

★ THE HUB OF NORTH TEXAS

MUSIC - ART - NEWS

May 2017
FREE



Plus: Dog Waltz Thee Wilde Hares Ron Hamer
Meals on Wheels Half Pint Taproom 9th St. Studios

THE HUB OF NORTH TEXAS

March saw three new locally owned businesses open downtown. Construction started on other businesses around the city. Wichita Falls is growing so quickly that it's hard to keep up with everything that's going on! April finds the After Hours Art Walk kicking back up downtown. Follow us on Facebook for the latest.

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www.facebook.com/theHUBntx

Sometimes life throws twists and turns at us. The Hub does not take any responsibility for information or schedule changes. We want to support local artists and businesses but we suggest that you verify the information before putting something on your calendar.

1 Corinthians 16:14

HALF PINT

TAPROOM & RESTORATION HALL

—7—
Half Pint Taproom

—8—
9th St. Studios



—10—
It Hurts To Be Dead



—15—
Dog Waltz

—17—
Ronald Hamer



—18—
Thee Wilde Hares



Inside



www.thehubntx.com

LOVE STREET

Kölsch Style
BLONDE

KARBACH BREWING CO.

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In the 1960's on Allen's Landing sat Love Street; a hot spot of music and social impact. The venue hosted eclectic characters ranging from open mic'ers to the Lizard King himself. Love Street was not only a place, but a state of mind. A place to unwind and let the music refresh your soul.

Likewise, Love Street is a state of mind. Brewed in the Kölsch-style and hopped delicately with floral German hops, this beer boasts a clean malt profile that refreshes to the core, without sacrificing character. So crack one open and find your own Love Street.

GEEK STATS

OG: 12.5 Plato (1.050)

IBU: 20

ABV: 4.9%

Malts: 2 Row Pale, Wheat

Hops: Tettnang, Hallertau-Mittelfruh

PAIRINGS

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May 5 - Casey James w/ The Piano Room

May 6 - Eric Gales w/ Blue Light Special

May 11 - Ian Moore w/ Justin of bigloo opening (Special 8.30pm start time)

May 12 - Erick Willis w/ Morgan Ashley

May 13 - Jim Suhler - "ZZ Top & Cajun Fest After Party"

May 19 - AA Bottom w/ Kevin Galloway of Uncle Lucius

May 20 - Killdevil w/ Leddit Ride

May 26 - Max Stalling w/Jay Statham

May 27 - Rock N Roll Over "Kiss Tribute" w/ Kicked to the Curb opening

May 31 - Special show with Kris Lager Band starts at 8.30pm

June 3 - Eagles Tribute Band "Desperados"

June 9 - James Cook, Saints Eleven, Dannie Carson



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What's Happening

May 4 Armadillo Flatts @ P2 - 7:00pm	Ian Moore @ Iron Horse Pub 9:00pm	May 19 Black River @ Silver Dollar Saloon AA Bottom w/ Kevin Galloway of Uncle Lucius @ Iron Horse Pub
Randy Summers @ Silver Dollar Saloon 8:00pm	Cousin Fuzzy @ WF Museum Of Art 6:30	
After Hours Artwalk @ Downtown Wichita Falls - 6:00pm	May 12 8 Minute Fall @ Silver Dollar Saloon	May 20 Bruce Lyons' Sidewalk Jam 914 Scott St 12:00 noon
May 5 Tuna Blues Band @ Silver Dollar Saloon 8:00pm	Erick Willis w/ Morgan Ashley @ Iron Horse Pub	Killdevil w/ Leddit Ride @ Iron Horse Pub
Casey James The Piano Room @ Iron Horse Pub 9:00pm	May 13 Cajun Festival 8th & Ohi	Luau Dance Party @ The Deep End
Karaoke w/ Random @ The Deep End	Gates open at noon ZZ Top Memorial Auditorium	6 Miles Out @ Stick's Place
May 6 Eric Gales w/ Blue Light Special	Jim Suhler- "ZZ Top & Cajun Fest After Party" @ Iron Horse Pub	The Mullet Boyz @ Silver Dollar Saloon
Hip-Hop featuring members of Spit Stain	Mick Jason & La Mano Secreta @ The Deep End	May 25 Scott K Taylor @ Silver Dollar Saloon
Ken Nelson's Jazz Quartet at Stick's Place	Joe Palan @ Silver Dollar Saloon	Jay Hollis Band @ WF Museum Of Art
Cross County Revenue @ Silver Dollar Saloon	May 17 Bryson Lawrence's Open Mic @ Iron Horse Pub	May 26 Armadillo Flatts @ Lonesum Dove 8:00pm
May 11 Open Jam w/ Anthony Castillo @ The Deep End Dannie Carson @ Silver Dollar Saloon	May 18 James Cook @ P2 Randy Summers @ Silver Dollar Saloon	Max Stalling w/ Jay Statham @ Iron Horse Pub

