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COMEDIAN MARK NORMAND
NEW TAPHOUSE ON FAIRFIELD
JOE STILWELL ALBUM REVIEW



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MARCH 1-17 • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE

THE PROM / 5



MARCH 2 • SUMMIT CITY MUSIC THEATRE

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March 3

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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. Email info@whatzup.com or call (260) 407-3198. For info at whatzup.com/advertising.

Russell Dickerson crosses genres

Country musician brings his tour to Clyde on March 1

BY ALAN SCULLEY
SPECIAL TO WHATZUP

It's no secret Nashville, Tennessee, is the capital of country music — with good reason. But if there's a poster boy for the way the city's music scene has diversified in recent times, it might be Russell Dickerson.

A Tennessee guy through and through, Dickerson is making his mark with a sound that filters in healthy bits of modern soul, R&B, rock, and pop. His music seems like a good reflection of the scene in today's Nashville. It's all a function of the music he heard with friends.

"We moved from a little small town in West Tennessee (Union City), and all I pretty much knew was country," Dickerson said in a phone interview. "Once I got to Nashville, you'd think it would be all country, but I mean, in the public school system of a major city, you know, it was Usher, it was Ludacris, it was Red Hot Chili Peppers, Blink-182, Shania Twain, Mariah Carey, whatever. It was just so much of everything and that's just, I'm proud of the music. Yeah, there was also Alan Jackson, Tim McGraw, and all of that stuff, too. But it's just like all of that mixed together was my influence, was my sound."

You'll get a taste of his music when he brings his Big Wheels & Back Roads tour to The Clyde Theatre on Friday, March 1, with hip-hop opener Shaboozey.

SUCCESS COMES QUICKLY

Dickerson's multigenre signature is present more clearly than ever on his 2022 self-titled third album.

Prime examples of country-pop offerings include "She's Why," a



PHOTO BY THOMAS HENNEY

Russell Dickerson will be at The Clyde Theatre on Friday, March 1.

cheery tune that bounces along at an easy-going clip, and "18," which alternates between percolating verses and a chorus that kicks up the energy with a driving drum track and expansive vocal.

The R&B/hip-hop influence filters into his music, particularly in the sing-song cadences and grooves of "All the Same Friends," "Big Wheels," and "Sorry." And on the ballads "Just Like Your Mama" and "Blame It on Being Young" and the rambling rocker "I Still Believe," Dickerson's country influence shines brightly.

Dickerson must be doing something right because his career continues to gain momentum.

His first major impact came via the single, "Yours," which became the title track to his 2017 debut album. The slow-burning song spent nearly 40 weeks on *Billboard's*

hit in "God Gave Me a Girl," which reached No. 2 on the Country Airplay chart.

HAVING A GOOD TIME

The self-titled album (or *The Afterparty Deluxe*) may be the most authentic collection of songs Dickerson has released, considering he stepped up his involvement throughout the album-making process.

He shares writing credits on all 15 songs on the self-titled album and co-produced it.

"I just feel like each album I get more comfortable with getting more deeply involved in the process," Dickerson said, noting he's learned to be more assertive with his co-producers, engineers, and musicians and speak up when something needs to be addressed.

Dickerson's songwriting input has predominantly resulted in songs with upbeat lyrics.

The self-titled album continues that trend, although a few songs go a bit deeper emotionally, like "I Wonder," on which Dickerson remembers the second thoughts he had about a breakup.

Mostly, *Russell Dickerson* is populated by happier romantic sentiments like "She Likes It" and "God Gave Me a Girl," tales of youthful mischief on "Blame It on Being Young," and good times ("Big Wheels," "All The Same Friends" and "Beers to the Summer").

Again, that's just Dickerson being authentic.

"If you ask anybody who knows me well, I'm rarely sad. I'm rarely down," he said. "I don't know, that's just my life experience. And those songs are way more fun to play. 'Big Wheel' and 'Float' and everything, that's way more fun to play live. I would much rather play those every night than sad songs."

PLAYING LIVE

Dickerson and his touring band put considerable effort into the live shows, dialing in their sound and the song selection.

"Me and my band leader, we put in hours and hours working on the setlist and coming up with something fresh, I think, moreso for the songs we've been playing for at least five years now, (like) 'Yours,' 'Blue Tacoma,' and all of that," Dickerson said. "So (we work on) finding new ways to spice those up and keep those interesting while also introducing new songs from the (self-titled) album, like '18' and 'She's Why.'"

RUSSELL DICKERSON W/SHABOOZEY

8 p.m. Friday, March 1
The Clyde Theatre
1808 Bluffton Road,
Fort Wayne
\$29.50-\$40 · (260) 747-0989

Country Airplay chart, reaching No. 1 in January 2018. Two subsequent singles, "Blue Tacoma" and "Every Little Thing," brought the total of No. 1 singles from the *Yours* to three.

Dickerson's second album, 2020's *Southern Symphony*, added another No. 1 hit with "Love You Like I Used To."

That brings things to the self-titled album (which was repackaged with bonus acoustic and live cuts in 2023 for *The Afterparty Deluxe*). So far, it has given Dickerson another

First Pres, Youtheatre are going to *The Prom*

Theater companies collaborate on musical with LGBTQ+ themes

BY ANTHONY GADSON
WHATZUP EDITOR

Fort Wayne Youtheatre and First Presbyterian Theater are getting their dancing shoes on.

Working in collaboration for the first time, the theater companies will put on the musical *The Prom* at First Presbyterian Theater over the course of three weekends, beginning Friday, March 1.

"It is a show that should tickle your funny bone and touch your heart," said director Christopher J. Murphy, who is also associate director of Youtheatre. "I think (*The Prom*) hilarious and it's heartwarming, as, in my opinion, the best theater should be."

BASED ON TRUE EVENT

The story of *The Prom* revolves around a female student who wants to bring her girlfriend to prom at an Indiana high school. At this news, the PTA cancels the prom. Word spreads, and four down-on-their-luck Broadway actors jump at the opportunity to make this their 'cump' in an attempt to rejuvenate their careers.

What ensues is comedy, music, and lessons on acceptance.

"I think it's a very important message to send right now," Murphy said. "I certainly can't speak on behalf of anyone at First Pres, but for us here at Youtheatre, we always want to make sure that all of our students know that they are loved and accepted. That is certainly the theme of this show: being brave enough to stand up and be who you are. But also it's very much a story of love and acceptance."

First Presbyterian's Managing Artistic Director Todd Sandman Cruz is able to speak on his company's behalf and shares the same sentiment as Youtheatre.

"First Pres felt *The Prom* was a very important story to tell as it speaks to the wide-ranging acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community among the Gen Z population in contrast to previous generations," he said in an email. "It's a story of inclusiveness told in a fun yet liberating way. An important work that we believe can have a powerful impact on our community as a whole while offering an entertaining and side-splitting night of entertainment."

The musical is relatively new, conceived by producer Jack Veirtel after he came across the 2010 story of an Alabama high school student who tried taking her girlfriend to prom, resulting in its cancellation.

"He called together a bunch of his friends who are writers, actors, composers, lyricists,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FORT WAYNE YOUTHEATRE

Portraying Broadway actors in the upcoming show *The Prom*, a collaboration between Fort Wayne Youtheatre and First Presbyterian Theater, will be, from left, Amy Ross, Chris Rasor, Heather Closson, and Todd Frymier. Emersen Conner, below, plays the lead role of Emma in the show, which opens Friday, March 1, at First Presbyterian Theater.



and said, 'I think we should turn this into a musical' — which is not the way musicals are normally formed. Usually, writers are the ones that come up with an idea, then you take it to a producer," Murphy said. "He called them all together and (Matthew Sklar, Chad Beguelin, and Bob Martin) wrote the show. And not only wrote the show but decided to write it with roles in mind for all their best friends who were actors."

The show premiered in Atlanta in 2016, hitting Broadway in 2018. Since then, it's become a touring show as well as a Netflix movie starring Meryl Streep, James Corden, and Nicole Kidman.

"We had been looking for something for both theaters to collaborate on for quite a while," Murphy said of the Youtheatre-First Pres partnership. "We perform the bulk of our season at First Pres, so we have a really strong relationship. This just seemed like a really natural fit, because it has a lot of adult roles in it, but it also, obviously because it focuses on a high school prom, it has a lot of youth roles."

Murphy said the roles are split pretty evenly between youth and adults, and the process of

choosing those actors was not easy.

"It's always my least favorite part of my job — to have to sift through all the amazing talent that we are so blessed to have in Fort Wayne," he said. "I always say Fort Wayne very often embodies the best of the term 'community theater.' The term can be derided a little bit, but we have so many people in this community who just chose, for whatever reason they wanted to, to make acting their avocation instead of their vocation."

"We are so blessed to have those people here in this community and so many of them came out."

FAMILIAR FACE

A natural fit for the show was Youtheatre alum Emersen Conner in the lead role of Emma Nolan.

Getting her start at Youtheatre as a sixth-grader, Conner was with the company until she aged out, at which time she interned for the company for a year, then was an artistic associate for a year.

"She's absolutely one of my favorite performers," Murphy said of Conner. "She's my favorite and most frequent collaborator. I really think in some many ways, because she was a Youtheatre kid, she sort of embodies everything that's great about this collaboration."

Conner is very active in the Fort Wayne theater scene. Most recently she's been busy with Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, playing Princess Fiona in *Shrek the Musical* in the fall and Portia in last summer's *Something Rotten!*, directed by Murphy.

THE PROM

FORT WAYNE YOUTHEATRE/
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2

2 p.m. Sunday, March 3

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 8-9

2 p.m. Sunday, March 10

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16

2 p.m. Sunday, March 17

First Presbyterian Theater

300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne

\$18-\$22 · (260) 422-4226

"If I'm not in a production, I'm getting into the next show," she said, noting her focus now is turning toward college, where she is eyeing a degree in musical theater.

As for Fort Wayne, she credits Youtheatre with putting her on the track she is on.

"It's provided me with such a great community of people," she said. "For a lot of my life, I thought, 'Oh my gosh, get me out of this small town. I'm just such a big fish in a small pond.' Doing theater in this community, especially with the Fort Wayne Youtheatre, has provided me with such a strong group of people that I can rely on for support and advice, and I can do really cool projects with them."

NO VILLAINS

That sort of support system is also seen in *The Prom* as Emma tries to navigate a sensitive time while being pressured by the Broadway performers to be the face of their cause. In turn, she's also pressuring her girlfriend Alyssa, played by Bekah Guntle, who is also the daughter of the PTA president, to come out of the closet.

"I think one of the things the show does so beautifully is that it really does — even though it is a big brassy musical comedy with hilarious jokes and toe-tapping songs and dance routines — it really does take a very nuanced approach to all of its characters," Murphy said. "Nobody, even the folks that you might think are the bad guys, nobody is truly presented as a villain. Everybody is presented as a fully fleshed human being with understandable feelings, even if you disagree with those feelings, you can kind of see where they are coming from. Everybody is given the chance to grow and learn over the show and to find a good place where they can all come together by the end."

Conner also said the show is coming at a good time for the community. And even if you don't agree with everything in it, the comedy is there to put a smile on your face.

"To quote the great Julie Andrews (in *Mary Poppins*), 'A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.' It's a light and fluffy story with a very emotional and poignant chord that delivers a very important message, especially for this time in our political climate," she said.

One-man show analyzes time between tragedy, comedy

Summit City Theatre artistic director takes center stage March 2

BY ANTHONY GADSON

WHATZUP EDITOR

It's been a couple of years, but when Gavin Thomas Drew returns to the stage, it will be all his.

The artistic director for Summit City Music Theatre will be the subject of the theater company's upcoming one-man show, *Equals*, on Saturday, March 2, at The Local Archive at The Landing.

"It's an experiment in a couple of ways," Drew said of the one-night show. "We're doing something that we don't see a lot of in town, which is experiential theater. We're doing it in a different space. To my knowledge, there hasn't been anything in The Local Archive from a performance standpoint. It really is an experiment."

ABUNDANCE OF STORIES

The idea for the show came as Drew was looking to fill a void in the schedule and he reached out to his friend Dakota Norman.

"The whole thing was hatched because we're old pals," Drew said of his friend from Oklahoma. "We've done many shows together. I called him up just to check in and see how things were going. He had just moved to Chi-

cago and getting his roots planted. I called him up and said, 'I have an open spot in my season. I'm trying to figure out what to do here.' He was like, 'Well, what about your stories?' I had never really considered that.



Dakota Norman

"By the time that two-hour conversation was over, we kind of had a rough outline as to what I'd like to include. Dakota took that and kind of morphed into this thing."

The two co-wrote the show with Norman taking over directorial duties.

"Gavin's always had such a book of life," Norman said, noting Drew has many stories of randomly bumping into celebrities on top of his other life stories. "I knew there had to be something there."

"We love Gavin up here. Everyone loves Summit City Music Theatre and how during his time as artistic director it's gone in a new direction. We love him as Igor in *Young Frankenstein* (for which Drew won an Anthony Award) and as Liza Minnelli in *Forbidden Broadway*. But Gavin has such a unique way of transforming into these wild characters. So, the challenge that was interesting to me is, can we still entertain the audience without



Gavin Thomas Drew, artistic director of Summit City Music Theatre, will share his stories during the one-man show *Equals* on Saturday, March 2, at The Local Archive at The Landing.

PHOTO BY AMBER REID

the mask?"

DOING THE MATH

Drew's previous stage appearance was in Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's *Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits* in the spring of 2022. Since then, he's been behind the scenes as a director.

"It's been a while," he said.

When he gets back in front of an audience, he will not be playing a character. He will be sharing the stories of his life, which has featured obstacles, such as going deaf.

"I was a junior in college when I lost all of my hearing," he said. "I am completely deaf to this day. I had cochlear implant surgery, and I can hear through that in a different way. Before that, I was an actor, vocalist, and singer. It was a pretty huge and substantial loss. That sudden deafness is sort of what we focus on in this show."

That is a focus, but the focal point of the show is the relationship between the time it takes to laugh at tragedy.

"The idea that tragedy is universal and comedy is universal," Drew said. "It takes circumstance and time for us all to decide if something is funny. I can make a joke about my

hair, but if someone else also has a receding hairline, they may not find that funny at that moment. They might not be ready to laugh about it."

"We kind of examine the idea that comedy equals tragedy plus time," Drew added.

That equation will be prominent in the show.

"That's our big proof that we're trying to dissect throughout the play," Norman said. "Gavin just happens to be the test subject that we're evaluating it all through. We're hoping that an audience isn't going to come see the show and think, 'Oh man, that poor deaf boy. He smiled so big.' Instead, looking at the equation and leaving with the idea of putting themselves in as the test subject."

"We all have these tragedies, but the show is not 'a' tragedy. It's way more of a comedy than it is a tragedy."

And when you speak with Drew, his upbeat demeanor shines through.

"Seeing Gavin in a room full of people, the way he can tell an anecdote or story, it captures everybody with his cadence and charisma," Norman said. "It's been really easy to write a play (with him). I thought the hardest thing I'd do is write play, but having Gavin, it

pretty much just came out of his mouth."

Drew will share many of the tragedies that have occurred to him, with his loss of hearing being just one — albeit a big one.

"We talk about some really challenging things, some heavy topics of depression, anxiety," Drew said. "I thought my life was over, because that's what I spent my entire life working towards: being a singer and musical theater actor."

