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FEBRUARY 2019

FREE

MUSIC - ART - NEWS

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TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

with Johnny Divine (Outback Studios 940-613-8436)

Mickey Mantle, Roy Clark, and Yesterday When I Was Young

This past month has been the hardest time of my life. I lost one of my sons. I guess that's about as bad as it gets, but he was also my buddy and my working partner, whether we were playing music together, working in our recording studio, or even doing some construction work. I've cried more tears than I ever thought possible, but I've also recalled some funny moments from my son, Jimi Divine. Those times help me cope.

Jimi was very funny. I haven't been able to just pull up a bunch of jokes he shared with me for the last nearly thirty years because he was more of an "in the moment", witty, sort of guy. I'm just going to share a few moments where he made me laugh til I cried. They were a different kind of tears, though.

Jimi's first attempt at humor was one of my favorite moments. He was about two years old. He called my sister Marla "Lala" and he was learning about knock knock jokes. It was simple to him: you say a word and the listener says who, and you add something to the word! We were riding together in my car and he said, "Daddy, I have a knock knock joke. You wanna hear it?" Of course I did. This kid may have still been in diapers, but he was already working on his stand up routine! It went like this: Knock knock. Who's there? Lala! (Hmmm, I'm thinking...) Lala who? His reply: Aunt Lala!!

Then there was airport security when we arrived in Germany. Mackey, Jimi, and I had gone through the regular security of bag checking and the metal screening devices, but there were some random checks by the German police, once regular security was finished. Sure enough, this big policeman singled Jimi out and says, "Come here!" Jimi walks toward the policeman, who is now standing with arms and legs spread showing Jimi what he needs to do to be checked. Jimi looks at the guy and says, "Okay", and heads toward the officer. The officer is still standing in that "frisking" position so Jimi walks up to the officer, puts his arms round him, and gives him a bear hug!! The officer looks at me like "What is this kid doing?" Then he smiles, and pats Jimi on the back and says, "You can go."

The last joke I got from Jimi was an email. It was: Bono and The Edge walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Not U2 again?"

My favorite has to be Jimi's use of a great Three Stooges word. My nephew, John Edgar, was telling Mackey, Jimi, and I about staying with some friends in the metroplex. He stated that they were "severe vegans". He said the first night there they had soy burgers, soy fries, and some sort of soy dessert. The next morning, breakfast consisted of soy pancakes, soy hash browns, soy sausage, and another soy dessert. Mackey asked John Edgar, "Well, was it any good?" Jimi instantly replied, "Soytainly!"

Jimi, you have been the source of so many happy tears, and now the source of the saddest of tears. Every day, for the rest of my life, I will think about you and love you with all of my heart.

I must end on a happy note, though, considering the main subject of this story, and say, "Jimi, we will soytainly miss you!"



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M-F 3pm-2am • Sat Noon-2am

Feb 1 - James Cook, The Gibbonses

Feb 2 - Forever Mac

Feb 8 - Shotgun Rider, Clint Vines and the Hard Times

Feb 9 - Oddfellas, Leddit Ride

**Feb 15 - Miyagi, Hannah Belle Lecter
(Valentines event.)**

Feb 16 - Texas Flood (Tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughan.)

Feb 22 - Zach Nytomt, Three String Circus

Feb 23 - Killdevil, Kicked to the Curb

March 1 - Tejas Brothers

March 2 - Hannah Belle Lecter

March 8 - Ally Venable



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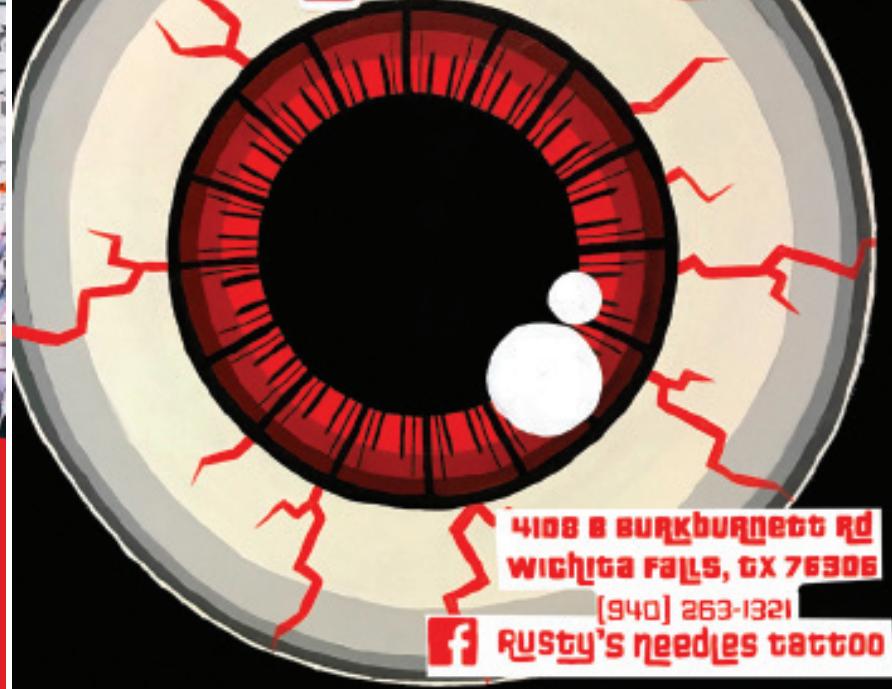


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Tamara Allison

If you are wanting some unique jewelry that is artful, glamorous, and funky, Tamara Allison is the lady to see. Her jewelry is primarily beadwork, although she does use unexpected items in her work, such as ceramic and glass tiles, sea glass, and washers of all sorts.

She started doing beadwork on a lark while visiting a friend at the age of 13 and fell in love with the intricacy of that medium. Before that she loved jigsaw puzzles and warns that if a 2000-piece jigsaw puzzle is fun, then beading might be for you. To share her love of this art, she gives private lessons and sells how to tutorials.