7-9AM Specials
\$1.50 domestic longnecks
\$3 Fireball



\$2 Tuesdays
\$2 Domestic Longnecks and Wells all night
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\$3 Friday's 7-10pm
All drinks are \$3.00



Pool Tables & Darts

**Sunday Bloody Mary's \$2.50 all day
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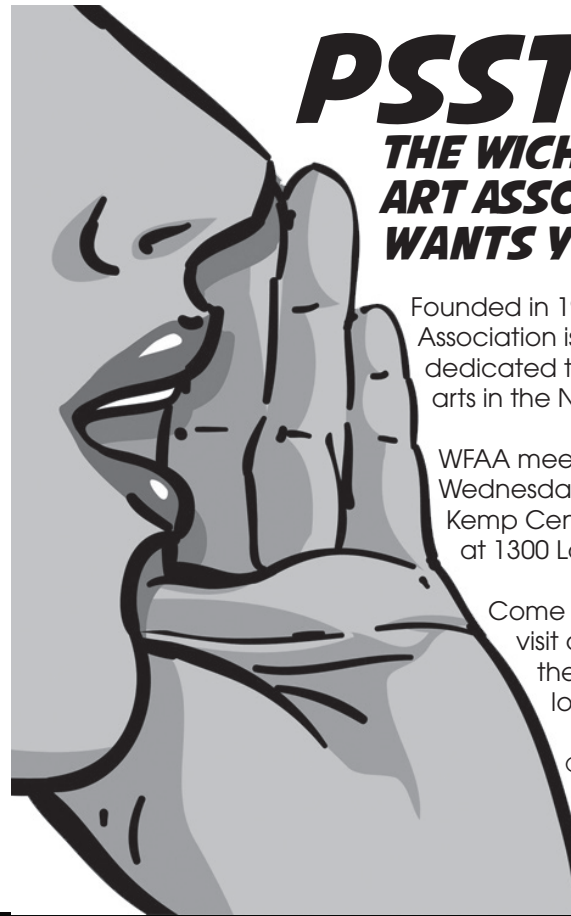
**Open 7am-2am Monday-Friday
and 12pm-2am Saturday-Sunday**

May 27 RIP @ Silver Dollar Saloon	May 29 Open Mic @ the Deep End	Wichita Theatre An Heir Of Mystery May 6-20
Rock N Roll Over "Kiss Tribute" w/ Kicked to the Curb @ Iron Horse Pub	May 31 Kris Lager Band @ Iron Horse Pub	8th St. Coffee House Open mic every Friday
Daniel Gulick art show @ 9th St. Studios	Backdoor Theatre Ripcord May 18, 19, 20	Frank & Joe's Live music Every Friday
		Grab a friend and see a show!



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THE WICHITA FALLS ART ASSOCIATION WANTS YOU!

Founded in 1949, The Wichita Falls Art Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the visual arts in the North Texas area.

WFAA meets at noon every third Wednesday of the month at the Kemp Center for the Arts located at 1300 Lamar Street.

