

February 15-21, 2024

THINGS TO DO IN FORT WAYNE AND BEYOND

FREE WEEKLY

whatzup

ALSO INSIDE

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PIERE'S: NITA STRAUSS

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calendar!

**ANNUAL WINTER
FESTIVAL RETURNS
DOWNTOWN WITH
MUSIC, FOOD, DRINKS,
AND FIRE PERFORMERS
STORY ON PAGE 6**

WEATHER THE FORT

FORT WAYNE'S FAVORITE

#1 ENTERTAINMENT VENUE*



FEB
24

ROD TUFFCURLS AND THE BENCH PRESS

Tribute

FEB
29

TOWER OF POWER

WITH THE SWEETWATER ALL STARS

Soul / Funk / R&B

MAR
1

RUSSELL DICKERSON

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

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

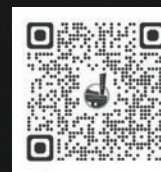
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Calendar listings

Must be received by noon Monday the week of publication for inclusion in that week's issue and, space permitting, will run until the week of the event.

Calendar information is published as far in advance as space permits and should be submitted as early as possible.

Whatzup makes every effort to authenticate claims and accurate times and event locations.

We encourage readers to verify information prior to attending events or purchasing tickets.

Advertising

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

Richard Marx looks to leave his mark at Clyde Theatre

Catch memorable songs, stories during evening with musician on Feb. 18

BY WHEAT WILLIAMS

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

The long wait is over: Richard Marx is returning to Fort Wayne and The Clyde Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 18.

He was last here in February 2020, just before the world locked down. He was touring on a new album, *Limitless*, which hit the top of the streaming pop charts. Since then, he's become a best-selling author with his memoir, *Stories To Tell*, and a stellar album of songs aptly called *Songwriter*.

In October he delighted longtime fans with a single, "Days To Remember," written, recorded, and performed in collaboration with his three sons, Jesse, Lucas, and Brandon.

It's hard to believe, but the eternally youthful Marx is into his fifth decade as a performing artist and songwriter.

Thirty million albums as a solo artist in the iconic MTV era only tell part of the story; nobody can forget those great ballads: "Right Here Waiting," "Angelia," and "Hold On to the Nights." But following a 10-year run as a multi-platinum pop star with a worldwide following, he kept writing songs, solo and in collaboration with A-list artists, and he's never stopped.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

Raised in a family of professional musicians, Marx gave great credit to his pianist and composer/arranger father, who produced jingles for television.

In took some initiative to get his break when he mailed a cassette of singing and songwriting demos, unsolicited, to R&B superstar Lionel Richie. Fortunately, Richie listened it and phoned Marx, saying he ought to come to L.A. for recording studio work. Marx followed that advice, leaving his Chicago home after high school.

When he was only 19, through the mentorship of Richie, Marx began singing backup on major label sessions for other artists, all the while pitching his songs. He provided a couple of huge hits on the country charts for Kenny Rogers. A couple of years later he parlayed his skills into a recording



RICHARD MARX

7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18
The Clyde Theatre
1808 Bluffton Road,
Fort Wayne
\$40-\$90 • (260) 747-0989

COURTESY PHOTO

Richard Marx will make his way to The Clyde Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 18.

contract, climbing the pop charts with the breezy pop-rocker "Don't Mean Nothing."

GOING BEYOND BALLADS

Marx has a cutting, soaring high tenor register and is more than capable on piano and guitar.

Fans like me want to remind you that even though he's thought of as a ballad singer, Marx released an eyebrow-raising, fist-pumping run of hard rock anthems produced and performed with the likes of Fee Waybill of The Tubes and Steve Lukather of Toto.

I urge you to check out Marx's third album, *Rush Street*, from 1991. Besides the arena rockers, the sleeper hit from that album was "Hazard," a downright spooky murder mystery ballad which is a fan favorite that he still performs today.

As a songwriter, he scored hits with Madonna, NSYNC, metal band Vixen, Vince Gill, Josh Groban, Sarah Brightman, Luther Vandross, Kenny Loggins, Barbra Streisand, Natalie Cole, Toni Braxton, and the list goes on. In the last decade he's written for Lifehouse and Chris Daughtry and had a couple of hit records for Keith Urban, with whom he continues to collaborate.

FIRE STILL BURNS

All this is the run-up to his thoroughly enjoyable 2022 album *Songwriter*: 20 new songs which he self-produced and recorded with collaborations and an impressive roster of co-writers.

Marx has nothing to prove and nobody to please, and he doesn't have to fit into anybody's

pre-conceived ideas about genre or format.

Songwriter is an album of everything Marx excels at: pop, hard rock, country, and ballads alongside each other. It's clear the formula for his continued success is he writes songs that make sense to him; he's long past the time when a record label made him conform to an image.

Some songs on *Songwriter* were written by Marx solo, but he presents many more co-written with a long list of colleagues including Urban, Darius Rucker, David Hodges of Evanescence, Matt Scannell of Vertical Horizon, Daughtry, Jason Wade of Lifehouse, Richard Page of Mr. Mister, Nashville songwriting legend Gary Burr, and Burt Bacharach, who passed away just a year ago at 94.

All of the tracks sound fresh, contemporary in their arrangements, and polished; you could take them as a Richard Marx solo album or as a catalog of demos to pitch to the big stars in the music business machine that Marx has been handling deftly more than 40 years.

None of my descriptions are needed by the Fort Wayne fans who are going to come out to The Clyde in force to see their favorite ageless heartthrob sing those beloved ballads.

Rest assured that Marx knows well that the fans want to hear his greatest hits as a solo artist from back in the day, and to listen to him tell the many stories he recounts from his memoir.

It might still be winter, but Marx is coming back around to recall those "Endless Summer Nights."

IMTF plans wonderful Black History Month show

Annual concert series shines spotlight on the iconic Stevie Wonder

BY ANTHONY GADSON

WHATZUP EDITOR

When Indiana Musical Theatre Foundation got their own space, Alex Leavell's dream to highlight Black voices came true.

In 2022, the IMTF program and marketing director began his Black History Month Concert Series with an ode to Sam Cooke, with Otis Redding following last year.

This time around, things are going to get a bit more funky with *The Songs of Stevie Wonder* at RKF Studios, tucked away at 2446 Lake Ave., on Friday-Saturday, Feb. 23-24.

"It's going to be different," Leavell said of this year's show. "I've spoken to the band members and Peter Klopfenstein, our great leader of (The IMTF All-Star Band), and it's much tougher, much more groovy."

"Everyone is having a little harder time with it, just because it's so funky compared to the others. Otis and Sam, that's late '50s, early '60s stuff. It's much more straightforward on the band side. Stevie was just so unique in the way he formed his music. It's really hard to emulate him and his band."

TAKING ON CHALLENGE

As the band of keyboardist Klopfenstein, guitarist Adam Robison, bassist Trevor Perkins, trumpeter Todd Roth, saxophonist John Leavell, and drummer Bray Coughlin carry the beat, Albert Brownlee, Prentis Moore, Martel



Alex Leavell

Harris, Tamia Beverly, Roth, Jordan Weatherbe, Dave Ealy, Eric Biden, Fatima Washington, and Jake Wilhelm will handle vocals.

"It's a much longer set-list this year," Leavell said. "Stevie has had so many albums and his songbook

is so massive. So, we upped it to about 26 songs, where in the past it's been about 18."

Showcasing the Saginaw, Michigan, icon was a no-brainer for Leavell.

"Stevie's awesome," he said bluntly. "When I bought my little record player my freshman year of college, my very first album I bought was *Songs in the Key of Life*. I just used to play that all the time in my dorm room. When my wife and I got married, as soon as we had our first kiss and walked back down the aisle to celebrate, 'Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)' was playing."

"He really is timeless. It's crazy how long he's been around and how much he has given to people who love music. He's an icon."



COURTESY PHOTO

Indiana Musical Theatre Foundation's third annual Black History Month Concert Series will feature *The Songs of Stevie Wonder* at RKF Studios, Feb. 23-24.

VAST CATALOG

Wonder's been around since 1950, becoming blind shortly after his birth. He signed with Motown Records at 11 years old and released his first album, *The Jazz Soul of Little Stevie*, at 12.

It was his fifth album, 1967's *Up-Tight*, when he began to write more of his own material, garnering acclaim and earning two Grammy nominations with the album. He released 23 studio albums, winning 25 Grammys and creating such iconic albums 1972's *Music of My Mind*, 1972's *Talking Book*, 1973's *Innervisions*, and 1976's *Songs in the Key of Life*.

Choosing songs for the show was likely tough for Leavell to select since the hits are nearly endless, such as "I Was Made To Love Her," "Isn't She Lovely," "I Wish," "I Just Called To Say I Love You," "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," "Part-Time Lover," "For Once in My Life," "My Cherie Amour," "Master Blaster," "I Believe," "Higher Ground," "Sir Duke," "As," and, of course, "Superstition."

"It's so strange because some of his songs are very much, 'I'm just going to sing a ballad,' but then on other ones he's riffing all over the

place and there's weird stuff going on," Leavell said.

And his sound is never stagnant.

"He was someone who was willing to change with the times," Leavell said. "When the '70s rolled around, he got a little more funky, a lot more disco groove with it. In the '60s, it was that straightforward soul music. In the '80s, it was little more poppy. The thing with Stevie is, he's been around so long you can track the years he was releasing his albums because they were all so different. That's really unique for a singer."

With an evolving songbook, Leavell said the show will keep you on your feet, as they will not be coming at you in chronological order.

"We're just jamming," he said. "I try to make a good mix of ballads versus his up-tempo stuff. I'm really practicing my DJ skills on this one to see how to work a crowd with this music."

"It's a very eclectic mix of music. I'm just doing my best to make sure the crowd has time on the dance floor but also some time to rest their dancing feet as well. They're going to be dancing a lot."

