

North Coast

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VOICE Magazine

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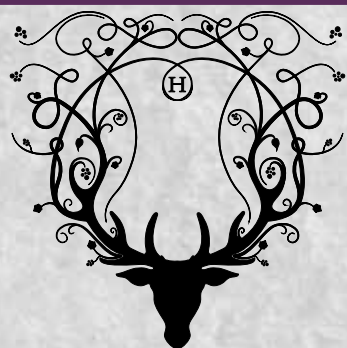
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OHIO WINE COUNTRY WINERY GUIDE

PEDESTRIAN RAMBLINGS

By Steve Madewell

A New Year's Resolution:

Do more by doing less, in nature!

While I was out walking today, I was thinking about New Year's resolutions, and, like a lot of folks, I have several thoughts floating around in my head about 2020. I want to do a better job mapping out the year, or rather looking ahead to things I am already committed to, and reserving the time for the things I want to do.

I want to eat better, take better care of myself, be better organized, do a better job taking care of my stuff... and while I was walking, it occurred to me, why are we so consumed with doing "better"? Can't we give ourselves a little credit for the things we do well and maybe do a better job of being content with who, and where we are? Maybe enjoy more by doing less?

Now that's a radical thought. At least it is for me!

So many of us are programmed to do and achieve more and are so driven, we measure our success by the money we make or what we acquire. But we somehow don't enjoy the day-to-day activity that leads to our success. As I walked, I started to think about how I could enjoy each day a little more. When I got home, I started doing a little research on stress, creativity, and productivity.

Like many of us here in the Heartland, I was brought up thinking that, after I got my work done, I could take a break and go outside and play. Unfortunately, in today's world of constant contact, it seems that work is never done, consequently, whenever I take a break, I have a bit of guilt associated with being away from the current task at hand.

As is often the case, there is more than one way to look at things. Maybe we could benefit by taking a nature break before we start a project?

There is an ever-growing body of research that clearly illustrates that being

out of doors has a tremendously beneficial impact on our physical and mental health, improving creativity, reducing stress, and improving productivity.

Just one example is the work of a professor at the University of Michigan, MaryCarol Hunter, who has documented that the effects of spending 10 to 30 minutes in nature, at least three times a week, were significant in reducing stress levels. And, according to many sources, stress can be counter-productive. The benefits came from simply walking, sitting, with no aerobic activity, social media, conversation or reading. The effects were so clear, Hunter and her team coined the term "taking a nature pill" about spending time out of doors.

There are also several studies indicating that time out of doors improves creativity and problem solving and even boosts memory functions!

Here in northeastern Ohio, we are so fortunate to be on the south shore of Lake Erie, and have access to hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails that are located within thousands of acres of open space managed by municipal, township, and regional park systems.

We all know these nearby resources exist but are we using them? If someone told you that you will feel better, function at a higher mental capacity, and lower your stress levels by simply sitting and staring at Lake Erie or taking a walk in a nature park for 25 minutes three times a week, would you do it?

So I find myself thinking about a different kind of New Year's resolution - instead of telling myself I need to buckle down and get more done in 2020, I am allowing myself to "do nothing in nature" for a few minutes each week with the anticipation of being more creative, enjoying life more, and just maybe being more productive to boot!

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Sat. Jan. 18th
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Watch for our Annual Valentine's Day 'Sweetheart Specials' in our February Ad Here In The Voice!

Cheers To St. Patrick's Day & Spring Being Just Around The Corner!

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VOICE Magazine

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TAKE II

Playing 50-60-70's Favorites and Much More

Fri. Jan. 10th • 7 - 10 p.m.
Hartford Hill Winery

Sat. Jan. 11 • 6 - 10 p.m.
Charbenay's Winery

Sat. Jan. 18th • 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Lil Paws, Lake Milton OH

Fri. Jan. 24th • 7 - 10 p.m.
Speakeasy Lounge, Warren

Fri. Jan. 31st • 7 p.m.
Kyra East Market, Howland

Sat. Feb. 1st • 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
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5:30-8:30pm (Geneva)

Sat Jan 18th: Goddess Wine House
7pm-9pm (Ashtabula)

Sun Jan 19th: The Winery at Spring Hill
2:30-5:30pm (Geneva)

Sun Jan 26th: Old Mill Winery
*Open Mic with Rick and Lou,
4:30-7:30pm (Geneva)

Sat Feb 1st: Luisa's Mexican Grill
5:30-8:30pm (Geneva)

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or contact me on Facebook

Welcome to the first annual Grand River Valley Winter Wine Bingo Contest

Experience all that the Grand River Valley has to offer this winter by playing Wine-O Bingo with eight fabulous local wineries.

From Now through February 29th complete your bingo card by getting a stamp from all participating wineries and seeking out Grand River Valley treats and attractions during your visit to our region. Once you have completed your bingo card, write your email on the bottom of the card (backside) and hand it in to one of the participating wineries.

By submitting your completed bingo card, you will be entered to win a Wine Country Weekend Getaway during the 2020 Ice Wine Festival (the first three Saturday's of March). The Weekend Getaway for two guests includes one night stay at the brand new Holiday Inn Express & Suites Madison along with tickets to their wine shuttle, offering you a ride to three local wineries. Your getaway also includes a gift certificate to a local winery that you can use towards dinner, wine or both!

Pick up your Winter Wine Bingo Card at one of the participating wineries (listed below) or print yours out at home by downloading the PDF from <https://exploregandrivervalley.com/winter-wine-bingo>

Participating Wineries:

Grand River Cellars Winery & Restaurant
Debonne Vineyards
Benny Vino Urban Winery & Restaurant
Hundley Cellars
Laurentia Vineyard & Winery
Kosicek Vineyards
Laurello Vineyards
Cask 307

How to participate:

- 1) Collect your Wine Bingo postcard at a participating winery or print one out at home
- 2) Visit all participating wineries between now and February 29, 2020
- 3) Get a stamp from each winery on their respective bingo box during your visit (no purchase required)
- 4) Keep an eye out for unique attractions and treats in the Grand River Valley. As you come across the attraction/treat squares, cross off with an X. No cheating!
- 5) Enter completed bingo card (all boxes) and your email address (backside) to a participating winery to enter to win a Wine Country Weekend Getaway in the Grand River Valley during the 2020 Ice Wine Festival (First three Saturdays in March)

Bonus:

- 1) Share a photo of you playing Wine Bingo at a local winery on social media
- 2) Use the hashtag #grvwinterwinebingo
- 3) Tag the participating winery you are at and show them your post during your visit
- 4) Win winery coupons (only at participating wineries)

Bonus Participating Wineries & Coupons Available:

Grand River Cellars Winery & Restaurant: \$5 off your food order of \$20 or more. Coupons must be used from March 1st thru May 30th.

Debonne Vineyards: Get \$5.00 Bonus Cash when you spend \$10. Bonus Cash may be used same day toward food, beverage or gift shop purchases. May not be redeemed on wine or beer.

Laurello Vineyards: \$5 off an appetizer in March.

Benny Vino Urban Winery & Restaurant: 10% off next bill.

Hundley Cellars: 50% off cheese board during next visit.

Cask 307: \$5 off in house purchase in March

Visit <https://exploregandrivervalley.com/winter-wine-bingo> for complete details.

****Please note wineries may have seasonal business hours. Be sure to check open hours of wineries before your visit. All participating wineries, except Laurentia, are in this issue and their current hours are listed in their ads.**

Uncork, Unwind & Enjoy the Music!



Weekend Music 2-5pm

Fri. 1/10 - Swingbone Jazz & Blues

5:30 - 8:30

Sat. 1/11 - L.T.D.

Sun. 1/12 - Mitch & Melissa

THURS. JANUARY 16:

THOMAS REED SMITH

YUM BAKED POTATO NIGHT!



Sat. 1/18 - Face Value

Sun. 1/19 - Pickin Rocks

Sat. 1/25 Fretless

Sun. 1/26 - Silver String Band

Sat. 2/1 - Thomas Reed Smith

Sun. 2/2 - Bridgetown Junction

www.hundleycellars.com

Kitchen opens at Noon and closes 30 minutes before the whole joint shuts down for the night.



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Happy New Year

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Happy New Year!

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- EVENTS -

JANUARY

17 Opera Night:

"A Little Bit of Broadway"

-SOLD OUT-

FEBRUARY

07 Opera Night:

"When in France"

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Valerie Marini 4-7pm

21 & 22 Chocolate Trail

28 & 29 Chocolate Trail



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Fri 4-10pm; Sat Noon-10pm; Sun Noon-8pm

Fri & Sat: 7-10pm • Sunday Open Mic 4:30-7:30

Fri. Jan 8: Gotta Play
Sat. Jan 9: Burnt Valves
Sun. Jan 10: Open mic w/Tom Todd
Fri. Jan 17: High Horse
Sat. Jan 18: The Facemyers
Sun. Jan 19: Open mic w/Mitch Larson
Fri. Jan 24: Incahootz
Sat. Jan 25: Swamp Rattlers
Sun. Jan 26: Open mic w/Rick, Lou & Byrl
Fri. Jan 31: Lost Sheep Band
Sat. Feb 1: Stone River Band
Sun. Feb 2: Open mic w/Melissa Harvey
Fri. Feb 7: ZZO Band
Sat. Feb 8: Ernest T Band
Sun. Feb 9: Open mic w/Mitch Larson



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Cooking With Wine

Slow Cooker Beef Stew in Red Wine Recipe
Comfort food for the cold winter months.

Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp vegetable or oil of choice
- 3 lb sirloin roast, brisket, or chuck, cut into 1" cubes
- 1 Tbsp flour
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 2 medium sweet onions, chopped
- 1 cup dry red wine, such as Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 3 bay leaves
- 8 branches fresh thyme (or 1 tsp dried)
- 6 medium red potatoes, cut into quarters or desired size
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 ½ cups frozen pearl onions
- 1 ½ cups frozen peas
- Chopped fresh parsley or gremolata

Heat 1/2 tablespoon of the oil in a large cast-iron skillet or sauté pan over medium-high heat. Combine the beef and flour in a bowl, season with salt and pepper, and toss to lightly coat the beef. Working in two batches to avoid crowding the pan, sear the beef in the hot oil, turning occasionally, until nicely browned. Transfer to a slow cooker.

Add the remaining oil to the skillet. Add the chopped onions and cook for about 5 minutes, until lightly browned. Stir in the wine and tomato paste, scraping the bottom of the pan to free up any browned bits. Pour the onion mixture over the beef, then add the broth, bay leaves, and thyme.

Set the slow cooker to high, cover, and cook for about 4 hours (or on low for 8 hours), until the beef is fork-tender.

Important: An hour before serving, add the potatoes, carrots, and pearl onions. Five minutes before serving, add the peas.

Discard the bay leaves and thyme branches and season with salt and black pepper.

Serves 8



Red-Wine Spaghetti with Walnuts and Parsley

Ingredients

5 cups water
 3 ¼ cups dry red wine
 Salt
 ¾ lb. thin spaghetti
 ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
 3 small garlic cloves, thinly sliced
 ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper
 ½ cup chopped parsley
 1 cup walnuts (4 ounces), toasted and coarsely chopped
 ½ cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, plus more for serving
 Freshly ground black pepper

Step 1

In a saucepan, combine the water with 3 cups of the wine and a large pinch of salt and bring to a boil. Add the spaghetti and cook, stirring, until al dente. Drain, reserving ¼ cup of the cooking liquid.

Step 2

In a skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil. Add the garlic and red pepper and season with salt. Cook over moderate heat for 1 minute. Add the remaining ¼ cup of wine and the reserved cooking liquid and bring to a simmer. Stir in the pasta and cook until the liquid is nearly absorbed, 2 minutes. Add the parsley, nuts, the ½ cup of cheese and the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil and toss. Season the pasta with salt and pepper and serve, passing grated cheese at the table.

Serves 4



Entertainment all Weekend!

Fri & Sat: 7-10p • Sun: 2-5p

Fri. 1/10 Black Gypsies
Sat. 1/11 Legacy Band
Sun. 1/12 Face Value Duo
Fri. 1/17 Rhythm Connection
Sat. 1/18 FOG Four Old Guys
Sun. 1/19 R & R Duo
Fri. 1/24 Thomas Reed Smith
Sat. 1/25 Mitch and Melissa
Sun. 1/26 Jimmy Ales Duo
Fri. 1/31 Alley Katz
Sat. 2/1 FOG Four Old Guys
Sun. 2/2 Take II
Fri. 2/7 Knight Shift Band
Sat. 2/8 Rhythm Connection
Sun. 2/9 Face Value Duo

HOURS

CLOSED MON & TUES • WEDS & THURS NOON-7 PM
 FRI & SAT NOON-11 PM • SUN. NOON-7 PM

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Laurello Vineyards will be closed until February 12, 2020 as we prepare for our 18th season. We thank you for your patronage & support in 2019 and we look forward to serving you in 2020.

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**Friday,
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Saturday, February 1st
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Sunday, February 2nd
Spring Hill Winery
2:30-5:30

Friday, February 14th
Dublin Down
w/ Dick Dana & Dan Wagner
6:30-9:30 ❤️ ❤️ ❤️
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Lilly**
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w/ Melissa 8-11**

Sun. 1-12 Hundleys w/Melissa 2-5

Thu. 1-16 Open Mic Sammy K's 7-9

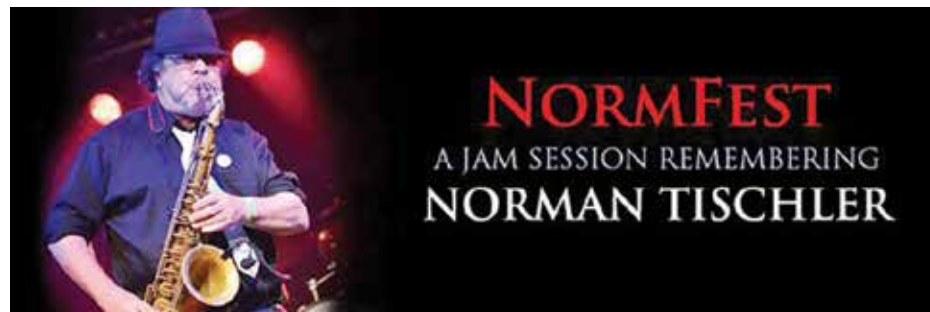
**Sun. 1-19 Open Mic
Old Mill Winery 4:30-7:30**

**Sat. 1-25 Benny Vino
w/Melissa 7-10**

216-513-0529 for bookings
[Facebook.com/MitchLarsonAcousticMusic](https://www.facebook.com/MitchLarsonAcousticMusic)

ROOTSVILLE

By Cat Lilly



Sax Therapy

The Music of Norman Tischler

One year ago, Cleveland lost one of its most beloved musicians, Norman Tischler. Norman was mostly known for his saxophone work, but he was also accomplished on flute and clarinet. Over the years, he played with just about every musician around town, and if there was a jam going on, he might just come walking in, sax in hand, even if he had already played a show (or two) that day. Norm's professional presence always took the music "up a notch". He also proudly served as director and conductor of the Workman's Circle Klezmer Orchestra, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Yiddish culture.

Norman's sudden passing left a huge hole in the hearts of the musical community. At the time, videos and audio tracks of Norman's work began to surface on social media and were passed on between friends who were all feeling the loss. The wealth and diversity of these recordings was amazing and an idea was hatched – to compile a tribute CD to honor the memory and carry on the music of this wonderful player and friend.

The project was put together by good friend Maurice "Moss" Stanley, piano player and bandleader extraordinaire (Nitebridge), who has now filled Norman's position as conductor for the Klezmer Orchestra. A call was put out to everyone who had a recording they wished to share, and close to one hundred tracks were submitted. Of the twenty tracks painstakingly chosen for the CD – nineteen are intact, just as they were submitted, from previous recordings.