Her jewelry can be found at Down the Rabbit Hole Vintage Collectibles on Lamar Street, and she can also be found there a couple days a week, but her full-time job is creating jewelry which she does from her home. She also has a presence on Facebook under her business name, Vanishing Pearl, and a store on Etsy.com of the same name. She is also a regular at the Farmer's Market and at local events, like the After Hours Artwalk. She travels in the area to other events like the Bowie Artwalk. Tamara added, "I am going to try this year to do video tutorials. I have been streaming live on Twitch, an online community, and hope to get on YouTube this summer."

She has won several awards for her jewelry from finalist to 2nd place, and photos of her wares have been published in several magazines, as well as some of her how-to articles. She is self-taught, although her mother also does beadwork. In fact, some of her first creations were with beads she "stole" from her mom she said mischievously. Eventually her mom started making Tamara buy her own beads. Tamara originally checked out books from the library and learned from the same magazines that she would later be published in. "I did take 2 workshops on beading though from 2 instructors that I really admire," she said.

For 16 years she has been honing her craft. She also started selling in galleries at the tender age of 15. She has



sold art locally at several stores and at the Kemp Center for the Arts. However, she is now exclusively at Down the Rabbit Hole Vintage Collectibles.

Her mother often attended craft shows, and in some of them Tamara was able to sell her own beaded jewelry. "I was probably 15 when I was setting up shows with my mom. I would sneak in a little card table and sell from there. They weren't very good pieces and they weren't well displayed, but I was a teenager, and I got enough pity sales to want to continue," she said with a laugh.

Tamara is originally from Taos, New Mexico, lived in Tennessee when she was a teenager, came to Wichita Falls to go to college at Midwestern State University, and has made this her home. "I ended up here because MSU has a good website. I majored in Metal-smithing and minored in Painting, but I still prefer the beading. I paint sometimes and then may not paint again for 2 years. I doodle a lot and sketch in my journal. I used to write down instructions, but now I write my dreams down in it and use it for many things, like fitness trackers, which I don't like, and habit trackers which I don't use," she said with a grin.

"I bead almost every day, or I am doing things like promoting my jewelry on Facebook or updating my Etsy page. I take lots and lots of commissions. I've had people ask me to make a roadrunner, lady bugs, bumble bees, ice cream cones, beaded buttons, and a cactus, out of beads. A lot of it is motif based. Customers ask me to make this picture or their favorite object with beads, and I can do that for them. I had one lady ask me to make some jewelry for her out of beach glass she and her daughter found 13 years ago. It was a memory piece."

Tamara can capture your memories in a piece of jewelry, or you can have that unique one of a kind necklace, bracelet or earrings that will set you apart. Check out her inventory or have a piece of wearable art designed just for you. -Cindy Thomas

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I saw a Facebook post that the Silver Dollar Saloon was to reopen soon, so I stopped by to see what I could find out. I was fortunate enough to arrive at the time Arthur Gaona, president of Blue Seven entertainment, was there to answer a few questions for me and show me the progress being made.

In the karaoke room the dance floor had just been re-finished and the bar area was being reconstructed with new equipment. In addition, Arthur showed me the outside dining area where concrete had been poured under the awning to alleviate the flooding problem they had, and he told me that they were going to raise the awning to accommodate four big screen TV's that are to be suspended from the ceiling.

According to Arthur, the live entertainment will be brought back to the outside stage and customers will be able to enjoy the shows on new outside furniture. They will still be motorcycle friendly, and also doggie friendly for service pets. There will also be free games to play, like darts and A-Hole, and karaoke will still be a feature in the old karaoke room, and they will still serve great food.

There is still a lot of work to be done and the date of grand reopening is not yet confirmed, but Arthur projects it to be some time in February. He suggests keeping your eye on the Silver Dollar Saloon's Facebook page for the announcement.

~Tim Maloney

DANE RODRIGUEZ



“Hey Papi!” If you have spent much time downtown at all, chances are you’ve heard those two words yelled out across a street or in a restaurant. When I first met Dane Rodriguez I was instantly captivated by his charisma and positive attitude. That was June 2016. Almost three years later, I still secretly wish I had some of that charisma. Dane didn’t grow up in Wichita Falls, but you wouldn’t know it by talking to him. He is Downtown Wichita Falls through and through. It seems that he can’t have a conversation without bringing up downtown. He lives downtown, owns a building downtown, and is moving

his business (Stone Oven Pizza) downtown. He also has more plans in the works that he isn’t ready to share.... But all of it is downtown. Dane grew up in Biloxi Mississippi and joined the US Air Force right out of school. He served his country as a civil engineer and found great pride in his service. He spent most of his time in uniform overseas. In 2005 Dane was in Portugal when Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast, and in the process, destroyed his mother’s home. Upon hearing the news, Rodriguez approached his superiors and requested permission to head state side to help his mother. He was granted permission to decide his next assignment and chose Sheppard Air Force

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Base in Wichita Falls, Texas where he had once trained. He spent the next year at Sheppard where he finished out his service and decided to stay and call Wichita Falls home.

It was at this time in 2006 that Dane started NUYU Teeth Whitening. NUYU, based out of Big Blue downtown, provides teeth whitening products to over 250 locations across the US and Canada.

Fast forward a few years and a few beers over a family barbeque, Dane and his friend Johnny Uch hatched a plan to open a gourmet pizza joint in Wichita Falls. Stone Oven Pizza was born. It quickly became a staple for local cuisine. A few years into business they relocated to the current location in Century Plaza near the mall. Expansion is on the horizon for Stone Oven. Dane is opening a second location downtown in John Houston Farmer's building at 810 7th Street. The restaurant will offer carryout and delivery to the downtown area. Rodriguez is open to the idea of adding a dine in option in the future, but for now he wants to keep it as "quick, quality pizza delivered to your home or office." The space is currently being renovated with plans to open in the very near future.