THE SONGS OF STEVIE WONDER INDIANA MUSICAL THEATRE FOUNDATION

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 23-24

RKF Studios

2446 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne

\$15 · imftinc@gmail.com

CELEBRATION OF BLACK PERFORMERS

According to Leavell, those crowds are also getting larger, which might lead to even more performances in the future.

"We had so many people that came (last year) because they had missed out on the (Sam Cooke) show because they had no idea it had happened," he said. "They said, 'We're coming back next year and bringing our friends.'"

"We've already had a great start to ticket sales. We're looking to make this maybe a three-show thing, a four-show thing in the future instead of just the two nights. We are getting some great feedback and people are really enjoying themselves out there."

On top of showcasing iconic Black singers, IMTF's Black History Month Series showcases incredible local Black talent. This month has already given us Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's *The Color Purple* and Genesis Outreach's *Ragtime the Musical*, productions showcasing Black stories and performers.

IMTF and Genesis Outreach actually worked together on *Ragtime* with the show's producer and actor Albert Brownlee also performing in the Stevie Wonder show.

"He wanted to make sure (*Ragtime*) didn't interfere with the Stevie show (dates) because he wanted this to be a collaboration sort of thing where we could have as many shows out there that celebrate Black voices and history," Leavell said.

Along with Brownlee, Leavell is in *Ragtime*, as is Washington, Wilhelm, Ealy, and Moore, while Beverly stars in *The Color Purple*.

That leads to a quick turnaround for the performers, but it's worth it.

"I think we as a community in Fort Wayne could do a much better job of celebrating Black voices and celebrating our Black artists," Leavell said. "Even if it's not a show geared toward a Black ensemble or Black cast."

As for next year's concert/show, Aretha Franklin is a possibility ... Leavell is just waiting on the right female voices to step forward.

"My thing with Aretha is, I'm only going to do it if I have the massive female talent that I need to do that," he said. "I mean, guys can sing it ... but you have to have the female talent for it."

"I definitely want to get a female singer in here at some point. The three years of male singers is great and they're fantastic, but I think we need to share the greatness of the female soloist as well."



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN J. BAILEY

Downtown Fort Wayne will bring the community together with live music, ice carvings, food and drink, and a fire performance at the ninth annual Weather the Fort on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Downtown nails the landing with Weather the Fort

Annual winter festival returns with music, food, drinks on Feb. 17

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

If you're looking for an excuse to get out of the house this month — either with your kids or solo — look no further than The Landing in downtown Fort Wayne.

Enjoy the outdoors with food, drinks, live music, ice carvers, and fire performers when Downtown Fort Wayne hosts the ninth annual Weather the Fort on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 3-8 p.m.

FUN FOR ALL

This will be the second year Downtown Fort Wayne has organized the event, taking over for The Landing.

Preston Wallace, director of marketing for Downtown Fort Wayne, recalled feeling “incredibly thrilled” when his organization obtained the winter festival. He said the event focuses on embracing and celebrating the winter weather that Indiana “so gracefully provides us.”

Much like Fort Wayne Park & Recreation's Winterval, Wallace said Weather the Fort aims

to fill the void of major events in the first quarter of the year by providing a venue for the community to converge and enjoy live music, interactive rock painting, and good eats.

“Really, it's just a fun way to come together and gather as a community and celebrate the arts and cultural aspects that make downtown Fort Wayne such a great place,” he said.

Families with young kids will not want to miss a free meet and greet with *Frozen* characters Anna and Kristoff from 4-6 p.m.

“It's a really fun time for families to be able to bring their young kids out and have them have the opportunity to meet some of their favorite characters from some of these great wintertime hits,” Wallace said. “We've seen a lot of kids dress up and be prepared and ready to meet these characters dressed in the same costumes or outfits as them. It's a great photo opportunity and the kids always enjoy it.”

Outside of the opportunity to meet wintry characters, Wallen Road Band will provide live music from 3-5 p.m., followed by The Be Colony from 5:45-7:30 p.m.

Pyroscope Entertainment will close the night with a fire performance at 7:40 p.m.

“These performers are really talented and incredible at what they do,” Wallace said. “So to be able to watch them put on this fire performance as they dance, it's just really incredible to watch, particularly in such a vibrant area like The Landing.”

WEATHER THE FORT

3-5 p.m. — Wallen Road Band
3-7 p.m. — Interactive rock painting
3:30 p.m. — Ice carvings
4-6 p.m. — *Frozen* characters
5:45-7:30 p.m. — The Be Colony
7:30 p.m. — Weather the Fort toast
7:40 p.m. — Pyroscope performance
The Landing
111 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne
Free • (260) 420-3266

HAVE A DRINK

Wallace pointed out that Weather the Fort also provides an opportunity for businesses on The Landing and in the surrounding area to thrive during a season that usually sees a slowdown in shopping and going out to eat.

“It's a really great opportunity to go out and support those local businesses at a time that they really need it most,” he said.

Cocktail bars Dana's and Night Train, which plan to open on The Landing in the spring, will provide craft beer tapings at 3 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6:45 p.m.

While Weather the Fort has been known as a “beer-heavy event” in past years, Wallace said this year's festivalgoers can also look forward to hot mulled wine, cocktails, and non-alcoholic cocktails, in addition to coffee and water.

COME TOGETHER

Wallace, who said Weather the Fort is one of his favorite events, added the festival also affords festivalgoers who have not experienced the beauty and offerings of The Landing the opportunity to interact with vendors and the built environment.

“And it's a fun way for these new businesses to be able to tease what they're going to have to offer on the Landing in the next month or so as they get ready to gear up for openings,” he said.

Overall, building community and beating the winter blues remains an outsized benefit of the event.

Wallace thinks it is important to “provide an avenue for people to come together” this time of the year, especially because people have a “desire and need to get out and interact,” particularly with friends and neighbors.

“It's another great opportunity to make memories in downtown Fort Wayne, and it's no secret downtown is growing and developing at a never-before-seen rate,” he said. “And so, to really be in the heart of the city, and experience all that we have to offer, particularly as we continue to grow and flourish as a thriving arts and cultural scene in the downtown community, it's a great time to be a part of that and experience it firsthand and continue to make good lasting memories with family friends.”

Get ready to jam with Leftover Salmon

On Saturday, June 1, Sweetwater Performance Pavilion welcomes the progressive-bluegrass jam band **Leftover Salmon** with special guests **The Infamous Stringdusters**.

Leftover Salmon have been going strong more than 30 years and are a crucial link in keeping alive the traditional music of the past while pushing that sound forward with their own weirdly unique style.

In 2019, they were profiled in the book *Leftover Salmon: Thirty Years of Festival!* which chronicled the band's influential history and their role in the development of the jam band and jam-grass scenes. They even continue to create new music, including 2023's *Grass Roots*.

Out and About

NICK BRAUN

With Nashville, Tennessee-based The Infamous Stringdusters, you're sure to enjoy this evening for a no-holds barred, bluegrass-infused, Cajun-tinged, high-octane blast of ridiculous fun. Plus, it's a Saturday night.

Tickets are available at the Sweetwater campus and at sweetwaterpavilion.com and ticketmaster.com.

April in The Garden features acoustic music

Details have surfaced for a new spring event called April in The Garden, a two-day concert series offering some of the best acoustic music around.

The event will take place at The Garden on North Anthony Boulevard on Wednesday, April 24, and Thursday, April 25, with music beginning at 7 p.m. each evening.

The first night will include performances by multi-instrumentalist **Rachael Davis** of Nashville, Tennessee, and Fort Wayne native **Addison Agen**. The following evening will see Nashville's **Tall Poppy String Band** featuring fiddler **George Jackson**, guitarist **Morgan Harris**, and banjoist **Cameron DeWhitt**, as well as the Scandinavian string trio **Northern Resonance**.

Tickets for these intimate and limited-seating performances (max 75 tickets) can be purchased through The Garden's Facebook page..

Plenty of St. Paddy's music at JK O'Donnell's

JK O'Donnell's have announced the music lineup for their St. Patrick's Day weekend.

On Saturday, March 16, the lineup consists of **The Ragtag Bunch** from 4-5:30 p.m., **Soltre** from 6-7:30 p.m.,



COURTESY PHOTO

Jam band pioneers **Leftover Salmon** will perform at Sweetwater Performance Pavilion on June 1.

Shiny Shiny Black from 8-9:30 p.m., and **James & The Drifters** from 10 p.m.-midnight.

On Sunday, it's the one and only **Debutants** from 5-8p.m.

This year they will have their party on The Pitch, their new outside bar right behind the pub along the alleyway.

This is a 21-and-over event all weekend with a \$5 cover charge each day.

Nita Strauss returns to Piere's

Guitar wiz **Nita Strauss** is out on the road supporting her most recent solo album, *The Call of the Void*, and also fresh off a televised performance of The National Anthem prior to NASCAR's 2024 Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum.

The Los Angeles-born guitarist recently announced a string of U.S. headlining dates that includes a stop at Piere's on Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., where we last saw her in July.

Whether you've seen her solo or shredding with Alice Cooper, you are in for a treat.

Dimante and **Starbenders** will serve as openers. Tickets are available at etix.com and all Wooden Nickel locations.

In addition, Piere's have also added a couple more shows to their calendar including the metalcore band **Heartsick** on March 8, pioneers of sludge metal **Crowbar** on April 6 in Stan's Room, and **Southern Rock Authority: A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd** on April 20.

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

Quick Hit LOCAL EVENT

DAVY KNOWLES

SATURDAY, FEB. 17 · BAKER STREET CENTRE

One of Fort Wayne's favorite blues guitarists, Davy Knowles, returns to the city Saturday, Feb. 17, for a night filled with guitar histrionics and memorable songs with his full band at Baker Street Centre.