"It was slow at first," he added about losing his hearing due to Meniere's disease. "It stayed consistently at about a 45 percent loss in one ear. Then, the rest of it went all at once overnight. That's a huge thing, a huge life event. It's changed and altered my entire life. Not only going to the movies and getting a closed-captioning device, but also, 'How do I hear my doorbell?' Even with technology, it's not perfect."

"All of this stuff happens to all of us. I can either pick myself up and laugh at it or I can give up."

He definitely did not give up and has been able to continue his career in theater.

"It's not the boohoo show," Norman said. "It's not the 'Come look at the circus freak' either, like, 'Oh, he can't hear, but that young man speaks nice.' It's about how we roll with punches. Everyone is going to get hit. No matter how big or little it is."

IMMERSE SELF IN SHOW

Along with sharing his experiences, the show's setting inside The Local Archive, located above Utopian Coffee at The Landing, will bring attendees into it as well.

"It's going to be really intimate," Norman said. "It's not going to be like your traditional, 'I'm sitting back here in the theater and the show is 100 yards away from me.' From three sides, Gavin's going to be working the crowd. That gives us a chance, not only for the audience to be so close to him, but for them to see each other — to see, 'Oh, it's OK that I'm laughing.'"

"It's kind of like a stand-up hour, plus a play, plus a hands-on, interactive experience. We want people to feel like they're not watching a zoo animal behind the glass, but that they are also part of it."

According to Norman, Drew is the perfect person to tell his own story.

"Not only is it his story that I'm trying to shape and zoom in and zoom out on, but he is such an electric presence," he said.

"We go through the coming of age of Gavin, big tragedies, little tragedies and how the turn into big or little comedies."

The show will be only one night, and due to high demand and proceeds benefiting Summit City Music Theatre, the space was reconfigured to accommodate an additional 120 tickets.

So, if you want to experience this show, you'll want to act fast.

Funnyman Mark Normand visits Embassy

Comedian **Mark Normand** is set to bring his You Don't Say Tour to Embassy Theatre on Saturday, May 18. Dubbed by Jerry Seinfeld as the "best young up-and-coming comic," Normand has risen to prominence in the world of stand-up comedy.

Normand cut his teeth for years at New York bars, clubs, and theaters, and last year released a Netflix special *Soup to Nuts*. Prior to that, he had two Comedy Central specials and numerous appearances on late-night talk shows, is a frequent guest on *The Joe Rogan Experience* podcast, and hosts his own podcasts, *Tuesdays with Stories!* and *We Might Be Drunk*.

There's no denying this extremely prolific comedian has been around, and with high regards from the likes of Seinfeld, this is indeed a show to check out.

Out and About

NICK BRAUN

Tickets are on sale now online at tickemaster.com and fwembassytheatre.org and at the Embassy box office.

Teen guitarist joins Venable at Baker Street

Baker Street Centre have announced the opening act for the **Ally Venable** show on Saturday, March 9 — **Danny Garwood & Co.**

Garwood has been playing the guitar since he was 9, and now at the age of 14, he continues to rack up achievements, including sharing the stage with Buddy Guy and Christone “Kingfish” Ingram at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee, during Guy’s farewell tour.

In 2022, Garwood competed in the Dallas International Guitar Festival “10 Under 20” competition where Venable pulled him on stage during one of her shows that weekend. A YouTube video of that performance has had more than 6 million views and led to Garwood opening shows for Venable, which is what we’re about to witness at Baker Street.

With inspirations from the likes of Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Eric Gales, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, this is going to be one hot opener.

You can get your tickets at bakerstreetcentre.com and all three Wooden Nickel locations.

And speaking of Venable, along with her performance at Baker Street, the blues guitarist will also host

a masterclass at Sweetwater Sound on Friday, March 8. If you'd like to attend the \$75 class to get tips from the Texan, sign up at sweetwater.com/local/events.

Honeywell books 38 Special, O'Donnell

Honeywell Center have added the legendary southern rock band **38 Special** for on Saturday, May 18.

These guys have been around our parts a number of times over the years and for good reason — they have the hits. Folks can expect to be on their feet that evening for jams like “Hold on Loosely,” “Rockin’ Into the Night,” “Caught Up in You,” and “Back Where You Belong.”

Along with the Southern rock act, the Honeywell announced **Daniel O'Donnell** will swing by Sunday, Sept. 15. For more than three decades, O'Donnell has toured the world performing folk songs, ballads, and pop classics for audiences worldwide.

Tickets for both shows can be purchased online at honeywellcenter.org.

Afroman set for Piere's in June

On Monday, June 10, Piere's will host the L.A. native singer, rapper, and multi-instrumentalist **Afroman**.

In 2001, Afroman broke through with his hit “Because I Got High,” which earned slots on soundtracks like *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, *The Perfect Score*, and *Disturbia*. The song was also nominated for the Grammy award for Best Rap Solo Performance in 2002.

Special guests that evening include **DJ Matty M**, **906hammy**, **Dilly Barz**, **Boss D**, and **Kid Vibe**.

Tickets for Afroman can be purchased at skeletix.com and all Wooden Nickel locations.

Drum tempo titan holds class at Sweetwater

Sweetwater has an awesome drum masterclass coming up featuring the one and only **Tommy Clufetos**.

Be sure to head out to the Sweetwater compound on March 27 from 7-9 p.m. to get some tips on kicking your drumming into overdrive from this Detroit-born tempo titan.

Clufetos has been the pounding force for some of the biggest names in rock including Black Sabbath, Mötley Crüe, Ted Nugent, Rob Zombie, and Alice Cooper.

To sign up, hop over to sweetwater.com/local/events.

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





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Alternative | Thursday, May 9



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Blues | Saturday, May 18



LEFTOVER SALMON & INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS

Rock | Saturday, June 1



JOHN WAITE
40 YEARS OF MISSING YOU TOUR

Rock | Friday, June 7

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ticketmaster.com

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Quick Hit LOCAL EVENT

IKE REILLY & THE ASSASSINATION

THURSDAY, FEB. 22 • THE BRASS RAIL

More than two decades have passed since Ike Reilly released his critically acclaimed debut album *Salesmen & Racists* on Universal.

Since splitting with the label, the Chicago-based Reilly has been recording and performing with his backing band as Ike Reilly & The Assassination, creating rebellious punk, rock, and country- and blues-influenced r

Many got a chance to hear the band when they played



the main stage at Foellinger Theatre during the 2022 Middle Waves Music Festival.

Reilly's penchant for blending epic storytelling with intrepid rock riffs and melodies have earned the band a reputation as one of the heavyweights in indie rock. So, to see them in as intimate a venue as The Brass Rail on Thursday, Feb. 22,

should be viewed as a special treat for Summit City music fans. — *Chris Hupe*

The Club Room

At The Clyde

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7PM

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SMOOTH TUESDAYS

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WEDNESDAY JAZZ SESSIONS

7PM

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NASHVILLE THURSDAYS

7PM

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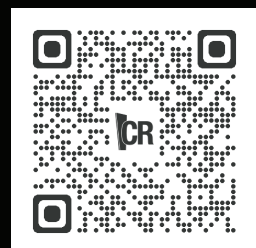
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Nominee list set for Arts United Awards

Arts United have announced their 2024 Arts United Award nominees, presented to people, organizations, and projects that make significant contributions through arts and culture to communities throughout our 12-county region.

Recipients will be honored during the 2024 Arts United Awards ceremony March 20 in Arts United Center.

This year's nominees include:



News and Venues

JEN POIRY PROUGH

INDIVIDUALS

Tyler Bennett; Aquilla Carpenter; Layne Denton; Cyndy Elick; Lynn Funk; Kimee Gearhart; Carter Hammon; Mark and Alayne Johnson; Jody Hemphill Smith and Castle Gallery; Beth McLeish; Nolah Merritt; Taylor Morris; Christopher Murphy; Suzanne Rhee; Ben Wedler; and Macie Wilson.

ORGANIZATIONS

Apple Orchard Knewz; Clean Drains Fort Wayne — Be River SmART; and Creator Space Fort Wayne.

PROJECTS

2023 Spring Concert (50 Years of Growing Through Music — The Fort Wayne Children's Choir Celebrates Its Golden Anniversary); Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Costume Shop Workday Events; Honeywell CommUNITY Arts Teaching Artist Residency; Horace Mann Elementary School Cafeteria Mural; *Indelible* by Wrecklords; Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom; *Marian: The True Tale of Robin Hood*; The Inclusion Mural by Audiences Unlimited; and The Neurodiversity Project: *Aesop's Fables*.

To learn more about award criteria and find further details, go to artsunited.org/advocacy/awards.

Local art featured on library cards

Allen County Public Library has three limited edition library cards featuring work from mural artists Theoplis "Phresh Laundry" Smith, Bryan Ballinger, and Tim Parsley.

Parsley's design, *Arouse! For you must justify me*, honors Walt Whitman and is taken from his mural between South Calhoun and South Harrison streets.

Smith's design depicts Rosa Parks from his Citilink bus mural.

Ballinger's design is taken from his mural *The*

Blue Birds.

The cards are available to Allen County residents, whether they have a library card or not.

New cardholders can apply online or in person. Existing cardholders will need to apply in person at any branch. They will receive a new library card number and PIN along with their new card.

To apply online or view the card designs, go to acpl.lib.in.us/library-card.

Nonprofit opens outdoor classrooms

Early Childhood Alliance, a leading nonprofit dedicated to providing quality early childhood education, has opened its Nature Explore Outdoor Classrooms at the Beacon Street Learning Program.

These outdoor classrooms, developed in collaboration with Nature Explore and built by Tonn and Blank Construction, aim to provide a dynamic and interactive learning environment for the children in their child care facility.

The Nature Explore Outdoor Classrooms are designed to foster creativity, exploration, and a connection with the natural world.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at a later date.

PFW hosting musical performances

The PFW Choral and Band Concert, *Love Is in the Air*, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, will feature love songs from multiple musical eras including classics from the Great American Songbook.

Held in Auer Performance Hall, the concert will feature Chamber Treble Singers, Choral Union, University Singers, and the Symphonic Band with collaborative pieces for band and choir.

Conductors include Emily Bird, Jonathan Busarow, Chris Dessent, Dr. William Sauerland, and Dr. Daniel Tembras, with collaborative pianists Irene Ator and Dr. Geoffrey North.

Also at Auer Performance Hall, the PFW Jazz Ensemble will present a program of jazz festival classics along with recommended tunes that are sure to become future favorites on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

On Thursday, Feb. 29, a Clarinet Studio Recital featuring solo performances by the students of Dr. Kylie Stultz-Dessent and the PFW Clarinet Ensemble will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Rhinehart Recital Hall.

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.

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Mexican fare to replace O'Reilly's Bar

O'Reilly's Irish Bar at 301 W. Jefferson Blvd. is no more. A small sign on the front entrance announced its closing last week, but it was not immediately clear what prompted the closing.

You may recall that when The Harrison project — the building that houses the restaurant — next to Parkview Field was announced in 2011, O'Reilly's was one of the first businesses to commit to the space.



Off the Eaten Path

DEAN JACKSON

However, the space will likely have a new occupant once the TinCaps kick their season off. **Los Patios Mexican Restaurant** plans to open before the end of March.

The chain has a handful of locations in central Indiana, including Indianapolis, Plainfield, Brownsburg, Danville, Carmel, and Mooresville.

With the motto "Love at First Bite," Los Patios' Facebook page promises delicious, authentic dishes crafted in Mexican tradition, right down to the stone mortar containers that hold the dishes — especially their Molcajete de Mariscos menu of caldo de res, mojarra frita, chapuzón, camarones al gusto, empanadas de camarón, piña rellena, fusion meats, and seafood.

Taphouse opening up in former Billy's Dugout

Packard Taphouse, 3401 Fairfield Ave., is projected to open sometime this spring across from Wunderkammer Company.

The space was the former site of Billy's Dugout and before that Bob's Inn and Bakery. It's got more than a century of Fort Wayne stories and memories.

It's undergoing renovations but will feature nearly two dozen drafts served on a rotating basis, plus wine.

The structure once housed a grocery store for workers at the Packard Piano factory and was the home of Bob's Inn and Bakery. Its owner, Harry Greiner, was manager of the Fort Wayne Daisies of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Billy's Dugout was a popular sports bar that was a frequent stopover for teams, spectators, and others who played at Packard Park.

Get order in for SCAN's Brown Bag Lunch

The 39th annual SCAN Brown Bag Lunch is coming up Wednesday, March 6, where the price of your meal aids children and families.

This year's provider will once again be Casa Ristorante Italiano. The Insalata Casaburo is \$8, and pasta and meatballs with a salad are \$10. There are also family-style meals, salad trays, and pans of meatballs.

SCAN's goal is to reach \$39,000 to support mission to protect children, prepare parents, strengthen family, and educate the community to Stop Child Abuse and Neglect.

When you order your meal by Friday, March 1, at scanfw.org/brown-bag-lunch, the food will be available for pickup at The Summit, 1025 W. Rudisill Blvd., from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on March 6. Delivery is also available.

United Way kicks off annual food drive

The United Way of Allen County has kicked off their fourth annual community food drive. The effort will help stock food banks for the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County, Community Harvest, and Miss Virginia's Food Pantry.

Food donations can be dropped off at any participating Starbucks (unitedwayallencounty.org/food-drive).

United Way has teamed up with nearly three dozen organizations to collect food at 96 collection bins around the community. In 2023, they tallied more than 5,000 thousand pounds of food.

Need donations are canned meat or protein, peanut butter, canned beans, boxed dinners, rice, pasta, and cereal. These items must be unopened, nonperishable, not homemade, not expired, and not in glass containers. You can also make a monetary donation to the Community Food Drive by visiting unitedwayallencounty.org/food-drive or texting FOOD24 to 41444.

The Stand to start serving ice cream March 5

Just like Groundhog Day is a sign that spring is right around the corner, here's another happy reminder — ice cream is coming soon.

The Stand, 5200 Bluffton Road, announced that it will open for the season at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 5.

Chili's closes Coliseum location

Chili's corporate offices have confirmed the restaurant at 317 Coliseum Blvd. E. is closed.

No specifics were given for the closure.

With the Fort Wayne closure, the nearest Chili's locations are in Muncie and Goshen.

Off the Eaten Path is the *Whatzup* weekly column that covers Northeast Indiana's restaurant and food news. Send your news items to info@whatzup.com.

LAUREN DAIGLE
THE KALEIDOSCOPE TOUR
SPECIAL GUEST
BLESSING OFF
MARCH 7
ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM View the full calendar of events at www.memorialcoliseum.com

Nightlife

Baker Street Centre (formerly C2G Music Hall)

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

Bootleggers Saloon & Galley

Pubs & Taverns • 2809 W. Main St., Fort Wayne • (260) 387-6307
EXPECT: Golden Tee, jukebox, 3 TVs, free Wi-Fi, 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

Deer Park Irish Pub

Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg Road, Fort Wayne • (260) 432-8966 • deerparkpub.com
EXPECT: Largest craft beer selection in city, 13 craft beer lines, over 300 domestic, craft, & imported beers, assorted wines, largest St. Pat's Celebration & Parade, keg toss, Irish snug, & USF students. Fri/Sat live music, holiday specials. Outdoor beer garden. WiFi. Small snack menu, tacos every Tue/Thu. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Leesburg and Spring, across from USF. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-midnight Mon; noon-midnight Tue; 3 p.m.-midnight Wed; noon-1 a.m. Thu; noon-3 a.m. Fri-Sat; noon-midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & Wine. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, tap to pay

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Quick Hit

LOCAL EVENT

ROD TUFFCURLS & THE BENCH PRESS

SATURDAY, FEB. 24 · THE CLYDE THEATRE

Chicago-based Rod Tuffcurls & The Bench Press have been entertaining crowds at clubs, festivals, weddings, and other events across the Midwest since 2008.

