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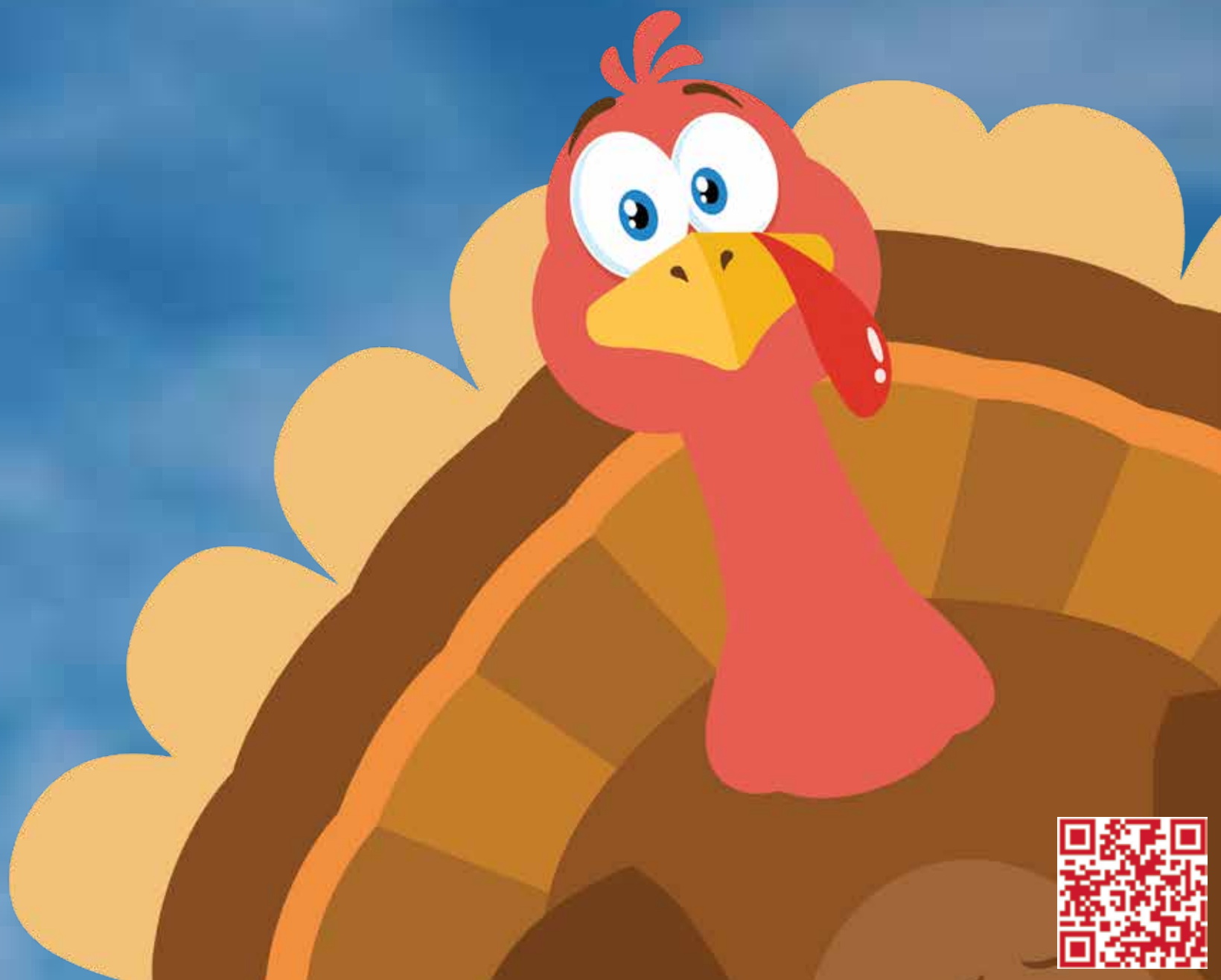
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# VOICE Magazine

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# OHIO WINE COUNTRY WINERY GUIDE



# V NEWS & EVENTS

## Thanks for Giving Trail in the Grand River Valley Helps Support Local Food Banks

The very popular Grand River Valley Turkey Trot has been cancelled this year due to Covid 19. However, members of the Valley Wine Group; made up of Debonné Vineyards, Cask 307 Winery, Grand River Cellars Winery & Restaurant, South River Vineyards and Red Eagle Distillery, have joined together to offer another option to help stock the shelves of our local food banks.

The Thanks for Giving Trail is a drive yourself progressive food and wine tasting event which will be held from November 1st through November 25th from 12-6 pm daily including Sundays. Patrons can stop at any, and /or all, of the five participating establishments in any order they choose and enjoy 3 samples paired with Thanksgiving themed appetizers, featuring each winery's (and don't forget the distillery) picks for the holiday season.

All mandates set forth by Governor Mike DeWine must be followed, including masks being worn prior to entering the buildings. The cost for the trail is \$6 per person at each stop but, if you bring in a non-perishable food item, \$1 will be taken off the price. Price includes samples, appetizer, and recipes.

The Valley Wine Group was formed during the onset of the shut-down from Covid 19 to offer a local delivery service of wines and specialty items direct to your front door in Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, and Cuyahoga Counties.

"The Winegrowers of the Grand River Valley established the Turkey Trot 13 years ago and our food banks have come to rely on the donations this time of year," says Cindy Lindberg, owner of Grand River Cellars. "Understandably the group did not want to continue with the event for this year but people are still looking for safe and fun options so the

Thanks for Giving Trail came to be."

Thanks for Giving Trail Progressive Food & Wine Tasting Menu:

### Debonné Vineyards-

Turkey Meatballs with Cranberry Chutney

### Cask 307 Winery-

Butternut Squash Soup

### Grand River Cellars Winery & Restaurant-

Cornbread, Bacon & Cheddar Stuffing

### South River Vineyards-

Pumpkin Roll

### Red Eagle Distillery-

Pumpkin Spice Martini with Cider Donut

Many of the wineries will have their gift shops full of great holiday gifts ideas for those that are hard to buy for. Wine specials for the holidays will also be a highlight.

Please help us stock the local food banks!

Fall foliage is at its prime in Ohio's Wine Country in the Grand River Valley Wine Region. While visiting the area the group encourages travelers to take a mini-vacation and spend their weekend in wine country. There are lots of shops to visit and beautiful covered bridges to check out in the area. There are also many lodging locations available, including the two brand new hotels at the Madison exit, Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn. For those looking for other things to do in the area contact the Ashtabula County Conventions & Visitors Bureau [www.visitashtabulacounty.com](http://www.visitashtabulacounty.com) or the Lake County Conventions & Visitors Bureau [www.mylakeoh.com](http://www.mylakeoh.com)

For more information about the Thanks for Giving Trail call 440-466-3485 or go to [www.grandrivercellars.com](http://www.grandrivercellars.com)



## Out Of The Box" Live-Streamed Concert Series

Music America has partnered with Cleveland's premiere music venue – The Music Box Supper Club – to launch a monthly, live-streamed concert series that will be called the "Out of the Box". The first show streamed live on October 30th featuring Carlos Jones & the PLUS Band. With most live shows being canceled, the band has turned to doing live streamed events in conjunction with Music America and has averaged 12,000 – 14,000 views per show.

The streams are free to watch. They will run from 8-10pm, streaming from the MusicBox Facebook page as well as the band's Facebook page.

The next 2 shows to be live-streamed are: November 25th with Armstrong-Bearcat December 26th with Carlos Jones

(Due to COVID restrictions, there are a limited number of tickets available for in-person seating at the venue.)

Music America is an entertainment promotion company led by Jones' manager – Larry Koval and his team, which looks to put on unique events at various venues throughout the area with live music as the focal point. Their first event was "Reggae on the Water" in June of 2019 on the Good Time III. They have now moved into the Live Stream / Virtual Event production area as an alternative channel to promote live entertainment.

"We have also developed a show called The Cleveland Beat which we are bundling with the Music Box/Out of the Box series for added interest and value to sponsors. It features interviews with artists, businesses and non-profits on each episode." Koval said.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, contact Larry Koval ([LKoval@msn.com](mailto:LKoval@msn.com)).



## Wild Winter Nights at Penitentiary Glen

Join in on a night-time journey through an enchanted winter forest as you hear the tale of a tiny bird's quest to unravel a winter mystery. Experience this naturalist-led adventure first-hand and explore all that the story has to tell. Along the pathway, meet animal guests, enjoy luminaries and warm fires, see the Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center yard ablaze with twinkle lights, and take home a special keepsake. This unique hour-long program is designed for small groups to provide a comfortable, safe and enjoyable experience for all. Time slots for your hike are selected upon registration. Hour-long strolls leave every ten minutes. Last hike leaves at 8:50 pm. No strollers. Registration required.

Dec 03 - Dec 05, 2020 6 PM - 10 PM

Dec 10 - Dec 12, 6 PM - 10 PM

Dec 17 - Dec 19, 6 PM - 10 PM

All ages, Fee: \$7 per person Register by calling 440-358-7275 or 1-800-669-9226 from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Penitentiary Glen Reservation 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd. Kirtland, Ohio 44094

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# VOICE Magazine

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A time to be thankful			

## MITCH LARSON



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**11/8 • 2-5**  
**Hundley Cellars w/Melissa**

**11/14 • 6-9**  
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**11/21 • 3:30-7:30**  
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Winery**  
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Continued From Page 3

## Norwegian Digital Jazz Festival

Presenting 15 artists over 5 weeks

Fri, Nov 6 – Fri, Dec 11

Sites & Sounds from Big Ears, the dynamic new streaming initiative launched by the Big Ears Festival, will continue with a new slate of post-election programming that includes a 5-week, 15-show Norwegian Digital Jazz Festival, an incantatory performance by the legendary artist and two-time Big Ears alumni Lonnie Holley, and an acoustic guitar summit delving deep into rich American traditions with a contemporary edge.

Big Ears is teaming up with MAI:JAZZ (Stavanger International Jazz Festival), Oslo's Sentralen Performing Arts Center, and Hes & Falck to present the Norwegian Digital Jazz Festival, a 15-program series launching on Friday, November 6 and spanning six weeks - Big Ears is the exclusive North American presenter of the Norwegian festival. Norway has been home to a rich and fertile jazz scene for decades, first brought into the international spotlight by saxophonist Jan Garbarek's recordings for ECM Records. The Norwegian Digital Jazz Festival offers a multi-faceted portrait of the country's unique jazz scene, over seven double bill concerts, featuring artists including pianist Bugge Wesseltoft, saxophonist Trygve Seim, guitarist Eivind Aarset, and trumpeters Mathias Eick and Nils Petter Molvær, plus an evening with pianist Tord Gustavsen. Each performance has been elegantly filmed by the leading Nordic manager/promoter Musikkprofil at the Sentralen in Oslo, Norway.

Acclaimed visual and performing artist Lonnie Holley will be joined by a remarkable ensemble featuring cellists Ben Sollee and Dave Eggar, guitarists Christopher Paul Stelling and Phil Faconti, fiddler Evie Andrus, and drummer Jordan Ellis. The band - assembled from musicians across the region - made this special recording set-up in the round at Knoxville's The Mill & Mine, one of the cornerstone venues at the annual Big Ears Festival.

Marisa Anderson, William Tyler, and Yasmin Williams - three of today's most creative guitarists - gather for filming at the Loghaven Artist Residency. Performing solo, duo and trio at this bucolic South Knoxville site, the musicians each showcase their unique musical vision on the instrument and then come together in collaboration.

Shows in the Norwegian Digital Jazz Festival are \$8 (plus service charges) in advance, or you can purchase a pass to the entire series for \$50 (plus service charges). Please note: Big Ears is only streaming the Norwegian festival for North American audiences. Tickets for Lonnie Holley & Friends and Marisa Anderson, William Tyler & Yasmin Williams are \$14 (plus service charges) in advance. 'Sites & Sounds from Big Ears' shows will be hosted on Watch.Mandolin.com

For those unable to watch the initial stream, each will be available on replay for 48 hours after the initial stream (note: tickets may only be purchased, however, before or during the initial broadcast).