In the middle of all these activities Dane somehow finds time to renovate a three story, 21000 square foot building downtown. He and his partner on the project, Beau Dameron, have been working on 922 Indiana across from Wichita Theatre for a few years now. Rodriguez jokes about how they used to mock building owners that were taking so long to renovate their properties. He now understands the effects of government red tape and hoops that stone wall progress. Though progress at 922 was been slow, it has been steady. However, no estimated completion date has been set.

Dane can often be found shooting pool or playing chess at the locally owned establishments downtown. He is a big supporter of local music and art. His office walls display art that he has purchased from local artists Sorrow, David Fowler, Chelsea Pirkle, and more. Dane Rodriguez is #DowntownProud.



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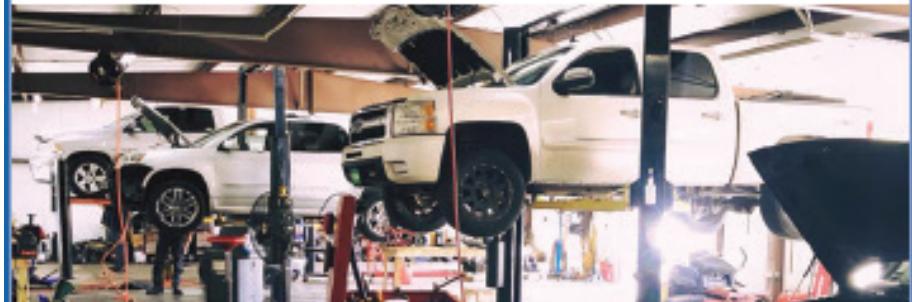
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JIMI DIVINE

Christmas had just finished. Presents had been opened, families had spent time together, and most of us were thinking about 2019. Then, the day after Christmas, I got a terrible text....a group message that was sent to musicians letting us know that our friend, Jimi Divine, had passed away.

Born James Ian Divine, some musicians called him the Blues Man, others titled him Mr. Strat, but most knew him as Jimi. He played a pretty large area of the United States and even Germany, with his unique style influenced by his heroes Eric Clapton, Larry Carlton, Buddy Guy, and, of course, Jimi Hendrix. Jimi Divine had an impact on many in the Wichita Falls music community, whether he was rocking the stage, watching as a fan, or recording their songs at his father, Johnny Divine's workroom, Outback Studios.

I met young Jimi at age 9 when I recorded my first full album at Outback in the 90's. Halfway through a session a young boy walked in, talked to his dad, and then grabbed his drum set. Little did I know, I'd later share a stage with him, talk music history and philosophy, and that he'd be one of my favorite people in my life.

If you were lucky enough to

perform or hang with Jimi, you knew he was much more than a musician. He brought out the best in our music community. We watched him be supportive, play tirelessly, and devote himself to recording the music from the area, all while keeping a positive attitude toward others in the music industry. We aspire to be all that Jimi became.

A Celebration of Jimi's life was held on January 2, 2019 at The Wichita Theatre. It was musically filled with love and song. Musicians performed, friends laughed and shared stories, and his spirit shined brightly on all who loved and cared for him. "What a beautiful memorial for Jimi. What better than to have it at the Theatre... Jimi lived his life on stage," fellow guitarist, Paul Shults, commented.

Jimi Divine mastered the guitar, but coming from a musical family, he also played keys and was brought up a drummer. Jimi also wrote and recorded his own original music. Local artists, friends, and family will miss his wit, his kind heart, and undeniable talent. There's a message in his life: Love, laugh and encourage others to live through music.

I will miss his jokes, surprise texts, his love of music and musicians, and that signature Jimi sound.

- James Cook



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Photo: Harvey Toalson at Stick's Place

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INFO**

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February 1

-James Cook, The Gibbonses @ Iron Horse Pub
-Jon Hare and Liam McDonnell @ 8th St. Coffee House
-Gerald English @ Gypsy Uncorked
-Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
-Nikki-Ryan @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

February 2

-Cashroh @ Stick's Place
-Bluesbuckers @ Old Town Saloon
-Armadillo Flatts @ Anchors Aweigh
-Forever Mac @ Iron Horse Pub
-Mark Forehand @ Gypsy Uncorked
-White Jet Heroes @ Half Pint Taproom

February 4

-Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

February 5

-Harvey and Tim's \$2 Tuesday @ Stick's Place
-Tacos and Tunes with James Cook @ Old Town Saloon
-Richie Bates' North Texas Troubadour Songwriter Roundup @ Iron Horse Pub
-Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

February 6

-Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

February 8

-Shotgun Rider, Clint Vines and the Hard Times @ Iron Horse Pub
-Sean Snyder and Brannon Oliver @ Gypsy Uncorked
-Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
-Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life
-Killdevil @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

February 9

-Sevidemic @ Stick's Place
-Ben Atkins and Tonto @ Old Town Saloon
-OddFellas, Leddit Ride @ Iron Horse Pub
-Bryson Lawrence @ Gypsy Uncorked
-Jimmy Lee Jordan @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

February 11

-Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

February 12

-Harvey and Tim's \$2 Tuesday @ Stick's Place
-Tacos & Tunes with James Cook @ Old Town Saloon
-Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

February 13

-Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

February 14

-Valentine's Night with Dean & Jason of AA Bottom @ Old Town Saloon
-Cheyenne Pitts @ Back Porch Drafthouse
-Brannon Oliver and Brandt Holmes @ Gypsy Uncorked

February 15

-Miyagi, Hannah Belle Lecter @ Iron Horse Pub
-Sej Miles @ Gypsy Uncorked
-Comedy Night @ Half Pint Taproom
-Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
-Race Rutledge & the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

February 16

-February Birthdays Bash with Jaguar, Everything In Between @ Stick's Place
-Mr Meaner @ Old Town Saloon
-Cellar Door @ Gypsy Uncorked
-Texas Flood @ Iron Horse Pub