The only exception is the first track, "Go-To Guy", an original composition written by Fred Barringer, which plays like an opus with several different movements and themes. The track was produced and arranged by Moss Stanley, engineered by Chris Keffer, and recorded at Magnetic North Studio in Beachwood. It is a masterpiece of collaboration - the impressive list of contributing artists on this tune numbers eighteen, all with a personal connection to Norman. Former student Tony Koussa on tenor sax, Colin Dussault blowing harmonica, Sam Hooper on lead guitar – the best of the best came together to create a great opening track.

"Go-To Guy" is over six minutes long, incorporating all the musical styles Norman was known for, from Duke Ellington jazz to Chicago blues. The Klezmer interlude is a hoot. The original lyrics pay homage to the man we all remember with humor and a touch of pathos - a fitting tribute to such a fine musician.

The rest of the album is a non-chronological journey through Norman's finest recorded work with various other musicians, from the Tiny Alice days to the nationally touring Mary Martin and the Tuna band, through his stints with Hot Foot Quartet and Blue Lunch, Colin Dussault's Blues Project, and the Brothers Blues Band. His studio work is showcased by a fine turn on Americana artist Cletus Black's "On a Mystery Train". "Bones on the Boulevard" by Jim Ballard and the Strangs is another really interesting track which just proves that Norman could play anything!

A CD release party for Sax Therapy was held last September at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights. The website for online sales is under construction, but if you wish to purchase a copy, please contact Moss Stanley or Lyn Adams on Facebook.

"NORMFEST"

Music Box Supper Club
Sunday, February 16th

A Jam Session Remembering Norman Tischler

- Venue: Supper Club
- Showtime: 4:00 pm
- Doors open: 3:30 pm
- All Ages, Free Admission

Hosted by Moss Stanley & Friends

A full building Celebration of Life was held for Norm at the Music Box Supper Club last February. A multitude of local musicians participated to honor their friend and mentor. Now, we have a chance to come together and toast one of Cleveland's most beloved musicians again, one year after his passing. Norm's favorite foods will be featured: deviled eggs, corned beef sandwich, and apple pie.

Norman Tischler was larger than life; his personality was as big as his sound. No other local musician had a wider network of lives he touched. He was taken from us so fast, with not much warning. Gone too soon, but never forgotten.... his musicality, his "shameless self-promotion", and his vision for a better world.

Love Commits Me Here

Tom Breiding

"The greatest labor singer in the United States today" - Cecil Roberts, International President, United Mine Workers of America

Many would say that country music as well as the broader Americana genre are the musical heart and soul of our nation, but singer/songwriter (and working rock guitarist) Tom Breiding has been creating a sub-genre of Americana for decades. A celebrated writer, Breiding



focuses on the true heart and soul of America: our laborers and union members. Hailing from West Virginia, a state with a large populous of mine workers and laborers, Breiding has shared an intense artistic connection with union members and groups for the entirety of his career, most notably United Mine Workers of America. Breiding's new collection of live-in-studio songs, titled Love Commits Me Here, is a musical biopic of some of the most significant events, both positive and negative, within the mining and unionized industries in our country.

Several in this special collection of songs highlight Breiding's work as Artist-In-Residence for United Mine Workers of America. "Farmington #9" which opens the album, explains the 1968 Farmington Mine Disaster; a deadly explosion in a West Virginia Mine that trapped 78 workers and left 19 disappeared in its rubble. Breiding performed the song live on November 20, 2018 at the 50th anniversary of the event for family members of those who perished. Breiding's calm ballad style provides a striking juxtaposition to his lyrics; melodious undertones give way to story lyrics that highlight some of the most harrowing times in America's industrious development.

Breiding, a seasoned lyricist and storyteller, provides a unique perspective on women's history in America as well. Other labor compositions on the album introduce more inconspicuous heroines from past and present such as Fannie Sellins whose brutal murder galvanized the Great Steel Strike of 1919 and Karen Gorrell, a West Virginia native who personally organized retirees to withstand the pressures of a corporate giant for six years until they were successful in restoring health care to more than a thousand retirees.

Breiding, however, does not limit himself to the mining industry when it comes to inspiration for his songs. Other themes on the 9-song LP address topics from the plight of immigrants to the WV flood of 2016 and the senseless violence and hatred that led to a mass killing in a Pittsburgh synagogue two blocks from the studio where the title cut "Love Commits Me Here" was recorded. Recorded at AmeriSon Studio and Daniel Marcus Music in Pittsburgh and produced by Daniel Marcus and Tom Breiding, the album provides a varied look into Breiding's career

as a labor writer, musician, and Artist in Residence with UMWA, all while highlighting the trials, tribulations, and successes of the industries to which he most relates and cares for.

Love Commits Me Here is set to release on January 7, 2020 and can be found wherever music is sold and streamed. For more information please visit www.tombreiding.com

Tom Breiding's songwriting career began in 1991 when he was signed by two-time CMA Producer of the year recipient Tom Collins. Breiding was a staff writer at Collins Music Corporation, which was the largest independent publishing house on Nashville's storied Music Row during the days when independent publishers thrived in the country music industry.

Breiding spent three years working for the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling Jesuit University, work that led him, guitar in tow, into the coal towns and back roads of "West by God Virginia." In September of 2012, at a UMWA rally in Waynesburg, he made his mark. Carried by an Americana folk chord progression on acoustic guitar, musician Tom Breiding's message was as poignant as any rallying cry issued from the podium.

"Promises made, promises broken," Mr. Breiding crooned over a D-chord. "Alpha they promised, Alpha they lied," calling out bankrupt coal company Alpha Natural Resources, the owner of two mines in the county that this week sought to break its contract with workers so it can restructure its finances.

In multiple verses, he named others: Peabody Energy, Patriot Coal, Murray Energy. Clad uniformly in United Mine Workers of America camouflage, more than 5,000 supporters of the Appalachian coal industry whooped and hollered.

That rally, in September 2012, would mark a turning point in Tom's music, as he was asked to lend his voice to the miners' cause. Tom traveled with the UMWA in the years that followed, listening, supporting and validating their work through his songs. As musician in residence for the United Mine Workers of America, Tom crafted songs that reflected the struggles of these retirees and traveled and performed for tens of thousands across the U.S. at their Fairness at Patriot rallies. Tom's songs were instrumental in winning back the pensions and health benefits of 18,000 retired coal miners in 2013. In this cyni-

Continued on page 10



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Sat., 1/18 - Blue Lunch ((7-10)
Sun., 1/19 - Winter Blues Sunday with
Blues Guitarist Damian Knapp (2-5)
Fri., 1/24 - Mary Taylor Brooks (7-10)
Sat., 1/25 - Rachel Brown (7-10)
Fri., 1/31 - Blues Chronicles (7-10)
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Sun. Jan. 26..... Benny Vino 2-5pm

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Continued from page 9

cal age, it is a heartening reminder that protest music still has power.

The UMWA continues to rely on Breiding to deliver poignant and topical compositions today, and it isn't the first time Breiding has been called upon to capture important social/historical events in song. In 2008 he was recruited by Calliope (Pittsburgh's Folk Society) to oversee, write and produce songs for When We Shine, a compilation CD to celebrate the city of Pittsburgh's 250 year history, and his 2009 release, The Unbroken Circle: Songs of the West Virginia Coalfields spent 16 weeks in the top 100 of the Americana charts, topping

at #55. The album was endorsed by country music legend Tom T. Hall and Grammy Award winning songwriter Tim O'Brien.

Tom Breiding has recorded 13 albums under his own name. His songs reflect the tension, apprehension and joy of a region where hard work, family and honest living are the markers of a life well lived. Where others glorify the honest, hard-working man with ballads of beer and heartache, Tom's music makes apparent a distinction between the distant idealization of the working man and the real life of the working man; the distinction between country -- and coal country.

MUSIC EVENT



Michael Stanley And The Resonators Stage Pass Revisted!

SATURDAY MARCH 7 – AKRON CIVIC THEATRE Tickets on sale Jan. 10th

It's time to strike up the band and get the show on the road Akron! Michael Stanley is ready to take you back to 1977 when he and The Resonators perform the memorable songs from the iconic album Stage Pass. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 7 and join us for a musical adventure that is guaranteed to provide you an evening of unforgettable memories you will not want to miss! One night, two sets with Michael Stanley and The Resonators at the historic Akron Civic Theatre play-

ing all the hits you want to hear.

A limited number of VIP Packages will be available that include a commemorative poster and laminate plus access to the soundcheck and a meet n greet/photo op with Michael Stanley.

Tickets go on sale to the general public on Friday, January 10 at 10 a.m. Fans can buy tickets on LiveNation.com and Ticketmaster.com Reserved seats \$38.50/\$50.50/\$63.50

ON THE BEAT

Geneva Winterfest Adds New Events

The cold never bothered us anyway!

Geneva Winterfest returns February 1st with a Disney princess meet and greet, the big LEGO Build Off, free rigatoni lunch, free pancake breakfast, free chili cook off, ice sculptures, carriage rides, a Disney movie showing, Jungle Terry, indoor bounce houses, indoor rummage sale, parade, hot chocolate bar, vintage snowmobile show, and the popular wine ice bar. All events are free!

Disney princesses Anna and Elsa will meet and greet fans and friends at the Geneva Community Center, adding a royal touch to the Big LEGO Build Off, festival director Margie Netzel said. "The princesses were so popular last year, along with the free mini manicures for kids under 12," she said. "It was clear that Anna and Elsa had to come back for Winterfest 2020."

New this year to Winterfest: a free rigatoni lunch at Park Street Christian Church, a gym full of bounce houses, and free yoga classes.

"Park Street Christian Church is hosting our new, free rigatoni lunch, which is an exciting addition to the festival. We are also going to pack the Geneva Recreation Center full of bounce houses for kids. It's the perfect way to burn off some of that energy!" Netzel said. "Shanti Yoga Love is hosting three family-friendly yoga classes during Winterfest!"

Always an important part of Winterfest, Kent State University Ashtabula hospitality management students will carve ice sculptures at Rotary Pavilion and the wine ice bar at Luisa's Mexican Grill.

"The talented students at Kent State have always wowed people with their ice sculptures," Netzel said, "and people can see the magic in action at Rotary Pavilion. The team at Kent State will also create our Winterfest Wine Ice Bar at Luisa's Mexican Grill. The ice bar is incredible. Stop by for local wine samples served off a beautiful, frozen bar. It's so cool."

The festival will kick off with a FREE pancake breakfast at Geneva United

Methodist Church from 9 a.m. to noon. The Geneva Kiwanis Club will also serve FREE hot chocolate at Rotary Pavilion.

The Winterfest parade will begin at noon on North and South Broadway and will include floats, fire trucks, marching bands, and the Winterfest mascot Lake Effect Louie, and the outgoing and new Miss Winterfest courts.

The annual Chili Cook Off will be held in the Depot Street parking lot from noon until the chili runs out.

"Registration is open for the chili cook off. The prizes are great, the event is fun, and it's a great way to earn bragging rights for your special chili recipe. Restaurants, church groups, non-profit organizations and individuals can enter," Netzel said. "The chili cook off is the centerpiece of Winterfest, plain and simple."

Registration forms are available at www.genevawinterfest.com

The cook off has a new sponsor in the Geneva-on-the-Lake Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the event will include the popular hot chocolate bar sponsored by The Lakehouse Inn and Spa. Free horse-drawn carriage rides by Whispery Pines Percherons Carriage Rides are sponsored again by the Ashtabula County Medical Center. Vintage snowmobiles will be available to see at the Depot Street lot.

The Big Lego Build Off, presented by Coldwell Banker, will be held at the Geneva Community Center, along with the princesses and mini manicures. Jungle Terry will also perform at the Community Center at 3 p.m., and Geneva Giant Eagle is bringing the delicious cookie decorating activity back to Winterfest from 12:30 p.m. until the cookies run out. The Geneva Community Improvement Corporation will host hot dogs and a raffle at the Geneva Community Center from noon to 4 p.m.

Winterfest will also feature a rummage sale at the Geneva Fraternal Order of Eagles headquarters on Depot Street. Shoppers can enjoy free hot chocolate

Continued on page 13

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Jason Resler is a stand-up comedian and a writer who has been heard on Sirius/XM - Rawdog Comedy, Pandora Radio - Comedy Icons and others. He has been seen on Comedy Central's Laugh Riots, CBS Good Day, West Coast Live, Comedy Time, Hulu, and nearly 5,000 live shows nationwide!

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Continued from page 11

and coffee as they browse.

The Geneva Fire Station will be open to the public for tours, a fire extinguisher

simulator demonstration, music by Susan Hagan and the Geneva High School Jazz Band, free Dunkin Donut Munchkins

and hot cocoa and coffee, and warming stations.

For a schedule of events, list of sponsors,

and registration for contests, see inside back cover (pg. 31) or visit www.genevawinterfest.com

Conneaut City Limits Music Festival

Collaborative multi-venue music festival in the works for June

The 1st annual Conneaut City Limits Music Festival, June 12-13, will feature an amazing lineup of nearly 30 performances from iconic and emerging regional musical artists, conversations, and exhibits on four stages. The festival boasts a uniquely creative multiple genre,

multiple venue concept with transportation between the venues included with admission. The inaugural event will be hosted by Breakwall BBQ, Buccia Vineyard, and Sparky's Place. Discussions with other potential venues are ongoing. With a gate opening time of 4pm

on Friday June 12, this vibrant, fun and unique festival experience offers 15 hours of live music spanning Friday night thru Saturday night, accompanied by a variety of the best local cuisine, beer, wine, cocktails and one-of-a-kind merchandise. "The Conneaut City Limits Musical Fes-

tival is a fantastic addition to the already impressive list of events hosted by our city and is the perfect way to kick off the Summer. I continue to be impressed with the collaboration and creativity of our entrepreneurial local business owners" said Jim Hockaday, Conneaut City Manager.

Ohio Arts Professionals Network, A Performing Arts Conference for Ohio Artists and Presenters, Coming to Cleveland in 2020

The Ohio Arts Professionals Network (OAPN) is pleased to announce its 2020 Performing Arts conference will take place on October 18-20, 2020 in Cleveland, OH. The event will be hosted at the Music Box Supper Club and Aloft Hotels.

Jessica Rosenblatt, the organization's new Executive Director and Cleveland-native, is excited to bring OAPN to Cleveland for the first time. This members-only, biennial conference connects presenters with booking agents and artists who will have many opportunities to network with industry professionals

throughout the event. There will be 24 official artist showcases, which will take place at the Music Box Supper Club, over the course of the three-day conference. Professional Development courses to benefit artists, agents and presenters will take place on Sunday, October 18th at Aloft Hotels.

Aloft Hotels will offer members a discounted room rate which is extended to attendees on a first come first serve basis. Aloft Hotels will also offer a free shuttle to drive guests the one-mile trip to and from the music venue and hotel.

OAPN is open to performing artists of

all backgrounds including solo acts, magicians, comedians, dance groups and musical groups of various genres. Artists interested in submitting for an official showcase will need to apply to OAPN's official 'Call for Artists' in March 2020. OAPN will sell day passes for local musicians and artists who want to attend the showcases, networking events, and professional development courses.

Founded in 1960, the Ohio Arts Professionals Network (OAPN) provides a forum for artists and presenters to develop business relationships, create partnerships and cooperative ventures

among organizations that present arts and entertainment programming. OAPN aims to help arts service organizations and artist management agencies doing business in Ohio and nearby states by strengthening the quality of their programming.