For more info and tickets [www.bigearsfestival.org](http://www.bigearsfestival.org)

About Big Ears: From its beginning in 2009, The Big Ears Festival has established itself as one of the most exciting and imaginative cultural gatherings anywhere. The festival brings together a Who's Who of established and acclaimed iconoclasts, innovators, and luminaries with inspired younger artists who are making fresh, new creative work. Big Ears is located in the heart of downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, taking place in over a dozen historic theaters, intimate clubs, majestic churches, and unique alternative performance spaces. All of the venues of Big Ears are within walking distance of one another.

## November is Native American Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

America is a vast land of many cultures dating back thousands of years to the original inhabitants of the land. History, heritage, or culture of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are part of every mile across the country. Every November let us celebrate Native American Heritage Month and throughout the year appreciate the culture of America's indigenous peoples.

For some wonderful resources, photos, archives and links visit [www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov](http://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov)



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## Crock Pot Creamy Potato Beer Cheese Soup

Potato Beer Cheese Soup is a rich, smooth, and creamy soup that's a hearty and filling meal.

**Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 pounds potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup chopped celery
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons sesame, peanut or vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup beer (seasonal or stouts are good choices, IPAs are not recommended)
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 green onions, sliced

**Instructions**

Place potatoes, onion, celery, garlic, oil, salt, dry mustard, thyme, red pepper flakes, and black pepper in a large microwave-safe bowl. Stir to combine. Microwave until potatoes are somewhat softened, about 5 minutes, stirring halfway through.

Transfer mixture to a 6-quart or larger slow cooker. Add chicken broth and beer. Cover and cook on LOW for 4 to 5 hours or on HIGH for 3 to 4 hours.

Transfer half of mixture to a blender and blend until smooth then return to crockpot. Stir in cheddar cheese until melted. Stir in cream. Let soup heat through for about 5 minutes.

Serve with microgreens and/or green onions sprinkled on top.

## Red Wine Brownies

**Ingredients**

- 6 oz. semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 c. unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 1/4 c. red wine (the rest is for serving)
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1/4 c. brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. salt

**Directions**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9"-x-9" baking dish with cooking spray. Melt chocolate and butter over a double boiler. Remove from heat and let cool slightly. Whisk in wine and sugars. Add eggs, one at a time, whisking well between each addition. Stir in flour, cocoa powder, vanilla, and salt until just combined. Pour brownie batter into prepared pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Let cool completely. Serve at room temperature with red wine.



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## A heartfelt toast to a great man and winemaker – Arnie Esterer

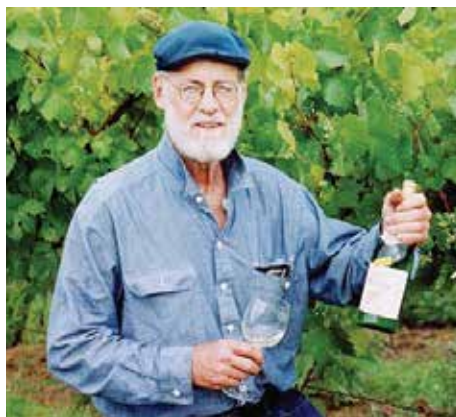
Markko Vineyard was founded in 1968 by Arnie Esterer, a mild mannered, hard-working vinifera enthusiast. He built an understanding of and respect for Lake Erie as a premium wine-growing region of the world. Thus his wines became award winning and Markko Vineyards a successful and sought after brand.

Arnie had a calming way about him and was great for conversation. Anyone who sat with him for a glass of wine or dinner would come away with new knowledge or at the very least smiling from his wit.

He was always improving his wines and helping other growers nearby in choosing the best grape varietal's for their location. Becoming a winemaker in Northeast Ohio made you a part of a group and his input made it so much more respected to those in it. He believed that the region should be a cooperative and work together for a common objective – thriving vineyards and superior wines.

Arnie Esterer passed away October 28<sup>th</sup> at the age of 88.

The community will miss him; his smile, his stories, his presence, and his unending passion for wine. The area has lost a legend but Arnie has forever left his mark on our region. As the grandfather of the wine industry in Northeast Ohio he will never be forgotten.





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11/14	FaceValue Duo
11/20	Rossi & Romano
11/21	Castaways Duo
11/27	Uncharted Course
11/28	Kelly & Randall
12/04	2 Kings
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11/8	Bob Potts
11/13	Alley Katz
11/14	FOGG
11/15	Tom Tweedle Jazz Ensemble
11/19	Carol Prokash
11/20	Ted Riser & Billy Mangano
11/21	Rhythm Connection
11/22	Patrick Jochum
11/27	Dawn to Dusk
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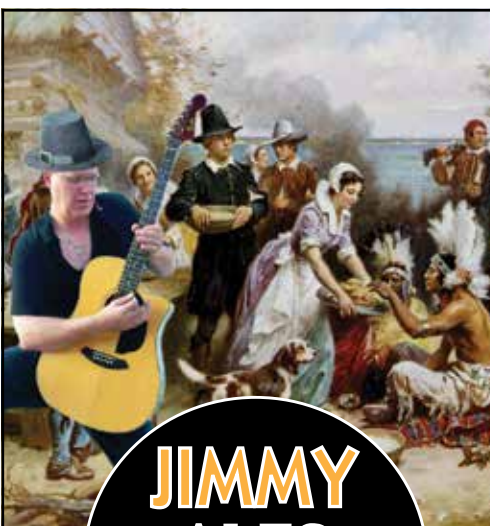
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## Boosting the brain chemicals associated with happiness

In this current way of life during a pandemic, something none of us have ever experienced, there are a few simple things each of us can do every day to feel happy about small things: appreciate the aroma of brewing coffee, a hot shower, soft blankets, reading a book, and yes, exercise. Now more than ever, immersing yourself into these small things in the moment can make a difference in your day.

There are four main hormones that generate feelings of happiness and each are connected to activity and rewards. Understanding how they work can help you create small ways to feel better amid such a stressful time.

Happy chemicals - happier brain

Almost everything that makes you feel “happy” is linked to one of the four happiness hormones: dopamine, serotonin, endorphin and oxytocin. There are some ways you can boost them.

Dopamine

The hormone dopamine is associated with motivation and reward. It's why you feel get-up-and-go when you set a goal that's exciting or important, and why it feels good to achieve that goal. However, if your dopamine is levels are low (which experts say often occurs with depression), feelings of low motivation or loss of interest dominates.

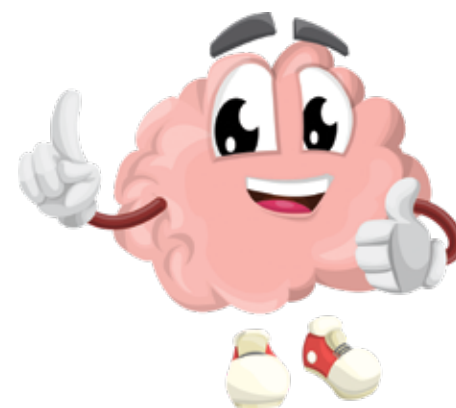
Drinking caffeine, eating sugar, drinking alcohol or taking recreational drugs are some unhealthy ways to increase dopamine. But you can find ways to increase this hormone without turning to unhealthy or addictive substances such as:

Set a goal and take baby steps toward it every day. Your brain will reward you with dopamine each time you take a step! The repetition will build a new dopamine pathway until it's big enough to compete with the dopamine habit that you're better off without. Whether it's personal, work, or hobby goals, it feels good to move toward something you want.

Serotonin

The neurotransmitter Serotonin plays a key role in mood and also helps regulate other functions in your body like sleep, digestion, and bone health. Serotonin is important for reducing anxiety, depression how happy you feel every day.

Boost it by gaining confidence. If you are trapped in a cycle of low self-esteem or have had others destabilize your confidence, it can be hard to build it back up. Don't ignore your need for admiration and confidence in the knowledge you have or the things you know you do well. Also, stepping outside your comfort zone and accomplishing something that's a challenge will build confidence. Establish the habit of focusing on your wins and your serotonin will get a boost.



Oxytocin

Oxytocin is associated with certain activities like kissing, hugging and having sex which can trigger the release of oxytocin in the brain. It is also released when people bond and trust each other. Explaining why you feel happy when you cuddle with your pets. Oxytocin helps during childbirth making the mother's uterus contract to deliver the baby, and oxytocin plays a role in breastfeeding too

You can boost oxytocin by being physically intimate with others and during a pandemic that can often be difficult. But besides the physical aspect, it's important to know that there's an emotional connection to how oxytocin is released. If you don't have a significant other then with cuddle a stuffed animal or adopt a pet!

Other things that make your brain release happy chemicals:

1. Enhance your social connections - Stay connected with people by giving them your time and attention, especially during the pandemic. Call them, video chat with them, take a socially distanced walk if you can. Deliberately choose to spend time together.

2. Engage in random acts of kindness - When you invest yourself and/or your resources in the welfare of others, it activates your brain's reward system -- you feel good that you made the other person feel good.

3. Express gratitude - Train your mind to focus itself on the parts of your life that are good, instead of directing your attention to things that are lacking, stressful or irritating. The pandemic might make it harder to feel grateful, but taking time to count your blessings, even now, is still a powerful way to improve well-being.

And don't forget the old saying “Laughter is the best medicine.” Watch a funny show, call a funny friend, read some jokes, watch babies laughing or silly cat videos, whatever it takes to make you laugh!



# V TRIBUTE

By Pete Roche

## Eddie Van Halen

In the time of rock 'n' roll guitar titans—the late '70s through the early '90s—Eddie Van Halen reigned supreme, a feather-haired godhead whose fretboard flash and audiophile omnipotence lifted listeners' spirits even as their jaws dropped in wonder...and with no small amount of envy. A musician's musician, Van Halen employed whichever tools and took whatever measures he deemed necessary to sculpt the sounds he heard in his head so that others might hear them, too.

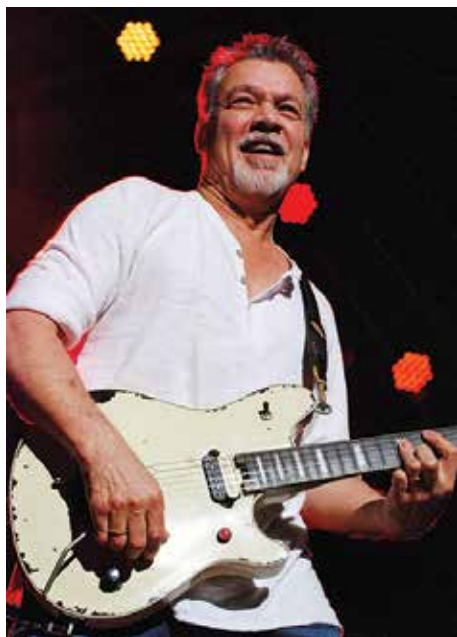
And if doing so meant breaking a few rules along the way—inventing, ad-libbing, or just winging things a bit—so much the better.

By most accounts, Eddie was a humble artist who never forgot that before he became a global icon he was the son of a Dutch jazzman whose family migrated to the States in the early 1960s with only a piano (and next to no comprehension of the English language). Just another teenage hustler who painted addresses on California curbs to earn money for records by Cream, Jeff Beck, and Led Zeppelin.

But he was also a disciplined guitar pupil whose monk-like focus made the hours spent in his bedroom memorizing pentatonic scales seem like minutes. Later, Eddie would routinely dismiss his technical accomplishments as happy accidents—products of trial-and-error tinkering that anyone else might've done better. Asked about his otherworldly guitar prowess, he'd shrug and say his most memorable solos were arrived at in much the same way as a classroom klutz constantly falls down the stairs...but always lands on his feet.

