *Raging Bull* is a movie that needs any further endorsement. If you’ve somehow not seen this tragedy about the boxer Jake LaMotta (Robert De Niro in an Oscar-winning performance), then you might be reading the wrong column. Cinema just might not be your thing.

4. THE ELEPHANT MAN
DIRECTOR: DAVID LYNCH

David Lynch has had a weird career. He made maybe the best art film ever (*Eraserhead*). He made perhaps the most stylized film of the 1980s (*Blue Velvet*). He made the movie a lot of critics think is the best film of the current century (*Mulholland Drive*). He made THE cult TV show of all-time (*Twin Peaks*). And he made, among other curiosities, a Disney film about a guy riding a tractor (*The Straight Story*). And, aside from maybe *The Straight Story*, all those projects were odd. Along the way he also made a relatively straightforward historical biopic about Joseph Merrick that received eight Oscar nominations and could have easily set Lynch on the path of prestige filmmaker. It’s a beautiful black-and-white nightmare.

3. AMERICAN SPLENDOR
DIRECTORS: SHARI SPRINGER BERMAN AND ROBERT PULCINI

A personal favorite, this film tells the story of outsider comic writer Harvey Pekar, known for his comic series *American Splendor*. With Paul Giamatti in the lead role, Pekar himself makes appearances in the film, breaking the third wall by offering color commentary. It’s a film I watch at least once every year, and enjoy very much every time, one of the great underdog films of all-time.

2. THE WOLF OF WALL STREET
DIRECTOR: MARTIN SCORSESE

In my opinion, *Wolf* is not just the most enjoyable film on this list, but one of the most exciting viewings in modern cinema. Beautifully crafted by Scorsese, the film features an all-time-great lead performance from Leonardo DiCaprio as the sleazy, low-life stockbroker Jordan Belfort in an incredible comment on greed, excess, class divide, and capitalism. If you’ve somehow not seen this truly insane masterpiece, I’d recommend leaving work right now so you can go home and watch it immediately. That’s how much fun *Wolf*’s is.

1. MALCOLM X
DIRECTOR: SPIKE LEE

Do I need to say anything about this one? This is one of the great American films ever made. If you’ve never seen it, well, you should fix that.

Captivating film on transience, trauma

In her elegiac and emotionally captivating new movie *Nomadland*, director Chloé Zhao opens with a curious title card about a small city in Nevada named Empire. It's a remote town so driven by a single industry that when the local sheetrock plant closes down in 2011 after 88 years in business, the entire town was evacuated and the ZIP code was literally abandoned not long afterwards.

Among those displaced by the devastating closure is Fern (Frances McDormand), who doesn't have much need to stay after the recent passing of her husband. She finds a new partner, of sorts, in a van she dubs Vanguard, which carries the remainder of her belongings that she hasn't sold off or holed up in a storage unit.

With jobs being scarce as a result of The Great Recession, Fern travels from one Southwest city to another, meeting other nomads like herself and adapting to their mutual lifestyle in the process.

What makes Zhao's film so slyly remarkable is just how lived-in and genuine each aspect of her story feels as it unfolds before us. As in her previous work, the also excellent *The Rider*, she surrounds the protagonist with real-life figures playing modestly fictionalized versions of themselves. Among the challenges of creating a sprawling picture as this is, I would imagine it's quite difficult to fill your movie with a bevy of non-actors, but Zhao gets bonafide performances out of each and every one of them.

Also serving as the film's editor, Zhao has a brilliant instinct for how to cut conversations together where sentences may overlap but every word still registers and resonates. There's a pace and rhythm to the dialogue in *Nomadland* that you just won't see anywhere else.

Credit for the naturalistic exchanges also extends to McDormand, giving an understated performance that is necessarily more reactive and reflexive but no less compelling as a result. As a bereft wayfarer still acclimating to her changing circumstances, she reveals Fern's empathetic nature while letting us in on her sadness in little bits at a time. It's a much different role than the one for which she most recently scored a Best Actress Oscar, the incendiary *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, which openly wore its anger and bitterness on its sleeve. McDormand suggests Fern could possess similar resentment but sublimates it into savvy survival skills and a sturdy work ethic that allows her to pick up hands-on labor nearly everywhere she goes, even while work is difficult for others to find.

Adapting from Jessica Bruder's non-fiction book, whose subtitle *Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* pitches it as a how-to guide, Zhao doesn't graft a complex narrative onto *Nomadland*. A more pedestrian storyteller would have telegraphed a redemption arc or a series of inorganic obstacles for our heroine to overcome, but Zhao knows that it's more than enough for us to simply spend time with these nomads and hear them out. We learn about their way of life, from the Ten Commandments of Stealth Parking to bucket-based tips



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD



COURTESY PHOTO

Frances McDormand stars in *Nomadland*.

NOMADLAND

Rated R for some full nudity

1 hour 48 minutes

Streaming on Hulu starting Friday, Feb. 19



that I shouldn't delve into here.

While some were driven out of their homes, others choose the mobile lifestyle for their own reasons. Just as they don't judge one another, Zhao asks the same of us in the audience.

As the theatrical experience continues to experience setback after setback, there's no movie I've seen in the last 12 months that made me wish I was watching it in a theater more than this one. While I might typically expect that sentiment to arise from an effects blockbuster rather than a \$5 million awards drama, I'll take the golden hour desert vistas captured by cinematographer Joshua James Richards over the fussed-over frames of a spandex superhero showdown any day. Hopefully sometime soon, I would love to see the images of this film illuminate the big screen when it's safe to go back to our beleaguered multiplexes.

A stunning meditation on transience and trauma, *Nomadland* is a patient and perceptive portrait of people who are rarely, if ever, given the chance to represent themselves in the movies.

ALSO NEW TO STREAMING THIS WEEKEND

Debuting on Netflix is *I Care a Lot*, a dark comedy starring Rosamund Pike and Peter Dinklage about a woman who makes her living stealing from the elderly by deceiving judges into appointing her as their "legal guardian."

Swooping in on Disney+ is *Flora & Ulysses*, a family superhero comedy starring Matilda Lawler and Danny Pudi about the adventures of a young girl and her adopted squirrel who has superpowers.

Available to digitally rent is *Silk Road*, a based-on-a-true-story thriller starring Jason Clarke and Nick Robinson about the tech mastermind behind Silk Road, a dark web page that sells narcotics, and the DEA agent tasked with taking him down.

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