February 18

-Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

February 19

-Harvey and Tim's \$2 Tuesday @ Stick's Place
-Tacos and Tunes with James Cook @ Old Town Saloon
-Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

February 20

-Open Jam @ Iron Horse Pub

February 22

-Zach Nytomt, Three String Circus @ Iron Horse Pub
-Joel Estes Throwback Acoustic Show @ Gypsy Uncorked
-Open Mic @ 8th St. Coffee House
-Kevin Fowler @ Boulevard Nightclub
-Race Rutledge and the Texas Knights @ Texas Nite Life

-Ruffest, Four On The Floor @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

February 23

-Bruce Lyons Sidewalk Jam Concert @ 3100 Seymour Hwy
-RIP @ Old Town Saloon
-Killdevil, Kicked To The Curb @ Iron Horse Pub

-Cade Roth @ Back Porch Drafthouse

-Zach Cornell @ Gypsy Uncorked

-Jay Statham and the Tokie Show @ Vernon Parts Sports Bar

February 25

-Open Jam @ Old Town Saloon

February 26

-Harvey and Tim's \$2 Tuesday @ Stick's Place
-Tacos and Tunes with James Cook @ Old Town Saloon
-Open Mic @ Gypsy Uncorked

February 27

-Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub

ART

February 16

-Studio Saturday: All About Artists @ The Kemp

February 23 & 24

-Arts Alive Home & Garden Festival @ Ray Clymer Exhibition Hall

Mondays

-Youth Drawing @ The Kemp

Tuesdays

-Memories in the Making @ The Forum

-Elementary Art @ The Kemp

-Beginning Anime @ The Kemp

-A Taste for Music: Classical Music Appreciation for Kids (K - Grade 2) & (Grade 3 - Grade 5) @ The Forum

Wednesdays

-Advanced Anime & Manga @ The Kemp

Thursdays

-Advanced Youth Art @ The Kemp

FOR THE KIDS

February 1 & 15

-Make and Take Crafts @ Wichita Falls Public Library

February 9

-Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center

WWW.THEHUBNTX.COM

-Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center

February 16

-Family Storytime: Love @ Wichita Falls Public Library

February 23

-Nature Tots @ River Bend Nature Center
-Science Saturday @ River Bend Nature Center

Mondays

-Maker Mondays @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Tuesdays

-Process Art Experiences @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Wednesdays

-Chess Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library
-Toddler Time @ Wichita Falls Public Library

Saturdays

-Lego Club @ Wichita Falls Public Library

EVENTS

February 8

-Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre Signature Series ft. Dallas Black Dance Theatre @ MSU -Fain Fine Arts Theater

-Harlem Globetrotters @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

February 9

-Wichita Falls Ballet Theatre Signature Series ft. Dallas Black Dance Theatre @ MSU -Fain Fine Arts Theater

-Heart Of A Woman @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

-Women's Expo 2019 @ Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall

February 14

-Chad Prather's Star Spangled Banter Comedy Tour @ Memorial Auditorium

February 16

-Red River Rumble @ Kay Yeager Coliseum
-Obedience & Rally Trial @ J.S. Bridwell Agricultural Center

February 17

-Obedience & Rally Trial @ J.S. Bridwell Agricultural Center

February 21

-Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias "Beyond The Fluffy" World Tour 2019 @ Memorial Auditorium

February 23

-Traxxas Monster Truck Tour! @ Kay Yeager Coliseum

-Dance Mix @ Memorial Auditorium

February 25

-Peter Pan on Ice! @ Memorial Auditorium

THEATER

February 1

-Improv Workshop @ Backdoor Theatre
February 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, & 23 and March 1 & 2
-Newsies - The Broadway Musical @ Wichita Theatre

February 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, & 23

-My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra @ Backdoor Theatre

February 14

-Dinner And A Movie @ Wichita Theatre

February 21

-John Conlee Live on Stage @ Wichita Theatre



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Friday, February 15th
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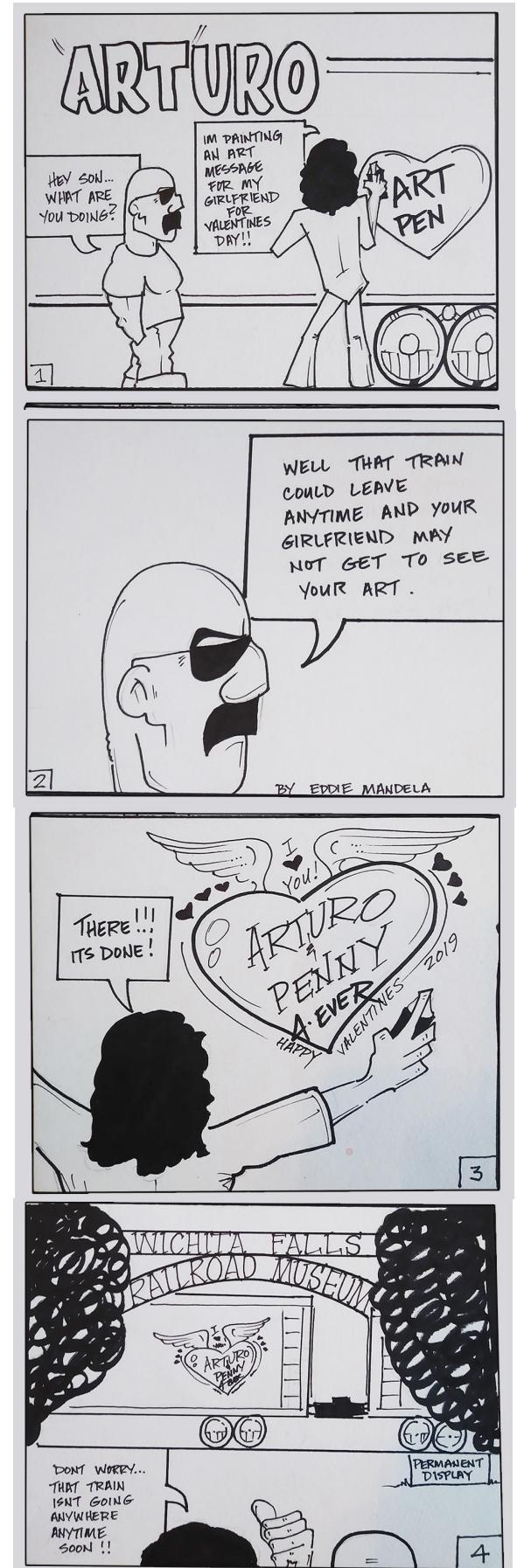
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Nichole Kirk of Dear Heart and Ruth + Ester