Artists, agents, presenters and service organizations interested in attending or learning more should connect with Ohio Arts Professionals Network on Facebook (/OAPN1960), Twitter (@OHArtsProNet) and sign up for the monthly newsletter by visiting <https://oapn.org>

The Stadium Tour Summer 2020

Mötley Crüe & Def Leppard, Poison, Joan Jett & The Blackhearts

Cleveland, Friday, July 3 Firstenergy Stadium Tickets On Sale Friday, January 10th 10 am

With over 700,000 tickets sold and gross box office receipts of over \$90 million in the first weekend of sales, The Stadium Tour featuring Def Leppard and Motley Crue with Poison and Joan Jett & The Blackhearts will be the biggest rock tour of 2020. The tour saw the fastest sell out in Miller Park history in Milwaukee with additional shows selling out instantly in Atlanta, Seattle, Charlotte, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago and Denver. The bands responded to the unprecedented fan demand by adding seven new shows in new cities: San Antonio, Kansas City, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Nashville, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

About Def Leppard

With more than 100 million albums sold worldwide, THE 2019 ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES with two

prestigious Diamond Awards in the U.S., Def Leppard - Joe Elliott (vocals), Phil Collen (guitar), Rick "Sav" Savage (bass), Vivian Campbell (guitar) and Rick Allen (drums) - are one of the most important forces in rock music. The band has amassed a staggering 2.5 billion streams since releasing their music digitally only one year ago. As they did with the original release of their records, Def Leppard dominated the worldwide charts again. Chart stats saw their albums charting in the iTunes Top 10 in more than 30 countries, including Hysteria at #3 in the US, and #5 in the UK.

Over the course of their career the band has produced a series of classic groundbreaking albums that set the bar for generations of music fans and artists alike. Def Leppard's influential career includes

numerous hit singles and ground-breaking multi-platinum albums - including two of the best-selling albums of all time, Pyromania and Hysteria, capturing the group's legendary tracks, bringing together classic Leppard hits such as "Rock of Ages", "Pour Some Sugar on Me" and "Foolin'." The band's 2015 self-titled studio album debuted at #1 on Billboard's Top Rock Albums and Top Independent Albums charts.

About Mötley Crüe

Hailing from Los Angeles, CA, the quartet - Vince Neil (vocals), Mick Mars (guitars), Nikki Sixx (bass), and Tommy Lee (drums) - has commandeered the rock pantheon for 38 years. They've accumulated worldwide album sales exceeding 100m, 7 platinum and multi-platinum albums, 22 Top 40 mainstream rock hits, 6 Top 20 pop singles, 3 GRAMMY nominations, 4 New

York Times best-sellers and even landed a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. With utmost success from their biopic, The Dirt on Netflix and its soundtrack, the band landed another #1 album on iTunes and Top 10 worldwide with 22 chart-topping singles and 7 albums on the charts. Its massive global success saw Mötley Crüe's popularity rush to new highs, catapulting the band's music back to the top of the worldwide charts with the younger 18-44 demographic now representing 64% of the band's fanbase. Moreover, in the six months following the release of THE DIRT, Mötley Crüe has celebrated a meteoric rise of almost 350% increase in streams of their music across all streaming platforms. Known for their iconic live performances, they've sold-out countless tours across the globe with groundbreaking production highlights such as Tommy

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WHAT'S ON THE SHELF

By Helen Marketti

Good Lovin': My Life as a Rascal

An interview with original Rascal band member, Gene Cornish.

The Rascals were a well-known and well-loved rock band during the 60s, with signature hits such as "Good Lovin'," "A Beautiful Morning," "People Got to Be Free," "How Can I Be Sure," "I've Been Lonely Too Long," "Groovin'", and many more. Original member Gene Cornish discusses his recent autobiography, *Good Lovin': My Life as a Rascal* (Gene Cornish with Stephen Miller) (S and G Publishing, 2019). Foreword written by Felix Cavaliere of The Rascals.

Gene was originally from Canada. He moved to the United States with his mother Ada and his stepfather Ted Cornish when he was very young. His real father had left the family before Gene was born. As Gene grew up, he became interested in music and more particularly in playing the guitar. The first song he learned to play on the guitar was "Singing the Blues" by Guy Mitchell. One day he was stuck inside his home due to a snow storm in Rochester, New York, playing checkers with his grandfather, when a cool looking guy with a guitar slung over his shoulder came on the TV. This was a defining moment for Gene because this young man on television was Elvis Presley. "He sang 'Heartbreak Hotel' and that was an enlightening moment, the beginning of my own journey. I was hooked. Then it went from Elvis to the Everly Brothers to Ricky Nelson to Jerry Lee Lewis," remembers Gene. "It was about Rockabilly at the time. It was the style of music I first learned to play."

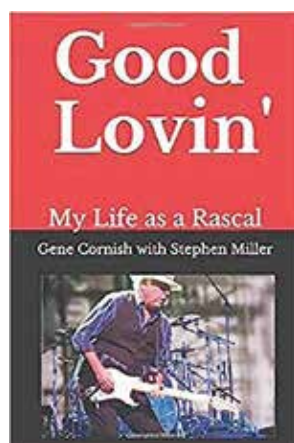
"My mom took me to see Buddy Holly in 1958. I was fourteen years old at the time. He was playing at The Auditorium Theatre in Rochester. On the same bill was The Everly Brothers and Duane Eddy. I remember it was Phil Everly's birthday. The entire audience sang Happy Birthday. I was thrilled," recalls Gene. "There were two shows that day. I asked my mom if we could come back for the evening show. The tickets were only \$2.50. I remember turning to my mom and telling her that what these guys

were doing was what I wanted to do with my life, that I was going to become famous. I promised her I would be on the Ed Sullivan Show. I was going to buy her a Cadillac. And several years later I did exactly what I said!"

Gene had a wonderful relationship with his stepfather Ted Cornish, so much so that Gene refers to him as his dad. Ted was a huge supporter of Gene wanting to be a musician and encouraged him to follow the pathway he wanted. "We had a bait and tackle shop," said Gene. "My father worked sixteen hours a day. We sold hunting and fishing equipment. He made sure I had everything. He did it all for me. When I became famous with The Rascals it was my joy and honor to buy a new home and a new car for my parents because of all they had done for me."

While Gene was enjoying great success in the mid to later 60s with The Rascals, his biological father had surfaced. "My real father worked for the Canadian government as a courier. I think I met him once when I was about four years old. Anyway, he found out where I lived and had left a letter. He wanted to let me know that he was proud of me and my success. He said he never wanted to impose upon my life or make me uncomfortable. I didn't respond to his letter. I didn't know what to say. And to be honest, I regret that now. I guess I didn't want my stepfather to know my real dad had been in contact. I never told my mom. I did learn from an uncle how my dad was doing from time to time but we were never in direct contact."

Gene said The Rascals had five years of

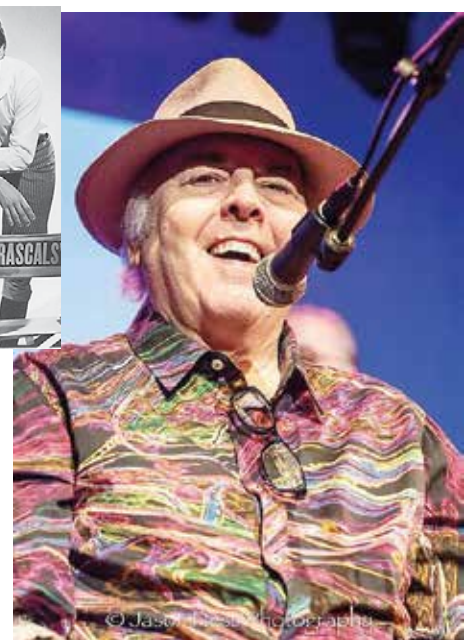


being together and making an impact with their music. It was a great experience for him to be part of a band with bandmates he considers brothers. "The Rascals were Felix Cavaliere, Eddie Brigati, Dino Danelli, and myself. It's grateful and humbling when people approach me and say how much they have enjoyed the music of our band. Felix and I are extremely close to this day. These were my brothers through thick and thin," said Gene. "The late 50s through the entire 60s was the greatest music generation. If you listen to the music, which are too many artists to mention, but you had The Four Seasons, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Motown, Cream, The Lovin' Spoonful, Aretha Franklin, and on and on. The artists were there and present. It was a friendly competition between all of us. But everyone including The Rascals kept their eye on The Beatles because they set the pace. They set the bar."

The Rascals missed out on playing at The Monterey Pop Festival, as they were scheduled to play for the Henry Ford family. They missed out on Woodstock too because they were recording an album. "We had no idea these historical events would be filmed and would start a movement," said Gene.

Gene had several "dark" years where drugs took over his life. At one point he was nearly homeless and sold his guitars to support his habits. Remembering what his dad told him at an early age regarding opportunities: "Opportunity comes silently at night. If you're prepared, it hits you on the head. You have to have sense, faith and trust. If you're not prepared or tuned in, it will go by silently and you will never know. My dad was a smart man."

Gene has fond memories of Cleveland. It was a thrill for him to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame with The Rascals in 1997. For a while Gene was in a band called Fotomaker with Wally Bryson



of The Raspberries. "Cleveland is such a great musical town. I remember when Fotomaker debuted at The Agora in 1978. I have good memories of Cleveland."

Gene had been touring with Felix Cavaliere during the summer of 2018, when he went into cardiac arrest onstage in Billings, Montana. "I remember not feeling well that day. When we started the show, I started to feel dizzy. The room began to spin and then everything went black. That's the last thing I remember. The next moment I am waking up in the hospital. Right now, I am taking it easy. I am currently in physical rehab to regain muscle strength. I can't tour at this time but I plan on returning to the stage, God willing, one of these days. Instead of making music, I am telling my story."

Gene's autobiography is quite a detailed journey and he holds nothing back. It's honest and open with reminiscences of great times and dark days. It's a book for every Rascals and music fan. "I am a humble guy from Canada. I was able to make my dreams come true through the love and support of my parents. I was prepared for the opportunity. It was all about the music and wanting to be a rock star. It was a lot of work, too. (laughs) I am blessed to have been in The Rascals and grateful to Felix for writing those great songs. Whatever your dreams are, work on them because they can come true. You have to put in the work but it can happen. We carry on. Felix, Eddie, Dino and myself. We were The Rascals."



LOST SHEEP BAND

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Sat. Feb. 1 • 7-10
Deer's Leap Winery

Sat. Feb. 15 • 7-11
Conneaut Moose

www.lostsheepband.com

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Bahama Breeze in Cleveland

Sun, Jan 12 • 10:30 - 1:30
Blue Canyon Brunch

Sun, Jan 12 • 4:30 - 7:30
Old Mill Winery OPEN MIC

Sat, Jan 18 Bahama Breeze in Pittsburgh

Fri, Jan 24 • 6 - 10
Bahama Breeze in Cleveland

Sun, Jan 26 • 2 - 5
Hartford Hill Winery

Sun, Feb 2 • Noon - 2
Music Box Brunch in Cleveland with
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check out
www.tomtoddmusic.com
for more information & pictures

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V NOTES FROM TOM TODD



Tom Todd...Up to 5 Million Readers!

Well, Christmas is over, and I learned a lot! First, a set of windshield wipers is NOT a very romantic gift for the wife on Christmas! (Hey, what's wrong with practical? I even offered to install them! Then she threatened to install them in me!)

So, that lesson learned! I also learned that words can be confusing, especially when people are trying to sell you something. And during the Christmas shopping season (Aug 1 – Jan 15) there are a lot of people trying to sell you something! Newspapers, billboards, TV, radio, etc., are jammed with ads, and they have their own peculiar language.

For instance, the phrase “Up to” is really totally meaningless. Car ads use this one a lot. They say, “We’ll give you up to \$10,000 in trade-in value on your old car...” Well, “up to” could be \$100, or \$5 or maybe \$0. Maybe they’ll have you pay them to tow it away! That all qualifies as “up to.” Or if you come in with an immaculate glistening Rolls Royce for a trade, they may pay you more than \$10,000.” So it’s a totally useless, misleading phrase.

“As much as” is the same thing. They could say, “We’ll give you as much as a million dollars for your old car!” and it still might turn out to be \$5. Totally meaningless, and totally misleading.

Here’s a great one: “Exclusions may apply.” Boy, is that a ‘catch all!’ “Buy this car and get free towing for a lifetime! Exclusions apply!” Exclusions are: 1)

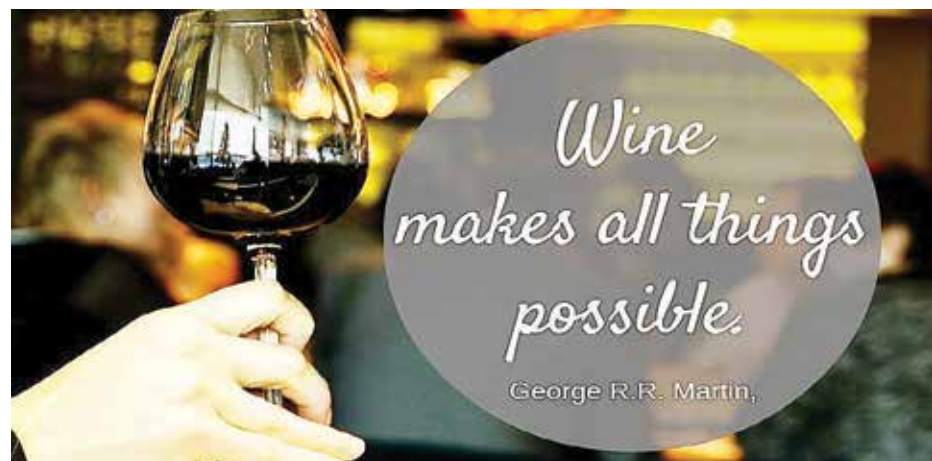
Not towing for your car, and 2) Whose lifetime?

Hey, I could use that one in my business! “Music for every occasion! Guaranteed to please everyone! Exclusions apply.” Exclusions would include: 1) My music would not be very fun at a funeral. 2) Will not please your 16-year-old who listens to nothing but rap, and 3) Will just make your Great Aunt Gertrude more grouchy!

“Call for details” is another dirty rotten trick. “You may already qualify for a free gift! Call for details!” Yea, sure; call and they’ll sign you up for life insurance for your pet goldfish.

And I hear this one over and over and over: “Only \$99 month!” OK, a ten-year-old would hear that one and ask, “How many months???” They really oughta tell you in the ad for how many months. “This elegant diamond necklace, only \$99 a month for 36 months.” “This shiny motorcycle, only \$99 a month for 6 years.” “This cool cell phone service, only \$99 a month forever!”

Even the simplest words can deceive. The word “could” is a perfect example. They may say, “Buy your child this wonderful toy, and you could win a trip to Disneyland. Or Europe! Or the moon!” Yea, and I could be president of the USA!... Hmm, yea, not a bad idea! “President Tom!!” I like it!! Actually, I already have up to a million supporters! I could bring peace and prosperity and riches and happiness to the whole world! Exclusions may apply. Call for details!



Wine makes all things possible.

George R.R. Martin,

MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

By James Onysko

Percussionist Paul Stranahan Strikes Up The Band(s)

Taking a journey may encompass many things. It could be a weekend escape, or a full-blown vacation - perhaps to see the Seven Wonders of the World. Maybe it's a cross-country trek as a bachelor with your best bud; or time for your honeymoon and romantic adventures. Others turn to books or movies for an imaginary one ala The Wizard Of Oz following a Yellow Brick Road to who knows where. Or one could undertake the Camino de Santiago as pilgrims still do across NW Spain. It may also be the start of a spiritual yatra ... another type of journey albeit stationary; one imbued with mysticism and hopefully, an expansion of consciousness. Considering where to go is the biggest part of it. But maybe there is a middle ground where a landscape can be gone over with little or no effort - except allowing for an open mind to choose the proverbial "road less traveled". And here, I'm speaking of musical terrain.