A frequent visitor to the Summit City since his days with Back Door Slam, Knowles has steadily built an audience that appreciates his

strong stage presence and consistent, energetic performances.

Touring in support of his fourth solo album, *If I Should Wander*, this will be your chance to see why rock legend Peter Frampton called him "the gunslinger guitarist of the 21st century" and guitar hero Joe Satriani called him his "favorite Bluesman." — *Chris Hupe*



Davy Knowles



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming Shows



Honeywell Center
Feb. 17



Honeywell Center
Feb. 24



Honeywell Center
March 2



Honeywell Center
March 3



Honeywell Center
March 23



Eagles Theatre
March 28

Scan for a list of
live shows



Dining is offered before most Honeywell Center shows at Eugenia's, located just steps from the theater.

For information on tickets or dining,
[visit honeywellarts.org](http://honeywellarts.org)



SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

MARCH 15-24, 2024

Author John Guare
Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab
Rated R

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Steel Dynamics

Six Degrees of Separation is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.

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theatre

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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 cones & \$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

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Teen artists, writers honored by museum

Fort Wayne Museum of Art has announced their regional award winners of the 2024 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Presented by the nonprofit organization the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the 101st Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the country's longest-running and



News and Venues

JEN POIRY PROUGH

most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12. This year, nearly 100,000 teens from across the United States and Canada submitted their best art and writing.

From northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio, 506 teens received regional honors, including Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mention, and American Visions & Voices nominations, from local Scholastic Awards Affiliate, Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

The following students received the top regional honor, the American Visions & Voices nomination, signifying their work as best-in-show.

Gold Key and American Visions Nomination for their artwork:

- Sawyer Carl, Grade 8, Riverview Middle School. Photography.
- Michelle Chupp, Grade 11, Carroll High School. Mixed Media.
- Gillian Davies, Grade 11, Bryan Middle High School. Painting.
- Lauren Finley, Grade 10, Carroll High School. Fashion.
- Monica Wojewuczki, Grade 12, Canterbury High School. Painting.

Gold Key and American Voices Nomination for their writing:

- Isabella Ambrose, Grade 12, Homestead High School. Journalism.

In celebration of this year's regional award winners, Fort Wayne Museum of Art will host an Open House Celebration on Sunday, Feb. 18, from noon-5 p.m.

The exhibition of awarded works will be on display through April 7. This exhibition will be closed to the public Feb. 26-March 4 for the ARTrageous Gala and Auction fundraiser as well as March 31 for Easter.

Brides-to-be flock to Grand Wayne Center

The 17th annual Bridal Extravaganza will be held at Grand Wayne Convention Center on Sunday, Feb. 18, from noon-4 p.m.

Meet with area wedding professionals to help plan your wedding day; see the latest trends in cakes, flowers,

décor; and register to win giveaways valued at \$500.

The first 250 registered brides-to-be will receive a tote bag with a bridal planner and a copy of *Fort Wayne Magazine Weddings*.

Admission is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Register at EventBrite.com.

Reception set for concurrent Artlink exhibits

A reception will be held for two concurrent exhibits at Artlink from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15.

Conversations: Shared and Reflected is a solo exhibition by Robert Schroeder that includes metalsmithing reliquaries fabricated as furniture shaped metal boxes, accompanied with corresponding framed collages of drawings and preparatory materials reflecting and explaining the ideas and processes behind the creation of each sculpture.

The other exhibition is *Influences*, a group exhibit that was juried by artist and educator Trevor Campbell and explores the connection between high school educators and their students.

The two exhibitions run through March 10. For more information, go to artlinkfw.org/upcoming.

Still time to catch *Color Purple*, *Ragtime*

Fort Wayne theater groups are offering a number of theatrical productions to honor Black History Month which continue this weekend.

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is presenting the musical *The Color Purple* through Sunday, Feb. 18, at Arts United Center.

This musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and the popular 1985 Steven Spielberg film) spotlights Celie, a downtrodden young woman whose personal awakening over the course of 40 years forms the arc of this epic story. With a joyous score featuring jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music, and blues, *The Color Purple* is a story of hope, a testament to the healing power of love, and a celebration of life. For tickets, go to fwcivic.org.

At the University of Saint Francis' Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, Genesis Outreach is producing *Ragtime the Musical*.

The show tells multiple stories of immigration, racial barriers, capitalism, and women finding their voice — all topics that are as relevant today as they were in 1906, when the musical is set.

For tickets for *Ragtime*, go to showtix4u.com and search "Genesis."

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.

Quick Hit LOCAL EVENT

TURNSTONE CASINO NIGHT FRIDAY, FEB. 16 · TURNSTONE

Enjoy the atmosphere of Las Vegas without the expensive plane ride when you attend Casino Night at the Turnstone Center on Friday, Feb. 16, from 6-10 p.m. at The Plassman Athletic Center, 3320 N. Clinton St.

This popular fundraiser for Turnstone, a one-of-a-kind nonprofit that provides comprehensive services to meet the unique needs of children and adults with

physical, visual, developmental, and neurological disabilities, is in its 47th year and helps offset costs associated with the care they provide year-round.

Featuring a cash bar and tastings from local food vendors, in addition to the games of chance, this is an event that benefits the entire community. Tickets are \$75. — *Chris Hupe*

Embassy, city eateries partner on deal

Embassy Theatre is teaming up with local restaurants to give showgoers a discount on their meals that day. More than 20 central city restaurants are participating in the campaign, aptly called *Dinner & A Show*.

“Supporting local restaurants helps everyone meet challenging revenue goals while offering patrons a much appreciated deal on their dining or drinking experience,” said a press release from The Embassy.



Off the Eaten Path

DEAN JACKSON

Just show your event ticket, before or after the show, to receive special pricing on discounts that show day.

Participating restaurants include Burger Bar on Jefferson, Charlie's Place, Conner's Rooftop, Copper Spoon, Davey's Delicious Bagels & Coffee, el Azteca, GK Cafe and Provisions, The Green Frog, Kanela, Kilwins, Mercado, Nawa, Nori, Proof, Saisaki, Sweets on Main, and various eateries at Union Street Market.

For a full list of participating restaurants and their deals, go to fwembassytheatre.org/restaurant-partners.

Dash-In brings back dinner for a night

It's been a little while since Dash-In has been open for dinner, so when they are, it's news.

On Wednesday, March 13, the shop at 814 S. Calhoun St. will host Dinner at Dash-In with a specially curated four-course menu.

The menu has not been finalized, but a Facebook post says: “The best of our best have come up with an amazing menu for you to choose from meat, fish, vegan, or gluten-free options.”

This is reservation only, and you may choose the 5-7 p.m. time slot or 7-9 p.m. There will be bar seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets are \$55 per person. Call (260) 423-4595 or stop by to make your reservation.

Laly's Pizza opens in Huntington

Huntington has a new pizzeria with Laly's Pizza and Cocktails, 32 Washington St., opening a few weeks ago.

Owners Brayden and Jonairys Bradley have remodeled what was once the Uptown Tavern. It's open daily from noon-10 p.m. and Sundays from 1-9 p.m.

The Bradleys also operate Gabriella's Old Time Pizza in Gas City. They specialize in pizzas, sandwiches, and

wings. The owners boast interiors designed to make you want to snap photos.

Pizza King opens 6th location in Allen County

Pizza King is now open in Huntertown at 11934 Lima Crossing, bringing the number of locations in Allen County to six.

Talking about Pizza King, the man who started that pizza tradition in Indiana passed away in late January. Wendell Swartz was 99. Before baking Indiana's beloved pizza, he was a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber in World War II, flying dozens of missions and receiving four bronze stars.

He opened his first store in 1956 in Lafayette. There are more than 80 stores with the Pizza King name in Indiana.

Son takes over Italian Grille in Auburn

The Italian Grille, 227 N. Duesenberg Drive, Auburn, has a new owner.

In January, Ben Armstrong purchased the eatery from his parents, George and Nan. The elder Armstrongs operated the joint about 16 years. They'll still be involved, but they wanted to take a step back.

Blaze Pizza introduces meatballs to menu

Blaze Pizza has introduced its new Fast Fire'd Meatballs — three meatballs in their house-made red sauce, ricotta cheese, and banana peppers.

Lunch buffet returns to Pizza Hut

Pizza Hut will resume their lunch buffet from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at their Fort Wayne locations at Northwood, Pine Valley, and Coventry shopping plazas beginning Friday, Feb. 16.

Mexican restaurant opens on Fairfield

Cozumel Restaurante Mexicano has opened up at 2202 Fairfield Ave., the former home of Las Lomas.

In addition to the new name, there's a new look and a brand-new menu. It bills itself as “Fort Wayne's new favorite Mexican restaurant” and uses the tagline “tacos, tequila, and terrific times.”

It's open from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Sunday. Cozumel will host a grand opening March 1.

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.