'ARTURO' by Eddie Mandela

WICHITA FALLS

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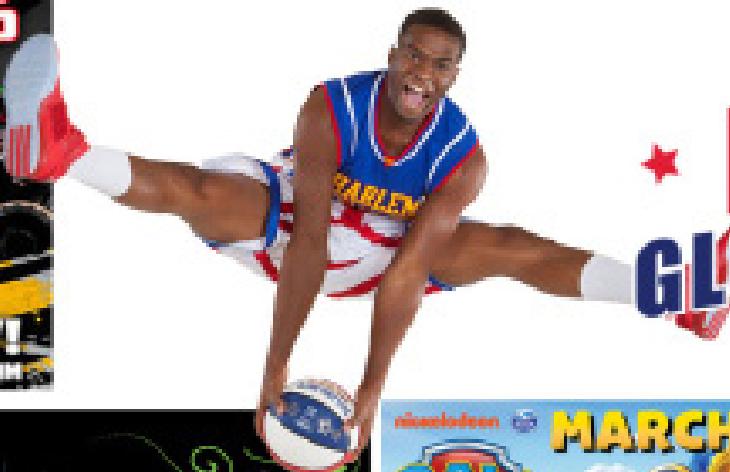
CHAD PRATHER

February 14
Memorial Auditorium



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February 8th



GABRIEL IGLESIAS

**BEYOND THE
FLUFFY
WORLD TOUR
2019**

Comedian, Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias - February 21
Memorial Auditorium



Paw Patrol Live! March 5, 6th



Peter Pan On Ice February - 25th
Memorial Auditorium



SIME ON TOAST AND POLLY POCKET

Simon. Simeon. Sime On. Toast. What does that all have in common? Well, nothing. But Simon “Sime on Toast” Welch might disagree.

Simon graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in metalsmithing and print making. Although he loves working in 3-dimensional art, it wasn't practical for him after graduating so he taught himself how to use editing software and landed a job as a graphic designer. He continually stretches himself and enjoys learning new ways to create art.

One of his latest lessons brought him back to his first love of 3-D art. Simon started working with a 3-D printer to create sculptures. In walks toast. Simply explained, “I like the shape of old toasters. Every artist has their thing, I just picked toasters and went with it.” So, he uses the image of retro toasters and gave them personalities. Good and evil toaster. He points out how we tend to project our emotions and excuses onto inanimate objects. It's with that idea that he brings toasters to life. Sime on Toast.

Currently Simon is working on a collaborative art show that will take place this year, but he isn't willing to share details concerning the event. He has also recently started a podcast, “Two broke guys selling art”, with a friend from Austin, TX. And although Simon has rocked it out in an acapella choir and a barber shop quintet, he plans on sticking to visual art and leaving the music to his wife.

Nicole (aka Polly Pocket) takes the concept of creating music to a whole other level, a level very few individuals reach, a level few individuals have the patience, drive, or intelligence to reach. She composes electronic music on a variety of instruments, and when she doesn't have the instrument she needs to

accomplish her mission she simply creates the it. Polly Pocket is usually pinned down behind her instrument setup and, as she put it, “there's this charismatic performer dying to get out.” So, she decided to create a mobile unit. Nicole is currently creating a new instrument

calculator looking items to the neck. She called them “Teenager Engineering Pocket Operators”. I'm not sure what that means. This Frankenstein monster of an instrument that she is creating has stirred the interest of her online following. When she originally posted a com-

sider herself to be a visual artist like her husband, she is clearly creating a musical sculpture that just happens to create music.

Nicole isn't new to the music scene. She began her musical as a young child playing piano. Her palette for music is broad. In the early days of her musical journey she created a company called “Babies! Productions”. In this venture, then nicknamed, Polly Pocket produced shows at the American Legion. “I started hosting local shows, booking local and national bands, designing event flyers, and filming promo videos. I really started making music using my old moniker during and after college.” She booked these shows for about two years before the inevitable happened. The one show that is most remembered was a “terrible incident where the crowd went crazy and tore down the ceiling. They stopped having shows for a while, even though I paid for the damages. I shouldn't have named it Bloodfest”, Nicole recalls.

It was after this that the Polly Pocket persona evolved from event promoter to the headlining act. Over time she has added more and more instruments to her arsenal. And when she can't buy one, she just makes it. Polly Pocket has been playing more shows lately and can usually be found performing downtown during the After Hours Artwalks. It was at one of these art walks that her latest opportunity arose.

Eric Crosslin, the host of That City Show, saw Polly Pocket performing on a commercial promoting a downtown event, and then again at an art walk. Eric, also being a think outside the box type person saw an opportunity and snatched up Polly Pocket as the music director for his show (If you haven't seen the show, you need to). She brings a new dimension to the already comical program.



that she has dubbed “The Synthtar”. Perhaps the image of the infamous 1980's Keytar crept into your thoughts, but that is way too basic for Polly Pocket. In fact, I'm not sure I have adequate intelligence or vocabulary to even describe it.