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WICHITA FALLS YOGA CENTER



This year marks 50 years of service for The Kitchen/Meals on Wheels and there will be a celebration on Thursday, May 11th at The Forum, 2120 Speedway Avenue in Wichita Falls. The Kitchen serves the Wichita Falls community through Meals on Wheels, the Red Door and Green Door Senior Centers, and Kid's Cafe. Meals on Wheels delivers to more than 850 seniors, home-bound and disabled. High Heels for Hot Meals is their biggest fund raiser of the year and will feature a silent auction and casino tables sponsored by Apache Casinos. DJ Marcus McGee will be providing the music. There will also be signature drinks available and a raffle for a diamond and gold VAHAN bracelet donated by Holder's Jewelers. The \$75 ticket price will provide 150 meals for someone in need. These tickets can be purchased at The Kitchen, The Shoe Closet, or Ganache Cupcake Lounge. For more information, call The Kitchen at 940-322-6232.

HALF PINT TAPROOM & RESTORATION HALL

Denton Keltner, Cynthia Doten, and their partners looked years for the perfect location to open a craft beer tap house until coming across 817 Ohio Avenue. It had everything they were looking for including location, ample parking, and enough room to do anything they wanted. They love the location and are excited to be participating in the growth of downtown. Dent: "We couldn't have picked a better location."

Within the space there will be two venues, one live entertainment room that will host music, comedy and special events, while the front area can remain open to patrons that do not wish to view the entertainment. This massive facility boasts approximately 2500 square foot in the main bar and dining area, a 1500 square foot kitchen, MAY 2017

and the live entertainment portion of the venue is a whopping 4000 square feet. If that's not enough room to move, the front patio will be 500 square feet and the covered side patio is 1500 square feet with a fire pit.

With plans to open in early fall, Half Pint will maintain a rotation of 36 craft beers and 4 wines on tap, along with brick oven specialty pizzas and a menu of appetizers. They will focus on providing quality meals with minimal wait time to make it lunch crowd friendly.

Research into the history of this building led to very few photographs, but what did turn up is that it was built in 1912 by Otis T. Bacon, the first mayor of Wichita Falls. The name "Half Pint" comes from an unexpected treasure that was dug up while working on the

plumbing. Discovered about four feet below the foundation was a cluster of old bottles. The ones that were still intact were half pint whiskey bottles manufactured by a company that went out of business in 1936. The best guess of how they had gotten there is that the original construction crew tossed them in a hole at the end of a long day of working on the structure. Cynthia said "we scrubbed and cleaned the bottles as good as we could and plan to display them." Half Pint Tap-house sounds like a full serving of fun!