Their unique song repertoire includes hits ranging from Hall & Oates to Taylor Swift, Queen to The Beatles, and Wilson Phillips to Elton John. They may even throw in a Disney classic, well-known television theme song or even a number from a

musical at times.

When you attend a Rod Tuffcurls & The Bench Press show, like the one that will be presented at The Clyde Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 24, the night is sure to be full of surprises and great songs as the band combine excellent musicianship, three-part vocal harmonies, and an energetic stage show that will keep you singing and dancing all night long. — *Chris Hupe*



Live Music

LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Chris Robison — Variety, 6 p.m., Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-9463

Ike Reilly & The Assassination — Rock, 7:30 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$13-\$15, (260) 267-5303

JJ & McRae — Classic hits, 6:30 p.m., teds beerhall, Fort Wayne, no cover, (888) 260-0351

Mackenzie Sheridan — Classical voice, 7 p.m., Honeywell House, Wabash, free admission, (260) 563-2326

The Haggens — Country, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Carly Ingalls & Aleena York — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Club Soda, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-3442

CosmicKid — Variety, 7 p.m., teds beerhall, Fort Wayne, no cover, (888) 260-0351

Dovinsgate w/Blyst, Maleficence Enthroned — Metal, 9 p.m., Carl's Tavern, New Haven, \$8, (260) 749-9133

Driver 8 w/Moderate Rock: Nirvana Tribute Band, Weird Science — REM tribute, 8 p.m., Pierre's, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, (260) 492-6064

Ty Causey — R&B, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

Gregg Bender Trio — Classic rock, 8:30 p.m., Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-8966

Hold the Line — Variety, noon, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

Hubie Ashcraft & Travis Gow — Country, 8 p.m., Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-9463

Isaiah Porter w/Ennis L. Brown II, Mookie Tolliver, Gracie Jo, Vionte The Voice — R&B, 7 p.m., Pierre's, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, (260) 492-6064

J Menace w/Zeus Rebel Waters, Alex MacDonald, AceSosa, Caz Kush, Itsyagirlmercy, Mr Swagga, Too Redd, OSG, ItzShlz, FHB Flick, TDotMarley, Ennis Brown, Sir Porter, L.Capone, Megastar — Hip-hop/R&B, 10 p.m., Pierre's, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, (260) 492-6064

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

Lincoln Chamber Ensemble: Schubert's Octet — Chamber, 7:30 p.m., University of Saint Francis Woman's Club, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20

Killa Priest w/Cola Zone & J-Wo, J. Tubbs, Unseen Handz — Hip-hop, 8 p.m., Pierre's, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 492-6064

Middle Names w/Low Phase — Rock, 9:45 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303


Open Mic Blues Jam w/Lee Lewis & Friends — Blues, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., A&O Sweet Shop Tavern, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 467-1679

The High Freqs w/Joel Gragg & The Filaments — Alternative, 8 p.m., E Brewing Company, South Whitley, no cover, (574) 377-6098

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Live Music

LOCAL CALENDAR

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The Wingmen — Classic rock, 8 p.m., American Legion Post 241, Waynedale, no cover, (260) 747-7851

Todd Harrold & Eric Clancy — Jazz, 10 p.m., O'Sullivan's, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 422-5896

Tom Koenig — Acoustic variety, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

Tommy Schlib — Variety, 6 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

Wayne Pennington Trio — Variety, 8 p.m., Thirty3, Hudson, no cover, (260) 818-6336

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Adam Strack — Variety, 7 p.m., teds beerhall, Fort Wayne, no cover, (888) 260-0351

Chris Worth — Variety, 6 p.m., Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, no cover, (260) 637-2980

Down the Line w/The Craig Guy Band, The Snarks, Octopussy, Pink Droyd — Grunge tribute, 7 p.m., Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$20, (260) 424-5665

Ethan William Bowers — Americana, 6 p.m., The Hook and Ladder, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-5652

For Darlene w/Placeholder, Quiet/Creator — Alternative, 9 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Garry Jones — Variety, 7 p.m., Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-2537

Hold The Line — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Coyote Creek Golf Club, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 203-3154

Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra — Funk, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

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

Jesse Toombs — Country/rock, 7 p.m., Oasis Tavern, St. Joe, no cover, (260) 337-5690

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

Kashmir: The Zeppelin Show — Led Zeppelin tribute, 7:30 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 492-6064

King Brothers — Variety, 8 p.m., Thirty3, Hudson, no cover, (260) 818-6336

Line Dancing on the Deck — Country, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, \$5, (260) 676-2233

Naturally 7 — A capella, 7:30 p.m., Honeywell Center, Wabash, (260) 563-1102

New League Record — Punk, 8 p.m., Papi's Pizza Co., Fort Wayne, Free

Rich Cohen & Chris Rutkowski — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Club Soda, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-3442

Rod Tuffcurls & The Bench Press — Variety, 8 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 747-0989

Ron Rumbaugh — Jazz, 6:30 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

Square Dance Night w/The Breakaway Band — Country, 6 p.m., Mirage Banquet Hall, Decatur, \$50, (260) 223-0245

swimmingintoview — Alternative, 8:30 p.m., Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-8966

Symphony of the Lakes Wind Quintet — Chamber, 7 p.m., Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts, Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$10, (574) 267-8041

The Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country, 9 p.m., The Venue, Angola, \$5, (260) 665-3922

Todd Harrold & Eric Clancy — Jazz, 6 p.m., Deema, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 209-2930

Tom Koenig — Acoustic variety, 7 p.m., JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 483-1311

Under The Covers — Variety, 9 p.m., Traxside Bar & Grill, Garrett, no cover, (260) 357-4287

We Are Checkmark — Funk, 8 p.m., American Legion Post 148, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 423-4751

Wrath w/Static Fly, Salivus, Distobia — Metal, 9 p.m., Carl's Tavern, New Haven, \$10, (260) 749-9133

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

The Wise Man's Fear w/To Breathe Again, Thrill Taker — Nu metal, 7:30 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$13, (260) 492-6064

Thirty3 Open Mic — 5-8 p.m., Thirty3, Hudson, Free, (260) 818-6336

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

G-Money & Special Guests — Blues, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

Joe Justice — Variety, 3 p.m., Five Star Senior Living, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-1932

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Loveseat! w/Dead People Park, Means of Entry — Alternative, 8 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Open Acoustic Jam — Acoustic, 5 p.m., Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

Open Mic w/Chris Hambrick — 9 p.m., Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 483-5526

Ron Rumbaugh — Jazz, 5:30 p.m., Woodlands Senior Center, Columbia City, Free, (260) 248-8944

Carolyn & Dave Martin — Classic hits, 6 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Addison Agen w/Skye Peterson — Singer-songwriter, 7 p.m., Messiah Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 485-8716

Caleb Hawkins — Banjo/fiddle, noon, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

Jeff McDonald — Variety, 5:30 p.m., American Legion Post 296, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 456-2988

Joe Justice — Variety, 10 a.m., Ashton Creek Health & Rehab, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 373-2111

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

MARCH 15-24, 2024

Author John Guare
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Live Music LOCAL CALENDAR

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Los Electro — Latin rock, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Jared Schneider — Acoustic, 6 p.m., Oasis Tavern, St. Joe, no cover, (260) 337-5690

Nashville Thursdays — Country, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

The Namby Pamby w/Cai Caudill, Cal In Red — Alternative, 8:30 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Randy Spencer — Variety, 6:30 p.m., teds beerhall, Fort Wayne, no cover, (888) 260-0351

The Hubie Ashcraft Trio — Country, 6 p.m., Auburn City Steakhouse, Auburn, no cover, (260) 333-7337

The Ragtag Bunch — Celtic, 7 p.m., JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 420-5563

Tower of Power w/The Sweetwater All Stars — Soul/R&B/Funk, 8 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$55-\$204, (260) 747-0989

Vaides Bros. — Variety, 6 p.m., Chance Bar, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 449-9099

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Big Big Train — Prog rock, 7 p.m., Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Sold Out, (260) 432-8176

Flyt Rsk — Classic rock, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 241, Waynedale, no cover, (260) 747-7851

Friday Night Vibes — Variety, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

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

March On, Comrade — Alternative, 8:30 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Open Mic Blues Jam w/Lee Lewis & Friends — Blues, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., A&O Sweet Shop Tavern, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 467-1679

Purdue Varsity Glee Club — 7:30 p.m., Chautauqua-Wawasee, Wawasee High School, Syracuse, \$22-\$30

Rogues & Bandits — Alternative, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety, 6:30 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

Russell Dickerson w/Shaboosy — Country, 8 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$29.50, (260) 747-0989

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

1964: The Tribute — Beatles tribute, 7:30 p.m., Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$19-\$49, (260) 563-1102

Austin Marsh & Jonah Leatherman — Country/rock, 8:30 p.m., Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-8966

Basketcase — Variety, 7 p.m., Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-2537

Big Dick & The Penetrators — Classic rock, 9 p.m., Hangar 9 Bar & Grill, Auburn, no cover, (260) 925-6226

Chris Hambrick — Variety, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

Damage w/Salivus, Southbound Beretta — Rock, 8 p.m., The Ruin, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 399-6336

Greg Hough — Variety, 6 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

I Love Saturdays — Variety, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

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

Parker & Fox — Bluegrass, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, no cover, (260) 563-0111

Slander — Electronic, 9 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$50-\$125, (260) 492-6064

The Be Colony w/Evan Lee — Rock, 9:45 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Under The Covers — Variety, 10 p.m., Vinnie's Bar, Decatur, no cover, (260) 729-2225

Vaides Bros. — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Deema, Fort Wayne, no cover,

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Bach Collegium: Bach St. John Passion 300th Anniversary — Classical, 4 p.m., Bach Collegium, Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$25

Postmodern Jukebox — Motown, 6 p.m., Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$45-\$150, (260) 563-1102

MONDAY, MARCH 4

Baker Street Centre Open Mic — 7:30 p.m., Baker Street Centre, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 426-6434

G-Money & Special Guests — Blues, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Drum Circle — 7 p.m., Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

Open Mic w/Chris Hambrick — 9 p.m., Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 483-5526

Smooth Tuesdays — Classic hits, 6 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Musical Mornings with Fort Wayne Philharmonic — Chamber, 10 a.m., Crescendo Coffee & More, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 408-8358

Sweet Strings Jam Session — 6:30-8:30 p.m., Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

The Union Underground w/Soil, Ra, Flaw — Metal, 7:30 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, (260) 492-6064

Wednesday Jazz Sessions — Jazz, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Ethan William Bowers — Singer-songwriter, 6:30 p.m., teds beerhall, Fort Wayne, no cover, (888) 260-0351

George Berg Quartet — Worship, 7 p.m., Honeywell House, Wabash, free admission, (260) 563-2326

Lauren Daigle w/Blessing Offor — Contemporary Christian, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, (260) 483-1111

Nashville Thursdays — Country, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Friday Night Vibes — Variety, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

Heartsick w/Dead Cassette, Controller, Moments After — Rock, 7 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 492-6064

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

Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit — Rock, 8 p.m., Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$46-\$89, (260) 424-5665

Jeff McDonald — Variety, 6 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

Open Mic Blues Jam w/Lee Lewis & Friends — Blues, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., A&O Sweet Shop Tavern, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 467-1679

Sunglasses at Night — '80s, 9 p.m., Mitchell's, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 387-5063

Todd Harrold & Eric Clancy — Jazz, 6:30 p.m., Club Soda, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-3442

Wabash County Honors Band & Choir — Variety, 7:30 p.m., Honeywell Center, Wabash, free admission, (260) 563-1102

When the Sun Sets & Years Later w/Mighty Vices, New League Record — Pop punk, 9 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$8, (260) 267-5303

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Ally Venable w/Danny Garwood & Company — Blues, 7:30 p.m., Baker Street Centre, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$40, (260) 426-6434

Between the Killings w/Poisoned Breathe, Through n' Deprived of Construct, Hamarr — Metal, 8 p.m., The Ruin, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 399-6336

Bruce In The USA — Bruce Springsteen tribute, 8 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 747-0989

Crystal C-Note — Pop, 9 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$15, (260) 492-6064

Hed Wurms — Variety, 9 p.m., What's Up Pub & Grub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 489-3488

I Love Saturdays — Variety, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

#IYKYK — Pop, 9 p.m., Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 485-1038

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

Karlea & Andy — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

Live Music

LOCAL CALENDAR

▶ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Lil Xan — Hip-hop, 7:30 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$25, (260) 492-6064

Los Electro — Latin rock, 8:30 p.m., Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-8966

Middle Names w/Olivia Kramer, Chewy Lucas — Alternative, 9:45 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Mike Almon — Variety, 7 p.m., Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, no cover, (260) 563-0111

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety, 6 p.m., Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, no cover, (260) 637-2980

Square Dance Night w/The Break-away Band — Country, 8 p.m., St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church, New Haven, no cover, (260) 749-4525

The DeeBees — Variety, 5 p.m., Byler Lane Winery, Auburn, no cover, (260) 920-4377

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

Todd Harrold & Eric Clancy — Jazz, 6 p.m., Deema, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 209-2930

MONDAY, MARCH 11

G-Money & Special Guests — Blues, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Open Mic w/Chris Hambrick — 9 p.m., Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 483-5526

Smooth Tuesdays — Classic hits, 6 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Wednesday Jazz Sessions — Jazz, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Nashville Thursdays — Country, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Friday Night Vibes — Variety, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

#IYKYK w/DJ Trend, Decades — Variety, 7 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 492-6064

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

JJ & McRae — Variety, 6 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

Los Electro — Latin rock, 9 p.m., Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 483-1311

New Day Rising w/Problem with Polly, Before My Eyes, Taylor Road, As The Ember Burns — Rock, 6:30 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 492-6064

Open Mic Blues Jam w/Lee Lewis & Friends — Blues, 8 p.m., A&O Sweet Shop Tavern, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 467-1679

Public Universal Friend w/Abadeer, Jess Thrower — Alternative, 9 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety, 8 p.m., MVP Lanes' Brunner's Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 420-2695

The Legendary Trainhoppers w/Kenny Taylor, U.R.B., Sunny Taylor, Alicia Pyle, The High Freqs — Variety, 7 p.m., Baker Street Centre, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 426-6434

The Ragtag Bunch — Celtic, 6 p.m., Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-8966

The Rylie Lynn Trio — Country/Americana, 7 p.m., Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-9463

The Wingmen — Classic rock, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

Todd Harrold Band — Variety, 7 p.m., Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-2537

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Abbie Thomas — Variety, 7 p.m., Charley Creek Inn, Wabash, no cover, (260) 563-0111

Beartooth w/The Plot In You, Invent Animate, Sleep Theory — Metal, 6:30 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$39.50, (260) 747-0989

Carolyn Martin — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Deema, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 209-2930

Celebrate & Sing: Burst Into Song! — Choral, 7 p.m., Classic Arts Programs, Winona Heritage Room, Winona Lake, \$12-\$15, (574) 306-4519