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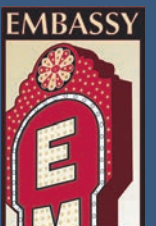
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Live Music LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

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

Jesse Toombs — Country/rock, 7 p.m., Spudz Bar & Grill, New Haven, no cover, (260) 493-7292

Joe Justice — Variety, 7 p.m., Townhouse Retirement Center, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 483-3116

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

Todd Harrold & Eric Clancy — Jazz, 6 p.m., Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-9463

Tronic Thursdays — Electronic, 10 p.m., O'Sullivan's, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 422-5896

Unspoken — Contemporary Christian, 7 p.m., Eagles Theatre, Wabash, \$25-\$39, (260) 563-1102

Winter Jam 2024 w/Crowder, Lecrae, Cain, Kate Nichole, Seventh Day Slumber, NewSong — Contemporary Christian, 6 p.m., Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$15, (260) 483-1111

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Arrival From Sweden: The Music of ABBA — ABBA tribute, 7:30 p.m., Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$29-\$89, (260) 563-1102

Cherry Bomb — Rock, 9 p.m., Bobby McGee's, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 444-2620

Death Hex w/Kingslaya, Green Leaves — Metal, 8 p.m., Pierre's, Fort Wayne, \$10, (260) 492-6064

Debutants w/Daily Driver — Bluegrass/rock, 5:30 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

Immortal Ruin w/Riot Division, Lotus Moth — Metal, 9 p.m., Carl's Tavern, New Haven, \$8, (260) 749-9133

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

Jeff & Janice Anne — Acoustic, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

Lincoln Chamber Ensemble — Choral, 7:30 p.m., USF Woman's Club, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, (779) 216-0521

Nickel Creek w/The Staves — Bluegrass, 8 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$39.50, (260) 747-0989

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

Piques w/Best Sleep, Joyhouse — Rock, 9:30 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Ron Rumbaugh — Variety, 6:30 p.m., VFW Post 857, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-0032

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

Scotty Butters — Variety, 8 p.m., Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-9463

Shannon Persinger — Variety, 6:30 p.m., Club Soda, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-3442

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

Square Dance Night w/The Breakaway Band — Country, 8 p.m., Hoagland Hayloft, Hoagland, \$15, (260) 639-7205

The Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country, 8:30 p.m., Mitchell's, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 387-5063

The Legendary Trainhoppers w/Rosalind & The Way — Americana, 8 p.m., The B-Side at One Lucky Guitar, Fort Wayne, Sold Out, (260) 969-6672

Todd Harrold & Eric Clancy — Jazz, 10 p.m., Rack & Helen's, New Haven, no cover, (260) 749-5396

Tom Koenig — Acoustic variety, 8 p.m., Club Paradise, Angola, no cover, (260) 833-7082

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8420 Band — Classic rock, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 381, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-2477

BigMeow — 80s, 6 p.m., E Brewing Company, South Whitley, no cover, (574) 377-6098

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

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

Daniel Rylander — Singer-songwriter, 7 p.m., Draft Taproom, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 739-3147

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

Ethan William Bowers — Americana, 7 p.m., K-ville Pub, Kendallville, no cover, (260) 349-1677

Gregg Bender Trio — Classic rock, 7 p.m., Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 426-2537

Hed Wurms — Rock, 9 p.m., Thirty3, Hudson, no cover, (260) 818-6336

Janice Ann & Power Train — Country/rock, 8 p.m., The Local Saloon, Roanoke, no cover, (260) 676-2233

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

#IYKYK — Pop, 9 p.m., Traxside Bar & Grill, Garrett, no cover, (260) 357-4287

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

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

Joe Donnell — Variety, 6 p.m., Cupka's Bee Good Meadery, Auburn, Free, (260) 233-2100

Joe Justice — Variety, 9 a.m., YLNI Farmers Market, Olde East End Building, Fort Wayne, Free

Joe Justice — Variety, 6 p.m., Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, Free, (260) 637-2980

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Live Music LOCAL CALENDAR

▶ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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

Jordan Bridges — Variety, 8 p.m., Sylvan Cellars, Rome City, no cover, (260) 854-9463

Lateralus w/Deadspin, Total Head-case — Tool tribute, 8 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$20, (260) 492-6064

Liz Rexroth — Harp, 2 p.m., Cupka's Bee Good Meadery, Auburn, Free, (260) 233-2100

Los Electro w/Lalo Cura — Latin rock, 9:45 p.m., The Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 267-5303

Lou Gramm — Rock, 7:30 p.m., Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$39-\$149, (260) 563-1102

Radio Blast — Classic hits, 8:30 p.m., Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 432-8966

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

The Be Colony — Rock, 5:45 p.m., The Landing, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 222-7174

Tom Koenig — Acoustic variety, 9:30 p.m., Hanger 9 Bar and Grill, Auburn, no cover, (260) 925-6226

Wallen Road — Variety, 3 p.m., The Landing, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 222-7174

Walt's Crawlers — Honky tonk, 10 p.m., O'Sullivan's, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 422-5896

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Johnny Cash: The Ultimate Concert Experience — Johnny Cash tribute, 3 p.m., Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, \$29-\$69, (419) 238-6722

Random Animal Parts — Alternative, 7 p.m., The Ruin, Fort Wayne, \$7, (260) 399-6336

Richard Marx — Rock, 7 p.m., The Clyde Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$85, (260) 747-0989

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

Joe Justice — Variety, 10 a.m., The Laurels, Butler, Free, (260) 868-2164

Open Mic Night — 6:30 p.m., Sweet-water Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Joe Justice — Variety, 3 p.m., Arbor Glen Senior Living, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 492-2202

Norman Light — Variety, 7 p.m., Thirty3, Hudson, no cover, (260) 818-6336

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

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic, 7 p.m., Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 489-0840

Michale Graves — Acoustic, 8 p.m., Thirty3, Hudson, \$8, (260) 818-6336

Q & The Cold Fusion — Jazz, 7 p.m., The Club Room at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 747-0989

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

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

Tronic Thursdays — Electronic, 10 p.m., O'Sullivan's, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 422-5896

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., Piere'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, Sweet-water Sound, Fort Wayne, Free, (260) 432-8176

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

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

J Menace w/Zeus Rebel Waters, Alex MacDonald, AceSosa, Caz Kush, Itsya-girlmercy, Mr Swagga, Too Redd, OSG, ItzShlz, FHB Flick, TDotMarley, Ennis Brown, Sir Porter, L.Capone, Megastar — Hip-hop/R&B, 10 p.m., Piere'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

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

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Live Music LOCAL CALENDAR

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 — Alternative, 6 p.m., E Brewing Company, South Whitley, no cover, (574) 377-6098

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

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

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 tributes, 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

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

Smokestack Jack — Classic rock, 8 p.m., The Hideaway, Bluffton, no cover, (260) 824-0455

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

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

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

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

Tronic Thursdays — Electronic, 10 p.m., O’Sullivan’s, Fort Wayne, no cover, (260) 422-5896

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, Fort Wayne, 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 — 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

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

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, (260) 209-2930

Live Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Aprile Macie — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$22, (260) 844-8444

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Aprile Macie — 7:30 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$22, (260) 844-8444

Uncle Lazer — 8 p.m., Piere's, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$35, (260) 492-6064

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Aprile Macie — 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$22, (260) 844-8444

Will Abeles w/Brandon Jarrell — 8 p.m., Fort Wayne Comedy Club @ 469, New Haven, \$25-\$30, (260) 426-6339

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Ginger Billy — 7:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$50, (260) 844-8444

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Ginger Billy — 7 p.m. and 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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

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

Jason Mewes — 7:30 p.m. and 10:15 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$28-\$35, (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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Anjelah Johnson-Reyes — 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m., Summit City Comedy Club, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$50, (260) 844-8444

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

Rodney Carrington — 7 p.m., Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, (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

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

Department of Theatre



By William Shakespeare
Directed by Jeff Casazza

Feb. 16-24

University Box Office
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pfw.edu/tickets

Quick Hits LOCAL EVENTS

DEBUTANTS & DAILY DRIVER

FRIDAY, FEB. 16 · THE CLUB ROOM AT THE CLYDE

The Feb. 16 edition of Friday Night Vibes at The Club Room at The Clyde will feature two of Fort Wayne's hottest bands.

The seven-piece blue-grass-loving Debutants will take the stage at 5:30 p.m., serving as the pre-party to the 8 p.m. Nickel Creek show next door at The Clyde Theatre.

Debutants will show off songs from their debut album, *River on the Moon*, as well as other crowd favorites in



PHOTO BY SMILEY FACE MEDIA

what promises to be a raucous performance.

At 8 p.m., Daily Driver will take the stage with their unique blend of blues, funk, jazz, rock, country, and R&B creating a tasty treat to be enjoyed the rest of the evening.

Featuring the trio of former Oak Ridge Boys guitarist Don Carr, bassist Mark

Stein, and drummer Wayne Davis, Daily Driver will not disappoint. — *Chris Hupe*

MICHALE GRAVES

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21 · THIRTY3

While you might not think of Hudson, Indiana, when it comes to attending a fantastic rock show, it will be the place to be Wednesday, Feb. 21, when former Misfits singer Michale Graves stops by Thirty3, 302 N. Main St.

Graves fronted the horror punk legends from 1995-2000 and appeared on the albums *American Psycho* and *Famous Monsters*.

His unique ability to command an audience with just his voice and a guitar will be on display during this performance as his One Man Road Show tour sees him telling stories about his time with the band and performing songs from those two albums acoustically during the night.

Entry is only \$8 for the 8 p.m. show. — *Chris Hupe*



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Thumbelina brought to life by young ballerinas

Interactive activities follow Family Series shows at Auer Center

BY EMMA BACHTEL
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Fort Wayne Ballet proves the old saying that great things often come in small packages when they present *Thumbelina* as part of their Family Series.

Brought to life by the trainees of FWB and pre-professional students of Auer Academy, this show is perfect for the entire family, especially the little ones.

The performance will last approximately 30 minutes, followed by a creative movement experience and craft activities for an hour.

There will be two performances on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Fort Wayne Ballet's Studio A in Auer Center for Arts and Culture. The first show begins at 10 a.m. followed by another at noon.

FAIRY TALE

Written in 1835 by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, *Thumbelina* is about a fairy born from a flower and no larger than a thumb. This little girl is kidnapped by toads and promised in marriage to Mr. Mole. However, Thumbelina must escape them all to find her Flower Prince.

Raleigh Sparrow, co-director of the FWB Youth Company, is thrilled to bring this story to the stage with her counterpart Avalou Burns.

"*Thumbelina* was performed by FWB a really long time ago, before I was here," Sparrow said. "It was always one of those stories I really loved growing up, so I really wanted to try and bring it to life."

Of course, this version of *Thumbelina* will be ballet, with a hint of musical theater choreographed by Sparrow and Burns.