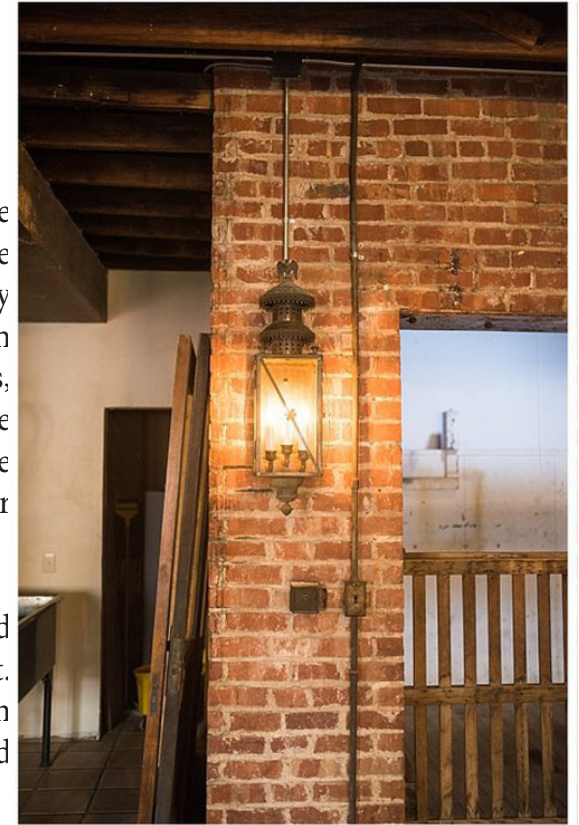




NINTH STREET STUDIOS

By now, most residents of Wichita Falls are aware of the surge of life downtown and the recent growth of the art scene. This growth is not by accident, but is fueled by the passionate individuals that have caught a vision for an active local art scene. Such is the case with Becky Raeke, Linda Deason, and Stephen Taylor at 9th St. Studios. Since opening last October, 9th St. Studios has exploded with activity, hosting events on a regular basis including art shows, live music, and even birthday parties and weddings. When asked for his thoughts on the studios success, manager Stephen Taylor said, “9th Street has become more than what we had initially intended; private studio space for artists. Our place has become a showroom for art, music and events”.

In April, photographer Carl Dunn showcased his collection of work portraying rock and roll legends of the 60’s and 70’s and the place was packed with onlookers. This month 9th St. will be organizing an event with Tulsa artist Daniel Gulick allowing him to paint a mural on the building, followed by an art show on May 27th. Daniel is tattoo artist/shop owner and painter that has several murals around the Tulsa area.



Artists, Teaching Artists, MSU Student Artists

Interested in helping young people find their *creative spark* this summer?

Join the Wichita Falls Alliance for Arts and Culture and become part of our 2017 Teaching Artists Learning Lab (TALL).
The TALL Program prepares artists – visual and performing - to work with children and teens
at community locations all over the city.

Here’s what you must commit to –

TALL Artist Training Week – June 5-9, 2017
Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p. m.

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In June, The Hub of NTX will be celebrating our first birthday at 9th St. Studios. It will be an open party with no admission, live music, free food, cake, beer, and wine. We chose 9th St. for its cozy atmosphere. It almost feels like home for us. They are not only focused on their little corner of the world, but stay very active in the art community. Any night of the week you can find Stephen out on the town soaking in live music. Stephen, Linda, and Becky participate in the planning of events such as the After Hours Artwalk. Becky has taken the helm of this event and plays a critical role in its success.

This venue has so much to offer and has been well received. In reflecting over the past six months of the studios life Becky says, "It has been received by the community better than expected. It has brought a lot of life to not only downtown, but to our personal lives in general. We've met so many great people."

Featured Artists: J. Bradford M. Ron Hamer Karyl Barbosa
Mary Jane Roberts Audra Lambert Judy Braddy



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IT HURTS TO BE DEAD

48 Film Festival is an award show that highlights some of the year's best short films, where the winner receives money for a full length feature film. It is a night of elegance and for honoring the achievements of Hollywood's brightest. All you need now is punk rock band from a small town in Texas to keep the night interesting. Enter: It Hurts To Be Dead, who were able to play a show before the screening of the films that had won.

So, how did a killer band from Wichita Falls, TX make it to this prestigious event? This epic adventure began only two days beforehand. I talked with lead singer Sean Snyder about this journey. "Bryan Atkins had made a short film that he put a song of ours in at one time. He actually called me on a Tuesday and invited us to come out and play at what we found out later was a red carpet event on Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood."

Bryan needed the band there by Thursday evening, so they had 24 hours to get out of work and get themselves, as well as all their equipment, to the location. "Kevin had to fly because of work and Nick and I drove the van out with all our stuff. We jumped in the van and drove pretty much straight through, but stayed at a cheap hotel on the way," added Sean.

All great adventures need a detour. "When we got to San Dimas, the van caught on fire." Snyder exclaimed. WHAAAAAAT!!! A once in a lifetime show in Hollywood, sound check in less than an hour, and they were stranded 45



minutes away from the venue. He went on to say, "We were smelling something funny and it wasn't going away. OK... That's not California, that's this van". Nick managed to fix the car enough to continue to the show, knowing it could break down at any moment.

They finally reached their des-

ination. "We drive to the venue, which is gorgeous. There's a chandelier there the size of my living room. It was the Director's Guild of America, which has a giant theater inside and a very big lobby." Nothing intimidating there right?

off of themselves and still have enough time to watch the red carpet entrance with celebrities. "The plan was for us to be on stage and start playing when they opened the door... which was very unorthodox, especially for members of a dirty punk rock band from Texas that are covered in grease and have been driving for 2 straight days and haven't slept."