David Vaides — Latin rock, noon, Davey's Delicious Bagels, Fort Wayne, Free, (404) 960-4210

DJ Parker — DJ, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

I Love Saturdays — Variety, 8 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

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

James & The Drifters — Rock, 10 p.m., JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 420-5563

Jess Thrower — Singer-songwriter, 7 p.m., Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-2537

Phil Wickham w/Pat Barrett, Benjamin William Hastings — Contemporary Christian, 7 p.m., Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$321, (260) 424-5665

Ross Kinsey — Acoustic variety, 6:30 p.m., Vinland Reserve Winery, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 619-3424

Rylie Lynn Band — Country/Americana, 8 p.m., Morgan's Tap & Grill, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0816

Shiny Shiny Black — Americana, 8 p.m., JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 420-5563

Soltre — Irish, 6 p.m., JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 420-5563

Taylor Leonhardt — Christian, 7 p.m., First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 422-4681

The Bulldogs — 7:30 p.m., Mid-America Windmill Museum, Kendallville, \$50, (260) 347-2334

The Ragtag Bunch — Celtic, 4 p.m., JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 420-5563

Tinsley Ellis — Blues, 8 p.m., Baker Street Centre, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$50, (260) 426-6434

Todd Harrold Band — Jazz, 7 p.m., Soul Pig BBQ, Decatur, no cover, (260) 301-9800

Toxic Ruin w/Legion, Ghidora, Convulsis, Exosphere — Metal, 8 p.m., Carl's Tavern, New Haven, \$15, (260) 749-9133

Live Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Ginger Billy — 10:15 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$50, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Ginger Billy — 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$50, (260) 844-8444

Zako Ryan w/Anthony Fuentes — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Monica Nevi — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$18, (260) 844-8444

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Joe Dombrowski — 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Adam Minnick w/Todd Glover — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Joe Dombrowski — 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, (260) 844-8444

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Open Mic Night — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 844-8444

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

AJ Wilkerson — 7 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$25, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Jason Mewes — 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$28-\$35, (260) 844-8444

John Crist — 7 p.m., Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$26-\$146, (260) 424-5665

Larry Reeb w/Larry Greene — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Jason Mewes — 6 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$28-\$35, (260) 844-8444

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Craig Conant — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$25, (260) 844-8444

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

JR De Guzman — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, (260) 844-8444

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

JR De Guzman — 7:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

JR De Guzman — 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, (260) 844-8444

Robert Day w/Kyle Kemper — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Open Mic Night — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 844-8444

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Anjelah Johnson-Reyes — 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$50, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Anjelah Johnson-Reyes — 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$50, (260) 844-8444

David James Spaliaras w/Makeba Averitte — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

Jay Leno — 7:30 p.m., Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, \$79-\$169, (419) 238-6722

Rodney Carrington — 7 p.m., Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$46-\$66, (260) 424-5665

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Open Mic Night — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 844-8444

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Michael Rapaport — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$30-\$40, (260) 844-8444

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Michael Rapaport — 7:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$30-\$40, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Jake Snell w/Natasha Pearl Hansen — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

LOW TICKET ALERT!

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& THE 400 UNIT

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ANNUAL COLLABORATION WITH
FORT WAYNE DANCE COLLECTIVE

Saturday, March 9
JOHN CRIST
THE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TOUR

Tuesday, March 12
DISNEY PRINCESS: THE CONCERT
BROADWAY STARS SING CLASSIC SONGS

Thursday, March 14
THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY
IMMERSIVE CONCERT-STYLE THEATER SHOW

Saturday, March 16
PHIL WICKHAM
THE I BELIEVE TOUR WITH PAT BARRETT
AND BENJAMIN WILLIAM HASTINGS

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STEVE HACKETT
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FEBRUARY 22-28, 2024 WHATZUP 13

Cats have found a home on Goldstine PAC stage

Three Rivers Theatre, Dance Collective unite to present iconic show

BY EMMA BACHTEL
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Three Rivers Music Theatre and Fort Wayne Dance Collective invite you to “join the Jellicles” as they collaborate to bring the iconic musical *Cats* to the stage.

Based on a collection of poems written by T.S. Eliot in 1939, this show tells the story of the Jellicle Cats.

“The Jellicle Cats come out to play on one special night of the year — the night of the Jellicle Ball,” a description reads on the Dance



Mandi Kolkman

Collective’s website. “One by one, they tell their stories for the amusement of Old Deuteronomy, their wise and benevolent leader, who must choose one of the Cats to ascend to The Heaviside Layer and be reborn into a whole new Jellicle life.” Music is the main medium through which this story is told, and the music was composed by none other than the great Andrew Lloyd Webber. In addition to the accolades Webber received from *Cats*, which has garnered seven Tony awards, he is also responsible for the scores of the Broadway productions of *The Phantom of the Opera* and *School of Rock*.

And, of course, where there is music, there is dance.

Just as iconic as its score, the *Cats* choreography is an integral part of conveying the story of the Jellicles. Dancers flock to see this “dance-driven extravaganza,” and now you will have the chance to see it right here in Fort Wayne, beginning Saturday, March 2, at the downtown USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center.

WORKING IN COLLABORATION

The musical and choreographic prowess required to pull off a production of *Cats* made this show a perfect choice for FWDC and Three Rivers Musical Theatre to collaborate on.

“Our first collaboration with Three Rivers Music Theatre was in 2022 with the hit Off-Broadway musical by composer Jason Robert Brown, *Songs for a New World*,” said Mandie Kolkman, artistic director at FWDC.

“This production was a collaboration between our two organizations. We both directed the show, and then FWDC also provided choreography for the show, while Three Rivers Music Theatre provided the music portion and set direction of the show.”

The reaction of the community to this initial collaboration was overwhelmingly positive.

“The wild success of that performance and the reaction from the community led us to want to explore more opportunities in future years,” Kolkman said. “The community was so impressed at how these two organizations put on such a high-caliber production.”

In 2023, FWDC and Three Rivers Music Theatre collaborated again for the original showcase *Matters of the Heart*.

“It was a cabaret-style event where we featured different vignettes and singers would perform their own interpretation of popular love songs from different generations,” Kolkman said. “FWDC company members provided the movement and the choreography that went hand-in-hand with those musical numbers.”

For the upcoming collaboration, the organizations decided to revisit the idea of producing a musical.

“We’ve kind of been following this trajectory of going from well-known musical to original concept then back to well-known musical,” Kolkman said. “We’ll have to see what the future holds for us, but we’d love to explore an original concept again in the future.”

DIY PRODUCTION

FWDC’s choreographic contributions to this show have been no small feat, with Kolkman taking on the bulk of the choreography.

“When you buy the rights to produce a musical, the musical score is sent to you, but not the choreography,” she said. “So, I am having to reset and restage a lot of the choreography from scratch.”

“That being said, I am paying homage to the original choreography, and I also think that the work that I’ve done so far is a nod to the revival choreography, but it definitely has my own spin on it. (FWDC program director) Ashley Benninghoff is assisting with choreography as well.”

Along with working with FWDC’s company, Kolkman has also been working with members of the Fort Wayne community.

“We have a lot of really fantastic community members who participate in other theater shows, so you’ve probably seen their faces before if you’re a Fort Wayne theatergoer,” Kolkman said. “A lot of them have been in musical productions with other theater



COURTESY PHOTO

Three Rivers Music Theatre and Fort Wayne Dance Collective have come together to present *Cats* at the University of Saint Francis’ Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, opening March 2.

CATS

THREE RIVERS MUSIC THEATRE/
FORT WAYNE DANCE COLLECTIVE

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2

2 p.m. Sunday, March 3

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9

2 p.m. Sunday, March 10

USF Performing Arts Center

431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne

\$20-\$32 · (260) 450-8015

groups in the area, so there are definitely some veterans up on stage in this production.”

The costumes are also an essential part of what makes *Cats* such an iconic musical.

“Just like the choreography is not given to you when you buy the rights to a musical, the costumes are not given to you either,” Kolkman said. “The fantastic costume designer that we are working with, Michelle Cook, is having to design and reproduce these costumes from scratch.”

Kolkman said though the organizations could have rented costumes, having the ability to put their own spin on their creation was an important artistic decision.

LOCAL VENUE, LOCAL ARTISTS

For the production, Goldstine PAC was chosen for its downtown location and accessibility.

“We want everyone to have the ability to come see this really phenomenal show that we’ve been able to produce,” Kolkman said.

“Another reason we chose this space was that there are several entrances to the theater. You’ve got entrances to the stage proper, as well as entrances to the thrust at the front of the stage and into the audience. We really want to immerse the audience by surrounding them with *Cats*.”

It’s that kind of exuberance that has Kolkman excited for this production.

“I’ve had the opportunity to direct, co-direct, and choreograph hundreds of shows locally at this point, and this production of *Cats* is up there on my list of favorites,” she said. “It is near and dear to my heart not only because I love the original *Cats*, but because this cast is beyond words. They are some of the most talented people that you could possibly work with in Fort Wayne.”

In addition to the talented cast members, this show has a plethora of talented individuals who will be working behind the scenes.

“We’ll be working with Corey Lee for lighting design. He is really well-known for his phenomenal eye for lighting design, and I can’t wait to see how he is able to really work with us to accentuate the show.”

Scenic designer Ben Roney will also be sharing his talents to bring this production to life.

Let Tower of Power show you what's really hip

Sweetwater All Stars will serve as opener at The Clyde on Feb. 29

BY ANTHONY GADSON

WHATZUP EDITOR

Tower of Power have been showing the strength of a dynamic horn section more than 50 years.

Breaking out of the Bay Area scene with 1970's *East Bay Grease*, the band formed by Emilio Castillo is still going strong, having released *Step Up*, in 2020.

While they have released plenty of albums, when you hear a Tower of Power song, there's no mistaking it.

"We have a certain sound and we stay true to that," Castillo said in a phone interview with *Whatzup*. "We noticed that whenever we sway from that, it still sounds like Tower of Power, but a bastardized version. So, we just keep polishing the diamond and chipping away at the sculpture."

On Thursday, Feb. 29, the Oakland, California, band will bring 55 years of funk and soul to The Clyde Theatre. Opening the show will be Fort Wayne's own band led by a strong horn section, The Sweetwater All Stars.

LIKE-MINDED MUSICIAN

While they were formed in Oakland, the story of Tower of Power begins in Detroit, where Castillo lived until he was 11.

"My parents always had music playing on the hi-fi," he said. "We listened to people like Dinah Washington and Bill Doggett and Elvis Presley, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole.

"Then we moved out to Oakland and Sly Stone was a disc jockey out there. He started his band, and me and my bass player, we were 16, we'd climb over the fence behind this night club and go in and watch the band from 2-6 in the morning."

Luckily for Castillo, the music he fell in love with while growing up in Motown was just as popular on the West Coast.

Another fan of the funk/R&B/soul sound in the Bay Area was Stephen "Doc" Kupka, who auditioned for Castillo and his parents. Castillo's parents were the driving force behind Castillo asking him to join his band. And the rest is history.

"Doc is a very quirky guy," Castillo said. "He was the first hippie I ever met. We weren't hippies back then. We were wearing suits and had razor cuts. We were slick little musicians in the East Bay. Doc came in with that big baritone sax."

Castillo and Kupka have been the heart of Tower of Power ever since. Drummer David Garibaldi had also been with the band since 1968, although he stepped away a few times



The funk/soul/R&B group Tower of Power will be at The Clyde Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 29, with The Sweetwater All Stars opening.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH W. NIENSTEDT

before recently retiring. He's been replaced by Herman Matthews.

According to Castillo, it was not his intent to form a large band. However, as the tenor saxophonist continued to play, more and more folks came aboard, including Greg Adams, Mic Gillette, Steven "Skip" Mesquite, David Padron, Ken Balzell on horns, Francis "Rocco" Prestia on bass, William James Fulton on guitar, and Rufus Miller on vocals.

"I started a band when I was 14. I didn't even know how to play," Castillo said. "We did it completely backwards. We started the band, then we learned to play. We just kept growing.

"At 16, I saw this band called The Spiders and they became my idols. They were a real slick soul band. I wanted to be like them. Right about that time Sly (and the Family Stone) came out and soul music became popular. That was my whole life."

CATCHING THEIR BREAK

As the band grew, their eyes were fixated on San Francisco's Fillmore Auditorium, where Bill Graham was booking the hottest acts.

"The whole world was looking at the Bay Area, musically and culturally," Castillo said of the vibe in the late '60s. "Bill Graham kind of shaped the ear of the collective public by bringing in acts like Sam & Dave, Miles Davis, Tito Puente, and Otis Redding ... Albert King and B.B. King. They got a real education on all kinds of music.

"It was always a creative, eclectic community. It just really blossomed out of that '60s era into the '70s, where the psychedelic thing had run its course and they were ready for

some rhythm, horns, and some soul. We came at the right time."

Amid all the acts cutting their teeth in the Bay Area, it was Tower of Power that caught Graham's attention, and he signed them to his San Francisco Records.

"We were nobody," Castillo said of signing with Graham's record label. "We were not like this popular band in the Bay Area that got signed by Bill Graham. We were no one. We were this little unknown band in the East Bay playing these little soul night clubs.

"For some reason, Bill Graham and his partner David Robinson, who was to be the record producer (on the debut album *East Bay Grease*), they liked soul music, they liked horns, they liked rhythm. They heard us and were like, 'Yeah, we're going to sign these guys.'

"All of these famous bands are trying to get signed to that new label Bill Graham had. Famous bands were getting passed on, but we end up getting signed."

If Castillo was surprised to grab the attention of Graham, he was even more surprised when he heard a song from the six-song album on the radio.

"KSAN-FM radio in San Francisco was the station," he said. "That was right when FM started to take over in popularity from the AM stations. They started playing long songs, full album sides. We had a song called 'Sparkling in the Sand' that was over six minutes. I woke up one morning and I heard that flute from 'Sparkling in the Sand.' I banged on the wall because Doc was on the other side. I said, 'They're playing us! They're playing us!' It was quite a thrill."

TOWER OF POWER W/THE SWEETWATER ALL STARS

8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29

The Clyde Theatre

1808 Bluffton Road, Fort Wayne

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NO SHORTAGE OF SONGS

Tower of Power released nine albums in the 1970s, with 1973's self-titled record reaching No. 15 on the *Billboard* chart with new front-man Lenny Williams belting out singles like "What Is Hip?" and "So Very Hard To Go," the latter reaching No. 17 on the Hot 100.

Williams was the band's third lead singer and would not be the last after going solo following 1975's *Urban Renewal*.

Following Williams, who replaced Rick Stevens, were Hubert Tubbs, Edward McGee, Michael Jeffries, Ellis Hall, Tom Bowes, Brent Carter, Larry Braggs, Ray Greene, Marcus Scott, and the current singer Mike Jerel, who joined in 2022.

"He's not only an incredible vocalist, he's an incredible musician," Castillo said of Jerel. "He plays keyboards phenomenally. He also plays trumpet. So, we have him playing keyboard on five or six songs and playing trumpet on two or three songs. Plus, he's a real cool hang."

You'll see that prowess at The Clyde, where you're sure to hear your favorite Tower of Power songs like "Diggin' on James Brown," "Soul With a Capital S," and "Souled Out," as well as any number of others.

"Lately, 'So Very Hard To Go' has been getting a big response," Castillo said. "That's an interesting hit. It's one of our biggest for sure, yet no one can ever remember the title. As a songwriter, I go, 'I should have come up with something simpler.' We hit that first intro to the song and people respond."