"It will be mostly ballet, but there is an old-timey musical theater number in there, and there is also a salsa-inspired number," Sparrow said. "This show will definitely keep the dancers and the audience on their toes."

Karen Gibbons-Brown, artistic director of FWB, is a guest choreographer for one piece in this show.

"It's really great to see the students grow and develop," Gibbons-Brown said. "I've had a blast working with them in rehearsals."

A FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Thumbelina will be unique compared to

traditional FWB performances since it is part of their Family Series.

This show is truly catered toward FWB's youngest audience members with a shorter runtime and intimate seating.

"I think my favorite thing about the Family Series performances is seeing the kids' reaction in the audience because they're so close to the dancers," Sparrow said.

This proximity to the action has created the opportunity for comical moments.

Sparrow recounted a time that a 1-year-old decided to "waddle up on stage" with the dancers and join the show.

"The dancers were great about it," Sparrow said. "They just rolled with the punches."

Sparrow also talked about how fun it is for kids to see the fairy tales their parents grew up hearing.

"Last year, when we performed *Peter Pan*, there was a mom who realized her child had never seen *Peter Pan* before," Sparrow said. "She came up to me and said that she had to go home and show her child the movie after the show."

This is a wonderful example of how Family Series shows are a great experience for parents and kids alike.

INTERACTING WITH DANCERS

In addition to the 30-minute performances, kids will also be invited to join the dancers in a creative movement class and to create a craft related to the show.

The creative movement class will be led by Burns, who also teaches the little kids at the Auer Academy.

This 10-15 minute class will give aspiring ballet dancers the chance to see what taking a real dance class is like. The dancers who performed in *Thumbelina* will join the class.

"The kids and the dancers have a lot of fun with it," Sparrow said. "The dancers love teaching the kids and the kids love to see the dancers, still in their costumes, doing the class with them."

Gigi McDowell, a pre-professional student of the Auer Academy, finds particular joy in being able to share her love of dance with the young ones.

"The interactions that we have with the kids is what makes the Family Series shows so special to me," she said. "We work really hard in the rehearsals leading up to the shows."

"Getting to see the faces and reactions of the kids who see us makes all the hours of work worthwhile. It is so gratifying to be able to spread my passion for dance to the kids and give them a positive and memorable experience."



PHOTO BY RACHEL ARON

Dancers in Fort Wayne Ballet's Youth Company rehearse for the Family Series performance of *Thumbelina*, which will take place at 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Feb. 24.

THUMBELINA

FORT WAYNE BALLET FAMILY SERIES

10 a.m. and noon Saturday, Feb. 24
Auer Center: Fort Wayne Ballet, Studio A
300 E. Main St., Fort Wayne
\$15 • (260) 422-4226

LESSONS LEARNED

The Youth Company and pre-professional division of FWB's Auer Academy present unique opportunities for local dancers.

"The intent of the Youth Company and the pre-professional division is to allow our students to grow through dance," Gibbons-Brown said of the company comprised of ages 12-20.

"The Family Series gives our younger students in the academy the opportunity to be responsible for their own show. They get to experience what it's like from the beginning to the end, from concept to completion. Young dance students don't often get to do that."

"So this is a unique experience for our young dancers, but it also starts to prepare them for a more serious approach to dance as a potential career. A lot of people don't realize that it really can be a career."

McDowell, who will be performing the role of Mamma Toad, loves the opportunity the

Family Series shows give her to embody new characters.

"Mamma Toad is full of energy and loves to perform, which makes the character really fun to rehearse," she said. "It's always super-fun to portray a humorous character that makes people laugh."

The Auer Academy, which fosters a nurturing environment for students to grow as dancers, also fosters close friendships among the dancers.

"I am excited to have fun onstage with my friends and perform a story that the little kids in the audience will know and enjoy," said Alexis Andrews, a pre-professional student. "I'm excited to share moments with my friends onstage with such a fun story and fun choreography."

"The show is certainly high energy, which makes it that much more fun and exciting to perform."

Sparrow, who grew up in the Auer Academy and participated in many shows as a member of the Youth Company, feels it is a full-circle moment.

"It's a unique experience to be able to understand what my Youth Company directors experienced now that I'm in their shoes," she said.

Local bands turn to grunge for Embassy show

Down the Line returns for 18th year with acts covering Seattle bands

BY ANDREW McNAIR
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Every local music scene separates into two camps: Bands that produce original music and those that do covers.

Original bands claim the artistic high ground, but cover bands fill the seats.

To serve both types of artists, Embassy Theatre created the Down the Line series as an annual showcase for local talent to perform on a historic stage. They fill the seats by holding the bands to a central theme.

For the 18th installment, the theme is '90s Grunge: Seattle Sound on Saturday, Feb. 24, with The Craig Guy Band performing Soundgarden, The Snarks performing Hole, Octopussy performing Alice in Chains, and Pink Droyd performing Pearl Jam.

CHANGE OF PACE

Pink Droyd is an interesting selection although they're Down the Line veterans, having performed the music of Styx in 2018.

They normally play as a Pink Floyd tribute band, so they've got a ton of experience interpreting other artists' music. But they're covering Pearl Jam, a band with very different production sensibilities than you will find on *The Dark Side of the Moon* or *The Wall*.

"Yes, this music is quite a departure from the soundscape and progressive compositions of Pink Floyd," lead singer and guitarist Kevin Quandt said. "Stepping away from the large production, airy scenes, and arena-pounding guitar solos and 'grabbing for the flannel' to pay tribute to the music I grew up on is quite a pleasure and challenge.

"As a teenager in the '90s, these grunge songs were the anthem of our youth and were part of our daily lives."

Bassist Trevor Krall is in the same boat as Quandt, growing up with such albums as *Ten*, *Vs.*, and *Vitalogy*, as well as singles "Jeremy," "Alive," "Daughter," and "Better Man."

"I have always loved Pearl Jam," he said. "Growing up the son of an '80s and '90s rocker, it hits in a lot of different ways. I love the energy and emotion, and certainly love the wide spectrum of styles of songs they play. It takes me back to sitting in the corner of band practice, still too young to play, but fully aware that the music completely rocked."

While they love the music, it's a far cry from what they're used to playing with Pink Droyd, which also features Jim Sizelove (drums), Phil Schurger (lead guitar), Ashton Morris (tenor sax), Evan Sturzenberger (vocals), Lisa McDavid (vocals), and Jill Jugloff (vocals).



PHOTO BY SKYLER DENMAN

Pink Droyd frontman Kevin Quandt will take on the role of Eddie Vedder as the Pink Floyd act takes on the music of Pearl Jam.

"Well, it's straight-on rock that can be performed with four or five musicians," Quandt said. "I love playing Pink Floyd, but this a ton of fun, too.

"Truthfully, Pink Floyd wrote a good deal of their music while vinyl was still a strong form of music proliferation. Radio play was certainly important, but long exposition and building a vibe and theme was normal for song construction and vital for many artists in the '60s and '70s. Grunge was definitely the opposite. While the music is very well-crafted, it is (generally) more direct in song exposition and outline. Pearl Jam bucks the traditional song writing form with many of their tracks, but you won't hear us perform any 17-minute opuses. This allows us to bring more great material from the PJ catalog in our short set."

While there are noted differences, Quandt said that are also some similarities between Pearl Jam and Pink Floyd.

"While Pink Floyd may be better known for their grand landscapes of music and ethereal sounds, they have quite a few songs that are straight-on rock n' roll," he said.

"Additionally, the Pearl Jam compositions have surprising depth. The lyrical content and instrumental construction is really interesting as we peel away the layers."

While they undoubtedly look forward to changing things up with Pearl Jam's music, there are some learning pains — literally.

"Well... Pink Floyd music has never made



PHOTO BY CARRIE BAIR

Octopussy are veteran musicians on the local scene and will perform the music of Alice in Chains at the 18th annual Down the Line at Embassy Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 24.

DOWN THE LINE 18

**'90S GRUNGE: SEATTLE SOUND
W/THE SNARKS, OCTOPUSSY,
THE CRAIG GUY BAND, PINK DROYD**

7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24

Embassy Theatre

125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne

\$20-\$30 • (260) 424-6287

me bleed all over my fretboard," Krall said. "Pearl Jam achieved that feat with a quickness as I dove into the material. And I'm happy for it!"

Quandt has found his own challenges.

"What are the different layers? How do we cover all the guitar parts? While we are continually learning the Pink Floyd methodology of song construction and instrument/part isolation, learning a new artist is always a new challenge," he said. "Our goal isn't to just play the song, but pay it tribute. So, the small and large details matter to us.

"I would be remiss if I didn't mention the vocal differences. Yeah, this is quite different than most Floyd. Eddie (Vedder) has a really great vocal tone and approach. His growl, squeals, and grunts are all part of his instrumentation."

TAKING ON ALICE IN CHAINS

Forming in 2001, Octopussy are a power trio of John Reuille on bass and keyboards, Eric Bair on guitar and keyboards, and Jason Bair on drums and vocals.

While they all take turns behind the mic, for Down the Line, Octopussy are keeping it in the family and adding Jason Diamond for lead vocals.

Ten years ago, some members of Octopussy played in Down the Line as Little Green Me, playing the music of Van Halen.

I chatted with Eric Bair by email and got his thoughts on playing Alice in Chains.

"We've all been playing Alice in Chains

music in every cover band we've all been in," he said. "Really, it's just understanding the music, the core parts, and executing them properly and close to perfectly."

And which of those songs are they working on to execute properly?

"Every song, if you're an Alice in Chains fan, is a well-known song," he said. "For me, I really enjoy 'Down in a Hole.' Many goosebump moments!"

GETTING THE RIGHT SOUND

For The Craig Guy Band, taking the Embassy Stage will be something their namesake has been dreaming about for a while.