She started with a solid body electric guitar, stripped that down and took it apart. She put some doo dads and whatchamacallits on it and attached some

posite (see pic far page) of her idea it was almost too outlandish to believe that she was being serious about building such a contraption, or that it was even possible. But with subsequent posts of her actually making progress on the piece the interest of her online following was peaked. Nicole plans on finishing and debuting The Synthtar before the end of this year. Although she doesn't con-

As for the future, Nicole plans to finish her Synthtar and continue pushing her limits. She is taking life one show at a time, posting her jams on her YouTube channel, and just enjoying life.

Together, these two misfits make the perfect team. It makes one wonder why they didn't get together sooner. Nicole says, "we were both born and raised here and didn't meet each other until just the right time." When they first met each other sparks didn't immediately fly, well at least not the love sparks. "We met the old-fashioned way – at Toby's while DJ MF Maniac was spinning. The song "Cameras" by Matt & Kim was playing and I

was describing its awesome music video to a friend when Simon interrupted to correct me. You can imagine the silly, hipster reaction I had to that," Nicole recalls. Simon readily accepts his folly. "I love Matt & Kim, but their songs do start to all sound the same," he defends.

A friendship was born and several months of video game playing passed before Simon asked Nicole out on a date. The two have a lot in common and bond around music. "Very rarely do we say 'what the hell are you listening to'". Nicole claims Toro Y Moi, Janelle Monae, and Minus The Bear as her current favorites while Simon claims Metric, Gorillaz, and



Synthtar concept. Visit online to view progress
facebook.com/polypocketmusic

Bloc Party.

This April the duo will celebrate three years of marriage. "Married life is like a nonstop slumber party with your best friend." They plan on growing and learning together, while collaborating and helping one another. Simon creates visual art for Nicole's projects, and she returns the favor with music for his podcast.

Visit them online at @polypocketmusic and simeontoast.com



Simonn poses with some of his functional art

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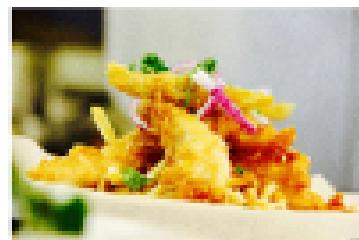
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BRUCE LYONS GUITARS

Bruce Lyons Guitars and Computers has frequently been called upon to bring back to life a family heirloom guitar or a guitar which holds a certain soft spot in someone's heart. According to the owner, Bruce Lyons, "It's often some of the most gratifying work that comes in here".

Recently a young man, Cody Fulfer, came in to the store with an old guitar in need of some extensive repair. His very good friend, Jordan Elder, had given him the guitar. The thought was, since it was in such terrible shape, it would be a fine example of wall art for Cody to hang on his wall. This guitar had a bolt-on neck, which is very common in guitar construction, and the area where the neck and the body joined (referred to as the "neck joint") was, to say the very least, badly compromised.

Fulfer told Lyons he wanted to repair the guitar if at all possible, in playing condition, and then to return it to his friend, Jordan Elder, as a birthday present.

Lyons examined the guitar thoroughly and then devised a plan of action. After checking and re-checking a number of times, Lyons was able to repair the neck joint to a point at which the guitar would again be playable, and not be relegated to being simply "wall art".

Lyons contacted Fulfer and passed on the good news, the guitar should once again be playable, and not be something just to be hung on a wall for people to admire. Fulfer came in and looked over the guitar, quite honestly amazed at what had been done. While the guitar was not back to a 100% repair, it was, still, very much playable, and all the electronics were in great working order.

Fulfer brought his friend to the store on the Saturday when Bruce Lyons Guitars was hosting their Monthly Sidewalk Jam and Concert. Fulfer was already bearing a smile from ear to ear. Soon his good friend would open a guitar case and behold a guitar brought back to life. Then Fulfer returned the guitar to him. Now his friend also had that same ear-to-ear grin.

Lyons's comment: "The smiles on their faces tell it all. And I have to say, this is a privilege to be allowed to do this type of work on instruments which people hold so dear to their hearts. It's a great day to be in this business!"



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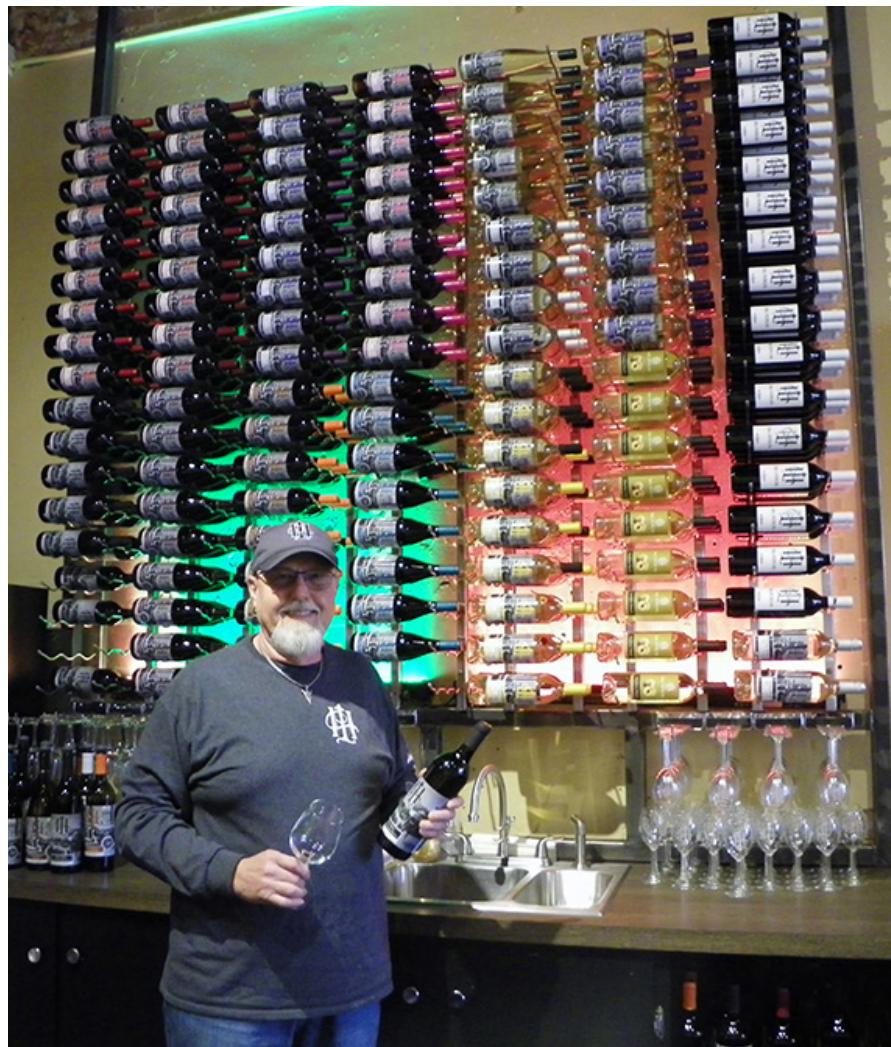
Sidewalk Jam/Concert February 23