A palette of percussion is that opening to a world of soundscapes; from a mere striking of a gong to caressing it. From tribal slapping of a body of water to filled water glasses arranged and approached like notes on a keyboard. While a piano is more rightly thought of as a percussion instrument (hammers striking strings, after all), in the hands of a master, all one sees is the wrist-tinkle of white with black - not the internal mechanisms at play. We hear resonant/disonant notes arising, filling the space with sound, from the soul of a conscious creator. Keith Jarrett comes to mind with his improvising prowess. But I'm convinced that the best musicians are the ones you'll never hear or know about; those who are working in obscurity, or at least, "famous in the neighborhood".

I dislike commercial radio for its inherent limitation of choice; but with the Internet, cyberspace is where hidden gems of music can be found. YouTube continues to amaze me with all its diverse offerings. However, you have to get out there to experience live music; because that's where the joy and magic are joined in a shared sense. Cleveland-based percussionist, Paul Stranahan, is one such musician worthy of your time. From his gongs and singing bowls solo set-up to his duo/trio and larger ensemble

work, this singular artist offers many avenues to exploring sonic pathways. In the last year alone, he has released three separate and distinct CDs evidencing his broad interests. Recently, his prized, five-octave marimba was delivered costing a small fortune. Some people buy new cars to travel; but with Stranahan, it's more about sound choices ... literally and vibrationally. Among its many meanings, the word sound also means the "mechanical radiant energy transmitted by longitudinal pressure waves in a material medium (as air) and is the objective cause of hearing". Going to see Mr. Stranahan perform is to immerse oneself in a sonic wash of aural wonder, asking your ears the question: what comes next?.

First, let's consider his self-released Journey To Planet Gong ... his sophomore solo effort following the 2-CD Gong And Singing Bowl Improvisations reviewed in these pages in 2012. This time out, using tune titles as the only text, we are "Starting The Journey" with track one, which begins softly and simply, teasing out sparse sound. Giving the notes space is an important part of the sojourn ... like resting along a walkabout. Depending upon how he strikes the instruments, and following some inner muse, we go along with him to the desired destination. On track two, we are "Making Progress".

I asked Paul what's in his arsenal; how he decided to go down this path; and what comes next in his sonic swirl? He responded: "Regarding instruments, I have several different drum sets for different situations; twenty some gongs; lots of singing bowls, a couple of marimbas; and a darbuka drum. For Journey to Planet Gong, I play a 40" Zildjian cymbal. This is my favorite with



which to use friction mallets, which are basically rubber mallets of various sizes. You scrape the cymbal or gong instead of hitting. The 38" Paiste cymbal is my favorite to hit as well as a 28" Sabian. I use a 24" gong that sounds cool; and lots of smaller gongs from China, Korea, Vietnam, and the good old USA. The bowls are mostly Tibetan, but also from Nepal.

"Journey to Planet Gong is my second gong and singing bowl studio recording; and I'd like to share some background on how it came about. Drum set is really my first instrument. I came across gongs, first, as a way to have some more interesting sounds - especially when it came to group free-form improvisation. I liked the sound of my whopping one medium-sized gong I had sit-

ting around for a few years, which I finally added to my drum set. I then bought another gong, and then another. I had cymbal stands for each gong; but I needed to get some sort of rig to hang several gongs, which would make the setup easier. I figured something out, and then realized I could get some more gongs! My wife says I've 'gong crazy'.

"I came across singing bowls by searching on the Internet for gongs; and they came up in the search results. I immediately purchased a few of them. I was frustrated at the time with not getting to play with people I really felt compatible with as far as free-form improvisation goes. I then thought with a few more gongs, I could actually make some really cool sounding solo improvisations by myself using just gongs and bowls. I started concentrating on this idea. That's how my first solo release called Gong and Singing Bowl Improvisations (on Infinite Number Of Sounds label) came about. I really wanted to document my initial joy and enthusiasm in discovering these new sounds that were now available to me; and I was really pleased with the results".

Track three finds the percussionist "Singing

Continued on page 16

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Scott Treen



Continued from Page 15

Along" ... something one might naturally do as part of a trek; but here having the double meaning of a singing bowl. Expertly multi-tracked by Mike Papatonis of Media Cube in Strongsville, Ohio, the artistry can be heard in capturing the gentle-rub-around-the-edges of the bowl's rim. It has an undulating effect; a red/blue wave resonance as only some of these metallic or ceramic instruments can muster. Gently tapping around this drone effect are melodic bell patterns - pitter-patted in a subtly-rhythmic sense. This is a soundtrack to your mind's imagination. You are drawn in by the musician's intentions to take you along with him, being seduced in the receding silence. And if one were lucky

enough to see this in a grand concert hall with all its acoustical properties, the experience (with eyes closed) would be to like going to the imagined planet, indeed.



We proceed to track four for "What's That?", a darker dive into ways gongs can be manipulated. Otherworldly, this music belongs in a suspense movie as it anticipates the danger beckoning just ahead. Depending upon the size, weight and overall structure of a gong, Paul uses his palette with great success. One note is allowed to decay before another emerges to an eventual crescendo of cacophony by his choice of the right mallet or stick for the intended sound. Our adventure continues with "Conversations"; the inevitable question on any trip: "What Time Is It?"; and ends with "We Have Arrived". But to arrive safely, Stranahan's musical offerings should probably be best listened to in comfortable surroundings; and NOT while driving a car. It can be that hypnotic.

Paul continues: "So now fast forward a few more years; and I felt I wanted to document a lot of the new ideas and sounds I had discovered since the first recording. I've added a lot more gongs and bowls, which automatically make it sound new and different; but I also took a somewhat more compositional approach this time. While I didn't write down anything specific, I did think about the overall arc of the performance. I knew I wanted it to be one continuous piece like I usually do when performing. I thought about certain sections that I could develop; and then I thought about the order - what would be a musical way I could switch to the next part. I didn't want to plan too much either; because that could have ended up sounding kind of sterile. There was still plenty of room to improvise in the moment on all parts and transitions".

Proceeding to the percussionist's work with Lisa Miralia (synthesizers, electronics, vocals, bells + thunderbox) simply entitled Miralia/Stranahan Duo, the musicians chronicle a science-fiction idea: According to the liner notes: "the multi-dimensional whales are travelling in an interstellar migration to reach Sagittarius A*, a supermassive black hole in the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. Their journey begins through intense wormholes and hyperspace, catapulted through at 216 times the speed of light until they reach the black hole's event

horizon. At first, time and space within the event horizon are warped and slowed. The whales commune within this dimension, before finally being stretched to near infinity to disappear into the other side". Over the course of three improvised pieces lasting 52 minutes, and spouting titles such as: "The Whales Reach Sagittarius A*"; "George"; and "Crescendo-Decrescendo", M/S Duo conjure up a mighty aural display ... again, another soundtrack to an imaginary (perhaps animated?) future film. On this release, Stranahan employs his drumkit to accompany Ms. Miralia during the first part of track one - before finally giving way to his beloved gongs. The CD begins harshly - perhaps depicting conjectured conditions while approaching the aforesaid event horizon. Then, one can hear bits of the conversation mimicking real-life whale talk in the storied vacuum of space. A decidedly-different CD than his solo work, Mr. Stranahan finds a colleague in this improvisational universe.

Finally, let's briefly consider The Art House Sessions to which our featured drummer contributes. This music represents yet another arrow/aspect in Stranahan's quiver/quest to find like-minded musicians who share his sense of musical exploration. On this more fully-realized release, he is joined by Mike Hovancsek on koto, sitar, Native American flute, guitar, prepared piano, bawu + guzheng; Samuel Salisbury, violin; Joe Culley, tabla; and Paul S. playing gongs + singing bowls. Given the eclectic players - especially multi-instrumentalist, Mike Hovancsek (from Pointless Orchestra), this CD is a more accessible, but no less adventurous romp through the hippocampus. Using more traditional approaches to ensemble work, and playing acoustic, ancient instruments as aforementioned, this quartet is finely tuned into each other throughout this nearly one-hour, improvised and cohesive performance given at The Art House in Kent, Ohio, in 2017. As a finish to our foray, the TV series Kung Fu comes to mind while listening to this disc ... musical aphorisms to accompany the wandering Shaolin priest named Kwai Chang Caine. Like his encounters, you may find many surprises along the way.

To see Paul Stranahan in action, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxs0HpVCBgw>
 For more information and sound clips, you may visit these links:
<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/paulstranahan5>

Journey to Planet Gong
<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/hovancsek2>
 The Art House Sessions



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MIND BODY SPIRIT

By Amanda Nelson

Health Benefits of Massage Therapy

Massage therapy is getting more recognition these days as an effective tool for managing health and wellness. Almost 25% of American adults have gotten at least one massage in the last year and nearly half were for specific health benefits. Massage is the practice of systematic manipulation of the body's soft tissue for the purpose of improving or maintaining health and commonly used for stress or pain relief. When asking doctors, chiropractors, and physical therapists about the benefits of massage half recommend it to enhance the effectiveness of their treatment when paired together. A great way to start the new year is to take your self-care seriously and consider services that will add to your quality of life.

Chronic pain plagues many people some of whom live with it not knowing there is a natural way to ease it. Rocky Nelson, Med, LMT of Rock House Fitness and Cosmetic Laser Medi Spa & More specializes in Structural Integration massage, a technique that uses therapeutic deep tissue and relaxation elements to provide an enjoyable experience while addressing chronic muscular issues. It deals with human suffering that is based on postural imbalances or over-use injuries. Structural Integration is one of the most powerful therapies in the field. This hallmark approach is a culmination of styles - Cranial-Sacral, Myofascial release and Roling - all coming together in a holistic manner and have a proven record in stimulating the clients homeostatic healing response.

Massage has been shown to boost the body's immune system and lower blood pressure. It alleviates back pain and decreases headache reoccurrence. Chronic conditions like osteoarthritis can manage stiffness and joint functionality with regular massage. It has shown benefits when used with people battling cancer as it can reduce symptoms like pain, fatigue, and depression. It can also reduce side effects from cancer medication and treatments. Several things occur in your body while receiving a massage and all principle

systems are affected. The mechanical movement of the body pushes blood and lymph through tissue. This activity allows for greater nutrient, oxygen, and waste exchange during circulation. The simple act of touch also ignites the reflexes of both the Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems that are connected together and communicate with the entire body. There are a wide variety of massage techniques that range from relaxation to therapeutic. The technique best for you can be determined by speaking to a licensed Massage Therapist.

Rock's specialty Wellness Massage starts with relaxation and assesses for issues that may require Structural Integration. It is the most effective way to restore normal function and range of motion to every joint in the body. The end result of this massage will break up any adhesions in your body which will increase blood flow to all areas, increases your range of motion, and decrease aches and pain. Blood flow is essential for any type of tissue healing. What sets us apart from others is Rocky's extensive knowledge of the human body and how it works. He is an Exercise Physiologist with a Masters degree in Education, Bachelors in Exercise Science, and had been a college teacher for 18 years specializing in anatomy, exercise physiology, and massage. His method separates and loosens all the muscles causing them to stay relaxed and not go into a guarded position. The feeling is comparable to walking around in tight shoes all day and when you take them off there is a nice feeling of expansion and relief. This is how you should feel after this massage. Structural Integration should not be confused with other deep tissue massages. In most cases the practitioner only uses more pressure which can traumatize the muscles or even cause adhesions.

Most people develop joint and muscle pain slowly over a course of time, and they can't tell you what they did to cause the source of pain and discomfort. The body is made of several layers that can

become bound as we age, are injured or have repetitive movement on a body part. Muscular adhesions develop where the layers are sticking to each other instead of gliding over each other. The bound layers cause imbalances and decreased blood flow to the tissue. By separating the fascia layers around the muscles and joints the body becomes free moving, balanced, and blood flow is restored alleviating the pain and improving movement. The outcome of this is a body that is more flexible, longer, and free from the constraints of gravity and pain.

Massages are priced at \$70 for half hour, \$100 for the hour and \$220 for a couple's individualized massage. We have 3 locations for massage, Rock House Fitness in Painesville, and Cosmetic Laser Medi Spa & More's locations in Mentor, and Chardon on the Square. Couple's massages are available in our beach themed couple's massage room at Cosmetic Laser Medi Spa & More's offices. To schedule or need more info call Rocky Nelson at 440-477-4696. Visit www.rockhousefitness.com or to see the beautiful beach themed rooms for couples massage go to www.takeawayhair.com

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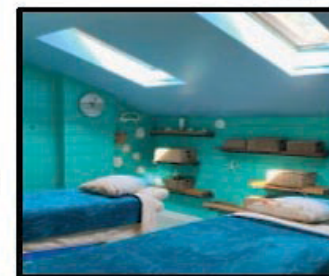
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NEW PATIENTS & EMERGENCIES WELCOME

Continued from Page 12

Lee's, Crüecifly-Drum-Rollercoaster and Nikki Sixx's Flame-Throwing-Bass.

About Poison

In its all original line up POISON (Bret Michaels, C.C. DeVille, Bobby Dall, Rikki Rockett) has kept it rocking, real and relevant and promises they will bring their own style, unbelievable live energy and big hit songs to the stage this summer. Relentless from the ground up and forged in the hell fires of the Pennsylvania and Los Angeles club scenes, they smashed their way up as an independent band who bet on themselves. Selling over 3 million copies of an independent album which included the big hits "Talk Dirty To Me", "I Won't Forget You", "Cry Tough", "I Want Action" and the underground smash "Look What The Cat Dragged In" they were soon picked up by Capitol Records and beat the sophomore jinx by releasing the #1 smash "Every Rose Has Its Thorn". Written out of emotion by singer/songwriter and frontman Bret Michaels, the song blasted into the charts remaining a top the pop, rock and country genres for 3 months consecutively. The album "Open Up and Say...Ahh!" sold 8 million copies out of the gate and spawned other hit singles, "Fallen Angel", "Nothin' But A Good Time" and "Your Mama Don't Dance". Followed up by the multi-platinum album "Flesh & Blood" Poison again lit up the charts with several more smash hit singles including "Unskinny Bop", "Something To Believe In" and more! Bret Michaels, a lifelong Type 1 juvenile diabetic, recently received his Humanitarian Of The Year award for his philanthropic work on The CW. Bret Michaels continues to celebrate our veterans and first responders on-stage nightly keeping all politics aside, just respect for these heroes.

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About Joan Jett & The Blackhearts

Joan Jett is an originator, an innovator, and a visionary. As the leader of the hard-rocking Blackhearts, with whom she has become a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, she's had eight platinum and gold albums and nine Top 40 singles, including the classics "Bad Reputation," "I Love Rock 'N' Roll," "I Hate Myself For Loving You," and "Crimson and Clover." Her independent record label, Blackheart, was founded in 1980 after she was rejected by no less than 23 labels. Blackheart is one of the longest running indie labels and continues to give voice to new bands. As a producer, she has overseen albums by Bikini Kill, Circus Lupus, as well as the Germs' LA punk masterpiece, GI. Jett's music has become a permanent force in mainstream culture. Jett and the Blackhearts released their latest record, "Unvarnished," in 2013 and continue touring the globe with headline shows alongside fellow rock icons like The Who, Green Day and the Foo Fighters. Additionally, Jett has acted and appeared in movies & television, including the film Light Of Day. Jett was also able to see her story told in The Runaways, the film based on (lead singer of

The Runaways) Cherie Currie's book Neon Angel, starring Kristen Stewart as Jett, and Dakota Fanning as Currie. Jett was close to the project, serving as executive producer. In January 2018, the documentary film based on Jett's life, "Bad Reputation," – produced by Blackheart's SVP Carianne Brinkman and directed by Kevin Kerslake – premiered to critical acclaim at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, with the New York Post hailing that "Bad Reputation" does it right, tracing Jett's trailblazing path as one of the first, and still the hardest-rocking, woman."