"It was the weirdest show I've ever played in my life. Honestly. It was very bizarre. The stage was huge, very far apart from each other. When we came back in to start playing, there were already people in tuxes, waiting, staring at us with anticipation."

"The first guy I made eye contact with appeared to be about 90 years old, front and center directly in front of me and I thought, 'this guy might not survive this.'"

They played five songs to kick the night off to a crowd of 600 people. The reactions were everything from "Hey, I'm at a rock show!" to wincing in pain and fingers in ears.

They had a blast, hobnobbed with L.A. peeps, made contacts with filmmakers, stayed at a crappy hotel, went through horrible traffic and drove until they got back to Wichita Falls. All in all, a great trip for our courageous local band. Hopefully this turns out to help them in the long run. "We'd like to have more of our music in movies and films", Sean explained. I'm hoping they at least get a song out of it.

- James Cook

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It was the weirdest show ●
● I've ever played in my life.



MAY 2017

SILVER DOLLAR SALOON

- May 4 - Randy Summers
- May 5 - Tuna Blues Band
- May 6 - Cross County Revenue
- May 11 - Dannie Carson
- May 12 - 8 Minute Fall
- May 13 - Joe Palen
- May 18 - Randy Summers
- May 19 - Black River
- May 20 - The Mullet Boyz
- May 25 - Scott Taylor Band
- May 26 - Cellar Door
- May 27 - RIP

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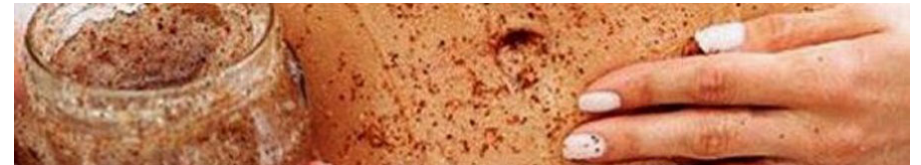
Larry Lange
940-855-8256
Langewel@aol.com



8 creative uses
for coffee grounds

1. Cellulite Cream

If you've ever used a store-bought product to help lessen the look of cellulite, you may have noticed that caffeine is commonly used as an ingredient. If you want to tighten things up a bit for less money, use some oil and coffee grounds to create a homemade cellulite buster similar to the creams found in stores.



2. Hair Energizer

For dark hair, coffee grounds can provide your locks with energy and give them a more radiant look. Before shampooing, exfoliate wet hair with a handful of coffee grounds, then rinse thoroughly. The grounds will remove any build up left over from hair products and leave your locks glossy and smooth.



3. Under Eye Bag Remover

Coffee does have a habit of giving you a morning boost, so using the grounds to combat dark under-eye bags doesn't seem like much of a stretch. Mix some coffee grounds with a little bit of olive oil to help restore the look of the skin under your eyes.



4. Odor Neutralizer

Refrigerators are often full of many different types of foods, and the mix can easily get a little smelly. Keeping a cup of coffee grounds in the fridge will help to neutralize odors.



5. Fertilizer

Coffee grounds can act as a great fertilizer, because they are rich in nutrients such as nitrogen and potassium. Use them to help give your plants a boost!



6. Flea Remover

If your dog has fleas, use moist coffee grounds and massage them into your dog's fur. It will act as a natural flea remover, and leave your dog smelling great!



7. Wasp Repellent

If you have a wasp problem at home, coffee grounds can help. Place some in a fire-safe jar and light it to create steam/condensation that will help to repel wasps.



8. Garden Safe Keeper

If you're having problems in your garden with ants, slugs or snails, spread some coffee grounds on top of the soil. The strong smell is enough to deter them from your plants!



There are so many every day items that we just toss into land fills that can be used again. We only have one Earth, treat it well. Use, reuse, and recycle. Avoid plastics and styrofoam whenever you can.