A song Castillo also likes to work into sets is "Only So Much Oil in the Ground," off 1975's *Urban Renewal*.

"I remember when we recorded 'There's Only So Much Oil in the Ground,' I remember raving to my manager, 'This is going to be the biggest song we've ever written,'" he said. "It has the hippest lyrics. It's got the hippest rhythm, the best tenor solo, the best organ solo. The background singing, the lead vocals — the horn arrangement is phenomenal. It's interesting that it was never a hit, but we still play it all the time and it's more relevant each time. The energy crisis only gets worse and worse."

Whatever they play, you can expect a raucous crowd jamming along and Castillo soaking it all in.

"I grew up in Detroit, Michigan, so I'm a Midwesterner," he said. "We like that area and like the people out there. They've treated us well."

WOODEN NICKEL RECORDS

ALBUM OF THE WEEK



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TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 18, 2024

TW LW ARTIST / Album

- 1 — **BLACKBERRY SMOKE**
Be Right Here
- 2 — **IDLES**
Tangk
- 3 — **SLAYER**
Show No Mercy
(40th Anniversary)
- 4 1 **USHER**
Coming Home
- 5 — **EARL SWEATSHIRT**
Voir Dire
- 6 3 **THE SMILE**
Wall of Eyes
- 7 — **GRANDDADDY**
Blu Wav
- 8 2 **MAZZY STAR**
So Tonight That I Might See
- 9 — **LEE MORGAN**
Search for the New Land
- 10 5 **BARBIE: THE ALBUM**
Original Soundtrack

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Spins LOCAL AND NATIONAL ALBUM REVIEWS

Joe Stilwell

Four More Songs

Last we heard from Fort Wayne singer-songwriter Joe Stilwell was with his 2022 release *I've Got a Song or Two*. His breezy, jangly indie rock vibe brought to mind Real Estate, Beach Fossils, and even Mac Demarco when the latter was in a more introspective mood. The album features beautifully constructed songs that are on the ready when you're feeling contemplative or maybe even a little melancholy.

A year later, Stilwell has cooked up another batch of tunes, this time prompted by his wife, Casi. Asked to write some songs for her, Stilwell was up to the task.

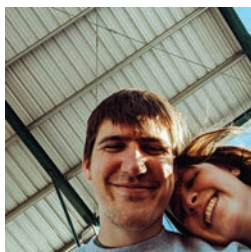
The resulting four-song EP ranges from distorted alternative to slow-motion college rock to the longing of folk rock. *Four More Songs* highlights Stilwell's songwriting chops in a short but significant shot of indie rock.

"School Is Over" opens in a cloud of distorted guitar and contemplation. Touches of Beach Fossils come through, while "Don't Have A/C" lingers in slow-motion emotion with touches of David Bazan coming through Stilwell's vocals.

These songs come across a touch moodier and more introspective than what we heard on *I've Got a Song or Two*, but they still carry his indie/pop/folk aesthetic.

Being married and in a committed relationship carries with it more than stolen glances, romance, and butterflies in your stomach. There's struggles and hardships involved in sharing a life, but if you're sharing it with the right person, it all works out in the end. That's what Stilwell is sharing here, and final track "Best Part of It" sums all of that up quite beautifully.

Stilwell continues to share short-but-sweet glimpses of his songwriting prowess, and *Four More Songs* is more proof of that. — J. Hubner



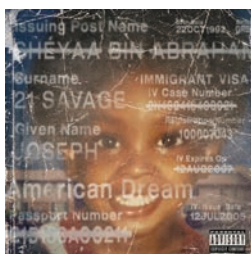
21 Savage

American Dream

Atlanta's wunderkind 21 Savage recently released a cohesive but ultimately weak near-hour of trap beats, eye roll-worthy lyrical flexes, and a lot of guest vocals that have been so heavy-handedly overproduced that it's difficult to distinguish one rapper from the next.

21 Savage has guest starred on some of the biggest genre hits of the last five years. While his third album is definitely elevated from his previous material, there just isn't a lot of content.

The album is meant to be a soundtrack to his streaming feature film, and the music certainly sports a cinematic quality. The grandiose production, however, is masking a lack of depth to the songs. Strip away the big backing tracks, and



his vocals are weak. His monotone delivery never perks the ears with lyrics that stand out. The constant "21...21" backups at the end of each lyric gets so tiresome that by the end of the second track, it's already grating.

Occasionally, 21 stumbles on some gold with songs like "redrum" and "sneaky," but they are intercut with boring or embarrassing follow-up songs like "n.h.i.e." and "pop ur sh*t."

The true masterpieces on the album, "dangerous" and "should've worn a bonnet," exemplify the two different genres of hip-hop 21 Savage experiments with on *American Dream*. Trap is noted for its minimalist approach, but 21 adds a little bit of neo-soul. There is just so much flash and no substance. It sounds like it *wants* to be a hip-hop album people talk about years from now, but it doesn't hold enough weight to stand the test of time.

Overall, *American Dream* is 21 Savage's best work yet but still not up to par with the greats. Clearly he knows how he wants to be perceived in the music business, but until the lyrics become more relatable, the caricature of the larger-than-life rapper won't translate with monotone delivery and minimalist trap beats. — Jamie DeVinney

Ty Segall

Three Bells

Ty Segall has covered a lot of musical ground the past 15 years since he emerged from the California garage rock scene. The guy doesn't seem to take a break, whether it's for solo albums, collaborations, or soundtracks.

You'd think he'd start repeating himself at some point, but that's not the case. Each record has its own vibe. Garage rock, psych, '60s pop, prog, wonky electronic music, and acoustic folk all have graced Segall records and done in his unique way.

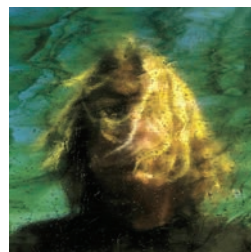
Three Bells is one of his most concise rock albums. A double LP at over an hour, this is his most in-depth release since 2014's *Manipulator*.

It feels pared down, yet more instrumentation would have felt like too much. The buzzing crunch of albums like *Twins* or the horn-heavy *Freedom's Goblin* are all but gone. The acoustics of 2022's *Hello, Hi* remain but are accompanied by intricate drums, buzzing guitar leads, and the feeling that *Ziggy*-era David Bowie is looking over the proceedings and smiling.

Opener "The Bell" starts on slow acoustic strums before locking into an almost prog vibe as the rhythm kicks in. Segall layers his vocals masterfully to add an almost regal touch.

"Void" is dizzying with its busy drums and off-kilter guitar lines. Lots of rhythm changes and an almost eerie vibe permeates this track. "My Best Friend" has a locomotive rhythm — chugging and muscular — bringing to mind early Grand Funk Railroad and Sweet. These are guitar riffs that stick to your ribs.

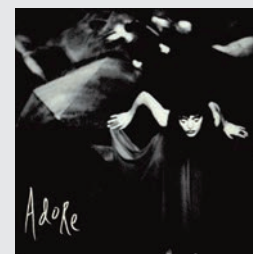
"Eggman" brings the heat with some serious



Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

The Smashing Pumpkins

Adore (1998)



This was the last Smashing Pumpkins record I could deal with, and although it did have a different sound, it felt more like a Billy Corgan solo project.

The band had let drummer Jimmy Chamberlin go due to drugs, their touring keyboardist died from an overdose, and Corgan was going through a divorce. So, the formula was set to create a downhearted album, and they did it by turning down the guitars and upping the piano arrangements to make it pretty.

"To Sheila" opens the release with Corgan loudly whispering in front of an acoustic guitar in what would be the theme for this album: melancholy. "Ava Adore" picks it up with some techno-house vibes in one of the more radio-friendly songs from the release. Better tempos in "Daphne Descends" as it borrows from the first three albums with a more indie-grunge feel to it. "Tear" is another attractive song, and it almost begs for heavier guitars, but never gets back to what you expect from one of the cooler bands from the beginning of the decade with their 1991 debut, *Gish*.

"Appels + Oranjes" goes back to the techno-pop, and you sort of wonder what direction or sound the band was looking for. They even dabble in the low-fi sound with "Pug," then hush it up again with the dreamy "The Tale of Dusty and Pistol Pete" which again works as one of the more mellow tracks from an album riddled with "chilling out by yourself" type songs. The record draws to a close with "For Martha," an eight-minute floater from a band that surely lost fans with this release.

The band had a short tour for *Adore*, but bassist D'arcy Wretzky left the group. They reformed in 2006, with three other female bassists since, making the band an imitation for former fans like me. — Dennis Donahue

guitar fuzz and a killer groove, and Segall brings the weird with his vocals as they seem to slow as if he's losing battery life. "To You" sounds like outsider folk, while "Denée" is a tribute to Segall's most consistent collaborator, wife Denée Segall.

Segall pulls inspiration from obvious and not-so obvious sources, and this record is heavy with '70s references. *Three Bells* is a consistently brilliant outing for garage rock wunderkind Segall. In fact, it might be his best in a decade. — 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.

Superhero flick is a tangled mess

Sony's Spider-Man Universe — the one that, confusingly, doesn't actually have Spider-Man — crawls forward with *Madame Web*, another ode to a tertiary comic book character that didn't need the silver screen treatment.

So poorly put together that it made me yearn for the comparative structural soundness and formal rigor of *Morbius*, the latest SSU entry doesn't even seem interested in being a superhero movie. The lead character barely has superpowers and the character's clairvoyance only seems to annoy everyone around her, including the audience since it's confusingly rendered on screen. Throw in a ridiculously hokey villain and dialogue that sounds like it was translated from a dead language and you have one of the biggest afterthoughts in the modern superhero era.



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD

Following a Peruvian prologue set in 1973, we flash forward 30 years to meet Cassie Webb (Dakota Johnson), a New York-based paramedic who works alongside her longtime friend Ben Parker (Adam Scott). While rescuing an injured driver from their car, Cassie falls into the river below and, when underwater, has strange visions of the future before Ben revives her. After several instances of memory overlap and visceral déjà vu, she discovers she can now see into

the future, which is consistently being haunted by a violent man in a web-patterned costume. Cassie uses her power to save three teenagers — Julia (Sydney Sweeney), Anya (Isabela Merced), and Mattie (Celeste O'Connor) — before the figure can attack them on the subway. She vows to keep the trio safe under her watch.

We've seen the reluctant superhero arc before, where an average person who doesn't want the responsibility of heroism eventually accepts their position, but *Madame Web* is such an awkward contortion of that familiar storyline. Whether it's in Johnson's performance or how Cassie is written in the script, she barely seems interested in helping these girls, and when the moment of transformation is supposed to come, it feels completely inauthentic and unearned. Because the three girls who are targeted don't know Cassie or understand her ability, they spend most of the movie trying to get away from her and even try to get her arrested for kidnapping. Director S.J. Clarkson desperately tries to spin the narrative into one where Cassie takes on a maternal role for these three pupils, but the effort feels hopelessly contrived.

It's been said many times that superhero movies are only as interesting as their villains, and the baddie this time around — Ezekiel Sim (Tahar Rahim) — is simply a terrible antagonist. He feels the need to dispose of these three kids because he has visions they will one day team up in spider suits and kill him. Using technology that barely existed in 2023, much less 2003, he's able to effortlessly track the teenagers down, but he is thwarted in the most comically perfunctory ways. This character is supposed to have super-speed and strength, in addition to the same kind of foresight that Cassie has, yet he demonstrates a perpetual inability to evade moving cars. Of course, it doesn't help that he's saddled with laborious lines like, "Each day that goes by, my appointment with death gets closer!"



COURTESY PHOTO

The new superhero film *Madame Web* stars, from left, Isabela Merced, Dakota Johnson, Sydney Sweeney, and Celeste O'Connor.

MADAME WEB

Rated PG-13 for violence/action and language.

1 hours, 56 minutes · In theaters



Madame Web is also another Sony superhero slog that feels like it was ripped to ribbons in the editing room. The way Clarkson depicts Cassie's power is similar to the way it's portrayed in Tom Cruise's *Edge of Tomorrow*, although using the awful Nic Cage sci-fi actioner *Next* as an analog is more apt. But both of those movies were able to visually delineate what was really happening and what was in the protagonist's head, where this film sadly doesn't give us the luxury. That means it doesn't really matter when something bad happens to the characters, because we can assume the filmmaker will just roll it back like *Funny Games* and get a re-do.

Perplexing psychic ability aside, there are basic composition issues, where the camera work and cutting conspire to collapse whatever visual coherence the film barely has in the first place.

Though it may look tempting from a "so bad it's good" perspective, it's not worth getting wrapped up in the tangle of *Madame Web*.

New movies coming this week

▪ Coming to theaters is *Ordinary Angels*, a drama starring Hilary Swank and Alan Ritchson telling the true story of a hairdresser who single-handedly rallies a community to help a widowed father save the life of his critically ill young daughter.

▪ Also playing only in theaters is *Drive-Away Dolls*, a comedy road movie starring Margaret Qualley and Geraldine Viswanathan about two young women in search of a fresh start who embark on an unexpected road trip to Tallahassee, but things quickly go awry when they cross paths with a group of inept criminals.

▪ Streaming on Netflix is *Mea Culpa*, a legal thriller starring Kelly Rowland and Trevante Rhodes which follows an ambitious criminal defense attorney that, in his aspiration to be named partner, takes on a murder case of an artist.

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Sisters get together for reunited Heart tour

Sisters **Ann** and **Nancy Wilson** have not been on the best of terms in recent years, but **Heart** announced they will be hitting many stages this summer.

The Hall of Fame act will be together for the first time since 2019 with the Royal Flush Tour stopping by Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on May 7.

Heart broke onto the music scene with their 1975 debut album *Dreamboat Annie*, which included the hit singles “Magic Man” and “Crazy on You.”

They went on to sell more than 35 million albums worldwide and to produce classic hits such as “Barra-cuda,” “Alone,” and “These Dreams.”

Other area dates they will hit on the tour are Schottenstein Center in Columbus, Ohio, on May 15, Allstate Arena in Chicago on May 17, Little Caesars Arena in Detroit on May 21, and Heritage Bank Center in Cincinnati on Aug. 13.

All those shows will see **Cheap Trick** as the opening act.

Heart will also appear in Cleveland on July 30 as part of a package tour that includes **Def Leppard** and **Journey**.

UK rockers coming to Ohio

KK’s Priest, the band fronted by former Judas Priest guitarist KK Downing, will tour for the first time in the U.S. in support of their sophomore album, *Sinner Rides Again*.

With openers **LA Guns** and **Burning Witches** in tow, Downing and company will visit The King of Clubs in Columbus, Ohio, on April 16 and Agora Theatre in Cleveland on April 20.