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V WATERFRONT FRONTLINE

By Justin Thompson

Anatomy of a Snowflake

"No two snowflakes are alike" or so the old adage goes. Snowflakes actually fall into 35 categories depending on their shape, according to Smithsonian Magazine. But it's not shape alone that differentiates this snow, the chemical composition also changes depending on what's in the atmosphere when it forms and as it falls. We learn in grade school that water evaporates into the atmosphere, condenses into clouds, and then falls back down either as rain or snow. This might lead you to think fresh rain and snow are the cleanest source of water; but as it turns out, it's not just water glistening on those white treetops and in snowy front yards. As the snow falls this season, I want to take a moment to reflect on water and the ways it's altered by pollution in our region.

The water cycle is a miraculous wonder without which life would not be possible. We experience and rely on water in all three of its physical states: as a liquid that we drink and comprises most of our body mass, as a solid in the form of ice and snow flakes, and as gaseous water vapor that forms clouds in the atmosphere. As water cycles, it acts as a kind of atmospheric scrubber that pulls some of the pollution out of the air and brings it back down to the ground. This cleansing process occurs with both snow and rain. Water vapors condense around dust and other particles in the air and as these vapors and condensed droplets flow along atmospheric wind currents, they can pick up a flurry of other contaminants as they move.

Air pollution causes three times as many deaths as AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis combined according to the Global Health Data Exchange. The World Health Organization estimates that 2 billion children live in areas where outdoor air pollution exceeds international limits. Children, elderly, minority and low-income communities, and people with compromised health are particularly vulnerable to air pollution. Adverse health effects include cardiovascular disease, asthma and other respiratory diseases, and cancer. Recent evidence also shows that air pollution is linked to higher risk of diabetes, autism, and lower IQ.

Several types of air pollution contribute to deteriorating health and well-being of residents here in northeast Ohio, and Ohio ranks second to last of 50 states in the Air Quality Index. Primary pollutants of concern for local residents include: Particulate Matter 10 (particles that are less than 10 microns in diameter), Particulate Matter 2.5 (particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter) [for reference, a human hair is between 50-70 microns in diameter], carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds. Polluting industries must be below legal limits of these pollutants in order to obtain a permit to install from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). These permits allow large amounts of air pollution, but the public rarely has an opportunity to understand the health and environmental implications of pollution discussed in these technical documents. Therefore, the next few paragraphs explain what each pollutant is, how it's formed and its potential effects.

Particulate Matter (PM) is made up of small particles like dust, soot, and drops of liquids. The majority of PM in urban areas is formed directly from burning fossil fuels by power plants, automobiles, non-road equipment, and industrial facilities. Other sources are dust and diesel emissions and secondary particle formation from gases and vapors. Coarse particulate matter (PM10) is known to cause nasal and upper respiratory tract health problems. Fine particles (PM2.5) and ultrafine particles penetrate deeper into the lungs and cause heart attacks, strokes, asthma, and bronchitis, as well as premature death from heart ailments, lung disease, and cancer. Studies show that higher PM2.5 exposure can impair brain development in children.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) is essential for life on earth as plants and microorganisms absorb CO2 to produce sugar and expel Oxygen (O2) as a byproduct. Humans and other animals do the opposite: through respiration they take in O2 and expel CO2. In the atmosphere, CO2 acts as a greenhouse gas, absorbing and emitting energy from solar radiation, a process that affects global temperature and climate. CO2 concentration

in the atmosphere has risen from 280 parts per million in pre-industrial times to its current level of 410 parts per million. Oceans have absorbed 30-40% of this added CO2, where it dissolves to form carbonic acid. This increased acidity has dramatic negative impacts on marine wildlife.

Nitrogen Oxide (NO) is a primary pollutant associated with combustion engines in automobiles and industrial processes. NO is rapidly converted to nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in sunlight, and NO2 reacts with water vapor in the atmosphere to form nitric acid, a primary contributor to acid rain. NOX (a combination of NO and NO2) is formed in high concentrations around roadways and industrial pollution, and can result in development and exacerbations of asthma, bronchitis, as well as lead to a higher risk of heart disease. Nitrous oxide (N2O) is also a combustion product and it contributes to global warming and also has been implicated in the depletion of the ozone layer.

Ozone (O3) high in the atmosphere protects the planet from the sun's ultraviolet radiation. However, ozone at ground level (commonly referred to as smog) is a well-established respiratory irritant. Ozone is formed in the atmosphere through reactions of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, both of which are formed as a result of combustion of fossil fuels. Short-term exposure to ozone can cause chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, while long term exposure can lead to decreased lung function and cause chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In addition, ozone exposure can aggravate existing lung diseases.

Sulfur dioxide (SO2) is emitted into the air by the burning of fossil fuels that contain sulfur. Sulfur dioxide causes eye irritation, worsens asthma, increases susceptibility to respiratory infections, and impacts the cardiovascular system. Sulfur dioxide exposure is also associated with preterm birth, according to a systematic review done in 2011. When SO2 combines with water vapor in the atmosphere, it forms sulfuric acid – the main component of acid rain, which can travel long distances before falling and causing damage to woodland and aquatic ecosystems

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are carbon-based chemicals that evaporate quickly as they have a high vapor pressure point and a low boiling point. This means that upon being released they volatilize or evaporate into the atmosphere where

Continued on Page 20

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they can be breathed in, or picked up by snow and/or rain. Common symptoms of short-term exposure to VOCs include eye, nose & throat irritation, headaches, nausea/vomiting, dizziness, worsening of asthma symptoms. Chronic exposures to VOCs can lead to central nervous system damage, liver & kidney damage, and cancer.

These are just some of the types of pollution that get picked up by snow and rain in the atmosphere. As that precipitation comes back to earth, it flows as either rain or snowmelt into streams, rivers, tributaries, lakes, and eventually the oceans. This pollution, combined with habitat loss and sediment and nutrient pollution from resource extraction and development, has caused dramatic degradation of natural habitats in the region, with aquatic systems impacted most heavily because they are a catchment for all this pollution. We have lost much of the biodiversity of our forests, fields, wetlands, and streams. The outlook for aquatic species such as fish, mussels, salamanders, and insects is dire. For example, 54% of Ohio's freshwater mussel species are now endangered, extinct, or extirpated.

Northeast Ohio has some of the best vineyards and fishing in the region and as a result brings in millions of tourism dollars annually. These two areas along with local farmers and grower's crops will see adverse effects from increases in air pollution. Northeast Ohio also has a history of environmental abuses and superfund sites over the years (including a facility that used to process uranium) which some believe has led to the increases in cancer rates over the years (as documented by the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System's 2019 Cancer Atlas). This unfortunate history of industrial and environmental problems seems to be mostly forgotten, or at least it isn't contributing to the larger conversation about what a clean county could look like. Instead, pollution and future potential health risks are being forced upon local and regional residents as industry moves ahead with the construction of a new factory on the lakefront.

Petmin Ltd, the South African mining company with its own history of environmental violations, has proposed to construct a pig iron plant on Lake Erie, between Lake Shore Park and the popular tourist destination Bridge Street, in Ashtabula County. This facility will bring temporary jobs to the region while it is being constructed, as well as up to a hundred permanent jobs. The pig iron plant coincides with the completion of the Risberg pipeline, a 60-mile pipeline

that traverses Pennsylvania from Meadville to Erie and then across the Ohio border into Ashtabula. This pipeline will supply the Pig Iron plant with the natural gas needed to run the facility. This natural gas comes from the Marcellus shale region of Pennsylvania that has been hydraulically fractured so heavily in recent years. According to petminusa.com, the Pig Iron plant will use 15,000 Million BTU of natural gas per day. If that number seems like a lot, it's because it is.

The amount of pollution that this plant will emit takes your breath away, literally. Burning 15,000 MM BTU of natural gas a day will release 1,764,706 lbs of CO₂, 2,345 lbs of NO_x, 192 lbs of particulate matter, 25 lbs of SO₂, 81 lbs of VOCs, and 9 lbs of N₂O daily. All of that pollution is going to be emitted into the air EACH DAY. That means that yearly this plant will emit 322,058 TONS of CO₂, 428 tons of NO_x, 35 tons of particulate matter, 4.5 tons of SO₂, 14.8 tons of volatile organic compounds, and 1.7 tons of N₂O. These numbers come directly from the information on PetminUSA's website, the Ohio EPA air permit, as well as information they shared in response to questions I have asked via email.

Several of these pollutant levels actually exceed Ohio EPA guidelines, but the OEPA justified issuing the air permit anyway based on the fact that Petmin will use "Best Available Control Technology," which in this case means burning natural gas rather than coal. If the public had known about this project with adequate time to discuss and learn information about the rates of pollution, perhaps we would not have been as quick to sacrifice the air quality of the region. The American Lung Association already gives NE Ohio air quality an F rating, and that is before Petmin starts releasing all of these chemicals into the air. Ashtabula County only has one air quality monitoring station, and that is in Conneaut, some 12 miles away from the proposed site for the pig iron plant. What's worse, of all of the pollutants that this new facility will be releasing on a daily basis, the Conneaut air quality monitoring station only detects ozone and SO₂.

A gallon of gasoline releases 20 lbs of CO₂ when it is burned. The Petmin Pig Iron plant burns natural gas, but if we convert the amount of CO₂ this plant will release into the equivalency released by gallons of gasoline burned, we realize that this plant will release as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as burning 88,235 gallons of gasoline per day. If you wanted to use trees to capture that CO₂, you would need to plant 32,205,882

trees and allow them to grow for one year to capture the amount of CO₂ the facility will have released in a year. Or to put things into smaller numbers, this plant will release 1,764,705 lbs of CO₂ PER DAY, an equivalence of 36,764 trees would need to be planted and to grow for a year in order to capture the CO₂ that this facility will have release in a single day of its operation.

The full effect of all this air pollution on Lake Erie is not yet fully understood. Oceans and Lakes absorb CO₂ and other pollutants from the atmosphere, as well as acting as basins for any acid rain that falls. So, putting a large source of air pollution next to a freshwater lake, one that over 11 million people get their drinking water from, does more harm than to just taint the already less than ideal air quality. Lake and stream acidification is what happens when acid rain ends up in rivers and lakes. This acidification can be harmful to fish populations, if the pH balance gets too low fish eggs will not hatch.

In the last several years there has been growing concern with the amount of Greenhouse gases that are being emitted into the atmosphere by natural and man-made sources. The International Panel on Climate Change issued a warning that we need to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases like CO₂ and methane that are being released into the atmosphere if we are to stave off a rise in the global temperature of the planet that would have dire consequences for life on Earth. The rise in global atmospheric carbon is linked to an increase in acid rain, sea ice melt, ocean acidity, forest fires, and hurricane frequency and severity.

With all of this happening around the world, do we really want to contribute to the problem by building a plant that will release such large amounts of pollution and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere right in our own backyard? Perhaps that's the wrong question to ask since this plant seems to be railroaded whether the public wants it or not. A better question may be, what can be done to safeguard citizens from the ravages of industry. An obvious answer is to make sure that this facility is built and operated with best practices in mind, and that they conform to all the best environmental regulations and monitoring. However, without fence line monitoring or similar air monitoring stations being built, there's really no way to know if Petmin is complying with regulation or how bad the impact of this facility on the surrounding residential and public commercial areas will be because the county doesn't monitor many of the pollutants that this plant will be

releasing. Industry generally self-reports, meaning that they only report to the EPA if the plant operators are willing to admit that they're breaking the law. To put it another way, it's like someone speeding and then choosing to report themselves to the police afterwards. Without monitoring stations, you have to blindly trust that the facility is doing what's best for the public, and not just what's best for themselves. But with a history of environmental violations in South Africa, I don't hold on to hope that this facility will be a clean environmentally friendly operation.

The New Year is supposed to bring hope and promises of a fresh start for all who choose to make one. This year will be an eventful year with Ohio's Presidential Primary fast approaching in March, with the General election to follow as usual in November. The regional Ice Wine Festivals are also almost upon us this year, and the snow finally came on New Year's Eve to make for a beautiful day of celebrations and livelihood. As children go back to school after their winter breaks, and adults go back to work, remember to hold on to that New Year's Hope and do what you can to make a positive difference in whatever way you can. Beach Clean-ups, volunteer service, and giving to local charities and non-profits are all ways that anyone can help their communities. Writing letters to the editor and op-eds are great ways to create awareness of the issues that you feel are important. Writing local, state, and federal government representatives is also a good way of voicing what you believe to those in power that have been elected to represent you.

The air pollution in our region is an issue that everyone faces on a daily basis, unfortunately we don't all see it or realize we have the power to affect it. Industry is regulated by government, and government is regulated by the people through our elections and laws. The question now is whether elected officials are doing what is best for the people or for the industries polluting the air and water. Remember what's in the air next time you see a child catching a snowflake on their tongue or eating a handful of snow. The world isn't always black and white, but sometimes those snowflakes are.

Justin Thompson
Ashtabula County Water Watch
Please join us at:
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MOVIE REVIEWS

By Westside Steve Simmons



Cats

Universal|PG|109 min

Anybody ever heard of “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats,” a 1939 book of poetry by T.S. Eliot? Neither did I, but that’s the basis of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s insanely popular stage musical that sold out performance after performance on Broadway for years. CATS is now adapted for the silver screen by Tom Hooper, who did the same thing for LES MISERABLES back in 2012. Let that be a “heads up” to any parents thinking it’s a kiddie’s flick in which the dump the offspring while you go to the mall returning presents.

I have not seen or heard the entire Broadway production but I have seen most of the song and dance routines individually on YouTube Red, or Premium, or whatever the hell they call it now. Here are some of my thoughts concerning the translation of live theater to film, which hold true in this case. Whether you are on Broadway or watching a touring company bring a show to cities in the Midwest, you can’t help but be amazed at the talent of the singers and dancers on the stage, who perform the show in one take. In a movie or recording studio, there’s always the ability to do a few takes of any scene, or different camera angles of any shot. It’s not that the people in the films aren’t amazingly talented individuals, but you lose the thrill of watching a performance without a net.

Also, in a film version, the producers have the opportunity to cast actors with a little more name recognition, who might not have the world-class dancing ability of a Broadway cast. Here that cast includes Ian McKellen, Judi Dench, Idris Elba, Taylor Swift, and Rebel Wilson among them. One of the main characters, Victoria, is Francesca Hayward, a rela-

tively unknown ballerina.

There actually is something of a plot to CATS, which serves as a framework to hold together the individual production numbers. All the cats in the alley have been invited to a giant ball at which one of them will be selected to receive yet another life, the selection made by the venerable Old Deuteronomy. Each of the cats in turn will present their case as to why they are the deserving feline, in a series of songs and dances.

My personal opinion here is that the songs aren’t nearly as accessible as in my two favorite Webber shows, PHANTOM and JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. It also occurs to me that CATS on Broadway relied much more heavily on the choreography which, no doubt, is spectacular.

I’m thinking that if you are familiar with the stage show, you will probably enjoy the film much more than someone who walks in cold. Still, you’ll be impressed by the individual performances though you probably won’t be hooked until they sing “Memory,” the biggest and best-known song.

If you are expecting Pixar, or if you’re one of those folks who doesn’t like musicals, do yourself a favor and get in that long line for STAR WARS.

B
WSS



Uncut Gems

A 24|R|135 min

Big Time spoiler alert, and I’m not even going to get deep into what happens here, but I think you should avoid reading any stories or reviews or anything until you go see this one.