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STUDIOS

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~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~



May 5:
Sej Miles



May 12:
Dru Gid

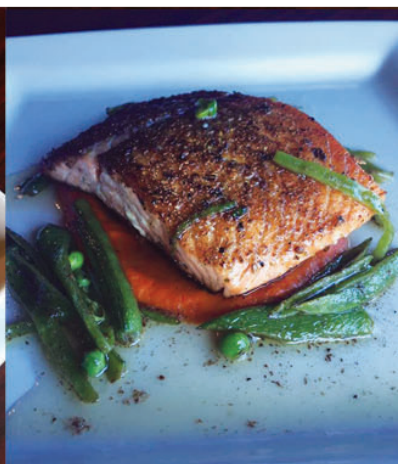


May 19:
Mick Jason



May 26:
Brother Sharp

Come check out the new Chef Menu



DOG WALTZ



Dog Waltz has been playing in Wichita Falls for going on 5 years, and in 2016, new drummer Sean Biggs brought a flare of unpredictability that has started a new writing phase with no particular genre in mind. While the band reveals an elaborate story that they formed based on a Craigs-list add, posted by an anonymous account, there is another story that Michael Hitt (Guitar/Vocals) and Taylor Slusher (Bass), formerly of The Disco Rico, a popular local act described as retro-pop rock that won the Falls Fest Battle of the Bands in 2011, brought in friend Charles Bridges after the departure of then vocalist Justin Cowheley. Dog Waltz was born, embracing Hitt as their new lead vocalist. With twenty plus years of classical training in guitar and keys, Michael Hitt's professionalism and leadership has molded their sound into a modern indie band with radio playability that doesn't compromise musicality. This new writing phase has the guys incorporating more keyboard into their music so fans of their previous more melodic grooves should get excited. I met with Dog Waltz at a jam pad they share with Leddit Ride, before a practice, to pick their brains a little bit about what makes this dog bite...

Q- Last year the group joined forces with local rap artist, Kroe, to create Bird Dawg, so would you say Hip-Hop has influenced Dog Waltz?

A- When Bird Dawg performs, we're never sure what is going to happen. We bring our style to the performance and hope people dig it. But the rumors are true-we are starting our own Hot Dog label! -Hitt

Q- If Dog Waltz was a beer, what kind of beer would it be?

Bourbon -Taylor Slusher

Q- Taylor's height, advantage or disadvantage?

A- Disadvantage, wind- Bridges

A- Well, all he has to do is turn to the side- Hitt

A- I think its good thing because I can spot predators or prey from far away.-Slusher



A- The dog isn't necessarily an apex predator. -Hitt

A- We're not Shark Waltz!.... Can we change our band name? -Slusher

A- We are no longer Harambe Waltz... -Bridges

Q- Dog Waltz was voted one of the four most popular bands in Wichita Falls in a poll conducted

by The Hub. How do you react to this accolade?

A- I demand a recount! -Bridges

A- We were really surprised.

It's super flattering. -Hitt

Q- DIY gets mentioned a lot on social media and counter culture. Do you feel like your efforts have helped develop a stronger scene in Wichita?

A- We started throwing shows out of our jam pad on 8th street back in 2013, with friends (Dr.) Philgood, and it would be cool if that inspired other groups to get out and perform. The music scene was here before us, so we maybe innovated by helping start WDE (Waste Deep Entertainment). We all put down our differences and came together to start something. Not everyone stuck around in the end, but that's ok, I think we created a way to bring about and expose new talent. -Hitt

Catch Dog Waltz June 24th at the Summer Concert Series in the Park.