Eddie—the Jesus Christ and Pablo Picasso of rock guitar—composed and performed music because he wanted to—had to—and the guitar just happened to be his weapon of choice (although he started out on drums and piano). He'd enjoy the notoriety, wealth, and celebrity that his wondrous woodshedding brought later, but he was astute enough to recognize the temptations and trappings of that lifestyle. Removing those spoils wouldn't have kept a guitar out of Van Halen's hands. Money and fame were never the impetus for homebody Eddie, whose work and leisure were often one and the same.

So yes, Van Halen was ensconced on a lofty pedestal when on October 6, 2020 he quit this mortal coil after a decades-long battle with cancer. But this king never sought a crown; it was his admirers who enthroned Edward in the eighties and worshipped at the foot of his



monolithic Marshall stacks thereafter, loving every minute of it.

Did Eddie truly deserve the accolades? After all, even the best rock guitarist is still just a rock 'n' roll guitarist. As Rush's Geddy Lee so eloquently put it, "It's not that noble a profession. We're not doctors doing brain surgery."

But one need not save the world in order to take on messianic attributes in the eyes of one's followers. Musicians—like all artists—can transcend, commemorate, inspire, or remind us of our best (and worst) qualities as human beings. Music thus becomes sacred business, its alternately mirthful and melancholy strains often described as our universal language. Real mouth-of-God type stuff. Few arts can capture the joie de vivre as effectively—as immediately—as music. And fewer still are musicians capable of distilling the ecstasy of existence into lovely, loud, re-listenable passages like Van Halen. The ability to create and deliver melodies so stirring, so sublime, is a rare commodity in organisms that aren't birds or whales.

Yet here was this goofy guy in patchwork jeans and a sleeveless, dice-adorned T-shirt conjuring horse whinnies, elephant bleats, and eagle squawks from an electrically-enhanced piece of wood.

Yeah, Eddie's contributions to guitar-playing—and to music as a craft and profession—do warrant his place on the highest pedestal. On an elevated stage. Preferably constructed over-

looking the highest promontory of a distant, majestic planet in a galaxy far away.

The only way to ascend higher than that (sans drugs) would be to take flight on angel's wings.

Which, for better or worse, Eddie has done. It's a bullshit asterisk coming near the end of the crappiest of crummy years: Van Halen has come unplugged.

But hey, let's go back to that seven-year-old immigrant for a minute.

Despite his uncanny ability to arrange notes, Edward Lodewijk Van Halen could never formally read them. He bluffed his way through piano recitals, learning pieces by ear well enough to take top honors three years in running at a local competition. And when his first guitars wouldn't produce the tones he desired, Eddie cobbled together his own "Frankenstrats" with assorted Stratocaster necks, bodies, and sundry pickups (which he'd dip in paraffin wax to minimize feedback). And when club owners complained that his amp was too noisy, Eddie rigged it to a light dimmer (and later a Variac) to reduce the incoming voltage from wall sockets.

With a mechanic's mind and surgeon's hands he modified, customized, and tricked out his gear until the speakers regurgitated the "brown sound" he wanted. As his pockets got deeper and his sphere of influence much wider, Eddie signed endorsements with Fender, Peavey,

*Continued on Page 10*

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*Continued From Page 9*

Music Man, Ernie Ball and other manufacturers—allowing him to progress from home-made “bastard” guitars to his now-familiar “bumblebee” and red, white, and black-striped Kramers (and replicas) to—lastly—his signature Wolfgang and EVH brand instruments and amplifiers.

Eddie patented a collapsing guitar mount (seen in the “Jump” music video) to orient his fretboards face-up, allowing for easier string hammer-ons and pull-offs. He was a master of “ghost notes,” artificial / pinch harmonics, string-scraping, palm-muting, and volume-swells. He designed a unique truss adjuster for guitar tailpieces, and helped develop a locking tremolo system with Floyd Rose to keep from going out-of-tune after executing “dive bombs” on the vibrato “whammy bar.” And he experimented with headless, all-synthetic fiber Steinberger guitars in the ‘80s to alter his pitch on “Get Up” and “Summer Nights.” Eventually, Eddie even built his own studio—“5150”—outside his L.A. home to accommodate his inventions and provide a sovereign, self-controlled locus for his ingenuity.

Great responsibility comes with great power when you’re a guitar hero. Fortunately, Van Halen had the mental (and spiritual) wherewithal to use his toys for compositional good. To the uninitiated, Eddie was just another charming rock star who performed novelty “stunts” and “tricks” on the guitar. But he always emphasized style over speed. Indeed, Eddie exercised considerable restraint (given his virtuosity) when soloing, limiting his hot licks to serve the songs rather than his ego. He didn’t invent two-handed tapping, but he furthered the technique (whose visual appeal complemented its sonic advantages) into a Paganini-esque niche art on “Eruption,” “Hot for Teacher,” “Mean Streets,” and “Source of Infection.” By the end of the ‘80s, every self-respecting rock and metal guitarist counted tapping in his (or her repertoire).

Using his surname as a band name, Eddie rocked backyard parties and high school dances in and around Fresno and Pasadena in the mid-Seventies with drummer brother Alex, banshee singer David Lee Roth, and bassist Michael Anthony. He became “the guy” you had to see and hear, and his band graduated to clubs like Gazzarri’s and the Whiskey a Go Go on Sunset Strip, where KISS “demon” Gene Simmons took interest in the quartet and funded its first professional recordings.

That demo tape got Van Halen signed to Warner Brothers, with whom they released a sextet of ground-changing boogie-rock, blues-metal, and dance albums like the eponymous Van Halen, Van Halen II, the eclectic Women and Children First, menacing Fair Warning, covers-heavy Diver Down, and the multiplatinum 1984. The music was tailored for rowdy bars, weekend roughhousing, extended road trips, birthdays, beaches, and barbecues—which really wasn’t anything KISS, Aerosmith, Boston and others weren’t already doing. What was



unique was the Van Halen dynamic: The combination of Ed and Alex’s instrumental chops, Roth’s ringmaster antics, and Anthony’s exquisite high harmonies was unprecedented, magical. The band’s cool spins on old classics like “You Really Got Me,” “Dancing in the Street,” “You’re No Good,” and “(Oh) Pretty Woman” whet listeners’ appetites for muscly originals like “Ain’t Talkin’ ‘Bout Love,” “Jamie’s Cryin’,” “DOA,” “Light Up the Sky,” “I’m On Fire,” “Romeo Delight,” “Unchained,” “The Cradle Will Rock,” and “Hang ‘em High.” Eddie could make his guitar sound like church pipes (“Cathedral”), a flamenco (“Spanish Fly”), or an air raid (“Tora! Tora!”)—or make a Wuritzer organ sound like a guitar (“And the Cradle Will Rock”).

Stylistically, he mixed things up too, courting folk on “Could This Be Magic,” jazz on “Big Bad Bill,” folk (“316,” “Neworld”) and country with “Finish What Ya Started.”

The new gold standard was cast for aspiring pop-metal mavens thereafter: You want to hit the big time, sweeten your catalog with a melodic ballad or an ear-catching cover. Teenage girls and soccer moms won’t care how many notes a guitarist can play in five seconds if his song isn’t any good. If there isn’t any musical or lyrical hook to latch onto.

Van Halen had both—and by the end of 1983 a perfect storm of circumstances laid the foundation for what would become the group’s piece de resistance, 1984: FM radio wasn’t afraid of playing harder-edged hits by groups like Def Leppard, AC-DC, Iron Maiden, and Twisted Sister. Rock fans hungered for something showier and more athletic than the oft-pretentious prog and bombastic arena rock of the ‘70s. Fledgling cable network MTV had caught on in a big way, so now rock could look as awesome as it sounded (Duran Duran, Pat Benatar, ZZ Top, Billy Idol, etc.).

Well, Eddie had the optics to match his outlandish guitar bits, and was as comfortable in

colored sport jackets with zebra stripes, tank tops, Hawaiian “jam” shorts, and neon and pastel print bandanas around his neck as he was in sweatpants or faded Levis. He looked rad whether kicking butt in Reeboks, Chuck Taylors, or cowboy boots. Coupled with his copious hair (mullet or crewcut) and what first wife Valerie Bertinelli described as his “impish grin,” Eddie was a charmer: A genuine, poster-ready rock idol who oozed charisma without actually saying much of anything (outside of guitar magazine interviews). Soft-spoken Ed preferred to let his axes do the talking. Between his guitar heroics and Roth’s hijinks, Zeitgeist-marking singles “Jump,” “Panama,” “Hot for Teacher,” and “I’ll Wait” made perfect sense on playlists (and Billboard charts) alongside The Police, Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, and Culture Club.

Van Halen also had the prescience to incorporate new tech into his writing. The “Mark II” era of his band—with singer Sammy Hagar—saw an increased use of keyboards and synthesizers on 5150 (“Love Walks In,” “Dreams”), OU812 (“When It’s Love,” “Feels So Good,” “Mine All Mine”), and For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge (“Right Now”). And when inclined to stick to his guitars, he’d tune them down (“Don’t Tell Me”) or tickle their magnetic fields with an electric drill (“Poundcake”). When not working on his stuff in the 80s and 90s, Eddie produced (and played bass) on Hagar’s solo records, collaborated with Queen’s Brian May, contributed the unforgettable guitar solo to Michael Jackson’s “Beat It,” guested on a Thomas Dolby album (Astronauts and Heretics), and lent worthy pieces to soundtracks for The Wild Life (1984) and Twister (1996).

For all the plaudits and praise, however (and despite his unassailable musical skills), Van Halen wasn’t “perfect.” He was human—and just as troubled and flawed as any of his confidantes, associates, or devotees. The glory years with Roth and Hagar were tarnished by periods

of drug abuse and alcoholism, and by the turn of the century he was beset with health problems (hip replacement, diverticulitis, tongue cancer) that restricted his touring schedule. He’d sometimes appear on a T.V. spot or magazine cover (as he often did) looking adrift, burned-out, or otherwise unwell. And when Van Halen finally dropped the “new” studio album A Different Kind of Truth (2012) after fourteen years of radio silence, said disc (now featuring son Wolfgang) consisted mostly of reworked castoffs from the late ‘70s (“Bullethead,” “She’s the Woman,” “As Is,” “Outta Space”), suggesting that Ed—for whatever reason—just wasn’t keen on looking ahead anymore, to say nothing of maximizing the here-and-now. No one really expected him to defend his guitar god title from any of his knock-off “shredders” sound-alikes, or friendly rivals (Vito Bratta, Nuna Bettencourt, Reb Beach, Steve Vai, Joe Satriani).

But c’mon, man! You’re EDDIE VAN HALEN!!! You get to be EDDIE VAN HALEN every day! USE YOUR SUPERPOWERS!

Shocked as we were to learn Van Halen had succumbed to cancer, we weren’t truly surprised. And while the news came as a serious body-blow—having grown up with Eddie’s music surrounding us, and having imbued him with a mystical aura reserved for preternaturally-talented people—our chagrin was tempered by the knowledge (or belief, anyway) that those final years removed from the public eye were likely spent enjoying time with “Wolfie” and his new bride, Janie.

He deserved that, had earned that. He didn’t owe us anything more. Shame he wasn’t given another five or ten years to fully appreciate his retirement and reflect on his legacy rather than live in its shadow—or under some false notion that he needed to add to it, to surpass it. When you’re the greatest rock guitarist since Jimi Hendrix, when you’ve sold millions of records and concert tickets, when you’ve recorded dozens of unforgettable songs that became the soundtrack for a generation and whose distorted, overdriven power chords, bluesy string bends, and crisp arpeggios motivated countless others to take up the torch, well, suffice to say you’ve done your part.