“We will be very proud to bring you the finest British steel from England — where the embryo of



Road Notes

CHRIS HUPE

On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

CONFIRM WITH THE VENUE ABOUT ANY EVENT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

49 Winchester	March 21	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
AC Slater	March 8	The Salt Shed	Chicago
AJ Wilkerson	March 8	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Adam Ant	March 26	Auditorium Theatre	Chicago
Adam Ant	March 27	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Adam Ant	March 29	Masonic Temple Theatre	Detroit
Aimee Mann	Feb. 28	Cincinnati Memorial Hall	Cincinnati
Aimee Mann	Feb. 29	Royce Auditorium	Grand Rapids
Aimee Mann	March 2	Cahn Auditorium	Chicago
Air Supply	March 15	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Alestorm	March 27	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Alkaline Trio	March 8	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Alkaline Trio	March 15	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Alkaline Trio	March 16	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Ally Venable	March 10	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Ally Venable w/Danny Garwood & Company	March 9	Baker Street Centre	Fort Wayne
Amaarae	March 21	House of Blues	Chicago
Aname	March 8	Magic Stick	Detroit
Angeles Azules	March 24	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Anjelah Johnson-Reyes	March 22-23	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Anxious, Koyo, & One Step Closer	March 13	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Arlo Parks	March 16	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Armchair Boogie	March 28	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Avenged Sevenfold	March 9	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Avenged Sevenfold	March 11	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Avenged Sevenfold	March 13	Heritage Bank Center	Cincinnati
Avenged Sevenfold	March 19	Gainbridge Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Avenged Sevenfold	March 26	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
Babytron	March 9	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Bad Bunny	March 28-30	United Center	Chicago
Bailey Zimmerman	March 1-2	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Bailey Zimmerman	March 7-8	GLC Live at 20 Monroe	Grand Rapids
Bailey Zimmerman	March 9	Andrew J. Brady Music Center	Cincinnati
Beach Weather	March 3	The Bluestone	Columbus, OH
Beach Weather	March 5	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Beach Weather	March 9	House of Blues	Cleveland
Beach Weather	March 10	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Beartooth	March 8	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Beartooth	March 12	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Beartooth w/The Plot In You, Invent Animate, Sleep Theory	March 16	The Clyde Theatre	Fort Wayne
Ben Hemsley	March 15	Magic Stick	Detroit
Bendigo Fletcher	March 8	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Between The Buried and Me	March 21	Magic Stick	Detroit
Between The Buried and Me	March 23	Magic Stick	Detroit
Between The Buried and Me	March 24-25	Bottom Lounge	Chicago
Big Big Train	March 1	Sweetwater Sound	Fort Wayne
Black Violin	March 19	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Black Violin	March 22	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Black Violin	March 23	KeyBank State Theatre	Cleveland
Blackberry Smoke	Feb. 22	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Blake Shelton	Feb. 23	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Blue October	March 9	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Blue Oyster Cult	Feb. 25	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Bombay Bicycle Club	March 14	Metro	Chicago
Brothers of the Heart	March 28	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Bruce Hornsby & yMusic	March 9	The Palladium	Carmel
Bruce Hornsby & yMusic	March 10	Pick-Staiger Concert Hall	Chicago
Bryce Vine	March 2	House of Blues	Chicago
Bryce Vine	March 3	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Bryce Vine	March 5	The Fillmore	Detroit
Bryce Vine	March 6	House of Blues	Cleveland
Burna Boy	Feb. 22	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
The Castellsows	March 16	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
The Celtic Tenors	March 9	Park West	Chicago
The Celtic Tenors	March 21	The Clyde Theatre	Fort Wayne
Celtic Woman	March 20	Palace Theatre	Columbus, OH

Celtic Woman	March 28	KeyBank State Theatre	Cleveland
Charlie Worsham	Feb. 24	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Charlotte Sands	March 27	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Chelsea Cutler	Feb. 29	The Fillmore	Detroit
Chelsea Cutler	March 1	GLC Live at 20 Monroe	Grand Rapids
Chelsea Cutler	March 2	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Chelsea Wolfe	March 19	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Chris Knight	March 2	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Circles Around the Sun	March 15	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Cold War Kids	Feb. 23	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Cold War Kids	Feb. 26	House of Blues	Cleveland
Colin Hay	March 20	Schrott Center for the Arts	Indianapolis
Colin Hay	March 23	Cahn Auditorium	Chicago
Colin Hay	March 24	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Colin Hay	March 26	The Clyde Theatre	Fort Wayne
Colin Hay	March 28	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Craig Conant	March 13	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Crankdat	March 29	Park West	Chicago
Creed Fisher	March 15	The King of Clubs	Columbus, OH
Creed Fisher	March 22	8 Seconds Saloon	Indianapolis
Dan + Shay	March 14	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Dan + Shay	March 15	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
Dan + Shay	March 22	United Center	Chicago
The Dandy Warhols	March 15	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Danny Brown	March 20	Metro	Chicago
David Phelps	March 1	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Desi Banks	Feb. 24	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Destin Conrad	March 7	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Don Omar	March 21	Allstate Arena	Chicago
Dorian Electra	March 15	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Dorian Electra	March 16	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Drake	Feb. 24	Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse	Cleveland
Drake White	March 9	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Elevation Worship & Steven Furtick	Feb. 23	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Elevation Worship & Steven Furtick	Feb. 24	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Elle King	Feb. 22	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Ern Beihold	March 2	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Ern Beihold	March 5	Skully’s Music Diner	Columbus, OH
Excision	March 27	Andrew J. Brady Music Center	Cincinnati
Fall Out Boy & Jimmy Eat World	March 26	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Fall Out Boy & Jimmy Eat World	March 29	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Flogging Molly	March 1	Brown County Music Center	Nashville, IN
Foghat	March 29	Niswonger PAC	Van Wert
Freddy & Co.	March 16	Park West	Chicago
Gaelic Storm	Feb. 28	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Gaelic Storm	Feb. 29	Bell’s Eccentric Cafe	Kalamazoo
Gaelic Storm	March 15-16	House of Blues	Chicago
Games We Play	March 27	Saint Andrew’s Hall	Detroit
Gary Allan	March 9	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Gary Numan	March 11	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Gilberto Santa Rosa	March 23	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Ginger Billy	Feb. 23-24	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
The Glorious Sons & Southall	March 27	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Greensky Bluegrass	March 2	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Greensky Bluegrass	March 6	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
Grouplove	March 16	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Grouplove	March 17	Saint Andrew’s Hall	Detroit
Grouplove	March 19	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
Grouplove	March 20	Bogart’s	Cincinnati
Guster	March 22	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Gwar	March 13	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Gwar	March 28	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Hails	Feb. 23	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Haken	Feb. 22	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Haken	Feb. 24	Saint Andrew’s Hall	Detroit
Health	March 20	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Herbie Hancock	March 22	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Hot Mulligan	March 26	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids

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Road Notes

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

this beloved music was conceived so many years ago,” Downing said in a press release.

Uli Jon Roth visits The States

Legendary guitarist **Uli Jon Roth** is returning to North America following a five-year hiatus, hitting 30 cities in April and May.

Take advantage of a rare opportunity to see this guitar hero as he presents the Interstellar Sky Guitar Tour, a three-hour extravaganza that features Roth playing a selection of new and old pieces and introducing his new book.

Check out the show at Arts Center in Hobart on April 18, Chicago’s Arcada Theatre on April 19 and Reggies on April 20, and Token Lounge in Detroit on April 21.

Chaos & Carnage returns

The fifth Chaos & Carnage Tour will be co-headlined by **Cattle Decapitation** and **Carnifex**.

The soothing sounds of both bands will undoubtedly bring a peaceful, calming feeling as the extreme bands join in what is sure to be one of the heaviest shows of the summer.

If this is your scene, you will have to travel to The King of Clubs in Columbus, Ohio, May 16, The Crofoot Ballroom outside Detroit on May 17, or The WC Social Club in Chicago on May 18.

Rivers of Nihil, **Humanity’s Last Breath**, **The Zenith Passage**, **Vitriol**, and **Face Yourself** are set to open.

’90s rockers hit our region

Yellowcard will join **Third Eye Blind** for the fourth edition of the latter’s Summer Gods tour, playing 37 theaters and amphitheaters across the U.S.

The tour, which also includes support from **Arizona** and coincides with a special 25th anniversary vinyl reissue of Third Eye Blind’s hit “Jumper,” kicks off June 8 in Washington.

The tour finds its way to Huntington Bank Pavilion in Chicago on June 28, Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati on July 2, Blossom Music Center outside Cleveland on July 5, Ruoff Music Center outside Indianapolis on July 6, and Pine Kob Music Center outside Detroit on July 7.

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

On the Road NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Hot Mulligan	March 29	Schottenstein Center	Columbus, OH
Ike Reilly & The Assassination	Feb. 22	The Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Ike Reilly & The Assassination	Feb. 24	Beachland Tavern	Cleveland
The Infamous Stringdusters	March 15	Park West	Chicago
Intervals & Hail the Sun	March 8	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Intocable	March 2	Rosemont Theatre	Chicago
Intocable	March 3	DeVos Performance Hall	Grand Rapids
Inzo	Feb. 24	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Inzo	March 9	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Ismo	March 22	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Ive	March 26	Allstate Arena	Chicago
JJ Grey & Mofro	March 22	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
JJ Grey & Mofro	March 23	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
JJ Grey & Mofro	March 24	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
JJ Grey & Mofro	March 27	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
JJ Grey & Mofro	March 28	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
JJ Grey & Mofro	March 29	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
JP Saxe	March 12	Saint Andrew’s Hall	Detroit
JP Saxe	March 16	A&R Music Bar	Columbus, OH
JP Saxe	March 17	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
JP Saxe	March 19	House of Blues	Chicago
JR De Guzman	March 14-16	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Jack & Jack	March 26	A&R Music Bar	Columbus, OH
Jack & Jack	March 28	Bottom Lounge	Chicago
Jackson Dean	Feb. 22	Bogart’s	Cincinnati
Jake Scott	March 10	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Jamila Woods	Feb. 23	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit	Feb. 29-March 1	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Jason Isbell & The 400 Unit	March 8	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Jason Mewes	March 9-10	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Jay Leno	March 23	Niswonger PAC	Van Wert
Jeremy Camp	March 23	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Joe Bonamassa	March 2	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Joe Dombrowski	March 1-2	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Joe Pug	Feb. 25	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
John Crist	March 9	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
John Mellencamp	March 17	Stranahan Theater	Toledo
John Mellencamp	March 22	Emens Auditorium, Ball State	Muncie
Jon Batiste	Feb. 24	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Jon Batiste	Feb. 26	The Fillmore	Detroit
Jon Batiste	Feb. 27	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Josh Turner	March 23	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Josiah & The Bonnevilles	March 19	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Juanes	March 7	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
K. Flay	March 15-16	1st Ward at Chop Shop	Chicago
KK’s Priest	March 16	The King of Clubs	Columbus, OH
KK’s Priest	March 20	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Kai Wachi	March 20	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Kaivon	March 14	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Kaivon	March 16	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Keyshia Cole	Feb. 29	Wintrust Arena	Chicago
Keyshia Cole	March 3	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Kolton Moore & The Clever Few	March 3	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
The Kooks	March 2	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Kooks	March 15	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Kurt Vile & The Violators	March 18	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Lany	March 28	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Lany	March 29-30	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Lauren Daigle w/Blessing Offor	March 7	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Lauren Jane Grace	March 2	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Le Youth	March 16	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Ledisi	March 26	Wexner Center	Columbus
Ledisi	March 28	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Ledisi	March 29	Fisher Theatre	Detroit
Lee Brice	March 7	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Less Than Jake	March 26	The Intersection	Grand Rapids

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

Music for moms

RELAX WITH A MUSICAL MOMENT JUST FOR YOU!

Wednesdays | 5:30–6:30PM

January 10, 17, 24, and 31

\$60 (includes all four sessions)

Focus on Rest: Sleep? What’s Sleep?

Refill your cup by combining the joy of music with the bond of motherhood. Each de-stressing session will help you build a more positive mindset and bolster your confidence. The music therapy and wellness exercises will range from singing to songwriting, music listening, meditation, visualization/relaxation, stretching to music, and experimenting with some delightful instruments! Simply bring your appreciation of music and a willingness to jump in.

Moms (18+) will enjoy:

- Music experiences that bring rest and fun
- The kind of healing that only comes through a connection with like-minded friends
- Tools and skills that will help you at home
- Insights regarding topics like being “good enough” and addressing “mom guilt”

No music skills required!
Registration includes four weekly sessions per month!

Music for Moms is facilitated by **Georgia Stachofsky**, a CBMT-certified music therapist and mom of three who understands firsthand the challenges and contentment of motherhood.

Sign up today for this powerful musical opportunity!
Academy.Sweetwater.com/events
or call **(260) 407-3833**



5501 US Hwy 30 W, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Road Trips

LOCAL ACTS ON TOUR

Addison Agen

Feb. 29	Midtown, Grand Rapids
Mar. 1	The Alluvion, Traverse City

Austin Marsh & Jonah Leatherman

Feb. 24	JJ Winns Restaurant & Lounge, Montpelier, OH
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The Bulldogs

Apr. 5	Michiana Event Center, Shipshewana
May 25	Fish Lake Family Resort, Fremont
May 30	Mentone Egg Festival, Mentone
June 5	James Dean Memorial Stage, Fairmount
June 15	CoCoLo's RV Campground, Lagro
July 13	Webster Depot Park, Dunkirk
July 20	Downtown Hartford City, Hartford City
July 22	Madison County Fair, Alexandria
July 27	Hickory Acres Campground, Edgerton, OH
Aug. 3	State Line Heritage Days, Union City
Aug. 9	Bethel Pointe, Muncie
Aug. 16	Elkhart County Fairgrounds, Goshen
Aug. 23	Quincy Daze Festival, Quincy, MI
Sept. 5	Roann Covered Bridge Festival, Roann
Sept. 7	Matthews Covered Bridge Festival
Sept. 13	Back to the Fifties Festival, Lebanon
Sept. 20	Flatrock Creek Festival, Paulding, OH
Sept. 21	Nappanee Apple Festival, Nappanee
Sept. 27	Ducktail Run, Gas City
Oct. 26	Eagles Aerie 1771, Alexandria

Controller

Mar. 9	The Conservatory, Alton, IL
Mar. 10	The Smoke & Barrel, Fayetteville, AR
Mar. 14	Shiner's Saloon, Austin, TX
Mar. 16	Betty's Grill, Nashville, TN

Damage

Mar. 1	Skelletones, Grand Rapids
Mar. 3	Kochanski's, Milwaukee, WI
Mar. 4	Pillar Forum, Minneapolis, MN
Mar. 5	Gabe's, Iowa City, IA
Mar. 6	Platypus, St. Louis, MO
Mar. 8	Portal, Louisville, KY
Mar. 10	Ormsby Avenue Cafe, Pittsburgh, PA
Mar. 11	Buzzbin, Akron
Mar. 12	Corktown Tavern, Detroit

Debutants

Feb. 22	Hi-Fi, Indianapolis
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Hubie Ashcraft Band

Mar. 8	The Distillery, Toledo
Mar. 9	Five Star Dive Bar, Elkhart
Mar. 23	VFW Post 5713, Celina, OH
Mar. 30	Moose Lodge 2094, Defiance, OH
Apr. 5	Hollywood Casino, Lawrenceburg
Apr. 6	Country Heritage Winery, Nashville, IN
Apr. 12	Bent Prop Pub, Coldwater, MI
Apr. 27	Five Star Dive Bar, Elkhart

Jailbreak

Feb. 23	Elks Lodge 54, Lima, OH
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Joe Justice

Feb. 23	Stoney Ridge Winery, Bryan, OH
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Ross Kinsey

Mar. 28	Bent Prop Pub, Coldwater, MI
June 6	Bent Prop Pub, Coldwater, MI
Aug. 1	Bent Prop Pub, Coldwater, MI
Oct. 24	Bent Prop Pub, Coldwater, MI
Dec. 5	Bent Prop Pub, Coldwater, MI