A lot of people seem very surprised that

Adam Sandler is first, doing an over-the-top dramatic role and second, nailing it. Not surprising to me and I will give you a quote that might help you make it clear. It’s attributed to a Shakespearean actor named Edmund Kean who supposedly said: “Dying is easy, comedy is hard.” There’s a lot of truth to that. In a dramatic role you can get by without getting a laugh every five seconds. Drama? Well, you can let those scenes roll a lot longer. But for those surprised that Sandler can pull off a roll like this, I personally never doubted his ability. I like Adam Sandler; he seems like a nice guy. I think most of his comedies suck canal water but the guy has a huge audience so what do I know?

I realize that making comparisons have a tendency to queer someone’s perception of a film but I only do so to give you a hint of the direction, that reminds me a little bit Martin Scorsese’s MEAN STREETS or Uli Edel’s LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN. I won’t tell you exactly why and if you’re not familiar with the latter it won’t matter.

Sandler is Howard Ratner, a fast-talking jewelry dealer in New York’s Diamond District and a degenerate gambler who is over his head with the loan sharks. And just to make his life more miserable, he’s dealing with a girlfriend he doesn’t fully trust, as well as a wife who hates him. But now it appears his fortunes are going to take a turn for the better when he comes into possession of an uncut black opal which, in a perfect world, should be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars - if he can only get a proper appraisal at an auction. That’s easier said than done because one of his regular customers, Kevin Garnett (yes, the real Kevin Garnett basketball star), believes the stone has magical properties and borrows it. Getting it back before the deadline is fraught with miscues and misfortune. That’s the basis for the plot but there are many situations that a normal person might be able to figure out that go wildly astray for one reason or another.

UNCUT GEMS is suspenseful all the way through to the point of being unsettling, but let me tell you, it’s never boring nor predictable. And that thinking outside the box is often what earns a film a seat at the Oscar table.

A-
WSS

Continued on page 22



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Continued from page 21



Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

Walt Disney Studios|PG-13|148 min

So, this is being billed as the final chapter of the STAR WARS saga. Let's just say I'll believe that as soon as I get that check from the Nigerian prince. Way too many interspace credits changing hands for the studios to let this franchise die. Still, there are things going on as the never-ending saga unfolds, like Marvel versus DC. I'll start by pointing out that there are two camps of science fiction fans, two major camps, and that's the STAR WARS versus STAR TREK guys. STAR TREK features basically five or six characters in dozens of different situations as time goes by. STAR WARS, on the other hand, includes just

about always a new cast of people with some sort of unintelligible relationship to each other, all repeating the exact same story with a few embellishments. In a nutshell, the Empire, some really terrible space villains, after getting their collective asses handed to them in the last movie, have regrouped and embarked on a new plan to destroy / rule the universe. By the way, these particular mugs owe their power to something called the Dark Side. Their opposition, the good guys, the common people, are held together by somebody who seems to be a descendant or distant cousin or something of the Skywalker Clan, and are ruled by The Force. In just about every entry, after a couple of hours of noise and inane platitudes (this time it's "don't be afraid to be who you are") and light saber battles, somebody blows up the latest incarnation of the Death Star, and the universe has been saved once again.

So that's the plot of THE RISE OF SKYWALKER in a nutshell. Oh, there are a couple of variations; for one, the Death Star is a fleet of warships, each with the ability to destroy a planet and guess what? And can you guess what the ragtag assembly of space jockeys

does at the end of the film? By the way, a stroke of luck for the good guys, it's very similar to the Pearl Harbor attack, all the warships are in the same place at the same time.

Another variation is that the saga has shifted away from a male-dominated story. That's a pretty common theme among our progressive friends in Hollywood in the last few years, and the hero of this film, and the heir to the Skywalker Legacy, is now a woman. That doesn't really help or hurt the film but Daisy Ridley as Rey, either by natural lack of talent or directorial orders, displays a surprisingly narrow range of emotion the entire film – she has one facial expression. That's a problem along with the lack of charisma among the other cast members. One of the few bright spots comes when the original cast members show up for cameo spots. That being said, it's just a little bit creepy to see poor Carrie Fisher re-animated by computer graphics as Princess Leia.

But I'm guessing that unless fans have spent a lot of time researching the lineage of these people, the convoluted family tree will hold very little interest. Shall we say that this time around it seems like everybody is somebody's father.

Frankly, I'm surprised that with J.J. Abrams at the helm, this space dog wasn't a lot more entertaining.

C –
WSS



Jo Jo Rabbit

Fox Searchlight|PG-13|208 min

In case you're wondering why this one shows up in print this week, it's simple. We are entering into Oscar season and everybody and their dog is predicting which eight, nine, or ten films will be up for Best Picture. Just about everyone has JOJO RABBIT in the mix. I try to see every Best Picture nominee before the Academy Awards so I'm betting this will be in the mix (it took home the top honor

at the Toronto Film Festival), in which case it will make another tour of American theaters. Often left of center or even completely weird is a selling point at film festivals and that's the case here. I might be tempted to put this one in the same bag as THE DEATH OF STALIN, in that it blends slapstick comedy with some of the most serious eras of world history, this time the last months of World War II in Germany. This one's kind of CAMP RUNAMUCK meets SCHINDLER'S LIST. I wouldn't suppose a show like HOGAN'S HEROES would pass muster in today's politically correct climate and this one is even further left of center.

To watch this, you really need to put aside your knowledge of Nazi Germany and concentrate on the fact that most likely the citizens, the people, and the kids weren't cognizant of the insanity going around them and above them. Johannes is 10 years old and wants nothing more than to follow his glorious leader Adolf Hitler who, just for fun, pops into the film on occasion as an imaginary friend. Not as an insane tyrant, but remember this is told through a child's eyes.

Maybe this will make things a bit more understandable. I was 8 years old during the Nixon/Kennedy election and some of the kids didn't like Jack Kennedy because he was Catholic. My favorite teacher was Sister Joan of Arc so I figured he must be okay. Kids don't, and shouldn't really have, too much knowledge of politics.

In this story, Johan finds a teenage girl, a Jewish girl, hiding out in the attic of the apartment he shares with his free-spirited mother. As time goes by, the boy is torn between his childish loyalty to the Reich and his growing infatuation with the girl. The kids can't really see things through the politically jaded eye of the adults, but don't be fooled; there are sharp edges buried beneath the surface of the story like razor blades hidden in a bowl of ice cream. The idea here is not to make Nazis seem sympathetic but to underscore that regular people live their lives much less dramatically than those who write the history books might suggest. Not a great movie but certainly unique enough to attract the attention of the Academy.

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NOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

Tommy James

The Marion Palace Theatre on Friday, February 14, 2020, in Marion, OH.

Tommy James & The Shondells have been a popular band with many hits including "Crimson & Clover," "Crystal Blue Persuasion," "Mony Mony," "Hanky Panky," "I Think We're Alone Now," "Draggin' The Line," and many more. Tommy takes some time to discuss his career, current projects, and his longevity in the music business.

Originally born in Dayton, Ohio, Tommy grew up in Niles, Michigan. "My music heroes were the first-generation rock stars, of course. Gene Vincent, Buddy Holly, and Little Richard. I started digging rock and roll during the 50s when I was about nine years old. In fact, around that time my mother bought me a guitar. Prior to that I had played a ukulele since I was four," remembers Tommy. "I was always listening to the radio and playing the rock and roll songs that I could understand. I got my first electric guitar when I was ten years old. I started my first band when I was 12. We played teen dances and all that sort of thing. I had two record deals before I was out of high school. I was 16 when I got my first hit song, which was "Hanky Panky." I definitely got an early start with my career and never wanted to do anything else. I have had the same job since I was 12. It's like I'm the paperboy." (laughs)

Tommy recently had a new album released titled ALIVE. "It was two years in the making and a labor of love," said Tommy. "It's all over the place musically. It has a little bit of everything. We did a new cover of "I Think We're Alone Now" and that version will be in the movie. More on that in a moment. It will be used as the closing credits in the film."

He continues: "We did a remake of "Draggin' The Line" which has a rap in it, done by award-winning rapper, T.O.N.E.-Z., and Stevie Van Zandt lent his talents to the song, too. It's an all-star cast! We did some covers and new material. It has been doing well. The first two songs charted for us on AC radio and we are back on Billboard. It's great to be back on the charts. It's been a long time!"

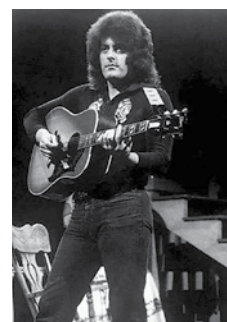
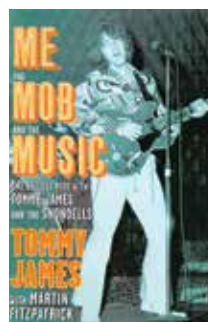
In 2010, Tommy's autobiography, "Me, The Mob and The Music" (Simon & Schuster, 2010) was released. "The book came out nine years ago and it's still selling. It has

been amazing how it has been accepted by the fans as well as the media.

It's essentially an autobiography with about two-thirds of it devoted to our crazy, tumultuous, and sometimes dangerous relationship with Roulette Records, which was the music label where I had most of my hits," said Tommy. "The reason it was tumultuous was because while Roulette Records was a functioning indie label and a pretty good one, it was also a front for the Genovese crime family. We didn't know that when we first signed with Roulette. After a while, I started learning who we were dealing with and I started seeing people in person whom I recognized from TV! Morris Levy was the head of Roulette Records. He was an associate. I would see different guys hanging out at Morris's office. It was like a social club. Then a week later I would see some of these same guys doing the perp walk out of a warehouse in New Jersey. They were being arrested and I would say, "Hey, isn't that the same guy we just met last week in Morris's office? And it turned out it was and then we realized who we were dealing with."

He continues: "Some of those guys did attend our shows. We had some pretty famous gangsters show up. We just pretended we didn't know what was going on. But I have to say Roulette Records made me a celebrity. We sold 110 million records on Roulette. The truth of it is if it weren't for those guys, I wouldn't be doing this interview right now. It's a chaotic story with a lot of twists and turns. Franky, I'm glad we all made it in one piece. There was good and bad. Morris Levy was a very human character who had many noble qualities in addition to being a bad guy."

"Anyway, the book is being made into a movie. Barbara De Fina is the producer. Her outstanding credits include *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, *Cape Fear*, *Age of Innocence*, and she produced Michael Jackson's video, *Bad*. The screenplay has been written by Matthew Stone and the director is Kathleen Marshal. Everyone is terrific. After the film, it's going to be a musical on Broadway. That's the plan," said Tommy. "Right now, the film may be released in another 18 to 24 months. That's how long it takes. Currently, they are doing the casting.



I have no idea at this point who is going to play me but what I have found interesting is that many young male actors have started out in rock bands and many of them are guitar players! I may have a cameo appearance. Who knows, I may be an elevator operator or a bartender. I'm way too old now to play Tommy James." (laughs)

When asked about his influence on the 60s generation and his many hit songs that came out of the era, Tommy replies: "The 60s was the most creative and the most explosive time for music. I have my own radio show on SiriusXM called, "Gettin' Together with Tommy James" every Sunday evening from 5 to 8 pm. It's on the 60s on 6 channel. What many people may not realize is that there was so much music being created during the 60s that there wasn't enough room for it. So, the philosophy of my show is we play the songs people didn't get to hear often or at all. We play the rarities."

Tommy was asked to play Woodstock '69 and turned it down. "At the time of Woodstock, our band was in Hawaii at the foot of Diamond Head. We were staying for two weeks at a Spanish villa which was beautiful. I received a call from my secretary at Roulette Records who said Artie Kornfeld was in touch and wanted to know if we could play on a pig farm in upstate New York. I had to ask her again to repeat what she just said. She told me it was supposed to be this huge gig that would last for a few days. My response was, "So you want me to leave paradise in Hawaii to play at a muddy pig farm? Tell them to start without us." Well, they did and by Friday of that week I knew we had messed up and missed out on something. I felt bad. I guess you could say it was the gig that never was."

"I have to say looking back, I have had a great career. I can't believe I have been doing this for over 50 years! I have a web site, Facebook, and Twitter. These are great business cards. I sincerely would like to thank the fans and the good Lord for my career and its longevity. I think it's great that fans are still interested and new fans who discover our music. They are the ones that keep the machine going."

www.tommyjames.com



www.Abbeyrodeo.com

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Abbey Rodeo is: Jim Bonfonti, Chris Butcher, Verne McClelland, P. J. Philips, Bob Yocum and Chuck Citraro.

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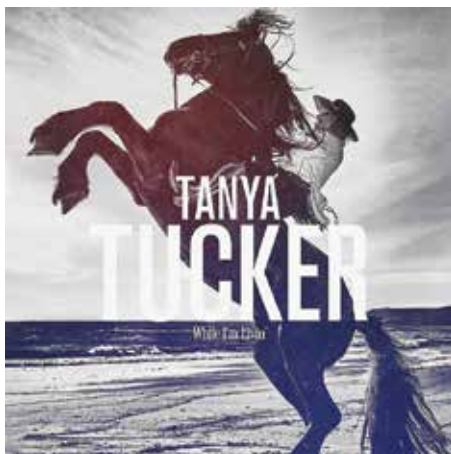
KICKIN' IT

Tanya Tucker - New Album New Tour

Produced by Brandi Carlile and Shooter Jennings, *While I'm Livin'* is Tanya Tucker's first album of all new music in 17 years and signals the return of this country music icon. *While I'm Livin'* is largely comprised of songs written by Brandi Carlile, the twins Tim and Phil Hanseroth and Tanya Tucker.

"This album is a musical biography of sorts narrated by the greatest country and western singer this side of Johnny Cash. When the kids heard Cash stripped down on 'American Recordings' they knew where their outlaw country music came from. When they hear Tanya stripped down on 'While I'm Livin'', they'll know it again." - Brandi Carlile

Original female outlaw, Tanya Tucker is CMT-awarded and a GRAMMY®-nominated music icon. Her critically acclaimed album *While I'm Livin'* landed



at No. 1 on Rolling Stone's 40 Best Country and Americana Albums of 2019. She has revealed the 2020 tour dates for the CMT Next Women of Country: Bring My Flowers Now Tour. Kicking off on

February 5, the CMT tour will make stops in such major cities as Boston, Dallas, Houston, New York, Ontario, Vancouver and here in Cleveland on May 20 at House of Blues.

Born in Seminole, Texas, Tanya Tucker had her first country hit, the classic "Delta Dawn," at the age of 13 in 1972. Since that auspicious beginning, she has become one of the most admired and influential artists in country music history, amassing 23 Top 40 albums and a stellar string of 56 Top 40 singles, ten of which reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard country charts.

Tucker's indelible songs include some of country music's biggest hits such as the aforementioned "Delta Dawn," "Soon," "Two Sparrows in a Hurricane," "It's a Little Too Late," "Trouble," "Texas (When I Die)," "If It Don't Come Easy" and "Strong Enough To Bend." Tucker is also the recipient of numerous awards, including two CMAs, two ACMs and



three CMT awards. Recently, Tucker received four GRAMMY® Award nominations including Song of the Year: "Bring My Flowers Now," Best Country Album: *While I'm Livin'*, Best Country Solo Performance and Best Country Song: "Bring My Flowers Now". The four nominations lead all 2020 Country GRAMMY® nominees.

A staunch advocate for country music's female artists, CMT launched its "Next Women of Country" campaign in 2013 in an effort to support and expose developing female talent, both signed and unsigned, in a male-dominated format. The campaign showcases emerging female artists across all CMT screens throughout the year, and in the six years since its launch, CMT has expanded the initiative to include five CMT NEXT WOMEN OF COUNTRY Tours, anchored by superstar acts including Jennifer Nettles, Martina McBride, Sara Evans and now Tanya Tucker; a CMT.com digital series titled NEXT WOMEN OF COUNTRY LIVE; and more. Notable alumnae of the franchise who have achieved both commercial and critical acclaim, include Kacey Musgraves, Kelsea Ballerini, Maren Morris, Lauren Alaina, RaeLynn and Lindsay Ell. The 2020 tour is sponsored for the second consecutive year by Burlington Coat Factory.