Van Halen music—which so singularly reflected Eddie’s (and our) primal passions and overall lust for life—is as timeless as that of Beethoven, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky. Van Halen records (CDs, streams, downloads, whatever) will always be around—and there will always be well-schooled disciples who dedicate themselves to recreating Van Halen music in concert, much like today’s orchestras interpret a 19th-century Chopin opus or Stravinsky ballet.

But artists like that (Prince, Bowie, Lennon) are uncommon, which makes it that much harder for fans to refer to them strictly in past tense.

Happy trails to you, King Edward, and thanks for the music.



# V PEDESTRIAN RAMBLINGS

By Steve Madewell

## October Light



As if this hasn't already been a difficult year, the passing of iconic figures like RGB, EVH, John Prine, and more recently, Jerry Jeff Walker has illustrated that loss and challenges range from very personal to societal. And this year it seems the hits just keep on coming. That being said, on an optimistic note, the earth keeps spinning and the sun keeps rising and setting, and with every day there is some beauty to behold and some kindness to find or share.

What a spectacular fall we have enjoyed in 2020. While this has certainly been a challenging year we have been blessed with a lovely summer and an incredible fall.

Whenever I was knocking around the yard or hiking on one of the many trails here in Northeast Ohio, I often found myself thinking about the Robin and Linda Williams song, October Light, which is on their Deeper Waters album. If you enjoy folk music, I highly recommend this duo and this beautiful song is one of my favorites.

With the proverbial smartphone in hand, like nearly everyone else I know, will stop and take pictures of lovely images at the drop of a hat. Some of us remember a time when all cameras used "film", with a limited number of pictures available on each roll, which had to be dropped

off or mailed away to be developed. After several days, you picked up the pictures, and only after you paid for them you would find out if any were out of focus, or maybe over or underexposed, or if the lens on the camera was dirty. For me, it really was a little complicated and a somewhat expensive experiment every time I took a picture! Especially when compared to photography today when so many folks are walking around carrying a remarkable camera in their pocket with autofocus and zoom features which can also take video and panoramic pictures, without the expense of film or the cost to develop the film! Realizing of course that if you take enough pictures, sooner or later, you might get a really good shot! So this fall, I burned up a lot of "film", or more accurately I used up a lot of digital storage, taking hundreds of photos of sunsets and leaves, rivers and trails and waterfalls all the while thinking about the beautiful October light that Robin and Linda wrote about.

I visited; Indian Point, Paine Falls, River View, Hogback Ridge, Erie Bluffs, and several of the Ashtabula Metroparks. And I also found myself driving back roads a lot this fall enjoying the contrast of the vineyards and crop lands with the surrounding wood lots.

And just like everyone else in the "Time

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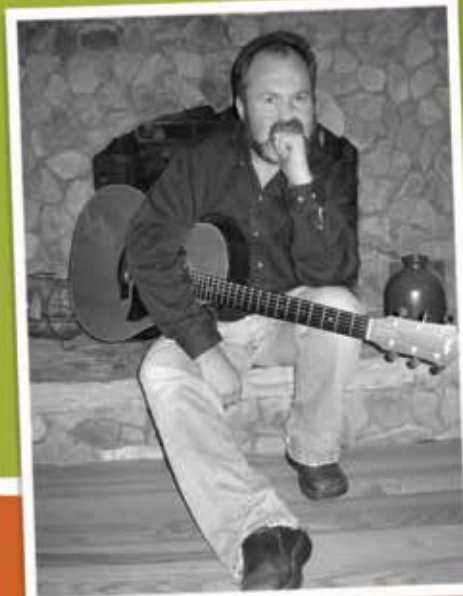
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Steve Madewell

of Covid" I'm finding new approaches to making my way through life. In earlier "Ramblings" I've previously mentioned that like a host of other musicians, I have done some Facebook live-streams, attended a host of musical Zoom performances and meetings, and posted a few things on YouTube. Looking through the pictures on my phone the other night I got the idea to create a presentation using Keynote or PowerPoint to make what we used to call a "slideshow" back in the days when we turned our good film pictures into slides. A slide by the way is a small... oh never mind, anyway, I recorded a simple version of October Light and used it as a soundtrack for this project showcasing a few of the pictures I took this fall, supplemented with a few others from friends, or from years gone by. It is a collection of photographs that illustrate in a humble way, just how beautiful the natural world is here in Ohio. If you are interested in checking it out, here is a link to my web site

<https://madewellmusic.com/performance-vids>

If you do, I hope you like the photos! It might just motivate you to get out and take a hike!

## Isn't life Strange?



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# V WATERFRONT FRONTLINE

By Justin Thompson



## A time to be thankful

Thanksgiving brings together families and friends as people take the time to stop and appreciate what they have and the positives in their lives. I for one am glad that the election is over, no more political signs, commercials, and constant barrage of news coverage. Regardless of who won, I think we can all appreciate the break from all the political campaigning. Our country is comprised of so much more than just Republicans and Democrats. America was founded by "We the People" and in these tumultuous times of pandemics, unrest, and political divisiveness, it's important to take time and remember what unites us rather than focusing on what drives us apart.

Locally here in Northeast Ohio one thing that unites (several of) us is our appreciation for Lake Erie, beautiful fall leaves, the first snow of the year (subsequent snows, maybe not so much), and the family and friends we have. While often times it's easy to take these local natural treasures for granted it's important to remember that these gems need taken care of so that they will be here for years to come.

When it comes to our friends and family members, especially in times of strife and political contention, it's easy for relationships to strain and suffer. It's time like these that it's important to be able to communicate and connect with others and on more than one level. Having friends from all walks of life, and being able to connect on the things we have in common makes our friendships meaningful. It's the connections we share and moments we have together in life that brings people together and unites them; good music and the occasional drink, discussing work, sports, books, thing we've seen or read on the internet, and just enjoying each other's company.

Personally, I find great solace in nature, and

feel that our local natural resources deserve to be appreciated as well. In the last few years, the west coast has been facing an increasing amount of forest fires which has threatened towns, lives, forests, and whole ecosystems. Here in Northeast Ohio, we are fortunate enough that we are not subjected to breathing in wildfire smoke or to having to wipe away the accumulation of ash off our car windshields in the morning on our ways to work. While the atmosphere here is not the best, (the American Lung Association rates our air quality with a failing grade), we are considerably better off than several parts of the world where they have severe pollution. If you're like me, you think that our air quality is worth protecting and don't want to see it diminished any time soon....

That is why I'm thankful for Ashtabula County Water Watch (ACWW) for filing a costly appeal and fighting to protect the air quality that we will all have to live with for decades to come. ACWW has appealed the EPA's air permit (to emit more pollution than it would take 30 million trees to absorb each year) to ensure that the Petmin plant operates according to a higher standard with cleaner practices, reduced rates of pollution, and installs monitors to keep the public informed about the potential risks to air quality that local residents will have to endure for decades to come.

Ashtabula County Water Watch themselves have something to be thankful for this year with the Grand Opening of their new Headquarters on Bridge Street November 14th. This will be an open house event for people to be able to check out the new storefront location right in the heart of Bridge Street. This event provides Northeast Ohio residents with an opportunity visit the new headquarters and learn about ACWW and their efforts as the

group to help local residents and the environment in and around Ashtabula County. Social distancing, masks, and capacity restrictions will be followed for any who chose to attend in person, however, this event will also be simultaneously streamed online for those who wish to attend from the comfort and safety of home.

Coronavirus has certainly changed many aspects of our lives these days; I know I never thought I would be attending a virtual grand opening before this year, but yet here we are. It's important to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading this virus, and doing more things online and over the phone is one way to mitigate that risk. If you care about the quality of our local air and water, and want to help ACWW cover the legal fees and costs associated with fighting for and protecting the rights of our community, you can donate and learn more by going to their GoFundMe page [www.gofundme.com/f/appeal-the-epa-granted-petmin-air-permit](http://www.gofundme.com/f/appeal-the-epa-granted-petmin-air-permit).

The beautiful natural resources we have here in Northeast Ohio are worth protecting, as are the relationships we have with our friends and families. That is why I want to point out that this appeal is not meant to sow discourse in our community, or discourage Petmin from coming to Ashtabula County. Our County has been in need of jobs long before the Coronavirus came, and COVID's effect on the economy has certainly exacerbated the unemployment rates and need for new local jobs. That being said, it's important that companies protect and have a focus on the triple bottom line (people, profit, and planet). Local residents can benefit from the new jobs that this plant will provide. Petmin will certainly make a profit here (with the 50% tax abatement they are receiving to build here). And equally important is that this plant has the least harmful impact on our local, regional, and global environment as possible (especially considering that this facility is set to be a major source of greenhouse gas emissions).

In this season of giving thanks, I want to take a moment to appreciate all of the local frontline workers in the hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical care facilities who are helping save lives during the pandemic. Also, I feel it's important to recognize and thank all of the school teachers, police and emergency responders, grocery store and other essential workers, including those in various trades, manufacturing, and service positions that keep our day-to-day lives and the economy moving. There are also several local nonprofits that have been providing services like food pantries to those in need this year. If you are able, please take a moment and donate to groups and organizations that you appreciate as this year has been hard on everyone, including them. And last, but certainly not least, I am thankful for you, reading this, because you are the friends, neighbors, and community members that help make Northeast Ohio a truly great place to live and work. Happy Thanksgiving!



# V NEW READS

Compiled by Sage Satori



## She Come By It Natural: Dolly Parton and the Women Who Lived Her Songs

Author Sarah Smarsh

*The National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestselling author of Heartland focuses her laser-sharp insights on a working-class icon and one of the most unifying figures in American culture: Dolly Parton.*



Growing up amid Kansas wheat fields and airplane factories, Sarah Smarsh witnessed firsthand the particular vulnerabilities—and strengths—of women in working poverty. Meanwhile, country songs by female artists played in the background, telling powerful stories about life, men, hard times, and surviving. In her family, she writes, “country music was foremost a language among women. It’s how we talked to each other in a place where feelings aren’t discussed.” And no one provided that language better than Dolly Parton.

Smarsh challenged a typically male vision of the rural working class with her first book, *Heartland*, starring the bold, hard-luck women who raised her. Now, in *She Come By It Natural*, originally published in a four-part series for *The Journal of Roots Music*, No Depression, Smarsh explores the overlooked contributions to social progress by such women—including those averse to the term “feminism”—as exemplified by Dolly Parton’s life and art.

Far beyond the recently resurrected “Jolene” or quintessential “9 to 5,” Parton’s songs for decades have validated women who go unheard: the poor woman, the pregnant teenager, the struggling mother disparaged as “trailer trash.” Parton’s broader career—from singing on the front porch of her family’s cabin in the Great Smoky Mountains to achieving stardom in Nashville and Hollywood, from “girl singer” managed by powerful men to leader of a self-made business and philanthropy empire—offers a springboard to examining the intersections of gender, class, and culture.

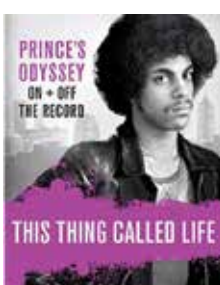
Infused with Smarsh’s trademark insight,

intelligence, and humanity, *She Come By It Natural* is a sympathetic tribute to the icon Dolly Parton and—call it whatever you like—the organic feminism she embodies.

## This Thing Called Life: Prince’s Odyssey, On and Off the Record

Author Neal Karlan

*A warm and surprisingly real-life biography, featuring never-before-seen photos, of one of rock’s greatest talents: Prince.*



Neal Karlan was the only journalist Prince granted in-depth press interviews to for over a dozen years, from before *Purple Rain* to when the artist changed his name to an unpronounceable glyph. Karlan interviewed Prince for three Rolling Stone cover stories, wrote “3 Chains o’ Gold,” Prince’s “rock video opera,” as well as the star’s last testament, which may be buried with Prince’s will underneath Prince’s vast and private compound, Paisley Park.