Spirit Bomb

Apr. 20	Masonic Temple, Cleveland
May 18	EXIT/IN, Nashville, TN

Under The Covers

Sept. 21	McSober's Saloon, Coldwater, OH
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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Less Than Jake	March 28	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Lil Xan	March 9	Piere's	Fort Wayne
Lilly Hiatt	March 7	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Liquid Stranger	March 15	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Little Stranger	March 22	Park West	Chicago
Los Angeles Azules	March 23	Allstate Arena	Chicago
Mac McAnally	Feb. 23	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Mac Saturn	March 15	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Maddie Zahm	Feb. 23	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Maddie Zahm	Feb. 26	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Maddie Zahm	Feb. 27	The Shelter	Detroit
Maddie Zahm	Feb. 27	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Maddie Zahm	March 2	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Maddix	Feb. 24	Magic Stick	Detroit
Mahalia	March 25	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Mahalia	March 26	House of Blues	Chicago
Mammoth WVH	Feb. 27	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Marc Broussard	March 14	Taft Theatre	Cincinnati
Marc Broussard	March 22	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Marc Broussard	March 23	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Matisyahu	March 8	House of Blues	Chicago
Matt Maltese	March 28	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Matt Maltese	March 29	House of Blues	Chicago
Max Barskih	Feb. 23	Park West	Chicago
McClusky	March 15	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance	Feb. 24	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Michael Rapaport	March 28-30	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Michael W. Smith	March 1	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Michael W. Smith	March 22-23	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Ministry	March 12	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
Ministry	March 13	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Ministry	March 14	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Mitch Rowland	March 18	Magic Stick	Detroit
Mitski	March 21-24	Auditorium Theatre	Chicago
Mo Lowda & The Humble	March 21	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Mom Jeans	March 27	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Mom Jeans	March 28-29	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Monica Nevi	Feb. 29	Summit City Comedy Club	Fort Wayne
Municipal Waste	Feb. 23	Magic Stick	Detroit
Naturally 7	Feb. 24	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Neck Deep	Feb. 24	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Neck Deep	Feb. 25	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Nicotine Dolls	March 8	Park West	Chicago
Nils Hoffmann	March 2	Magic Stick	Detroit
Nita Strauss w/Diamante, Starbenders	March 26	Piere's	Fort Wayne
October London	Feb. 23	Masonic Temple Theatre	Detroit
October London	Feb. 25	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Olivia Rodrigo	March 19	United Center	Chicago
Olivia Rodrigo	March 22	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
Olivia Rodrigo	March 23	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
One Hallelujah	March 21	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
One Hallelujah	March 24	Andrew J. Brady Music Center	Cincinnati
Oneus	March 22	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Origami Angel	March 29	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Otoboke Beaver	March 15	House of Blues	Cleveland
Otoboke Beaver	March 16	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Paul Oakenfold	March 16	Magic Stick	Detroit
Peter Dinklage	March 18	Hard Rock Live Northern Indiana	Gary
Petey	March 1	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Phil Wickham w/Pat Barrett, Benjamin William Hastings	March 16	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Porno for Pyros	Feb. 26	The Salt Shed	Chicago
Porno for Pyros	Feb. 27	The Fillmore	Detroit
Post Sex Nachos	March 29	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Postmodern Jukebox	March 2	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Postmodern Jukebox	March 3	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Postmodern Jukebox	March 5	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Postmodern Jukebox	March 6	The Long Center	Lafayette

Postmodern Jukebox	March 7	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Postmodern Jukebox	March 10	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Powerman 5000 w/September Mourning, The Great Alone	March 19	Piere's	Fort Wayne
The Prize Fighter Inferno	Feb. 23	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Ranger Trucco	March 1	Magic Stick	Detroit
Ricky Montgomery	March 2	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Ricky Montgomery	March 5	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
The Rocket Summer	March 11	Cobra Lounge	Chicago
The Rocket Summer	March 12	Magic Bag	Detroit
The Rocket Summer	March 13	Rumba Cafe	Columbus, OH
Rod Tuffcurls & The Bench Press	Feb. 24	The Clyde Theatre	Fort Wayne
Rodney Carrington	March 23	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Russell Dickerson	March 2	Andrew J. Brady Music Center	Cincinnati
Russell Dickerson	March 7	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
Russell Dickerson w/Shaboozey	March 1	The Clyde Theatre	Fort Wayne
Sam Barber	March 1	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Sam Barber	March 6	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Sam Hunt	Feb. 22	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Sam Hunt	Feb. 24	Allstate Arena	Chicago
Sam Hunt	March 2	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
Sammy Rae & The Friends	March 9	Bogart's	Cincinnati
Scott Stapp	March 18	Brown County Music Center	Nashville, IN
Shovels & Rope	March 23	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Shovels & Rope	March 24	Beachland Ballroom	Cleveland
Sierra Hull	March 22	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Silversun Pickups	Feb. 27	The Vic Theatre	Chicago
Silversun Pickups	Feb. 29	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Silversun Pickups	March 1	State Theatre	Kalamazoo
Silversun Pickups	March 2	House of Blues	Cleveland
Silversun Pickups	March 3	Saint Andrew's Hall	Detroit
Slander	March 2	Piere's	Fort Wayne
Sleater-Kinney	March 20	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Sleater-Kinney	March 21	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
The Stampede String Band	Feb. 22	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Static-X & Sevendust	Feb. 22	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Stephen Marley & Damien Marley	March 29	The Fillmore	Detroit
Steve Hackett	March 22	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Subtronics	Feb. 23	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
Tanner Usrey	March 9	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Taylor Leonhardt	March 16	First Wayne Street UMC	Fort Wayne
Terri Clark & Deana Carter	March 16	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Tesla	March 2	Blue Gate PAC	Shipshewana
Thievery Corporation	Feb. 29	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Tia Carrere	Feb. 29	Maurer Concert Hall	Chicago
Tia Carrere	March 2	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Tia Carrere	March 3	Music Box	Cleveland
Tinsley Ellis	March 16	Baker Street Centre	Fort Wayne
Tinsley Ellis	March 17	Jazz Kitchen	Indianapolis
Tinsley Ellis	March 19	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Too Many Zooz	March 26	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Toto	Feb. 25	Brown County Music Center	Nashville, IN
Tow'rs	March 20	Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
Tower of Power w/The Sweetwater All Stars	Feb. 29	The Clyde Theatre	Fort Wayne
Tower of Power	March 16	Brown County Music Center	Nashville, IN
Twin Temple	March 5	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Two Door Cinema Club	March 4	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Two Door Cinema Club	March 5	Kemba Live!	Columbus, OH
Two Door Cinema Club	March 7	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Voivod & Prong w/Deadspin	March 21	Piere's	Fort Wayne
Waterparks	March 9	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Westlife	March 18	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
William Black	March 28	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
William Black	March 29	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Winter Jam 2024	March 8	Wolstein Center	Cleveland
Winter Jam 2024	March 10	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Winter Jam 2024	March 24	Truist Arena	Cincinnati
Wyatt Flores	Feb. 22	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Zach Bryan	March 6-7	United Center	Chicago

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Stage & Dance

LOCAL CALENDAR

NOW PLAYING

Disney on Ice: Mickey's Search Party — Adventure filled with world-class skating, high-flying acrobatics and unexpected stunts, **7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb 22-23; 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24; 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$146, (260) 483-1111

The Tempest — Shakespeare's fairy-tale romance/comedy begins with a violent storm that wrecks a ship on a mysterious island, **8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 22-24**; PFW Department of Theatre, Williams Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$18, (260) 481-6555

The Songs of Stevie Wonder — Indiana Musical Theatre Foundation's third annual Black History Month Concert Series will feature singers Albert Brownlee, Dave Ealy, Eric Eiden, Jake Wilhelm, Todd Roth, Tamia Beverly, Jordan Weatherbe, Martel Harris, Prentis Moore, and Fatima Washington, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 23-24**, RKF Studios, Fort Wayne, \$15, imtfinc@gmail.com

Thumbelina — Fort Wayne Ballet Youth Company performs tale of girl born from flower that seeks her Flower Prince, **10 a.m. and noon, Saturday, Feb. 24**, Fort Wayne Ballet Studios, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 422-4226

The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Show — Solve a mystery with actors hidden among diners, **6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24**, Courtyard by Marriott Downtown, Fort Wayne, \$60, (866) 496-0535

The Barricade Boys: West End Party! — Touring act takes you on musical journey from *Les Misérables* to *Jersey Boys*, **7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25**, Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, \$25-\$59, (419) 238-6722

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art & Acting Classes — Partnership between Fort Wayne Urban League and Fort Wayne Civic Theatre offers weekly classes for those 14 and older, **4-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27**, Fort Wayne Urban League, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 745-3100

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY

The StepCrew — Combines Ottawa Valley step dance, Irish step dance, and tap with musicians from The Chieftains, Cherish the Ladies, and Bowfire, **7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29**, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$25-\$75, (260) 563-1102

MARCH

Rosie Revere, Engineer & Friends — Musical spot-lights STEM curriculum, **10 a.m. and noon Friday, March 1**, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

Funny Money — Mild-mannered accountant picks up wrong suitcase that is filled with money, leading to comedic situations, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2; 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 8-9; 1 p.m. Sunday, March 10; 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$50, (260) 422-4226

The Prom — Four eccentric Broadway stars put a spotlight on trouble around an Indiana small-town prom, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 8-9; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$18-22, (260) 422-4226

Cats — Three Rivers Music Theatre and Fort Wayne Dance Collective partner to put on one of the most popular theatrical productions, utilizing local artists on stage and off, **2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10**; USF Robert Goldstine PAC, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$32, (260) 450-8015

Equals: A New Play — One-night only premiere and celebration of Developmental Disability Month is journey through tragedy and grief, with laughs along the way in Summit City Music Theatre production, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2**, The Local Archive at The Landing, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$25, (260) 416-1044

On Your Feet: The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan — True story about heart and heritage and two people who became an international sensation, **7 p.m. Sunday, March 3**, Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, \$49-\$89, (419) 238-6722

Ailey II Master Class: Technique Class — Modern dance workshop with focus on utilizing strengths, exploring personal styles, and discovering unfamiliar ways of moving, **6 p.m. Wednesday, March 6**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$25, (260) 424-5665

Ailey II Master Class: Revelations Repertoire — Dance work using African-American spirituals, song sermons, gospel songs, and holy blues, **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$25, (260) 424-5665

Ailey II: The Next Generation of Dance — Marking 50th anniversary of merging spirit and energy of country's finest early career dance talent, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, (260) 424-5665

Flanagan's Wake — Annual show in real funeral home features improv actors that take cues from audience to make each performance unique, **7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, March 8-17**, Harper's Community Funeral Home, New Haven, \$20, (260) 496-4433

Disney Princess: The Concert — Tony-nominee Susan Egan (Belle of *Beauty and The Beast*), Syndee Winters (Nala of *The Lion King*), and Hiba Elchikhe (Jasmine of Aladdin) come together for your favorite songs, **7 p.m. Tuesday, March 12**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$30-\$66, (260) 424-6287

Lisa's Legacy Presents: The Starling — Fort Wayne nonprofit offering free resources for grief awareness and coping will host free screening of 2021 film starring Melissa McCarthy and Chris O'Dowd, **5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14**, Cinema Center, Fort Wayne, free, info@lisaslegacyofhope.org

The Simon & Garfunkel Story — Immersive concert-style show chronicles journey of folk-rock duo, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$70, (260) 424-5665

Six Degrees of Separation — Young con man fools wealthy New York couple who discover their friends have had a similar encounter, in Fort Wayne Civic Theatre production, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 22-23; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 24**, PPG ArtsLab, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$25, (260) 422-4226

Broadway Rox — Accompanied by band, Broadway performers celebrate songs of contemporary musicals, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23**, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$39-\$69, (260) 563-1102

Art & Exhibits

LOCAL CALENDAR

CURRENT EXHIBITS

2024 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards — Nation's longest running recognition program celebrates expression of students in grades 7-12, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through April 7 (closed Feb. 26-March 4 and March 31)**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$10, (260) 422-6467

40 Years of Feast and Famine — Amber Hehl exhibit includes live dramatic prose reading, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation, **4-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24**, East Ende Eclectic, Fort Wayne, free admission, eastendeeclectic@gmail.com

As the World Turns — Hilarie Couture pop-up show of mixed media, oil and pastel works, **9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday through March 9**, Dash-In, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 423-3595

Black History Month Exhibit — Fine-art lithographs and photographs of Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass and artifacts highlighting history of Black Americans in 19th century, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through Feb. 29**, ACPL Rolland Center for Lincoln Research, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 421-1200

Botanical Speedway — Children can pedal along tropical race track, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday, through April 7**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$7, (260) 427-6440

Conversations: Shared and Reflective — Robert F. Schroeder's crafted copper and silver sculptures are inlaid with imagery and text to commemorate the lives of individuals who inspire him, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through March 10**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 424-7195

Fire and Ice — Works in gallery have been interpreted by poets and public can as well in interactive exhibit, **noon-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, through March 30**, Gallery K, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 705-2959

For the Love of Art — Art from more than 30 artists, including Michael Poorman, Cathy Blyth, Austin Cartwright, Justin Johnson, and Gwen Gutwein, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 22-March 30**, Crestwoods Gallery, Roanoke, free admission, (260) 672-2080

From VeggieTales to Counting Cows: A Multidimensional Artistic Journey — Artist Bryan Ballinger, a former Huntington University professor, showcases best-known works, including art from *VeggieTales* and illustrations from variety of picture books, **8 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Friday, through Feb. 25**, Clark Gallery in Honeywell Center, Wabash, free admission, (260) 563-1102

Influences: The Connection Between Educator & Student — Creative work of regional high school art educators and their students, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through March 10**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 424-7195

Love Is — Heidi Malott expresses love in her oil paintings, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, through Feb. 28**, The Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 436-0927

Peru Community Schools Art Gallery: The G. David Thompson Collection — Exhibit includes works of cubist artist George Braque, Spanish surrealist Joan Miro, and French painter Georges Roualt, **5-8 p.m. Friday; 4-7 p.m. Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday, through March 17**, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, free admission, (260) 704-5400

Solemn Spaces: Works by Robert Kipniss — Exhibition from museum's archives dives into Brooklyn-born artist's shared stylistic characteristics

between his writings and art, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through Feb. 25**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$10, (260) 422-6467

Sweetheart Orchid Display — Captivating, long-lasting blooms on display in Tropical House **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday, through March 3**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$7, (260) 427-6440

Wild Beauty — Working primarily in pastel, Maryland artist Tara Will approaches landscapes with unpredictable colors and bold marks, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24-May 5 (closed Feb. 26-March 4 and March 31)**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$10, (260) 422-6467

Winter Reflections — Paintings that capture the winter season with works from artists such as Jody Hemphill Smith, Doreen St. John, Fred Doloresco, Rosanne Cerbo, **11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 426-6568

ART CLASSES, WORKSHOPS

Acrylic Painting Class — Artist guides you on through paint party-style class that ends with 8-inch-by-10-inch canvas painting, **1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18; 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22**, Artful Transformations, Columbia City, \$45, (260) 229-5902

Watercolor Painting Class — Discover beauty of watercolors while creating 5-inch-by-7-inch artwork, **6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23**, Artful Transformations, Columbia City, \$35, (260) 229-5902