WINE & HOOK & LADDER COFFEE CO.

Hook & Ladder Coffees & Wine Company is the first urban winery in Wichita Falls. They are located at 616 7th Street in the downtown area. They also roast coffee which they sell in their store. And don't forget the flatbreads with the original recipes such as taco explosion.

The business is owned by Bill and Lauri Weske and John and Pam Reese. "I was on the fire department for 33 years, and my partner is still on the fire department," Bill said. "I never would have thought I would be in this kind of business when I retired, but it is all working out well. And our wives are excited and very helpful with everything that goes on around here."

This all started with the owners roasting coffee and selling it. "That was our first step into the retail type business, and that started getting pretty successful. We started selling coffee to the 8th Street Coffee House and a couple of restaurants," John reminisced. The



partners then started selling their coffee at the Farmer's Market and at fairs.

They were looking for a building downtown when they "stumbled" across the building they are in now. They loved the building and bought it. Then came the dilemma of what to do with the building besides coffee. "All of us like to visit wineries here and there, and John came up with the idea to open a winery," Bill explained. "John is the kind of guy that gets something in his head and he goes full bore, and you just have to hold on. We started cleaning up the building and looking at the prospects of becoming an urban winery."

They started working with some companies in west Texas and decided on a company to do business with, Texas Wine Works. It turned into a month-long project to decide what kind of wine they wanted to offer.

"That took a lot of wine tasting between the partners, which is tough work," Bill said with a chuckle. WWW.THEHUBNTX.COM



le. “We developed a selection of wines we wanted to offer from the dry reds all the way down to the sweet wines and everything in between. We would have them change or tweak it for us, and from the time we started doing that ourselves to where we are now; we have created a really robust selection of wines that people seem to enjoy.”

“We have approximately 20 different kinds of wine. There is

a bottle of wine somewhere on that wall for anybody, even if they aren’t a wine connoisseur or wine drinker, and they will find something that will appeal to them,” Bill guaranteed.

The building took a lot more time to get ready, in fact, it took a year. Now it is funky and chic at the same time, with a section with couches and chairs and interest-



FEBRUARY 2019

ing rugs. “The response has been overwhelming to tell you the truth. Walking down the street with a Hook & Ladder shirt on, people have stopped me and said, ‘Oh man I have been to your place. I love it!’ It is a good feeling,” Bill said with a smile. “We are getting a lot of people coming in here for the first time and say, ‘Wow, I didn’t know this was here.’ I attribute that to all the work we put into this building and our great staff.”

“It is kind of a family affair,” Bill said. “We are family owned, and we are in the customer service business. We have great service, great food and a great atmosphere so people can enjoy coming in and visiting with each other. We keep getting compliments, and the Good Lord has blessed us with people who keep coming here and brag about their experience.”

Bill also brags on the food, and they certainly have some interesting combinations of flat bread. Bill says that John is the creative one that usually comes up with a lot of ideas on the food. “Collectively, we have come up with a pretty good list of flat breads that include brussels sprouts and bacon. There is something about the combination of brussels sprouts and bacon on a flat bread that is really good. We have a taco explosion flat bread with Fritos and jalapenos. We also have vegan selections,” Bill said proudly. “We are always trying to offer up something new with the wines and the flatbreads”.

Coffee is roasted about once a week in a big orange roasting machine, and while they serve

coffee, Bill said that they don’t serve any “lattes or fancy coffees.” However, you can purchase the freshly roasted coffee in bags to take home.

The Hook & Ladder also host events and the winery can be rented out for parties. The building can be rented on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday when they are usually closed for business. Their operating hours are Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday they are open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday they are open 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

“We are so happy to be part of downtown right now. It is such an exciting place to be. People are excited about being downtown,” he stated. With the location, comes a lot of history. It was built in 1884 with a dirt floor. The “new” floor was added in the 1930’s and it still remains. There is a drain hole from the bath area of the building that people off the train and cowboys took advantage of. Bill says that the building was in the train depot square. It was a saloon most of its life. Some of the older patrons of the Hook & Ladder remember it as a bar named Tootles. “We have old police officers come in and say that you could expect to either fight your way in or fight your way out. We have a list on the wall of all the different businesses the building has been. A lot of people reminisce about it,” Bill said. But the new and improved building is a great place to meet friends and enjoy each other’s company, as well as the bonus of great food, coffee, and wine.