According to Prince’s former fiancée Susannah Melvoin, Karlan was “the only reporter who made Prince sound like what he really sounded like.” Karlan quit writing about Prince a quarter-century before the mega-star died, but he never quit Prince, and the two remained friends for the last thirty-one years of the superstar’s life.

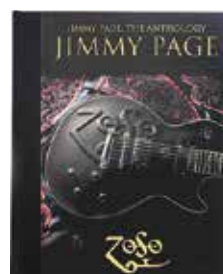
Well before they met as writer and subject, Prince and Karlan knew each other as two of the gang of kids who biked around Minneapolis’s mostly-segregated Northside. (They played basketball at the Dairy Queen next door to Karlan’s grandparents, two blocks from the budding musician.) He asserts that Prince can’t be understood without first understanding ‘70s Minneapolis, and that even Prince’s best friends knew only 15 percent of him: that was all he was willing and able to give, no matter how much he cared for them.

Going back to Prince Rogers Nelson’s roots, especially his contradictory, often tortured, and sometimes violent relationship with his father, *This Thing Called Life* profoundly changes what we know about Prince, and explains him as no biography has: a superstar who calls in the middle of the night to talk, who loved *The Wire* and could quote from every episode of *The*

Office, who frequented libraries and jammed spontaneously for local crowds (and fed everyone pancakes afterward), who was lonely but craved being alone. Readers will drive around Minneapolis with Prince in a convertible, talk about movies and music and life, and watch as he tries not to curse, instead dishing a healthy dose of “mamma jammass.”

## Jimmy Page: The Anthology (Hardcover)

*“Within the contents of this book, I wanted to include items from my personal archive that have played a part in my career over 60 years, to illustrate the detail behind the detail.” - Jimmy Page*



From his early days as a young session musician, through his years on the world stage with Led Zeppelin, to his solo work and collaborations, Jimmy Page has lived a spectacular life in music. Throughout it all, he has amassed an extensive private archive of iconic guitars, stage costumes and personal memorabilia.

Now in *The Anthology*, Jimmy Page is granting exclusive access to his archive for the first time,

*Continued on Page 14*

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*Continued From Page 13*

and telling the inside story of his phenomenal career.

In a new text of over 70,000 words, Jimmy Page guides the reader through hundreds of rare items, many of which are previously unseen, and others of mythic status, such as the Gibson double neck guitar, his dragon-emblazoned suit, his white embroidered poppy suit, and the outfit worn in the concert film *The Song Remains the Same*.

Also included are handwritten diaries, correspondence, rare vinyl pressings, previously unpublished photographs and much, much more. Jimmy Page has personally selected each piece to be photographed in this book, which has been created with his full participation.

The result is Jimmy Page: The Anthology. Both reflective and revealing, it is quite simply the legendary musician's most comprehensive and fascinating account of his life to date.

## Mad at the World: A Life of John Steinbeck

Author William Souder

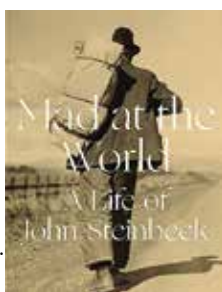
*A resonant biography of America's most celebrated novelist of the Great Depression.*

The first full-length biography of the Nobel laureate to appear in a quarter century, *Mad at the World* illuminates what has made the work of John Steinbeck an enduring part of the literary canon: his capacity for empathy. Pulitzer Prize

finalist William Souder explores Steinbeck's long apprenticeship as a writer struggling through the depths of the Great Depression, and his rise to greatness with masterpieces such as *The Red Pony*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Angered by the plight of the Dust Bowl migrants who were starving even as they toiled to harvest California's limitless bounty, fascinated by the guileless decency of the downtrodden denizens of Cannery Row, and appalled by the country's refusal to recognize the humanity common to all of its citizens, Steinbeck took a stand against social injustice—paradoxically given his inherent misanthropy—setting him apart from the writers of the so-called “lost generation.”

A man by turns quick-tempered, compassionate, and ultimately brilliant, Steinbeck could be a difficult person to like. Obsessed with privacy, he was mistrustful of people. Next to writing, his favorite things were drinking and womanizing and getting married, which he did three times. And while he claimed indifference about success, his mid-career books and movie deals made him a lot of money—which passed through his hands as quickly as it came in. And yet Steinbeck also took aim at the corrosiveness of power, the perils of income inequality, and the urgency of ecological collapse, all of which drive public debate to this day.



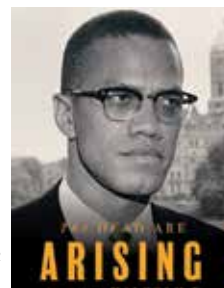
Steinbeck remains our great social realist novelist, the writer who gave the dispossessed and the disenfranchised a voice in American life and letters. Eloquent, nuanced, and deeply researched, *Mad at the World* captures the full measure of the man and his work.

8 pages of illustrations

## The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X

Authors Les Payne & Tamara Payne

*An epic biography of Malcolm X finally emerges, drawing on hundreds of hours of the author's interviews, rewriting much of the known narrative.*



Les Payne, the renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist, embarked in 1990 on a nearly thirty-year-long quest to interview anyone he could find who had actually known Malcolm X—all living siblings of the Malcolm Little family, classmates, street friends, cellmates, Nation of Islam figures, FBI moles and cops, and political leaders around the world. His goal was ambitious: to transform what would become over a hundred hours of interviews into an unprecedented portrait of Malcolm X, one that would separate fact from fiction.

The result is this historic biography that conjures a never-before-seen world of its protagonist, a work whose title is inspired by a phrase Malcolm X used when he saw his Hartford followers stir with purpose, as if the dead were truly arising, to overcome the obstacles of racism. Setting Malcolm's life not only within the Nation of Islam but against the larger backdrop of American history, the book traces the life of one of the twentieth century's most politically relevant figures “from street criminal to devoted moralist and revolutionary.”

In tracing Malcolm X's life from his Nebraska birth in 1925 to his Harlem assassination in 1965, Payne provides searing vignettes culled from Malcolm's Depression-era youth, describing the influence of his Garveyite parents: his father, Earl, a circuit-riding preacher who was run over by a street car in Lansing, Michigan, in 1929, and his mother, Louise, who continued to instill black pride in her children after Earl's death. Filling each chapter with resonant drama, Payne follows Malcolm's exploits as a petty criminal in Boston and Harlem in the 1930s and early 1940s to his religious awakening and conversion to the Nation of Islam in a Massachusetts penitentiary.

With a biographer's unwavering determination, Payne corrects the historical record and delivers extraordinary revelations—from the

unmasking of the mysterious NOI founder “Fard Muhammad,” who preceded Elijah Muhammad; to a hair-raising scene, conveyed in cinematic detail, of Malcolm and Minister Jeremiah X Shabazz's 1961 clandestine meeting with the KKK; to a minute-by-minute account of Malcolm X's murder at the Audubon Ballroom.

Introduced by Payne's daughter and primary researcher, Tamara Payne, who, following her father's death, heroically completed the biography, *The Dead Are Arising* is a penetrating and riveting work that affirms the centrality of Malcolm X to the African American freedom struggle.

## Somewhere You Feel Free: Tom Petty and Los Angeles

Author Christopher McKittrick

*A complete history of Tom Petty in Los Angeles.*



When Tom Petty arrived in Los Angeles in 1974 in search of a record deal for his band Mudcrutch, the Gainesville, Florida native found one almost immediately. While he thought he had found exactly what he was looking for in L.A., it would take years for Petty and his subsequent band, the Heartbreakers, to break onto the pop charts. Within the following two decades, Petty would stay planted in Los Angeles through chart-topping albums, battles with record labels, personal struggles, collaborations with rock and roll royalty, and even an arsonist burning down his home in the San Fernando Valley.

From the earliest Heartbreakers concerts in Los Angeles at the legendary Whisky a Go Go and the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, to the band's final concerts at the iconic Hollywood Bowl, Petty aimed to continue the tradition of the Southern California rock and roll of his musical heroes like the Byrds and Buffalo Springfield in his own fashion. At the same time, Petty's career often coincided with seismic shifts in the music business, indicated by Petty's famous refusal to back down in the face of label management, industry conventions, and the changing courses of platforms that helped make him a superstar, like rock radio and MTV.

*Somewhere You Feel Free: Tom Petty and Los Angeles* explores the artistic life of Tom Petty through his career-long relationship with Los Angeles and the many colorful characters and venues that inspired him and his music—including his work with George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Stevie Nicks, Johnny Cash, Roger McGuinn, Leon Russell, Rick Rubin, and Del Shannon.

(Releases Nov. 17th 2020)

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## Neal's Yard Remedies, Natural and Organic Skincare

Cosmetic Laser Medispa & More is excited to announce we are now an authorized distributor of Neal's Yard Remedies, a trusted health and beauty brand. They call themselves "a modern apothecary" because they use the highest percentage of organic ingredients as possible and ethically sourced herbs, botanicals, and essential oils. The bottles used are a beautiful sapphire blue but it's not just to look pretty. It actually helps protect the product from UV radiation which means that they can use less preservatives keeping the core ingredients pure. It also protects the aromas and herbal properties from degrading. NYR Organics was founded in 1981 in the United Kingdom. According to the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics coalition, European products are held to stricter regulations as there are over 1,300 banned chemicals that are known or suspected to cause cancer, genetic mutation, reproductive harm, or birth defects. Unfortunately, many of them are found in products made in America and Asia. As a comparison, the US only has 11 ingredients banned for use in cosmetics.

NYR Organics are produced in small scale batches that ensure the products are as fresh and effective as possible. Each individual product is checked by hand to ensure quality and consistency. There are things you will never find in NYR Organics because they are bad for people or the planet; ingredients like MEA/DEA Derivatives (surfactant), EDTA(chelator for spoilage), Parabens (preservative), Phthalates (plasticisers) silicones (emollient), GMOs, Synthetic Fragrances, BHT (petroleum based anti-oxidator), mineral oil (petroleum based), and Triclosan (antimicrobial preservative). The company even actively and successfully lobbied the British government to ban plastic microbeads in face wash. Some of their products have natural exfoliates similar to microbeads. Their Rehydrating Rose Facial Polish uses wild rose seeds and provides an equally effective exfoliating experience. They also have their Bee Lovely line of products that with every purchase creates a home for 100's of bees.

Our Cosmetic Therapist, Mandi, who specializes in permanent hair removal and anti-aging facial massages has been using NYR Organics for almost four years and had only ordered two or three times. The products last a long time especially for their price point. Higher cost stereotypically means smaller bottles. But with NYR small amounts

of product go a long way. Two constants that Mandi does in her after shower facial routine is to apply a toner and moisturizer at a minimum. NYR's toner comes in a 6.76 fl.oz bottle. She pours some into a smaller eye dropper bottle which refills around three to four times. Each application to the face is one eye dropper of toner and one partial to one full push of the moisturizer pump. The moisturizer is 3.38 fl oz. You can easily take all year to finish each of those bottles before needing new ones.

If you'd like to learn more about Neal's Yard Remedies and how to choose and use the right products for you, we are hosting a Zoom Spa party on Friday, November 13th at 7PM. Wear your comfiest robe and bring your own wine, cheese, or ice cream to this girl's night in! We'll learn from Paudy Carolina, a NYR

Organics Consultant, as she talks to us about the product details. There will be demonstrations of a dry brushing and moisturizing routine, facial product layering, and anti-aging massage techniques. Current users will also provide testimonies on their personal experience with NYR Organics. One woman even says it helps avoid her rosacea breakout from reoccurring! There will be samples and raffle prizes for those who attend. Please use the Zoom invite information below to join us!