For updates and to join the conversation, visit CMT.com, follow @CMT on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube and use #CMTNextWomen to join the conversation.

To purchase tickets for the Cleveland House of Blues show visit www.houseofblues.com/cleveland



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STAY IN TUNE

By Luthier Patrick Podpadec

Happy New Year everyone!! Here we are in the beginning of a new decade in the 21st century. What will it bring?

We start out the year with a presidential impeachment and a lot of uncertainty about challenges that we're facing due to our pre-emptive strike against Iran's top general. Most of us wonder what type of repercussions that might release for the U.S. and all of her allies. I understand that he was a bad guy and maybe he even deserved that fate. (Although I'm not sure that it is our right to make those types of decisions; I would like to leave that up to God or at least a higher power than Donald Trump).

At the very least we are going to have a very interesting upcoming new year and I pray that everyone can come together with some common goal and find a way that will unite us instead of divide us so we may be able to effectively resolve our issues with no loss of lives. Collectively we need to rise up to a higher level of conscientiousness so that we become a better Nation with more transparent goals to help all of the people and not just a few. I believe a little more truth and honesty from everyone (including myself of course) might be a good start.

I normally don't like to express political or religious views in my articles but I guess I might have let the cat out of the bag this time. It's a new year and we'll see where it takes us.

Getting back to where I belong, my shop, where I have some knowledge of what I'm talking about. I have had a lot of new stuff that has come in. I'm blessed to have all of the new challenging repairs that are before me. I'm working on setting up a very "crappy" 6 string banjo. I can call it crappy because I have the



owners' approval and it is truly is a crappy banjo. The amount of time just to fix and adjust the terrible manufacturing problems has far exceeded the worth of this crappy banjo. Did I mention how crappy this banjo is? Believe it or not I have gotten some satisfaction from working on it because it has given me the confidence that I truly can fix almost anything.

I just released an Ovation 6 string with a broken head stock. This break was through and through and needed a couple of cleats installed to re-enforce the glue joint. Lucky for me the neck was painted a solid satin black from the factory which made it a bit easier to hide any of the cleats and glue joints and any small missing wood chips

from the breakage. It turned out very well even though there was another issue with the neck having a slight twist in it as you tightened up the truss rod. With a little bit of experienced fret leveling, I was able to make it play very well with a nice action and no buzzing.

I am fixing up another older "beetle back" mandolin which keeps falling apart after every turn. I went to level some of the frets and noticed, before I went too far, that the fingerboard had separated itself from the neck and there was an obvious gap that needed to be addressed. As I stuck a thin spatula knife to see how stable it was, the finger board pretty much flew off with one slight motion of the knife. Not to mention that about 6 of the frets also popped out on the floor when this happened. Now I'm into a whole new repair that was never discussed in the beginning. These are the kind of things that happen on a daily basis in the shop. I often (most of the time) end up having to "eat" these type of repairs just so that my customer's don't feel that I'm over

charging them for things that were not seen or talked about in the beginning. It's sometimes easier to just fix it and move on with hope that other things don't come up along the way as your finishing the repairs.

There is a 80's -90's Washburn Acoustic dreadnaught that needs to have the bridge re-glued back down because it had pulled away from the top; a common repair in my shop. I probably get one a month at least.

One of the more exciting repairs is a 1937 Martin archtop that has a missing pick-guard, a pretty nice (repairable) straight crack on the top from the bass side f-hole down to the binding at the bottom bout. It also is in need of a full replacement of the frets. I'm excited to get to work on this guitar because they are quite rare due to the fact that between 1935 and 1942 there were only 194 F series archtop guitars produced. There are two different models; the F-7 and the F-9 with the inverted Martin headstock logo and diagonal block inlays (6 inlays on the F-7 and 8 on the F-9. The F-7 was priced at \$175.00 and the F-9 at \$250.00 which was Martin's most expensive guitar at the time, \$50.00 more the famous D-45. Unfortunately these guitars did not hold up to the popularity of the Gibson and Epiphone archtops of the era because of the ever increasing size and different tonal response due to the mahogany and rosewood back and sides compared to the generally accepted tone of the maple archtop guitars produced by Epiphone and Gibson. Still it is a pleasure to learn about these type of instruments through researching their history on different websites.

I also wanted to mention that I have recently been lucky enough to find a couple of "apprentices" that seem to have deep desire to learn a dying craft and how blessed I am to have the opportunity to pass along my accumulated knowledge of lutherie to them.

So having many more repairs to talk about and such a limited space left to do it in forces me to wait till next month's article to be able to tell you all of the juicy details. Until then, may we all go in peace and whatever you do make sure that you "Stay in Tune"

Keep Smiling!

Patrick from Liam Guitars/ Smoking Hot Guitars

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Jams and Events

Irish, Folk, & Old Time Music

By Laura Fidel



My gosh! Another year for the books. Hoping 2020 is happy, healthy, prosperous...and MUSICAL for us all! There are a lot of events to look forward to early in the New Year: The annual Robert Burns dinner/musical, the Lake Erie Folk Fest, Janie's Jumpstart Music Camp, the Appalachian Music Weekend at Mohican State Park, Yoga and Drumming plus our usual jams and musical get-togethers. Resolve to come out and play with us!

Regularly Scheduled:

- Ukelele Club: Monday evenings at Perry Public Library from 7-8:45 PM. The library is located at 3753 Main St., Perry, (440) 259-3300. Contact Gary at penswift@yahoo.com for more info. Beginners are welcome and instruments may be purchased from most music stores. Note: this event may be cancelled if the library is closed for a Monday holiday.

- Irish Jam, 1st Saturday of the month, Briquettes Smokehouse in the historic Ashtabula Harbor, 2-4 PM. Briquettes is located behind Harbor Perk at 405 Morton Dr. Call (440) 964-2273.

- All Things Coffee House Old Time Jam, 2nd Saturday, 11 AM - 2 PM. The venue is located just off Rte. 193 in Kingsville, north of I-90. Intermediate skill level and no bones or spoons, please. Call (440) 224-3069.

- Open Jam, Scribblers Coffee House, 4th Saturday, 2-4 PM, 388 S. Broadway, Geneva, 440-466-2233.

- Magic Tree Irish Jam, 3rd Sunday at Magic Tree Pub, 7463 South Ave., Boardman, OH (1/4 mile south of Rt. 224), 6-8 PM. Contact Frank Krygowski at frkrygow@yahoo.com for more information. Call (330) 629-2667.

- Erie Irish Jam, 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4 PM at the Tap House Bar, 333 State St., Erie, PA. Traditional Irish tunes, instruments and percussion, please! Call (814) 520-5419.

- Old-Time Jam, MT Glass, Cleveland Hts., 13443 Cedar Rd. (just west of Melt), Cleveland Heights, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 PM. Call (216) 932-0603.

- Willoughby Fine Arts Irish Session, 4th Saturday, 2:30 - 4:30 PM. Willoughby Fine Arts Association Gallery, 38660 Mentor Ave., Willoughby, OH 44094. Call (440) 951-7500.

- Tune Traders open session fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM at West Woods/Geauga Park in Geauga County, off Rt. 87. Call (440) 286-9516.

- Drum Circle second Friday at Relaxation for Health & Center for Growth, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, 2049 W. Prospect, Ashtabula, OH., 44004. See NEO United Facebook page for more information. Call (440) 228-3977

Special Events:

- Robert Burns Dinner: Saturday January 18, 2020. Doors open at 5:30 PM and Dinner at 6 PM, Villa Croatia Party Center 34900 Lake Shore Boulevard in Eastlake, Ohio 44095. The celebration of the birth of Robert Burns, the poet laureate of Scotland, has been an ongoing tradition around the world for 261 years. Purchase tickets online at <https://scot-tishheritageohio.com/burnsdinner.html>

- 2020 Appalachian Acoustic Music Weekend, Jan 17 - Jan 19, Mohican State Park Lodge, Perrysville, OH. Acoustic music throughout the lodge, tasty country cooking, workshops, a gospel sing, and much, much more! Overall, a toe-tapping good time! Free. Mohican State Park Lodge and Conference Ctr. 4700 Goon Rd., Perrysville, OH 44864. Info on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2573766079520232/>

- Drum & Restore Saturday, January 11, 1-2:30 PM, 10 E. Main St., Geneva, OH 44041. Join Bob Sabo and Leah Hartman at Shanti Yoga Love to drum away stress and relax. We'll start the afternoon by drumming away some stress, and close it with some restorative poses as Bob plays some soothing background music. How does drumming help with stress? Dr. Northrup reports that drumming helps to increase Alpha brain waves, making you feel more calm and relaxed, and a document published by Harvard Medical suggests that the rhythmic nature of music can help lower blood pressure and decrease stress hormone levels among other benefits. \$15 investment (\$10 for Shanti Yoga Love members & passholders / children age 5-17 are \$5 with paid adult). No drumming or yoga experience needed. If you have a drum, bring it. No drum? Come anyway, there will be a few available to share.

- Janie's Jumpstart Music Camp: Cleveland, Feb. 7-9th. Classes in Old Time fiddle and clawhammer banjo. For information, visit <http://www.janiesjumpstart.com>

- Lake Erie Folk Festival: Saturday, February 22, Shore Cultural Center, Euclid, OH. Workshops, Jams, Concerts! For information, visit <https://www.lakeeriefolkfest.com/>

V ON THE DANCE FLOOR

with Nikki Vinyl

Dark Water Rebellion

It's the Beachland Ballroom, and Leaf Borbie and the Family Tree has just left the stage. I figure my night's as good as over - just then the couple who had been dancing right in front of me jumped on stage and began to set up.

Brent Gorie, the lead vocalist and guitar player, was sporting a witch doctor hat and dreadlocks, which I originally thought were real. Danielle Gorie is the talented and girl crush worthy drummer for the band. Her simplicity paired with the hard hitting sounds of the bassist creates a unique sound for this local Cleveland band. The bass player Fabian Abarca was also sporting a voodoo look that evening, complete with some impressively done makeup. The Chile native has a background in metal music, adding depth and diversity to the southern swamp feel that is Dark Water Rebellion.

Inspired by a H.P. Lovecraft story, from a quote of a creature returning to the dark waters, the name is undeniably cool. They have unique merchandise for sale, from hoodies and patches to your more general CDs and tees. Included for sale is their second full length album Macabra. The album has a full length music video for the song "Chamensea", which is the Chilean variation of "Jam in C".

For a three piece band these guys produced a full sound, and they seemed to genuinely enjoy sharing the stage. Covering two tracks direct from my high school playlist, this band instantly won me over. First off they did a cover of PJ Harvey's Big Fish Little Fish, an indie 90's "go to song". When the three of them harmonized for this particular track, I felt so giddy I could (and may) have squealed a little bit.

Later, after some badass originals, all of which got the crowd moving. They played a lesser known David Bowie and Trent Reznor Collaboration 'I'm Afraid of Americans'. Most people butcher Bowie covers, but this was a very well done and sentimental cover for me. My



sister and I would stay up late on Sunday nights to watch 120 minutes on MTV, recording any Reznor or NIN videos the show would play. I can now recall a very bald host and the music video for this particular song.

It's one thing if a band gets you moving. It's another if a band actually moves you, rather teleports you to a particular time and place - somewhere you have been before, and it fills you with that unmistakable feeling of gooeyness. This was quite an emotional rollercoaster of an evening for me, and I was actually glad to be wrapping the night up now.

I spoke to band members after the show, and they were some of the most down to earth and gracious people I have met. My recent trips to Cleveland's east side have revitalized my love of live music - in particular the local music scene, which is really good right now. It was daunting at first, having no knowledge on local music post 2004. A few hours research later, I have a long list of future shows, and I'm back in the game!

Dark Water Rebellion currently has no tour dates listed as they are taking a short hiatus to visit their home state of Florida, but they are no strangers to Cleveland venues. In their short time here they've already developed a close knit following, and made a positive impact on the Cleveland music scene. Can't wait to see what these guys come up with for the future. They will be back, and I look forward to seeing them again!

All CAVS games are on Fox 107.5



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STREAMING EXPERIENCE THE HULU OPTION

By Amanda Nelson

If you've found yourself frustrated with cable television whether it's due to the cost or the commercials with volume somehow louder than the show, you may be ready to cut the cord. This is a decision that fundamentally changes your leisure time so it's best to have a plan around the execution because you will be doing it daily. There is bit of relearning that will occur as you navigate how to entertain yourself with more effort than being able to flip through the channels. For those who want to replace TV with apps that stream broadcast and cable channels live such as SlingTV or YouTube TV, that doesn't address the issue of incessant commercials (unless you use the DVR option on YouTube TV). It may address lowering your monthly cost but you typically get less channels in the package compared to traditional cable. For those who are truly interested in immersing themselves in the streaming lifestyle I often recommend Hulu as a great subscription to start with for its content variety.

When plunging into cord cutting you need to define what the shows that you need access to and make sure they are available on the streaming platform you choose. Do you want news, late night talk shows, sport events, or current TV shows? Many cord cutters subscribe to multiple streaming apps to cover all their needs. Hulu does a good job compromising so that you don't miss too much of what you'd find on cable but also offers original content so that you get exclusive shows that set the internet buzzing (The Handmaid's Tale anyone?). The basic package is ad supported at \$5.99 a month or you can upgrade to avoid most commercials for only \$6 more! Between these bottom two packages, they definitely fulfill the top reasons why people choose to cord cut, to reduce bills and commercial exposure. So how does the content stack up?

Hulu offers current shows and live events from over 55 networks but typically with a day delay. For example NBC's Saturday Night Live is posted on Hulu on Sunday instead. This is true with news programs as well and you can choose from ABC News, Bloomberg, CNBC and Fox News. Although they have many networks they use content from, it can be quite selective. The Fox News network only provides the

Sunday News edition for streaming and nothing else. The Comedy Central shows available are only a handful and at least half of the series have already concluded. It's nice to have both – currently airing series so you can be in on the conversation but also whole shows that you can binge watch when you're sick with cold resting on the couch.

The broadcast networks providing content are ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox. However, because CBS has since launched their own streaming application called CBS: All Access it's primarily older television shows. So where there is no Big Bang Theory they do offer the entire Star Trek cannon of series such as The Next Generation and Voyager. They throw us a bone with the wildly popular Anna Faris and Alison Janney's Mom as the entire 6 seasons are streaming and current with the broadcast schedule with the day delay. Sometimes the agreement over the streaming rights has a short limit and the first half of the season will roll off while the second half becomes available. You can see this with NBC's The Good Place that currently only offers season 4 episodes 5-9.

The cable networks on Hulu are varied and include Nickelodeon, MTV, FX, TBS, TNT, AMC, E!, NatGeo, History Channel, Cartoon Network, The Food Network and so much more. More commonly with these, the content is selective like all the shows available on E! are in the Kardashian/Jenner umbrella. Or they'll adhere to the traditional streaming schedule back when releasing in full seasons was standard and the last season is uploaded all at once typically within the time the newest season will be airing on live TV. FX's American Horror Story is one that does this and after personally viewing the newest season real time last fall, I can say you are not missing out waiting a year. Ok, so the cable offerings can be stale, but they also have Hulu Originals. Although they often do not stack up to the best of the best when comparing streaming original shows from the at least three large competitors, it still does well for itself. They create documentaries such as Ask Dr. Ruth and Batman and Bill, literature adaptations (Chance, The Handmaid's

Continued on page 29

Continued from page 28

Tale), give established celebrities a place to experiment with shows including James Franco's 11.22.63 and most recently Aidy Bryant's Shrill, and even save beloved television shows from their former network cancellations like The Mindy Project and Veronica Mars.