-Cindy Thomas

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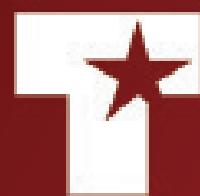
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Wichita Theatre Presents

The Wichita Theatre will open the 2019 season with the Performing Arts Center presenting Disney's Newsies Premier Party on January 29th at 5:30 p.m. Newsies ran on Broadway, and it is based on the film of the same name that was very popular 20 years ago, according to Dwyane Jackson. "It is based on the newsboy strike of 1899, and Disney did a great job recreating the story. Alan Menkins put music to it, making it an extremely exciting and powerful production," Dwayne said. "We have approximately 55 cast members made up of male and female with the females playing as males."

Dwayne said that premier parties have been an idea that the theatre has wanted to do for some time. "What we are doing, as part of our new marketing strategy, is to expand the exposure and the intensity of what we produce with a Premier Party. We invited our season ticket holders, or Club VIP, city leaders, dignitaries and other guests to give people a taste of the show. The cast will be ready for two or three numbers that will give the audience that enthusiasm and excitement to be able to get out in the community and help spread the word," he explained.

It is an invitation only event where there will be re-



freshments and, of course, entertainment. The show will open Friday, February 8th at 7:30 p.m. This show will "probably be the most exciting season opener in theatre history," according to the Wichita Theatre website.

For those not familiar with the history of the theatre, it was built in 1908 as an opera house. In 1939 it underwent a make-over to the art deco style that we know today. It was reopened as the premier movie house in Wichita Falls, and stayed that way until Sikes Senter Mall opened in the mid-70's. In 1979 it was the last of the movie theaters to be closed downtown. Between 1980-1985 it was owned by a couple of business men that opened it part-time. It sat empty until 1995 when Dwayne and Lisa Jackson purchased the building and turned it into a performing arts center with live shows and even the occasional movie. The history of the building makes it an important landmark in Wichita Falls.

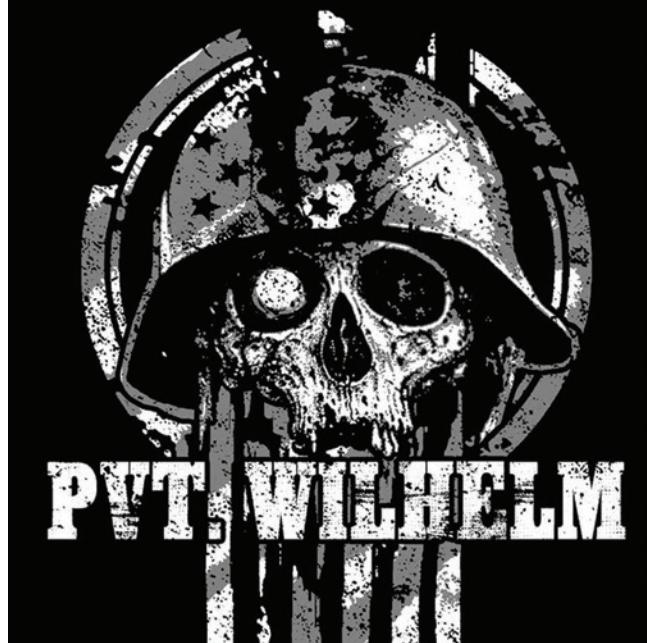
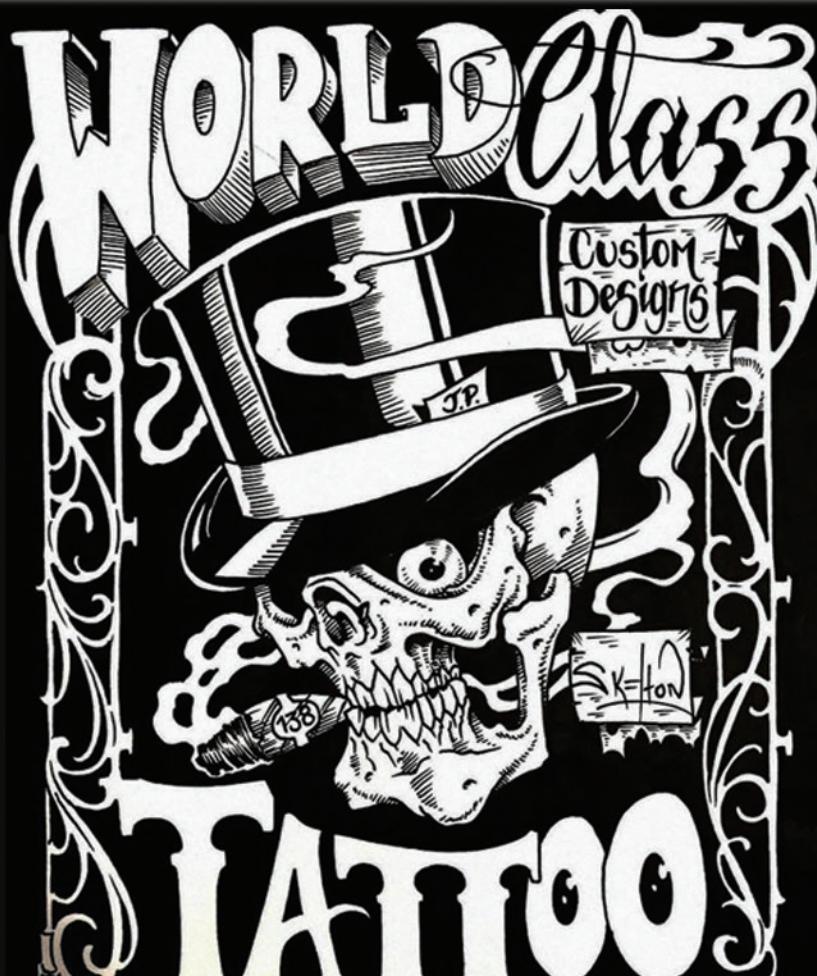
Supporting the Wichita Theater is not only a great investment in your world of entertainment, but a great investment in our community. Watch for the theater's shows and schedules and treat yourself to the fun and magic of the Wichita Theater.

-Cindy Thomas

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