To celebrate our launch of carrying Neal's Yard Remedies, we will be raffling off over \$250 retail priced items to anyone who places an order by November 13th. NYR Organics make excellent holiday gifts and there are products lines for everyone in the family - from men's to baby and even household items! You can order them online and get it delivered quickly to your door. You can also call Mandi to request a catalogue and place an order over the phone at (440) 487-8493. Ships anywhere in the US! To learn more and receive promotional updates join our Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/nyratcosmeticlaserinc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nyratcosmeticlaserinc).

Neal's Yard Remedies Zoom Spa Party with Cosmetic Laser Medispa & More!

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By Cat Lilly



## Protest Music

## Part Six: The Power of Celebrity

*“In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”*

## Martin Luther King

*“Artists are the gatekeepers of truth. We are civilization’s anchor. We are the compass for humanity’s conscience.”*

## Harry Belafonte

There seems to be much controversy of late over the issue of celebrities speaking out about politics. From Robert DeNiro to Meryl Streep, from Cher to Madonna to Lady Gaga, from Bruce Springsteen to LeBron James, countless celebrities from the worlds of film, stage, music, comedy and sports have used their platform to voice their opinion on our present administration's policies. This has spawned a huge backlash from the right. A quick glance at social media leads to seeing statements like "You're a singer, not a politician, nobody cares what you think, stick to singing." Criticism of the "Hollywood elites" runs rampant, and even the word "elite", once used by Donald Trump to describe his golf courses, buildings, and residence, has now become a dirty word.

## Celebrity

*"The civil-rights revolution in the South began when a man and the eye of the television film camera came together ...."* journalists Robert Donovan and Ray Scherer (*Unsilent Revolution: History of Television News*)

In 1955, a Baptist minister led a Montgomery bus boycott that would spark a decades-long civil rights movement comprising a series of mass protests against racial inequality in the U.S. That minister was Dr. Martin Luther King. A slew of the era's biggest celebrities, recruited by calypso singer Harry Belafonte, lent their support to the movement, a bold endeavor that, for many of them, meant losing money, fans and gigs. But for them, bolstering the Civil Rights Movement, which led to the passage of laws like the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, was well worth any sacrifice.

Many of the African-American members of Belafonte's posse had been speaking out against racial injustice and voter suppression for years. Among this crew were Lena Horne, Marian Anderson, gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, Nina Simone, bluesman Josh White, folk singer Odetta, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Diahann Carroll, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Sidney Poitier, the first African-American movie star to win an Oscar for best actor. Writer James Baldwin and baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson joined the ranks of the politically active, as did Josephine Baker, who came home from her adopted France to perform at

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Joan Baez

the Lincoln Memorial.

Folk singers like Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, and Peter, Paul, and Mary were always on hand to help out the cause. The coterie of A-list stars who joined the movement included Tony Bennett, James Garner, Shelley Winters, film producer Frank Mankiewicz, Marlon Brando, Burt Lancaster, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, and even Charlton Heston, who later denounced the Democratic liberals and became a leading proponent of 2nd Amendment rights.

Martin Luther King knew he could not galvanize support or raise funds for his movement by himself. He understood the power of the relatively new medium of television and the role the press could play, if they chose to. He knew the country had never taken black people's word for the horrors they endured. White Americans, through their televisions, would have to see, with their own eyes, some of those horrors enacted.

How did TV news networks become the chosen instrument of the revolution? Brave white Northern journalists charged into the South, making common cause with black activists to expose the racial injustice of Jim Crow simply because that was the right thing to do.

Martin Luther King also realized the power of celebrity. At his behest, his friend Harry Belafonte organized a multi-racial cast of musicians, actors, movie directors, and other performers who answered the call and helped spur the movement. The presence of beloved public figures at protests and marches added a level of credibility and some semblance of protection from angry white mobs.

## Belafonte

Harry Belafonte was born in Harlem, New York in 1927, the child of Jamaican immigrants. His mother worked as a domestic and his father was a chef on merchant ships who abandoned the family when Harry was born. During his childhood, when times were hard, Harry and his brother were sent to stay with relatives in Jamaica. He was struck



Paul Newman

by the grueling work of peasant life on the island and learned the songs they would sing to get through the long workday. These were some of the first songs that he would become known for as he started his career as an adult. He saw firsthand the oppression of the native Jamaicans by the English authorities, which made a strong impression on him. His mother raised him to believe that there was nothing unattainable in life, and to awaken every morning with the idea to include something in the daily agenda that would help set the course for the undermining of injustice.

Young Harry dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944. After his discharge, he worked as a janitor's assistant in a tenement building. One day he fixed a blind for a tenant and was given as a gratuity a ticket to a production at the American Negro Theater (AMT). Mesmerized by the performance, the young Navy vet volunteered to work for the AMT as a stagehand, eventually deciding to become an actor. He studied drama at the Dramatic Workshop run by Erwin Piscator, where his classmates included Marlon Brando, Walter Matthau and Tony Curtis. He appeared in musical productions, and caught the eye of an agent who offered him the opportunity to perform at a jazz club, backed up by talented musicians like Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. Belafonte became a popular act at the club, and in 1949 landed his first recording deal.

He was well on his way to becoming a jazz singer when he stopped in the Village Vanguard one night and heard a singer named Huddie Ledbetter (Leadbelly). He had never heard that style of singing before and was so impressed that he decided to go to the Library of Congress and search out old folk songs. By the early 1950s, Belafonte had dropped popular music from his repertoire in favor of traditional folk music from all over the world.

Another huge influence in his life was Paul Robeson, star of all-black musical Showboat, who he greatly admired, both for his talent



Harry Belafonte &amp; Martin Luther King

and his activism. One night Robeson attended Belafonte's show at the Vanguard, and came backstage afterward, offering Harry some advice: "Get them to sing your song, and they'll want to know who you are."

Belafonte appeared in a Broadway play called "Almanac" for which he won a Tony Award. He toured the South with a production called "Three for Tonight", where he experienced firsthand the hatred and racial intimidation, even by law enforcement, that was prevalent south of the Mason-Dixon line. In Las Vegas, the discrimination was no better – he had to enter by the back door and stay in the black section of town, not at the hotel where he was performing with his white co-stars.

Belafonte was one of the first black stars to appear on television. He appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, Dinah Shore, and the Steve Allen show, where he accepted three Gold Record awards - one for his 1956 album Calypso, the first full-length album ever to sell one million copies, one for selling a million copies in England, and one for the single, Banana Boat Song/Day-O (originally a Jamaican work song), which proved to be a huge hit. More than just a popular tune, it also held special meaning for Belafonte: "That song is a way of life," Belafonte later told The New York Times. "It's a song about my father, my mother, my uncles, the men and women who toil in the banana fields, the cane fields of Jamaica." Calypso introduced America to a whole new genre, traditional Caribbean folk music, and launched a calypso craze. The folk songs of Harry's youth had brought him luck.

The success of his musical career led him to Hollywood, where he experienced a more subtle form of racism – a battle over creative control, content, and style. He made several movies, including "Carmen Jones", with Dorothy Dandridge, and "Island in the Sun", which was considered controversial because it depicted a friendship between a black man and a white woman. The film was pulled from theaters in the South.

Belafonte formed his own film company, Harbel, but still needed backing from MGM. He made The World, the Flesh, and the Devil, a film about the last three people left on earth

after a nuclear holocaust, and Odds Against Tomorrow, the story of a bank heist gone wrong. Both movies dealt with issues of race, and both films were altered in mid-production by MGM due to racial issues. Belafonte became disillusioned with the Hollywood movie-making machine.

It was around this time that Belafonte received a call from Dr. Martin Luther King, requesting to meet with him. "It won't take long", he said. It was a call that would set the course for the rest of his life. After a four-hour meeting, Belafonte was fully committed to King's philosophy of non-violence and brotherhood. He says of their first meeting: "I knew then that I would forever be in his service, and I knew how long and perilous our journey would be."

Belafonte emerged as a strong voice for the civil rights movement. Through Dr. King, he met the Kennedys, campaigned for JFK, and earned the respect of RFK. He provided financial backing for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and participated in numerous rallies and protests. Then in 1963, Belafonte helped organize the March on Washington, in which King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Coretta Scott King said of Belafonte, "Whenever we got into trouble or when tragedy struck, Harry has always come to our aid, his generous heart wide open." The two men remained steadfast friends until King's assassination in 1968.

In 1959, Belafonte starred in Tonight with Belafonte, a nationally televised special sponsored by Revlon, who allowed him to have creative control. Rather than choosing an A-list star, he featured Afro-American folk singer, Odetta Holmes, "Water Boy" and who performed a duet with Belafonte of "There's a Hole in My Bucket" that hit the national charts. Belafonte won an Emmy for the show, the first Jamaican American to do so. He was one of many entertainers recruited by Frank Sinatra to perform at the inaugural gala of President John F. Kennedy in 1961. During the 1960s he introduced several foreign artists to American audiences, most notably South African singer Miriam Makeba, nicknamed Mama Africa, who was exiled from her country for speaking out against apartheid.

During the 1960s, Belafonte appeared on TV specials alongside such artists as Julie Andrews and Lena Horne. In 1968, two-time Grammy-winning British singer Petula Clark was riding a wave of Top 10 hits and was a popular guest on American variety shows. She was set to do a musical special for American TV, sponsored by Chrysler Corporation, and asked Harry to be her co-star. He was her one and only choice.

Within fifteen minutes of Belafonte's acceptance to appear, Doyle Lott, an advertising executive from Chrysler, was objecting to having a black man on the show. Petula stuck

*Continued on Page 18*



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Continued From Page 17



Harry Belafonte

to her guns and filming began. Clark and Belafonte both performed individually, and then sang a duet on "On the Path of Glory," an anti-war song Clark had co-written. The emotion of the lyrics resonated in their voices and on their faces, and halfway through the song, Petula reached over and put her hand over Harry's forearm, a simple gesture that would have gone unnoticed in her native country. That fleeting moment prompted Doyle Lott to again protest vehemently and demand the segment be reshot without the touching. Just as before, Petula and her producers refused. Word leaked out in the press about the incident, turning it into a multi-racial cause

celebre'.

Petula was aired on NBC on April 2, 1968. America watched as, for the first time, a white woman touched a black man's arm on primetime television. The show received rave reviews and dubbed "a stylish, sophisticated musical hour, simply smashing". (The only bad review was from the newspaper of the KKK.) In the aftermath of the special and the coverage that "the touch" generated, two further television milestones in regards to race would occur later in the year. The September premiere of *Julia* was the first sitcom to star a black woman who had a professional career, and the November Star Trek episode "Plato's Stepchildren" featured an inter-racial kiss between William Shatner's Captain Kirk and Nichelle Nichols's Uhura.

Another largely overlooked television milestone occurred in February 1968, when America was embroiled in protests over civil rights and the Vietnam War. In that tumultuous time, "The Tonight Show" host Johnny Carson turned over hosting duties for an entire week to Belafonte. His cast of guests included Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, just months before they were assassinated.

Johnny Carson was a private kind of guy, keeping his personal life and political opinions to himself. There is much speculation as to why he invited Belafonte to take over for a week. (It was "probably the most revolutionary move that mainstream television could have done at the time," says Questlove.) It does seem likely that Carson had a social conscience and admired it in others. "We just want you to be who you are," Belafonte remembers Carson telling him. That meant bringing a political dimension to the evening that was not quite the 'Tonight Show' thing.

Belafonte's guests included Lena Horne, Nipsey Russell, Bill Cosby, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Petula Clark, Dionne Warwick, Robert Goulet, Sidney Poitier, comedians Tom and Dick Smothers, and a trumpet-playing Paul Newman, all engaged in searing, in-depth interviews, taking place in an America that was a country on the verge of radical change. A new documentary, produced by MSNBC anchor Joy Reid, revisits this historic week in television history. "The Sit-In: Harry Belafonte Hosts the Tonight Show" is available on NBCUniversal's streaming platform Peacock.

"You can cage the singer but not the song."