Hulu does offer movies and there are some good new ones but movies really aren't their strong suit. Currently they have exclusive rights to some big movies of the last few years including Vice, If Beale Street Could Talk and I, Tonya. Other movies are ones that you find on multiple streaming platforms likely because of broad copyrights such as the majority of the James Bond catalog up to the Pierce Brosnan era. Then it finishes off with a sprinkling of a few franchise movies like Creed II, Fast & Furious movies, Mission Impossible movies and the like. They top it off with documentaries as mentioned earlier. However compared to Netflix and Amazon Prime, Hulu's movie selection is quite small.

Hulu offers channel add-ons and currently bundling Disney+ and ESPN+ with the ad-supported Hulu package for \$12.99 a month. Or for \$54.99 a month you can get Hulu and live TV. Then premium network channels like HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, and Starz can be purchased for an additional \$8.99 to \$14.99. You can see if you get these additional options the cost savings factor goes down so it just depends what your needs are. Before choosing any streaming service, check if your Smart TV supports the app. To truly make your cord cutting experience a success, you must consider the devices you want to watch on and that the app is covering your content needs. Hulu is a great service to dip your toes into the streaming world!

Last Man Standing

Fox, Season Eight Starts Jan. 2nd

Tim Allen brings his conservative family humor in a brilliantly updated sitcom that has gone through its own evolution and multiple networks. Starting its second season with Fox, the eight season of the show is airing this January on Thursday's at 8PM. It brings up nostalgic feelings from his Home Improvement days, but instead of being a dad of three boys, he's the Last Man in his household which includes three daughters. It follows his life at work, home and allows



the interesting male to male relationships that do exist in the series with his son-in-law, grandson and coworkers to grow. Then his display of fatherly qualities that promote positive relationships with his daughters are well executed. The show is great with its wit and self-awareness as they occasionally quip about real life behind the scenes situations such as switching networks and recasting, breaking the fourth wall. They love doing callbacks to Tim's career and have gotten other Home Improvement stars to cameo on the show.

Shrill

Hulu, Season 2 Starts Jan. 24th

Aidy Bryant of SNL fame shines as Annie in this honest approach to accepting yourself, wanting more for yourself, and the balance needed to remain happy while doing so simultaneously. With big name SNL alums both behind and on screen this show feels a lot like HBO's Girls but with a more relatable story and delivers more comedy while telling it. Any 90's kid will be happy to see Daniel Stern aka Marv from Home Alone's Sticky Bandits gang still working. He performs a loving light hearted father to the main character and is delightful in his dramatic moments. Follow Annie as she navigates constant socially awkward interactions which the series is ultimately asking us to see from other perspectives.

The Curse of Oak Island

History Channel, Season 7 continues Jan. 7th

Oak Island off of Nova Scotia, Canada has been subject to treasure hunter theories for over 300 years. Marty and Rick Lagina have been performing modern treasure hunts for their show The Curse of Oak Island since 2014. As you can imagine, there aren't many huge finds and it often repeats theories and history to fill out the show. However, it manages to stay entertaining because there are so many thoughts on the who, what, where, when and how of this mystery. Each season usually brings interesting advances and information from outside experts in scuba diving, carbon dating, drilling, and other archeology type of subjects. Needless to say, the Lagina brothers are making a name for themselves to be cemented in history as they have clearly poured their heart and soul into discovering what significance this island may have to human history. Most popular is unfolding possible Knights Templar involvement but conflicting evidence comes to light on occasion leaving you to piece the history together along with them..



JUST IN TIME

Can you find the hidden words?

They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

AGES,
ATTOSECOND,
CALENDAR,
CENTURY,
CLOCK,
DATE,
DAYS,
DECADE,
EONS,
EPHEMERA,
ERAS,
ETERNITY,
FEMTOSECOND,
FOREVER,
FORTNIGHT,
FUTURE,
HOUR,
HOURGLASS,
INFINITY,
INSTANT,
LEAP YEAR,
MICROSECOND,
MILLENNIUM,

MILLISECOND, MINUTE, MOMENT, MONTH, NANOSECOND, OLYMPIAD, PAST, PERIOD, PICOSECOND, PRESENT, SECOND, SUNDIAL, TIME, WATCH, WEEK, YEAR, YORE.



WHAT NEXT ?



- Across
1. Banquet

6. Man or boy

9. Theatrical equipment

13. Planet

14. Frozen water

15. Throw with great effort

16. Performer

17. Type of fish

18. Avid

19. Gland near the base of the neck

21. Deluge

23. Edible tuber

24. Rural deity (Roman Mythology)

25. Buddy

28. Starchy tuberous root

30. Serving of drink drawn from a keg

35. Turns litmus paper red

37. Percussion instrument

39. Pertaining to hearing or the ear

40. Relatively many

41. Long past

43. Nobleman

44. Attempted

46. Bowling alley

47. A score of zero in tennis

48. Main course

50. Requirement

52. A great distance

53. Hit

55. Flop

57. Taxonomic group

61. Ancient Egyptian tomb

65. Overhang

66. Golfing term

68. Dodge

69. Broker

70. Self

71. Move sideways

72. Let for money

73. At present

74. Sharply sloping
20. Adult insect

22. Not at home

24. Candy

25. Adhesive material

26. Fruit of the oak

27. Boundary

29. A list of names

31. Draw

32. Factual evidence

33. Immature form prior to metamorphosis

34. Senior

36. Cervid

38. Segment of DNA

42. Impoverished

45. Abstain

49. Female sheep

51. Compulsory force

54. Poplar tree

56. Crane

57. Scorch

58. Part of a book

59. Fifty-fifty

60. Fractional monetary unit

61. Front part of a vessel or aircraft

62. Constructed

63. Not in active use

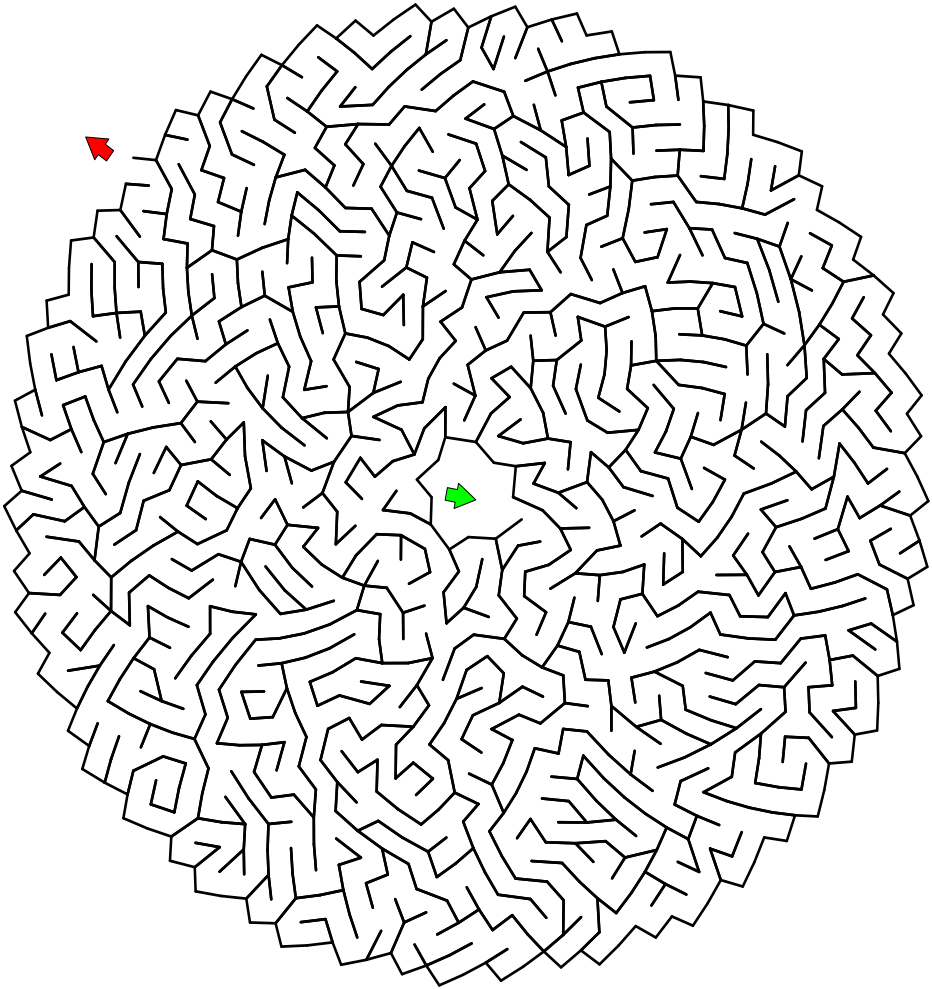
64. Abstruse

67. In the past

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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69						70				71				
72						73				74				

(Answers on page 18)

Find the way through the Maze



Pilot In A Pie Lot



Rick Ray



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SATURDAY, FEB. 1

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Winterfest Parade	Noon	Downtown	Starts at Park St.
Rummage Sale	TIME HERE	F.O.E.	FREE hot chocolate!
Bounce Houses	12:30 - 4 p.m.	Rec Center	FREE
Anna & Elsa	12:30 - 3 p.m.	Community Center	FREE
Jungle Terry	3 p.m.	Community Center	FREE
Warm Up Inside!	12:30 - 4 p.m.	United Methodist	FREE cookies, coffee & hot chocolate
Chili Cook Off	Noon - 2 p.m.	Depot St. Lot	FREE CHILI & Corn Muffins
FREE Rigatoni Lunch	TIME HERE	Park St. Christian Church	FREE
Hot Chocolate Bar	Noon - 2 p.m.	Depot St. Lot	FREE
Carriage Rides	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Depot St. Lot	FREE
CIC Hot Dogs	Noon - 4 p.m.	Community Center	\$1 each
Cookie Decorating	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Community Center	FREE
Wine Ice Bar!	Noon - 3 p.m.	Luisa's	Sample local wines
LEGO Build-Off	12:30 - 3 p.m.	Community Center	LEGO's Provided!
Calico Jack Coffee	12:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Rec Center	FREE
Hot Chocolate	12:30 - 3 p.m.	Rotary Pavilion	FREE
Ice Carving	Noon - 3 p.m.	Rotary Pavilion	FREE
Intro to Yoga Classes	1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.	Shanti Yoga Love	FREE
Dunkin Donuts	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Fire Station	FREE
Fire Station Tours	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Fire Station	FREE
Geneva HS Jazz Band	1 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Fire Station	FREE
Snowmobile Show	12:30 - 2 p.m.	Depot St. Lot	FREE
Lake Effect Louie	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Downtown	Take a Selfie with Louie!
Spaghetti Dinner	4-8 p.m.	VFW	Tickets available at the door



DEBONNÉ VINEYARDS

Double Wing Brewing Co.

7840 Doty Rd. Madison, OH 44057

www.debonne.com 440-466-3485

JANUARY HOURS:

Monday-Friday 12-6; Saturday 12-8

FEBRUARY HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 12-6;

Friday 12-11; Saturday 12-8;

LIVE MUSIC:

Sat. January 4 Uncharted Course
Sat. January 11 On the Rocks
Sat. January 18 Randall Coumos
Sat. January 25 John Gall
Sat. February 1 Randall Coumos
Fri. February 7 John Gall
Sat. February 8 Nick Zuber
Fri. February 14 Uncharted Course
Sat. February 15 Steve Madewell
Fri. February 21 Castaways Unplugged
Sat. February 22 John Gall
Fri. February 28 Randall Coumos
Sat. February 29 Bret Kunasch

Music plays

Fri. 6:30-10:30;

Sat. 3:30-7:30;



Winter Wine Bingo

January 1st thru February 29th

Stop by and pick up a free bingo card. Visit area wineries and attractions and be entered into a drawing for a Wine Country Weekend Getaway.

Go to exploregandrivalley.com/winter-wine-bingo/ for more information.

Chocolate Trail

February 21st, 22nd, 28th & 29th Noon-6 pm

Buy your tickets for the annual Wines & Vines Chocolate Trail. Take 2 weekends to travel this self-driving tour in Northeast Ohio. At each winery, you will receive complimentary appetizers and samples of wines. You will also receive at a designated winery a box of Malley's chocolates and a wine glass. \$40 per single or \$50 per couple. Must purchase tickets at www.ohiowines.org.

Ice Wine Festival

March 7th, 14th, & 21st Noon-5 pm

Join the member wineries of the Winegrowers of the Grand River Valley. Visit each of the wineries and receive a sample of ice wine & a winemakers featured selection plus an appetizer that pairs perfectly with ice wine. Enjoy additional events and ice wine themed activities at each location. \$7 pp at each winery. Bring in a canned food item and receive \$1 off.

Run & Ice Wine 2020

Sunday, March 8th 12 pm

Run the scenic 4 mile route to Debonné Vineyards where you will enjoy an Ice wine tasting (Keep the glass!) and appetizer! Hop on the shuttle for a return trip to Grand River Cellars to pick up your swag, eat appetizers, and try more Ice wine in your own take home glass! <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Madison/Run&IceWine>



Go to www.debonne.com for details.



GRAND RIVER
CELLARS

5750 S. MADISON RD. (RT. 528) • MADISON, OH • 44057

SERVING A VARIETY OF APPETIZERS, GRILLED SANDWICHES, AND DELICIOUS ENTRÉES.

OPEN: MON. & TUES. NOON-6; WED. NOON-8;

THURS. NOON-9; FRI. & SAT. NOON-11; SUNDAY NOON-8.

FOR INFO. OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL 440-298-9838

EVENTS:

\$10 Soup & Salad Monday - Friday

Cabin Fever Tastings in the Wine Cave

5 wine samples and 4 small plates \$20
Every Saturday 1 pm Reservations only.

Beach Glass Framed Art Class
January 9th 6:30 pm

\$28 pp includes supplies and a glass of win

Brushes & Lushes Class

January 16th 6 pm \$30 pp

Includes supplies & a glass of wine.

Yoga in the Vineyard

Sunday, January 19th 11 am \$15pp

Yoga class and finish with a glass of wine.

Holistic Day

Sunday, January 19th 1-6 pm

Enjoy an afternoon with readers, healers and vendors!

Wood Sign Painting Class

January 30th 6 pm

\$35 pp & up includes glass of wine & supplies.

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC

Saturday, January 4	Blues DeVille (Blues)
Sunday, January 5	Nia Covington (Jazz)
Thursday, January 9	Jess (Acoustic)
Friday, January 10	Tommy & the Guns (Rock)
Saturday, January 11	Backtraxx (Oldies)
Sunday, January 12	Randal Coumos (Acoustic)
Thursday, January 16	Jess (Acoustic)
Friday, January 17	Nick Zuber (Light Rock)
Saturday, January 18	Four Kings (Rock)
Sunday, January 19	Stan Miller (Jazz)
Thursday, January 23	Jess (Acoustic)
Friday, January 24	Wicked Vinyl (Rock)
Saturday, January 25	Stone River Band (C/Rock)
Sunday, January 26	Maria Petti (Acoustic)
Thursday, January 30	Jess (Acoustic)
Friday, January 31	Loose Tooth Band (Rock)
Saturday, February 1	Glass House (Rock)
Thursday, February 6	Jess (Acoustic)
Friday, February 7	Castaways (Rock)
Saturday, February 8	Loose Tooth Band (Rock)
Sunday, February 9	El Trio DeVille (Blues)

Music plays

Thursdays 6:30-8:30; Fri &

Sat. 7:30-10:30; & Sundays 4-7.

Every Wednesday 4-7 pm
Happy Hour

Go to grandrivercellars.com