"This show was something I've been waiting to do for years, was super-happy to be asked to do it," Guy said. "Soundgarden was a big part of my early 20s.

Accompanied by Phil Henschen on drums, Travis Brown on bass, and Nate Shultz on guitar, lead singer and guitarist Guy feels this group is as good as any he has been in.

That cohesion should shine on such Soundgarden hits as "Black Hole Sun," "Rusty Cage," and "Spoonman."

"We are all from pretty well-known bands over the years here in the Fort Wayne area," Guy said. "The one thing we all agree on is that this band is probably our favorite and tightest band we've ever been in."

DIGGING OUT OF HOLE

The last time we talked to The Snarks, they were planning their farewell show over the summer at The Brass Rail.

Well, it appears the band of lead singer Kendra Johnson, bassist Dan Kinnaley, guitarist Zach Kerschner, drummer Dan Arnos, and guitarist Elizabeth-Marie Helms are not quite finished yet.

This group will put their hard-rocking ways to good use by singing the music of Hole, known for such songs as "Violet," "Celebrity Skin," and "Malibu."

WOODEN NICKEL RECORDS

ALBUM OF THE WEEK



TAYLOR McCALL MELLOW WAR

For his sophomore record, country musician explores balance between good and evil and importance of faith as he pays tribute to his grandfather who served in the Vietnam War. Get your copy on CD at all Wooden Nickel Records locations.

TOP SELLERS

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 11, 2024

TW LW ARTIST / Album

- 1 — **USHER**
Coming Home
- 2 — **MAZZY STAR**
So Tonight That I Might See
- 3 4 **THE SMILE**
Wall of Eyes
- 4 1 **GREEN DAY**
Saviors
- 5 — **BARBIE THE ALBUM**
The Original Soundtrack
- 6 — **MADI DIAZ**
Weird Faith
- 7 — **BRITTANY HOWARD**
What Now
- 8 2 **J. MASCIS**
What Do We Do Now
- 9 — **SONIC YOUTH**
Walls Have Ears
- 10 — **THE DEAD SOUTH**
Chains & Stakes

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Spins LOCAL AND NATIONAL ALBUM REVIEWS

Funayūrei

Open Me Carefully

Fort Wayne synth-pop duo Funayūrei lock into dark electronic of the early '80s as well as the more pop-centric sounds of synth pop and dark wave. They pepper their songs with Depeche Mode, The Cure, and Animonio equally with more modern fare like Electric Youth, Mecha Maiko, and The Midnight. Singer Mandy Kawa's hypnotic vocals pair perfectly with Rob Parker's steely production, creating an urgent electronic sound that looks to the past while paving a sonic path to the future.

On their third album, the urgent and driving *Open Me Carefully*, Funayūrei make a propulsive electro dance record that lays down plenty of grooves while also making an album for deep contemplation and long drives into the night. It's the soundtrack to the party as well as for the fall-out that sometimes comes with it.

"Damage" opens the album with ambient undertones but then it quickly shines neon lights into the darkness for a riveting and urgent track. If you're familiar with the *Drive* soundtrack, this track and its vibe will be familiar. This toes the line between pop bliss and dark undertones. Kawa's vocals hang in the air as Parker's production simmers just under the surface.

The title track pulls you into their mysterious sound world. It captures the heat of a night club's dance floor as well as the lonely walk home, sweat on your face drying in the midnight air.

Tracks "Like Me," "Missing You," and closer "Too Late" build a steely sound world where inhibition and regret swirl together like club lights and body heat. This is EDM with heady intentions and heavy vibes of the highest order.

Funayūrei's 10 tracks link together like a concept album, each one a chapter in the journey. *Open Me Carefully* encapsulates the thrill of the late-night odyssey through propulsive rhythms, engaging melodies, and lush vocals. — *J. Hubner*

Static-X

Project Regeneration, Vol. 2

For those who have not been following, industrial nu-metal act Static-X got back together during the pandemic, controversially replacing charismatic frontman Wayne Static, who died in 2014 while the band were not on speaking terms.

The surviving members acquired a lot of unfinished vocal tracks from Static and released *Project: Regeneration Vol. 1* in 2020. Four years later, they are back with more of the same.

Project: Regeneration Vol. 2, as well as its counterpart *Vol. 1*, contains Static's vocals alongside those of his replacement, a zombie/cyborg by the



name Xero, who the band tried to pretend wasn't Dope frontman Edsel Dope until recently.

Anyone who has heard a Static-X album knows what to expect: lush programming, simple but driving rhythms, and highly processed vocal shouts and flagellated melodies. In fact, there is very little to differentiate this album from the previous *Project: Regeneration* album.

What stands out is the difference between Static's and Xero's vocals, particularly on songs where both are featured. The listener is given the same stale, staccato guitar chugs, uninspired vocals, and insanely loud tambourine that has formulated their sound since the beginning.

Like its predecessor, *Vol. 2* isn't cringey at face value. However, it's obvious this band should not be continuing without the iconic frontman. Static had a look and sound unlike anyone else in the genre. As influential as 1999's *Wisconsin Death Trip* was, they never managed to evolve past it. It would be unfair to say the band has not earned the right to continue to tour and make music, but at this point we have seen what they are capable of. That's unlikely to change.

The album sounds like a band trying to match their earlier output. The production matches their discography for the sake of nostalgia rather than putting out an album of material worth listening to more than once. Any evolution the band was capable of died with Static. What's left is the treading of water to keep making money on tour.

Songs like "Zombie," "No Hope," and their cover of Nine Inch Nails' "Terrible Lie" may satisfy the band's most ardent fans, but for metalheads looking for something fresh, keep looking. — *Jamie DeVinney*

Sleater-Kinney

Little Rope

A lot of my favorite bands are marking the 30th anniversaries of iconic albums. Sleater-Kinney are also marking their 30th anniversary, but they have somehow slid under my radar.

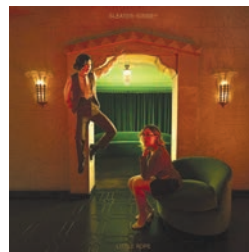
Carrie Brownstein, whom you might know from *Portlandia*, and Corin Tucker formed the rock band in the midst of the grunge explosion coming out of the Northwest, themselves from Olympia, Washington. They went through a couple of drummers before Janet Weiss joined in 1996, although she left in 2019, making *Little Rope* the band's first without her in a quite a while.

On *Little Rope*, Brownstein and Tucker have made a rocking album with chugging guitars and just the right amount of melody.

"Hell" opens the album on a morose note before intense breakdowns let you know this is an old-school rock record. A driving guitar opens "Needlessly Wild," making you think this is an upstart garage band, not an established act.

"Say It Like You Mean It" is a nice switch to a more melodic jam, while "Hunt You Down" has a guitar line that goes perfectly with the song title.

"Small Finds" turns up the knob on some



Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Buckwheat Zydeco

Waitin' for My Ya Ya (1985)



Buckwheat Zydeco, aka Stanley Dural Jr., was a gifted accordionist and zydeco performer and just one of the few to achieve mainstream success.

Zydeco is a form of folk music influenced by the sounds of the French-speaking Cajuns in southeast Louisiana. It's African-Caribbean influenced with American blues, and it's as good as the spicy gumbo served with it.

Buckwheat played on the rhythm and blues circuit before Louisiana started embracing Cajun culture and the music it produced. He cut his teeth in the mid-70s while playing with the late great Clifton Chenier, then he formed his own zydeco band in 1979.

Ya Ya was my first exposure to zydeco. This music has so much energy and soul, and its connections to our past are as important as that of the blues or early rock n' roll.

This is more of a blues record, but the Cajun seasoning is sprinkled in every track. Not calling it genuine would be an insult to Buckwheat, but it was designed to be more of a blues thing, and in this case, it works very well. Without detailing any tracks, I can say the whole album is a masterpiece.

The band performed at both of President Bill Clinton's inaugurals, and Buckwheat was featured at the closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

He played with everybody from Chenier to Clapton and had been on stages all over the world for the last 35 years.

Buckwheat played Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory in 2006, and I was lucky enough to see him and even talk to him afterward. Sadly, he passed away in 2016. — *Dennis Donahue*

punkish elements, and "Crusader" is a catchy number where they let you know they don't need your approval or help.

My favorite track on the record is "Dress Yourself" with a catchy guitar riff the continues throughout, only breaking for the choruses. At one point, a simple piano is played under vocals before a electric guitar breakdown ups the ante, closing on that excellent riff.

The album definitely does not close out with a whimper. "Untidy Creature" is another pure rock song with exquisite guitar, perfectly ending an album that never lets up. — *Anthony Gadson*

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.

Frankenstein comes across lifeless

The story of Frankenstein has been reanimated so many times it was perhaps inevitable that we would eventually get a 1980s-tinged variation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel. Fittingly, *Lisa Frankenstein* is a movie that feels mashed together not just from other monster tales but also from specific macabre '80s classics like *Beetlejuice* and *Heathers*.



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD

Screenwriter Diablo Cody, who won an Oscar for her sharp-tongued script for *Juno*, renders the sardonic patois from the misunderstood teen protagonists in those late-80s films and gives this update a spark of moody verbosity. While the story itself seems to lose its way the longer it lumbers along, it has enough period flourishes and well-earned eccentricities to make it worth recommending to those who gravitate toward horror comedies.

In *Lisa Frankenstein*, Kathryn Newton plays Lisa Swallows, a lonesome teenager who is finding it difficult to adjust to life after her mother is murdered in their home. Her dad, Dale (Joe Chrest), is doing his best to move on, marrying yuppie nurse Janet (Carla Gugino) and acquiring stepdaughter Taffy (Liza Soberano) in the process. Janet and Taffy do what they can to welcome the Swallows into their home, but Lisa feels more comfortable spending time at the local cemetery, swooning over the grave of a young man (Cole Sprouse) who died long ago. Her pining is soon reciprocated when a bolt of otherworldly lightning strikes the headstone and brings the Victorian fellow back to life as a zombie who only has eyeballs for Lisa. Things take a dark turn when the pair realize they'll need to steal body parts from the living to fill out the missing pieces of the reanimated corpse.