In the early days, Belafonte's candidly expressed opinions sometimes landed him in hot water. He was investigated by the FBI and blacklisted but he never gave up the fight. Over the years he has taken up many causes at home and abroad, among them child incarceration, prison reform, gang violence, and Native American rights. In addition to his



Harry Belafonte

role as a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF, he has campaigned to end the practice of apartheid in South Africa and has spoken out against nuclear weapons and U.S. military actions in Iraq.

In the 1980s, Belafonte visited Ethiopia and was horrified by the effects of the hunger pandemic on the population. He came up with the idea of recording a song with other celebrities, which would be sold to raise funds to provide famine relief. Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, "We Are the World" featured vocals by a host of such music greats as Ray Charles, Diana Ross and Bruce Springsteen. The song was released in 1985, raising millions of dollars and becoming an international hit. Belafonte chartered a gutted 747 to drop supplies to the starving population, ensuring that life-saving resources got to the people who needed them.

Belafonte has achieved some of the highest honors possible over more than a half-century in the public eye. He was a recipient of Kennedy Center Honors in 1989, the National Medal of Arts in 1994 and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. Additionally, in 2014 he received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Governors Awards.

Harry Belafonte was in the news recently, when portions of a video posted online by White House social media director Dan Scavino, meant to make it look as though Joe Biden were falling asleep in an interview, were recognized as having been pulled from a 2011 interview with Belafonte instead. Twitter branded it as "manipulated media." This revelation prompted Belafonte, 93, to release a statement: "They keep stooping lower and lower. A technical glitch in an interview I did nine years ago now becomes another one of their lies, more of their fake news." And he encouraged people to vote.

**"Each and every one of you has the power, the will and the capacity to make a difference in the world in which you live in,"**

-Harry Belafonte-

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# MOVIE REVIEWS

By Westside Steve Simmons



## Spell

Paramount|R|121 min

Spoiler alert

First of all, you realize it was just Halloween and it's inevitable there'd be at least a couple of horror movies to hit the theaters. Thanks to the pandemic a lot of them are showing reruns but there are a couple new ones. I suspect the impact of either of them will disappear as quickly as the Reese cups in a trick or treat bag but for this issue we roll the dice with SPELL a tale of voodoo set in backwoods Appalachia. Here I give great credit to the producers because while the cast is entirely African-American this film isn't about race at all. This script would have worked as well with any group of people and any spiritual cult you can imagine. Now don't get your hopes up gang, it's still not very good but at least it's not a political sermon.

Omari Hardwick is Marquis a successful executive of some kind making arrangements to attend his father's funeral somewhere apparently inaccessible to automobiles. Fortunately, he has a pilot's license and loads the wife and two kids on a small plane to make the trip. The foreboding starts pretty quickly as the old geezer at the convenience shop near the remote airstrip tries to sell him a magic good luck charm. He refuses but takes the opportunity to toss in a quick product placement shot of Lay's potato chips (given the production value that probably paid for the whole project). Well, the puddle jumper runs into a bad storm and crashes in the woods. Marq wakes up alone in the bedroom of an old farmhouse being tended to because he has a badly injured foot, by Eloise (Loretta Devine) who seems to be a sweet and

sassy old country grandma. Of course, looks can be deceiving and if they weren't this flick would have been pretty short. Pretty soon it dawns on him that he's being held against his will; not allowed to go out and search for his wife and kids. One night he sneaks out the window then crawls across a couple of rooftops to spy on a Voodoo ritual in which a cat is killed and its eyes and tongue used in a spell. One can only imagine that if a cat's parts can work magic imagine how much stronger it would be with a human being. And yes, that's exactly what the creepy country coven has in store for him.

I won't give you the details of the ending but it really is pretty silly. As a matter of fact, a lot of this movie is pretty silly but let's face it, most horror movies fit that description. And that's too bad because with a few tweaks to the script, SPELL might have been good. By the way folks remember that I grade horror movies on the horror movie curve, so, this one's about average. I do give these guys credit for using Screamin Jay Hawkins' I Put a Spell on You in the soundtrack.

C

WSS



## The Honest Thief

Open Road|PG 13|99 min

Things are getting tougher all the time for movies especially with the demise of one of my favorite chains the Regal Cinemas. They had a lot of locations, good quality screens, and could be counted on for matinee timing and even an occasional airing of something

that wasn't on the hit list. Another shout out to the good folks at Kent Cinemas for running a few afternoon shows. THE HONEST THIEF might be another one of those that has been sitting on the shelf and released to the theaters maybe because of a lack of anything more impressive. That doesn't mean this Liam Neeson crime saga is without merit, it's not bad, it's just that this is the time of year the studios should be at each other throats with blockbusters. Oh well.

Our hero is Tom, (Neeson), nicknamed the in and out bandit or burglar, a nickname he despises, who has stolen at least 9 million bucks over the last decade or so without leaving a trace. Alas father time has caught up with our boy and he feels the need to settle down with the love of his life Annie (Kate Walsh), the woman who owns the storage units in which he keeps that 9 million bucks in cash. Now in an effort to come clean, Tommy makes the decision to turn himself in to the FBI and return the 9 million in exchange for a reduced sentence and ride off into the sunset with his lady love. Unfortunately, it turns out that half the crackpots in the city have turned themselves in and his call to the bureau is taken as just another waste of time. Even worse the pair of cops that finally look into the matter are crooks themselves and seize upon the opportunity to keep the money for themselves and double cross our hero as well as the FBI. Of course, Annie gets involved and winds up in the hospital which really pisses our boy off and the game is afoot. There are enough twists and turns to keep you awake along with enough second-rate plot devices to keep the movie from getting a stellar rating but an ending that's just clever enough to push my grade over the halfway mark.

Some of the blemishes on the story include these. Tom, an ex-marine a criminal genius and munitions expert whose crimes have gone unsolved for years and years, sure seems to make some stupid decisions. And you have to wonder how Annie, the love of his life who he is preparing to settle down with, has had no clue as to what he's been doing for a living for the last decade or so. Also, and maybe it's just me, but on top of the lack of on-screen chemistry, Kate Walsh isn't really looking good enough to make me want to risk my life and give up 9 million smackers. And this happens in a lot of movies but still annoying; in some of the many gun battles (with pistols that apparently have a never-ending supply of bullets) the FBI trained renegades hold their weapons sideways as if they were in a gangsta rap video. Still the honest Thief gets extra credit just for the fact that I could sit in a theater and eat popcorn and that counts for something in this era.

C+

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*Continued on Page 20*



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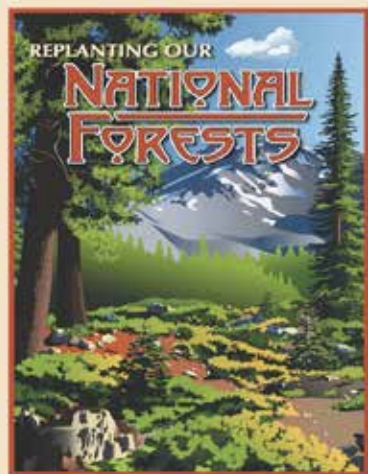
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Continued From Page 19



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## Creem: America's Only Rock and Roll Magazine

Netflix documentary | Not rated | 75 min

We Americans are a fairly successful lot and as years have gone by we've found ourselves with more and more leisure time. Gone are the 12- or 14-hour work days trying to scratch enough food out of the ground to survive like our Pioneer ancestors and we find ourselves looking for hobbies. Whether it's automobiles mechanics, World Travel, any

imaginable sport, political viewpoint, or craft, there's a publication for you. Many of us here holding a copy of The Voice in our grubby little hands probably share a love of rock and roll music, or at least music of some kind. I have to imagine that age will determine what particular genre will appeal to any of us but if you are members of a particular generation you probably remember 16, Tiger Beat, or Teen Set which begat Rolling Stone, Downbeat, and the roughest and craziest one of the bunch, Creem. The latter came into existence a year after RS and was named after another popular band of the time Cream. I would have guessed a documentary on this rock and roll publication would have included story after story of interesting things that happened with the popular stars of the time but that's not quite it. This is the low budget collection of interview Snippets with employees, a few rock stars hangers on Etc. sharing memories mostly about the two protagonists or antagonists depending on your view, publisher Barry Kramer and Cutting Edge critic Lester Bangs, the king of curmudgeonly reviews..

From ramshackle beginnings in Detroit, one of the pioneer cities of rock and roll, laying claim to such luminaries as; Smokey Robinson, Alice Cooper, MC5, the Stooges, P Funk, and so on, Creem magazine carved out a niche that would earn a cult following for those who loved the bleeding edge of rock and roll. Unless you are really into the magazine and familiar with the staff the stories might not be all that interesting. Kramer didn't think much of Rolling Stone publisher Jann Wenner, a rich kid who preferred pop music and schmoozing with celebrities to writing about the nitty gritty of metal and punk. One of the anecdotes is of the newspaper paying famous underground cartoonist R Crumb enough money for an operation to draw for the paper including the famous smiling milk bottle known affectionately as Boy Howdy. There are also stories of In-House craziness involving dogshit on the typewriter, marathon drugs and alcohol, setting furniture aflame and so forth but for me not really having any personal attachment with any of these people they weren't all that interesting.

Also there's that age thing, if you are musical roots are Sinatra or 1950's doo-wop, early 60s Folk, late sixties British Invasion or Disco you probably weren't reading anyway. But if you did and you know the writers or you're a member of the journalistic community it just might spark some interest. For those people this is probably a B+ or an A. For the rest of us?

C

WSS



## Borat Subsequent Moviefilm

Amazon | 96 m | R

Hey gang this really isn't much of a review because for the first time in a long time I just couldn't make it through the film. Maybe if I'd taken the time to drive to a theater paid by seven or eight bucks or spent 20 for streaming rental I've probably finished it but it's on Amazon I'm a subscriber so I bailed after about 35 minutes. To be fair Sacha Baron Cohen is not without talent and could, in the right circumstances, be one of the upper echelon character actors in the business. He has also translated that talent into a fair amount of notoriety with a string of films best described as a distasteful twist on Alan Funt's classic CANDID CAMERA. Unfortunately, in my opinion (and that's all I offer) is that once in a while I prefer not to waste my time on something that's offensive for the sake of being offensive. Unless, of course, it's funny, but that's not the case here. I also realized that people's taste varies and some folks love the JACKASS films or the JIM ROSE SIDESHOW or maybe even Yoko Ono records. Anyway, as far as I could tell from the first half hour this offering promise to be even more unpleasant than the original some 15 years ago. Again, personal taste and personal choice. If you disagree feel free to let me know at [WestsideSteve@aol.com](mailto:WestsideSteve@aol.com) I may give another chance.

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# KICKIN' IT

## Kelsey Waldon Stands Up For What She Believes In On New EP They'll Never Keep Us Down Out November 20th

Waldon's haunting version of Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam," is out now. "I want to work towards a new southern strategy because my South is a South for all people," says Nashville recording artist and proud Kentucky native Kelsey Waldon. The next step forward in Waldon's mission for progress and equality in her beloved homeland is to release her new EP, *They'll Never Keep Us Down*, a collection of timeless yet timely cover songs. NPR/World Cafe premiered the EP's first single, "Mississippi Goddam." With the help of guest vocalists Adia Victoria and Kyshona Armstrong, Waldon tackles this Nina Simone classic with a swirling, angry, country-ish feel, rekindling Simone's fire from when the song was written after white supremacists killed four young girls in the 1963 bombing of a Black church in Birmingham, Alabama. NPR/World Cafe's Bruce Warren commented, "There's an electrical, pulsing change in tempo compared to Simone's original, yet the cutting message remains the same. With Victoria and Armstrong adding their voices to this version, along with Waldon, makes an already powerful song even stronger." Watch the lyric video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLjLnAhTMD4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLjLnAhTMD4)

The B-side of "Mississippi Goddam"—is the EP's title track, Hazel Dickens' "They'll Never Keep Us Down"; a power-to-the-people traditional bluegrass burner with refrains like "They'll never shoot that union out of me" and "Your welfare ain't on the rich man's mind." Hear both "They'll Never Keep Us Down" and "Mississippi Goddam" now right on Spotify.