Back to Basics: Watercolor Class — Create own color wheel and master brush care, color theory, brushwork, gradients, and blending techniques, **10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 24**, Artful Transformations, Columbia City, \$45, (260) 229-5902

Acrylic Paint Pouring Class: Marbles — Learn fundamentals of unique technique and create two works of art by using marbles to manipulate painting, **2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25**, Artful Transformations, Columbia City, \$45, (260) 229-5902

Painting on Pine — Class for all skill levels will have you paint on pine wooden planks and elevate your artwork, **6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29**, Artful Transformations, Columbia City, \$45, (260) 229-5902

Book Cover Collage Workshop — Bring own book cover or used one supplied as Hannah Burnworth gives you tips to get started in the art of collage, **1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, \$35, (260) 424-7195

RECEPTIONS

Conversations: Shared & Reflected and Influences: The Connection Between Educator & Student — Artist Robert F. Schroeder will be on hand for his exhibit *Conversations* alongside nine regional high school educators and their students for *Influences*, **5-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 424-7195

For the Love of Art — Art from more than 30 artists, including Michael Poorman, Cathy Blyth, Austin Cartwright, Justin Johnson, and Gwen Gutwein, **4-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22**, Crestwoods Gallery, Roanoke, free admission, (260) 672-2080

Fire and Ice — Works in gallery have been interpreted by poets and public can as well in interactive exhibit, **6-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22**, Gallery K, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 705-2959

ART EVENTS

Covington Art Fair — Juried art show marks 32nd year with 100 local, regional, and national fine-art artists, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 22; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, June 23**, Covington Shopping Plaza, Fort Wayne, free admission, (260) 424-3373

Things To Do

LOCAL CALENDAR

CURRENT

Wild Walkers: Franke Park — Adult hiking group meets on second and fourth Friday of the month, visiting different locations, **9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-5023

Indiana Poet Laureate Curtis Crisler Reception — Recently appointed Indiana Poet Laureate will read excerpts of his works, including latest book of poetry, *Doing Drive-Bys on How to Find Love in the Midwest*, **5-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24**, Hyde Brothers, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-0197

Java, Jive & Pie 2024 — Don '40s and '50s attire for annual Classic Arts Program fundraiser will feature the Jazz Vocal Ensemble and instrumental jazz with the Wally Brath Quartet, as well as a silent auction, and snacks, **7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24**, Center Lake Pavilion, Warsaw, \$25, info@classicartsprograms.com

Tales & Trails — Hear a tale and hike a trail with your preschooler to discover natural wonders around you, **10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27**, Merry Lea Farmstead, Albion, free, (260) 799-5869

Bingo — Those 50 years and older invited to participate, **4-5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27** Woodlands Senior Center, Columbia City, free, (260) 248-8944

FARMERS MARKETS

Ft. Wayne's Farmers Market — Farm foods, baked goods, homemade natural items, and unique works from regional artisans, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays**, 500 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, contact@ftwaynes-farmersmarket.com

Ylni Farmers Market — Produce, baked goods, jewelry, honey, pony rides, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays**, Olde East End Building, Fort Wayne, free, market@ylni.org

RECURRING EVENTS

Headwaters Park Ice Skating — Pavilion serves as ice rink, where you can bring own skates or rent pair for \$3, **4-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; through Feb. 25**, \$6, (260) 427-6000

Fusion Bellydance Class — Lauren TheSerpent Conklin guides you through dance routines that double as workouts, **5:30-7 p.m. Mondays, through March 11**, East Ende Eclectic, Fort Wayne, \$30, (260) 203-7721

Learn the Art of Bellydance — Soraya Mahadia guides you in celebration of movement, culture, and self-expression, **5:30-6:30 p.m. and 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through March 14**, East Ende Eclectic, Fort Wayne, \$25, (260) 240-9499

SPECTATOR SPORTS

HOCKEY

Komets — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne

Saturday, March 2 — Wheeling, **7:30 p.m.**
Sunday, March 3 — Indy, **5 p.m.**
Friday, March 8 — Wheeling, **8 p.m.**
Saturday, March 9 — Wheeling, **7:30 p.m.**
Sunday, March 10 — Indy, **5 p.m.**
Wednesday, March 20 — Kalamazoo, **7:30 p.m.**
Friday, March 29 — Indy, **8 p.m.**
Saturday, March 30 — Kalamazoo, **7:30 p.m.**
Saturday, April 6 — Indy, **7:30 p.m.**
Friday, April 12 — Indy, **8 p.m.**
Sunday, April 14 — Toledo, **5 p.m.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Last Thursday w/Ambrose Hemsoth, Brett Elizabeth Jenkins, DM Seay — Monthly literary series invites local authors to read excerpts from their works, **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29**, Hyde Brothers, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-0197

MARCH

Taste of Roanoke — Area restaurants introduce special menus and prices, various locations, Roanoke, discoverroanoke@gmail.com

Tiny Musicians — Those up to 3 years old enjoy nursery rhymes and songs, rhythm and movement exercises, and simple and fun instruments through four once-weekly classes with Esther Coplin, **9-9:45 a.m. or 10-10:45 a.m. Saturdays, March 2-23**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$60, (260) 432-8176

Little Rock Stars — Ages 4-5 explore musical genres and instruments, collaborate with others, compose short songs, and expand vocal range over the course of four weekly classes, **11-11:45 a.m. or noon-12:45 p.m. Saturdays, March 2-23**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$60, (260) 432-8176

Taste of Warren — Warren Area Chamber of Commerce fundraiser puts focus on Warren restaurants with food, drink, and live music from Rylie Lynn and the Acoustic Trio, **7-9 p.m. Saturday, March 2**, Dogwood Glenn Golf Course Event Center, Warren, \$50, (260) 375-3175

The Vera Bradley Story — Franklin A. Johnson will present lecture in monthly series, **2 p.m. Sunday, March 3**, The History Center, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 426-2882

Tiny Musicians — Those up to 3 years old enjoy nursery rhymes and songs, rhythm and movement exercises, and simple and fun instruments through four once-weekly classes with Esther Coplin, **10-10:45 a.m. Wednesdays, March 6-27**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$60, (260) 432-8176

Music for Moms — Music therapy and wellness exercises range from singing to songwriting, music listening, meditation, visualization/relaxation, stretching to music, and experimenting with instruments over course of four weekly Wednesday sessions, **5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 6-27**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$60, (260) 432-8176

An Evening with Steve Hartman — Emmy-winning CBS correspondent discusses power of kindness during Canterbury Schools' Jonathan Hancock Lecture Series with proceeds benefiting Amani Family Services, **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 484-1414

Wild Walkers: Acres Along the Wabash — Adult hiking group meets on second and fourth Friday of the month, visiting different locations, **9 a.m. Friday, March 8**, Acres Along the Wabash, Bluffton, free, (260) 427-5023

Women Can Do Anything — International Women's Day event will feature live music by She Shed, art exhibit, and speaker panel of Jennifer Cecil, Holly N. Smith, Flor Barron, Nikki Fultz, and Lizette Carmona, **4-9 p.m. Friday, March 8**, Ambrosia Orchard, Hoagland, \$10, (260) 639-4101

Guitar Masterclass w/Ally Venable — Texas blues rock singer-songwriter who's toured with Buddy Guy and Kenny Wayne Shepherd will offer tips on her playing prowess, **7-9 p.m. Friday, March 8**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$75, (260) 432-8176

A Royal Brunch Affair — International Women's Day celebration will feature *Frozen* characters Elsa and Anna and live music, **10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 9**, Union Street Market, Fort Wayne, \$25-\$35, info@fwelectricworks.com

Kickboxing with 9Round — Monthly exercise class aimed at burning calories through kicking and punching, **9-10 a.m. Sunday, March 10**, Promenade Park Pavilion, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6000

Yoga on the Riverfront — Relaxing, one-hour flow for all skill levels with instructor Chelsea Vona, owner of Discover Yoga, **10:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 10**, Promenade Park Pavilion, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-6000

Appetizer & Wine Ensemble Culinary Class — The Olive Twist and Byler Lane Winery are collaborating on class with registration required at theolivetwist.com, **5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14**, Byler Lane Winery, Auburn, \$55.99, (260) 436-3866

Recording Workshop w/Big Big Train — Record a song with progressive rock group alongside Shawn Dealey, who takes you through the entire process, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 15-16**,

Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$995, (260) 432-8176

Midwest Motorcycle & Powersports Expo — Local motorcycle and powersports dealerships bring out their best, with other small businesses joining, **noon-8 p.m. Friday, March 15; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, March 16; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, March 17**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 483-1111

Roetstock: A BobFest — A retirement celebration for longtime Wooden Nickel Records owner will feature live music from The Legendary Trainhoppers, Kenny Taylor, U.R.B., Sunny Taylor, Alicia Pyle, and The High Freqs, **7 p.m. Friday, March 15**, Baker Street Centre, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 426-6434

Get Green Fest — Family friendly event St. Patrick's Day event includes turning St. Marys river green, 5K, gold coin drop, Lucky Charms eating contest, as well as food, drinks, and other kids activities, **9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, March 16**, Orff Park, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 424-2450

Gems of Downtown Fort Wayne — Karen Richards discusses city architecture and the people behind them as part of ARCH's 2024 Fun & Free Lecture Series, **1 p.m. Saturday, March 16**, Cinema Center, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 426-5117

Lucha Libre Mexicana — Mexican wrestling event will featured multiple matches, **8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16**, Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$60, (260) 310-0693

Wild Walkers: Fogwell Forest — Adult hiking group meets on second and fourth Friday of the month, visiting different locations, **8:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23**, Fogwell Forest, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 427-5023

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary Fundraiser w/The Hubie Ashcraft Band — Second annual event will feature live music, food from The Twisted Tiki, a silent auction, **6-10 p.m. Friday, March 22**, Sylvan Cellars Event Center, Rome City, \$20, (260) 636-7383

Tales & Trails — Hear a tale and hike a trail with your preschooler to discover natural wonders around you, **10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 26**, Merry Lea Farmstead, Albion, free, (260) 799-5869

Drum Masterclass w/Tommy Clufetos — Tempo titan that's played with Black Sabbath, Motley Crue, and Alice Copper will offer advice and show techniques, **7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 27**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$100, (260) 432-8176

3-Day Mixing Masterclass w/Michael Brauer — Seven-time Grammy-winning engineer will show you the process he used with John Mayer, The Rolling Stones, and Aretha Franklin, Paul McCartney, and My Morning Jacket, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday, March 29-31**, Sweetwater Studios, Fort Wayne, \$1,195, (260) 432-8176

Tiny Musicians — Those up to 3 years old enjoy nursery rhymes and songs, rhythm and movement exercises, and simple and fun instruments through four once-weekly classes with Esther Coplin, **9-9:45 a.m. or 10-10:45 a.m. Saturdays, March 30-April 27**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$60, (260) 432-8176

Little Rock Stars — Ages 4-5 explore musical genres and instruments, collaborate with others, compose short songs, and expand vocal range over the course of four weekly classes, **11-11:45 a.m. or noon-12:45 p.m. Saturdays, March 30-April 27**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$60, (260) 432-8176

APRIL

Sweetwater Rock Camp Spring Break — Join a band, write a song, record in studio, and perform in front of a crowd during five-day session for musicians ages 12 to 18 years old, **1-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, April 1-5**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$449, (260) 432-8176

Style Emporium — An boutique shopping and runway experience is fundraiser for The Journey, which assists young adults transitioning from unstable childhoods, **9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 6**, Parkview Mirro Center, Fort Wayne, \$50, (260) 705-2800

Quick Hits

LOCAL EVENTS

POET LAUREATE CURTIS CRISLER

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

HYDE BROTHERS, BOOKSELLERS

The Indiana Arts Commission announced in late January that Curtis L. Crisler, a professor of English at Purdue University Fort Wayne, had been appointed Indiana Poet Laureate, a prestigious post representing the Hoosier state and the art of poetry to the education community and public.

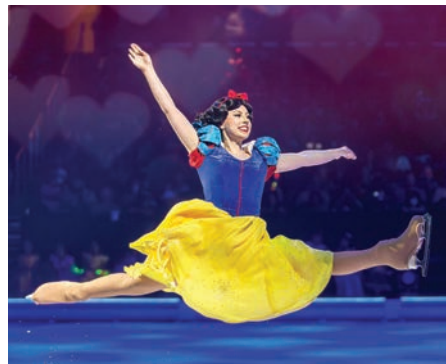
To celebrate, Hyde Brothers Booksellers, 1428 N. Wells St., will host a reception Saturday, Feb. 24, from 5-7 p.m.

The event will include a reading by Crisler featuring selections from his extensive body of work, including his latest book of poetry, *Doing Drive-Bys on How To Find Love in the Midwest*.

Light refreshments will be provided. — Chris Hupe



Curtis Crisler



DISNEY ON ICE

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, FEB. 22-25

MEMORIAL COLISEUM

It is always a special occasion when Disney on Ice comes to town.

This year's adventure, *Mickey's Search Party*, brings the enchanting world of the Magic Kingdom to Memorial Coliseum for seven performances, Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 22-25.

Featuring dynamic moments on the ice and in the air, *Mickey's Search Party* follows a story combining family-friendly entertainment, a soundtrack of hits, and more than 36 familiar and lovable animated characters brought to life, lighting up the ice with world-class displays of athleticism and artistry.

It doesn't matter if you don't know the difference between an axel jump, a camel spin, or a sit spin, just skate on in to your seat, sit back, and surrender to the fun. — Chris Hupe

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WITH SHABOOZEY

Country

MAR
9

BRUCE IN THE USA

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND

Tribute / Classic Rock / Rock

MAR
14

BEARTOOTH

WITH THE PLOT IN YOU, INVENT ANIMATE & SLEEP THEORY

Metalcore / Hard Rock

MAR
21

THE CELTIC TENORS

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

World Music

MAR
23

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON

Tribute / Pop

MAR
26

COLIN HAY

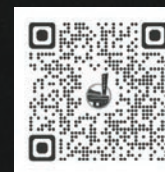
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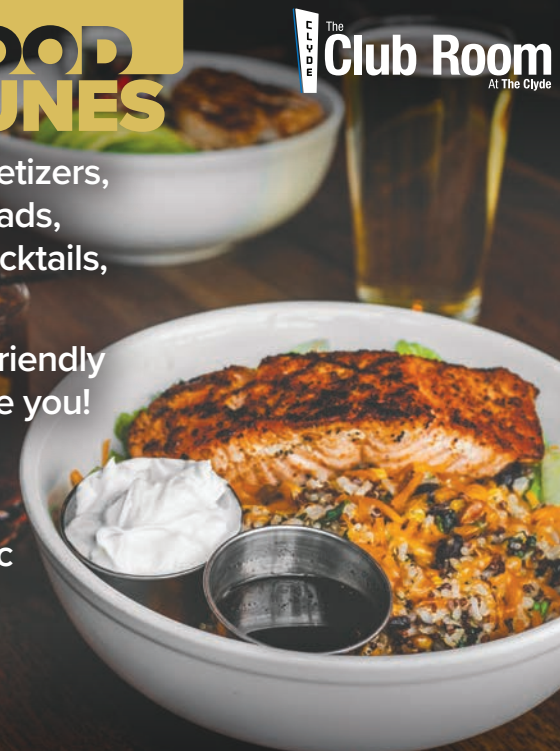
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