Lisa Frankenstein is the feature-length directorial debut of Zelda Williams — the daughter of late comic genius Robin Williams — and it can't be said that she simply made the movie the studio wanted her to make. The film has loads of little touches, from its penchant for silent classics like *A Trip to the Moon* to its pitch-perfect goth rock needle drops, that allow Williams' personality to shine through. She's certainly taking a page or two from early Tim Burton projects — *Edward Scissorhands* in particular — carrying over the arc of a picture-perfect neighborhood getting flipped upside-down by the presence of a ghoulish creature. In the spirit of *Beetlejuice* and *Scissorhands*, Williams has a ball adorning her sets with props and textures that brilliantly evoke the artificial sheen of 1980s suburbia.

The aesthetic carries through in the costume design as well, which starts Lisa off in frumpy mismatched outfits and gradually transitions her to the goth chic look that Winona Ryder pioneered in her youth. Newton has good fun tailoring her performance around the wardrobe upgrades, allowing Lisa to become more confident as her adoration for her undead suitor grows.

Sprouse has a more thankless role as the mute monster who finds himself drawn to Lisa. His body language and choreography are the main tools he has to communicate, and he does an admirable job.

Elsewhere, Gugino and Soberano are squandered in roles that the movie treats like it can't wait to cut away from. While that's more understandable for Janet being



COURTESY PHOTO

Kathryn Newton and Cole Sprouse star in the horror comedy *Lisa Frankenstein*.

LISA FRANKENSTEIN

Rated PG-13 for violent content, bloody images, sexual material, language, sexual assault, teen drinking, and drug content.

1 hours, 41 minutes · In theaters

★★★★☆

the "evil stepmother," Taffy is kind to Lisa even past the point where it makes sense for her character to be. If Williams and Cody don't know what they want to do with these characters, it's evident in how the storyline peters out as it staggers toward the neon-lit finish line.

This is one of those horror comedies that does not know how seriously it wants to take itself when it comes to doling out the consequences for its protagonist's actions. Without giving away too much, it's enough to say that the lovestruck couple get off way too easy when it comes to the moral and legal ramifications for what they get up to in this cheekily morbid tale. I'm not expecting the movie to turn into a just-the-facts crime drama in the third act, but even a small helping of realism would have helped tie things up much better.

As is, *Lisa Frankenstein* should still act as a lovesick siren song for weirdos past, present, and future.

New movies coming this week

▪ Coming to theaters is *Madame Web*, a superhero movie starring Dakota Johnson and Sydney Sweeney about a paramedic in Manhattan who develops superpowers along with three other young women and creates a deadly adversary in the process.

▪ Also playing only in theaters is *Bob Marley: One Love*, a music biopic starring Kingsley Ben-Adir and Lashana Lynch which follows the life and career of Jamaican singer-songwriter Bob Marley as he overcomes adversity to become the most famous reggae musician in the world.

▪ Streaming on Netflix is *Players*, a romantic comedy starring Gina Rodriguez and Damon Wayans Jr. about a sportswriter who spends her time creating hook-up schemes but unexpectedly falls for one of her targets.

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Usher eyes tour after release of 9th album

Just before performing at the Super Bowl, **Usher** told us he is hitting the road this summer to take advantage of the added exposure that came days after the release of *Coming Home*, his first album in six years.

Whether you liked the halftime show or not, and there were many opinions each way, Usher is one of the most successful R&B and pop solo artists of the 21st century.

The Past Present Future Tour sees the singer performing in arenas across North America including two nights at Detroit's Little Caesars Arena on Sept. 12-13 and three nights at United Center in Chicago, Oct. 28-29 and Oct. 31.

Coming Home is the 45-year-old's ninth studio album, while his chart-topping 2004 album *Confessions*, which sold more than 15 million copies, is still the best-selling R&B album of the 21st century by a male artist.

Lamb of God, Mastodon tour

Metal favorites **Lamb of God** and **Mastodon** are uniting for a massive North American tour this summer that will have heads banging all night long.

The tour celebrates the 20th anniversary of Lamb of God's *Ashes of the Wake* and Mastodon's *Leviathan*, released the same day in 2004. Both albums will be performed in full, making it a very special night.

There are limited shows in our region, with the heavyweights stopping at Jacobs Pavilion in Cleveland on Aug. 9 and Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre outside Detroit the following night.

A portion of the ticket sales will go to support charities of the artists'



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 |
| Adam Ant | March 26 | Auditorium Theatre | Chicago |
| 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 |
| 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 9 | Baker Street Centre | Fort Wayne |
| Ally Venable | March 10 | Beachland Ballroom | Cleveland |
| Amaarae | March 21 | House of Blues | Chicago |
| Aname | March 8 | Magic Stick | Detroit |
| Andre 3000 | Feb. 15 | Garfield Park Conservatory | Chicago |
| 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 |
| Aprile Macie | Feb. 15-17 | Summit City Comedy Club | Fort Wayne |
| Arlo Parks | March 16 | Thalia Hall | Chicago |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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. 21 | Wintrust Arena | Chicago |
| 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 |
| Charlie Worsham | Feb. 24 | 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 |

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|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Craig Conant | March 13 | Summit City Comedy Club | Fort Wayne |
| 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 |
| Darcy & Jer | Feb. 17 | Kemba Live! | Columbus, OH |
| Darcy & Jer | Feb. 18 | Agora Theatre | Cleveland |
| David Phelps | March 1 | Blue Gate PAC | Shipshewana |
| Davy Knowles | Feb. 17 | Baker Street Centre | Fort Wayne |
| 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. 20-21 | Schottenstein Center | Columbus, OH |
| Drake | Feb. 24 | Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse | Cleveland |
| Drake White | March 9 | The Vogue | Indianapolis |
| Eggy | Feb. 18 | Hi-Fi | 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 |
| Em Beihold | March 2 | Lincoln Hall | Chicago |
| Em Beihold | March 5 | Skully's Music Diner | Columbus, OH |
| Eric Bellinger | Feb. 17 | Park West | Chicago |
| Eric Bellinger | Feb. 19 | Majestic Theatre | Detroit |
| Fall Out Boy & Jimmy Eat World | March 26 | Van Andel Arena | Grand Rapids |
| Flogging Molly | March 1 | Brown County Music Center | Nashville, IN |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| The Hails | Feb. 23 | Hi-Fi | Indianapolis |
| Haken | Feb. 21 | Bogart's | Cincinnati |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Inzo | Feb. 24 | The Salt Shed | Chicago |

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On the Road

NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

► CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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|--|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Inzo | March 9 | Old National Centre | Indianapolis |
| Ismo | March 22 | Majestic Theatre | Detroit |
| Ive | March 26 | Allstate Arena | Chicago |
| JJ Grey & Mfro | March 22 | Riviera Theatre | Chicago |
| JJ Grey & Mfro | March 23 | Taft Theatre | Cincinnati |
| JJ Grey & Mfro | March 24 | Old National Centre | Indianapolis |
| JJ Grey & Mfro | March 27 | State Theatre | Kalamazoo |
| 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 |
| Jackson Dean | Feb. 16 | The Intersection | Grand Rapids |
| 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 8-9 | Summit City Comedy Club | Fort Wayne |
| Jay Leno | March 23 | Niswonger PAC | Van Wert |
| Jeremy Camp | March 23 | Blue Gate PAC | Shipshewana |
| Jim Brickman | Feb. 15 | Blue Gate PAC | Shipshewana |
| Joe Dombrowski | March 1-2 | Summit City Comedy Club | Fort Wayne |
| Joe P | Feb. 20 | Hi-Fi | Indianapolis |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| The Kills | Feb. 16 | Saint Andrew's Hall | Detroit |
| The Kills | Feb. 17 | Bogart's | Cincinnati |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Lee Brice | Feb. 18 | Brown County Music Center | Nashville, IN |
| Lee Brice | March 7 | Blue Gate PAC | Shipshewana |
| 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 |
| Lou Gramm | Feb. 17 | Honeywell Center | Wabash |
| 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 |
| Max Barskih | Feb. 23 | Park West | Chicago |
| McClusky | March 15 | The Vic Theatre | Chicago |
| Mia x Ally | Feb. 16 | Park West | Chicago |
| Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance | Feb. 24 | Blue Gate PAC | Shipshewana |
| Michael W. Smith | March 1 | Old National Centre | Indianapolis |
| Michael W. Smith | March 22-23 | Blue Gate PAC | Shipshewana |
| Michale Graves | Feb. 21 | Thirty3 | Hudson |
| 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 |
| Monica Nevi | Feb. 29 | Summit City Comedy Club | Fort Wayne |
| Mr. Big | Feb. 20 | Royal Oak Music Theatre | Royal Oak, MI |
| 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 |
| Nickel Creek | Feb. 15 | Mershon Auditorium | Columbus, OH |
| Nickel Creek w/The Staves | Feb. 16 | The Clyde Theatre | Fort Wayne |
| Nicotine Dolls | March 8 | Park West | Chicago |
| Nils Hoffmann | March 2 | Magic Stick | Detroit |
| 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 |
| Otoboke Beaver | March 15 | House of Blues | Cleveland |
| Otoboke Beaver | March 16 | Saint Andrew's Hall | Detroit |
| Pantera | Feb. 20 | Van Andel Arena | Grand Rapids |
| 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 |
| Phora | Feb. 21 | The Promontory | Chicago |
| Pink Sweats | Feb. 19 | Thalia Hall | Chicago |
| Porno for Pyros | Feb. 26 | The Salt Shed | Chicago |
| Porno for Pyros | Feb. 27 | The Fillmore | Detroit |
| Portugal. The Man | Feb. 16 | Royal Oak Music Theatre | Royal Oak, MI |
| Portugal. The Man | Feb. 17 | Agora Theatre | Cleveland |
| 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 |
| The Prize Fighter Inferno | Feb. 23 | Saint Andrew's Hall | Detroit |
| Ranger Trucco | March 1 | Magic Stick | Detroit |
| Richard Marx | Feb. 18 | The Clyde Theatre | Fort Wayne |
| 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. 17 | Hi-Fi | Indianapolis |
| Rod Tuffcurls & The Bench Press | Feb. 24 | The Clyde Theatre | Fort Wayne |

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Road Notes

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choice. Lamb of God is supporting Living The Dream Foundation, which makes dreams come true for music fans living with life-threatening illnesses, and Mastodon is supporting the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

Go country with Luke Bryan

Five-time Entertainer of the Year **Luke Bryan** will tour the U.S. and Canada this summer on the Mind of a Country Boy Tour.