Additionally, Waldon will be releasing two different, limited edition, colored vinyl versions of *They'll Never Keep Us Down*; proceeds from the red vinyl will benefit Hood to the Holler, a non-profit organization aiming to end racial injustice in Kentucky and beyond, and the blue vinyl will benefit Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, who represent coal miners and their families on issues of black lung and mine safety. Both vinyl editions can be pre-ordered here.

"This song [Mississippi Goddam], which showcases racial injustice as well as the enduring fight and fear that the Black community has had to endure in this country for centuries, still rings true decades later," says Waldon. "Today in 2020, as we push for progress, sometimes it still feels like we are going backwards." It's that backsliding of



Kelsey Walden with John Prine

progress that drove Waldon to revisit this host of powerful songs; from Neil Young's "Ohio" to Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas's "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free"—which features Devon Gilfillian—to Waldon's late friend, mentor, and record label founder John Prine's "Sam Stone." They all share a strong common thread; accepting the need for change and what it means to push for it. Waldon's view on the matter is cut and dry, with no room for interpretation; a call to conversation with her fellow southerners who may not yet think along the same lines. "This is about listening to someone else's perspective," says Waldon. Overall, *They'll Never Keep Us Down* burns bright and hot; a torch in the night for those who've not yet seen the light and a friendly beacon for those who are already on their march to achieving justice for all.

They'll Never Keep Us Down Tracklisting:

1. The Law Is For Protection Of The People
2. Ohio
3. Mississippi Goddam
4. Sam Stone
5. They'll Never Keep Us Down
6. With God On Our Side
7. I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free

### Griffin stages benefit for music clubs

Patty Griffin has announced "Patty Griffin A Residency Streaming Live Show from the Continental Club," a three-show livestream residency to be broadcasted from the Continental Club in her hometown of Austin.

The shows will take place Nov. 7, 21 and Dec. 5. Each show in the three-night series will

be completely unique with partial proceeds going to benefit 18 independent venues in the country as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to devastate the live music community. Tickets for individual shows and the three-night series are on sale now. <https://boxoffice.mandolin.com/pages/patty-griffin-live-from-the-continental-club>

"I'm sure you have heard by now what a devastating moment it is for many live music venues throughout the country," said Griffin. "This translates to job losses on so many levels - the hardworking people that run these venues, book these venues, clean and repair them, take your tickets and serve your beers there, not to mention many musicians like myself who have depended on them for years to not only connect us to income in our touring work, but also for the spirit they extend to us in each community."

"These are places where live music has been loved and nurtured in our country. In Austin alone, it has been estimated that 90 percent of venues have already closed their doors forever. This business for the most part is a labor of love, so not a lot of huge financial safety nets there for many. I am hoping with these shows to raise awareness and maybe a little funding too for some of these places that are struggling to stay afloat in this shut down."

The venues being supported by the concerts are:

ACL Live - Austin, TX  
Boothbay Opera House - Boothbay Harbor,



Patty Griffin

Maine  
State Theater - Portland, Maine  
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Union Transfer - Philadelphia  
Stuart's Opera House - Nelsonville, OH  
Haw River Ballroom - Saxapahaw, N.C.  
Duling Hall - Jackson, MS  
Rev Hall - Portland, OR  
Aladdin Theater - Portland, OR  
Neptune Theater - Seattle  
Troy Music Hall - Troy, N.Y.  
South Orange Performing Arts Center - South Orange, N.J.  
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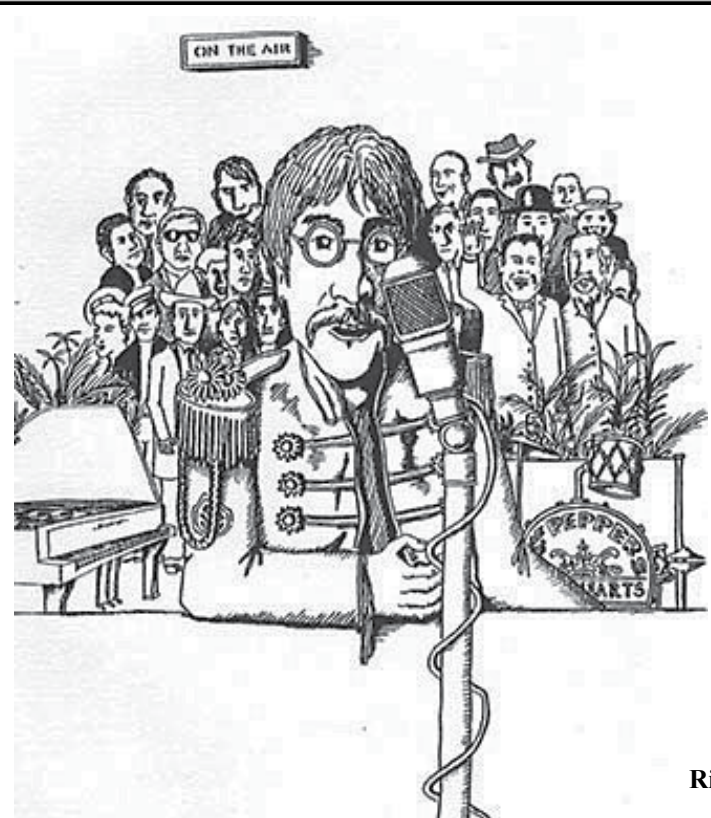
# HIAWATHA

Can you find the hidden words? They may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards. Apukwa, Chibiabos, Gitche Manito, Hiawatha, Kabeyun, Kabibonokka, Keewaydin, Kenabeek, Kwasind, Laughing Water, Megissogwon, Minjekahwun, Minnehaha, Mondamin, Mudjekeewis, Nawadaha, Nokomis, Osseo, Ponemah, Pukwana, Shawondasee, Shingebis, Tawasentha, Tuscaloosa, Wabasso, Wabun, Wawbeek, Wenonah, Wyoming, Yenadizze.



- Across**
1. Kind of star
  5. Group of cattle or sheep
  9. To a greater extent
  13. Heroic poem
  14. Make a great effort
  16. Iniquity
  17. Direction
  18. Mansion
  19. Narrow projecting strip of land
  20. Gastropod
  22. Beauty treatment
  24. Pinch
  26. Facial expression
  27. Body of water
  30. Field event
  35. Tender
  36. Necessities
  39. Carried in a certain way
  40. Molecule
  42. Greyish brown
  44. Step
  45. Mouselike mammal
  47. Hunt illegally
  49. Take liquid a little at a time
  50. Boil vigorously
  52. A need to drink
  54. Apiece
  57. Metal-bearing mineral
  58. Linguist
  62. Unit of geological time
  66. Gag
  67. Ashen
  69. Having the means to do something
  70. Halo
  71. Foe
  72. Scorch
  73. Enfold
  74. Mirth
  75. A specific kind
  - Down**
  1. Reported information
  2. Overt
  3. Passport endorsement
  4. Pretending
  5. Lap
  6. Test
  7. Relating to the kidneys
  8. Stingless male bee
  9. Bill of fare
  10. Finished
  11. Food grain
  12. Moose
  15. Attempted
  21. Predatory feline
  23. Cot
  25. Bard
  27. Supple
  28. Worship
  29. Form of tide
  31. Soak through
  32. Unrefined
  33. Complete or full-length
  34. Ooze
  35. Freshwater fish
  37. Singing couple
  38. Squabble
  41. Encountered
  43. Reverberation
  46. Dairy product
  48. Charter
  51. Bird of prey
  53. Meal
  55. Hold on tightly
  56. Small crude shelter
  58. Rain heavily
  59. Gumbo
  60. Jump
  61. Measure the duration of something
  63. Comply
  64. Applaud
  65. This place
  66. Mandible
  68. Staining substance

Solution on page 20



Rick Ray





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Saturday, 12/5 .....	Lyle Heath .....	2 - 6pm
Saturday, 12/12 .....	Tom Todd .....	2 - 6pm
Saturday, 12/19 .....	Steve Madewell .....	2 - 6pm
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Fri. Nov. 13	Kelly & Randall
Sat. Nov. 14	John Gall Steve Madwell
Sun. Nov. 15	Eric Andrews
Wed. Nov. 18	John Gall
Fri. Nov. 20	Uncharted Course
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Sun. Nov. 22	Steve Madwell
Wed. Nov. 25	Phil Madwell
Fri. Nov. 27	Steve Madwell
Sat. Nov. 28	Eric Andrews John Gall
Sun. Nov. 29	Just Andy
Wed. Dec. 2	Randall Coumos

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Join Debonné Vineyards, South River Vineyards, Cask 307 Winery, Red Eagle Distillery & Grand River Cellars for this drive-yourself food & wine tasting trail.

\$6 pp at each winery but bring in a canned food and receive \$1 off.

The trail is available every day that the wineries are open from November 1st thru the 25th. "Let us help you make recommendations for your thanksgiving table."

GRC: Cornbread & cheddar stuffing with Bacon

DV: Turkey Meatballs with cranberry chutney

Cask 307: Butternut Squash Soup

Red Eagle: Pumpkin Spice Martini with Cider Donut

SRV: Pumpkin Roll

## Need Wine or Beer Delivered to your Home?

If you live in Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, or Cuyahoga County then go to [www.valleywinegroup.com](http://www.valleywinegroup.com) and place your order for delivery. Get the best the Grand River Valley has to offer.



Go to [www.debonne.com](http://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-10; SUNDAY NOON-8. FOR INFO. OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL 440-298-9838**

Events follow CDC guidelines for Covid.

**EVENTS:**

### Thanks for Giving Trail

**November 1st thru 25th Noon- 6 p.m.**

Join Debonné Vineyards, South River Vineyards, Cask 307 Winery, Red Eagle Distillery & Grand River Cellars for this drive-yourself food & wine tasting trail. \$6 pp at each winery but bring in a canned food and receive \$1 off.

### Beach Glass Framed Art Class

**November 5th 6 pm**

**\$28 pp includes supplies and a glass of wine.**

### Brushes & Lushes Class

**November 12th 6 pm \$30 pp**

**Includes supplies & a glass of wine.**

### Tastings in the Wine Cellar

*A little wine education & a lot of fun!*

**5 wine samples and 4 small plates \$20**

**Saturday, November 21 & 28 1pm**

Go to [www.grandrivercellars.com](http://www.grandrivercellars.com) to register for the classes.

### JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC

Sunday, Nov. 1	Amy Varkette
Thursday, Nov. 5	Jess Briggs
Friday, Nov. 6	Castaways Unplugged
Saturday, Nov. 7	John Robert
Sunday, Nov. 8	Dave Young
Thursday, Nov. 12	Jess Briggs
Friday, Nov. 13	Dan McCoy
Saturday, Nov. 14	Loose Tooth Trio
Sunday, Nov. 15	Chris Hatten
Thursday, Nov. 19	Jess Briggs
Friday, Nov. 20	Jimmy Mrozek
Saturday, Nov. 21	Dan McCoy
Sunday, Nov. 22	Maria Petti
Friday, Nov. 27	Nick Walker
Saturday, Nov. 28	Porch Rockers Duo
Sunday, Nov. 29	El Trio DeVille
Thursday, Dec. 3	Jess Briggs
Friday, Dec. 4	TBA
Saturday, Dec. 5	FaceValue Duo

**Music plays**

**Thursdays 6-8; Fri & Sat. 7-9:30; & Sundays 4-7.**

## Crafts, Corks & Christmas

**Holiday Craft Show**

**Sunday, December 6th Noon-7 pm**

Go to [grandrivercellars.com](http://grandrivercellars.com)