Having sold more than 75 million records, Bryan is one of the world's best-selling music artists and most awarded country artists. There will be no shortage of hits to offer up during the night, surely resulting in a spectacular show when he stops by Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids on June 27, Pine Knob Music Theatre near Detroit on June 28, Blossom Music Center near Cleveland on July 12, Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati on July 13, and Chicago's Wrigley Field on Aug. 25.

Another summer with DMB

Perennial summer touring act **Dave Matthews Band** returns for a 22-city, 32-show summer run that includes single-night stands at Blossom Music Center outside Cleveland on Aug. 25 and Pine Knob Music Theatre outside Detroit on Aug. 26, as well as a two-night stay at Ruoff Music Center outside Indianapolis, Aug. 28-29.

Inkcarceration sets lineup

Inkcarceration has announced their lineup for this year's festival with some huge names set to descend upon the unique location of the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio, July 19-21.

What you will find here is what we have come to expect from Danny Wimmer Presents, the promoter of this show along with several other annual festivals across the nation.

This year's bill will be headlined by **Breaking Benjamin**, **Godsmack**, and **Shinedown**. Joining the headliners will be of pop punk legends **The Offspring**, rock heavyweights **Halestorm**, Bay area thrashers **Machine Head**, and metalcore icons **Parkway Drive**, **Killswitch Engage**, and **Poison the Well**.

More than 60 bands are booked with more expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

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

Stage & Dance

LOCAL CALENDAR

NOW PLAYING

These Shining Lives — Four women sue their employer, the Radium Dial Company, for radiation poisoning, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 15-17, and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Studio Theatre, Merrilat Centre for the Arts, Huntington University Theatre Company, \$6-\$13, (260) 359-4261

On Golden Pond — Dinner theater show about elderly couple enjoying summer cottage on Maine lake amid advancing age and estrangement from daughter, **6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 16-17; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18 (show only)**, Huber Opera House, Hicksville, \$20-\$40, (419) 542-9553

Out of the Box — Evening of story and song will feature *The Redemption of Ruth*, a blank verse reader's theater of Biblical story, and *Repeat Back to Me*, a short piece on marriage and communication, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 16-17**, all for One productions offices, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$14, (260) 422-4226

The Tempest — Shakespeare's fairy-tale romance/comedy begins with a violent storm that wrecks a ship on a mysterious island, **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 16-17; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18; and 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 22-24 (high school matinee 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20)**; PFW Department of Theatre, Williams Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$18, (260) 481-6555

The Dinner Detective Murder Mystery Show — Solve a mystery with actors hidden among diners, **6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Courtyard by Marriott Downtown, Fort Wayne, \$60, (866) 496-0535

Mean Girls Touring — Tina Fey musical about a naive new student that falls in with lionized frenemies, **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$45-\$90, (260) 424-5665

Ragtime the Musical — Genesis Outreach presents stories of a young Harlem musician, a stifled upper-class wife, and a Jewish immigrant living in early 1900s woven together into tale of courage and compassion, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday Feb. 16-17; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18**, USF Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$25, (260) 744-2800

The Color Purple — Family saga of woman who finds strength to triumph over adversity, presented by Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 16-17; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$22-\$35, (260) 422-4226

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY

The Peking Acrobats — Chinese acrobats perform daring maneuvers atop chairs and perform trick-cycling, precision tumbling, juggling, and gymnastics, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$25.50-\$55.50, (260) 424-5665

Disney on Ice Presents 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 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

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 based on the books *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, *Iggy Peck, Architect*, and *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty, which spotlights STEM curriculum, **10 a.m. and noon Friday, March 1**, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, (260) 563-1102

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.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; and 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

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

Woven Bracelet Workshop — Using a simple weaving technique, Jackie Daugherty will help you create art piece on cardboard loom, **noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, \$40, (260) 424-7195

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

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

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

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

Art Farm Valentine Pop-Up — Works of nine artists will be show in mediums that include: pop art prints, ceramics, wood, glass, mixed media, jewelry, found object assemblage, fiber and painting, **noon-6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16**, The Art Farm, Spencerville, free admission, (260) 704-8275

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

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. Monday-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 Hannah Burnworth, Trevor Campbell, Nicole Croy, Sarah Shatto-Jones, Jessica Minnich, Stephen Perfect, Wendi Sparks, Don Swartzentruber and Tara Turner, alongside 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

International Glass Invitational — Oldest and largest annual contemporary glass show in country features best studio glass artists in the world, **10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through Feb. 18**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, \$8-\$10, (260) 422-6467

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

Acrylic Paint Pouring Class: Marbles — Learn fundamentals of unique technique and create two works of art by using marbles to manipulate painting, **5-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18; 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25**, 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

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

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

Things To Do

LOCAL CALENDAR

CURRENT

Rhythm for Wellness — De-stress by joining area adults for drum circle series that takes place on second and fourth Thursday of each month through April, **7-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15**, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$129, (260) 432-8176

Three Readers at The B-Side — Poets Erica Anderson-Senter and Sarah Sandman will be joined by essayist Jason Beer, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15**, The B-Side at One Lucky Guitar, Fort Wayne, \$5, (260) 969-6672

Turnstone Casino Night — Proceeds support Turnstone's programs, services, and mission to empower people with disabilities, **6-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16**, Turnstone Center, Fort Wayne, \$75, (260) 483-2100

Who Dung It? Family Workshop — Make "scat cook-ies" and go on a hike to discover evidence of who is in our winter wood, **9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Merry Lea Farmstead, Albion, \$5-\$7, (260) 799-5869

1812 Officer & NCO Training Garrison — Re-enactment of officers and soldiers training to improve leadership skills, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, The Old Fort, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 437-2836

Cupka's Bee Good Meadery Anniversary Party — Celebrating 1-year anniversary with live music by Liz Rexroth and Joe Donnell, Dutch heritage pie, tastings, and new mead release, **noon-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Cupka's Bee Good Meadery, Auburn, free,

Winter Fruit Tree Pruning Adult Workshop — Learn to prune your backyard fruit trees to improve the form of apples, peaches, plums or pears, **1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Merry Lea Reith Village, Albion, \$25, (260) 799-5869

Himself When Young — Connie Haas Zuber gives presentation on author and Fort Wayne native Karl Detzer as part of ARCH's 2024 Fun & Free Lecture Series, **1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, Cinema Center, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 426-5117

Weather the Fort — Outdoor festival will have live music, beer tastings, interactive art, and food, **3-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, The Landing, Fort Wayne, free, (260) 420-3266

The Local Saloon 1-Year Anniversary — Celebration will feature an adult prom with DJ Jerry, **9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17**, The Local Saloon, Roanoke, thelocalsaloon@gmail.com

Mother Son Nerf Wars: Alien Invasion — Mothers and sons dress in space-themed attire or green to face off in an Nerf battle, refreshments, and photos. You will need own Nerf guns and safety glasses, but bullets will be provided, **2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18**, Wells County 4-H Fairgrounds, Bluffton, \$5-\$10, (260) 824-6069

Daddy Daughter Dance — Dress in space or gold attire for Moon and Back-themed dance that includes refreshments and photos, **6-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18**, Wells County 4-H Fairgrounds, Bluffton, \$5-\$10, (260) 824-6069

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@ftwaynesfarmersmarket.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. Tuesday-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, Feb. 17 — Cincinnati Cyclones, **7:30 p.m.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quick Hits

LOCAL EVENTS



MEAN GIRLS

TUESDAY, FEB. 20

EMBASSY THEATRE

The 2004 teen comedy *Mean Girls* continues to live on as a very successful touring Broadway musical that will be presented Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the historic Embassy Theatre.

Written by a creative team that included former *Saturday Night Live* cast member Tina Fey, who penned and appeared in the 2004 comedy of the same name, and featuring a score by Fey's husband, composer Jeff Richmond, the family-friendly *Mean Girls* follows Cady Heron as she navigates her way through the challenges of her new school, eventually falling prey to Regina George and her clique, the Mean Girls.

The original Broadway show was nominated for 12 Tony Awards in 2018, including Best Musical. — *Chris Hupe*

MOTHER/SON NERF WARS & DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

WELLS COUNTY 4-H CENTER

For some bonding with something a little different, head to the Wells County 4-H Community Center, 1240 4-H Park Road, in Bluffton on Feb. 18.

The day begins Mother/Son Nerf Wars: Alien Invasion from 2-3:30 p.m.

This fun-filled afternoon will pit mothers against sons in a variety of Nerf games with the winners holding bragging rights on the way home. Bring your own Nerf gun and enjoy refreshments and a photo area.

Appropriate space-themed attire is encouraged along with safety glasses and regular-sized Nerf bullets with your name on them of you have them.

Later, a Daddy/Daughter dance will be held from 6-8 p.m. with space-themed or the color gold encouraged.

Tickets for parents are \$10 to each with children's tickets being \$5. — *Chris Hupe*

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