-Ryan Thomas

TIPS AND TALES FROM OUTBACK

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

Arguably the most famous recording studio in the world would be Abbey Road Studios in St. John's Wood, London, England. Made famous, of course, by The Beatles, who recorded nearly every bit of their musical output behind the doors of this respected institute. The studio, which opened in 1931, was originally called E.M.I. Studios, but in 1970, because of the popular Beatle album, Abbey Road, the name changed. Pink Floyd recorded approximately eight albums there, including Dark Side Of The Moon. Each Beatle returned as solo artists to record there. You'll notice such diversity of artists from Michael Buble to Iron Maiden; 60's greats The Zombies and Gerry and The Pacemakers to modern performers like Kanye West and U2; classical greats Yehudi Menuhin and Arthur Rubenstein to big band legends Ella Fitzgerald and Glenn Miller. For this month's offering of studio trivia, I'm slacking a bit and just giving you a list to read! You can admire it, curse it, or simply reminisce and enjoy it-not the article, but the list! Or both, if you wish! No matter how you feel about any of these artists, this is a pretty impressive list.

Adele - The Alan Parsons Project - Joanna Ampil - Adam Ant - Burt Bacharach - Badfinger - Gnarl Barkley - Syd Barrett - The Beatles - Tony Bennett - Cilla Black - Mary J. Blige - James Blunt - The Black Keys - Michael Bubl  - Kate Bush - Buzzcocks - Vanessa Carlton - Pablo Casals - Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds - Steven Curtis Chapman - Miley Cyrus - Dave Mason - Dashboard Confessional - Deep Purple - Depeche Mode - Donovan - Duran Duran - Pl cido Domingo - Elliott Smith - Enya - Ella Fitzgerald - Foo Fighters - Connie Francis - Robert Fripp - Frank Ocean - Melody Gardot - Gerry and the Pacemakers - David Gilmour - Green Day - Josh Groban - George Harrison - The Hollies - Iron Maiden - Charles Ives - Michael Jackson - Mick Jagger - Elton John - Jamiroquai - Nigel Kennedy - Alicia Keys - Patti LaBelle - Ray LaMontagne - John Lennon - Lady Gaga - Madness - Manfred Mann - Hank Marvin - Dave Matthews - George Martin - John Mayer - Paul McCartney - Meat Loaf - Yehudi Menuhin - MercyMe - Glenn Miller - Alanis Morissette - Muse - Mike Oldfield - Olivia Newton-John - Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds - Oasis - Panic! at the Disco - Itzhak Perlman - Peter & Gordon - Pink Floyd - The Pretty Things - Queen - Radiohead - Raspberries - Red Hot Chili Peppers - Cliff Richard - Nigel Rogers - Arthur Rubenstein - Rush - The Saturdays - Peter Sellers - The Seekers - The Shadows - Helen Shapiro - The Spice Girls - Elliott Smith - Ringo Starr - Al Stewart - Sting - James Taylor - Taylor Swift - U2 - Peter Ustinov - Fats Waller - Wang Chung - Kanye West - Robbie Williams - Wings - Stevie Wonder - Amy Winehouse - John

Williams and The London Philharmonic-including three Star Wars movie soundtracks - XTC - The Zombies

By the way, if there are several artists on here that you don't recognize, you should see the list of artists I left off! 'Til next month, keep listening!
-Johnny Divine



How You Spend Your Time

Some of it's not so bad.... ● ● ● ●

1. You spend 25 years sleeping. -Health experts have calculated that people spend seven years of their lives lying awake in the bed at night, waiting to fall asleep.



2. You work for 10.3 years. -The average American works 40 hours a week from ages 20-65.

3. You spend 48 days having sex. -A recent survey found that during the average sex session, foreplay lasts 7 minutes and intercourse 12 minutes. A German study found that on an average, a man's orgasm lasted for 12.4 seconds. If you add it up and multiply it with the average frequency of sexual encounters in a lifetime, it's 9 hours and 18 seconds of ecstasy. The same research puts the time of female orgasm at 1.7 seconds per encounter, making the total less than an hour and a half in a lifetime.

4. Women spend 17 years of their lives trying to lose weight. -This includes being on one form of diet or another.

7. You spend 2.5 years cooking.

8. You will spend nearly 4.4 years of your life eating? -The total amount of food you consume in a lifetime is close to 35 tons.

5. Watching television generally accounts for more than half of your leisure time. -If you calculate four hours a day, people spend around 11 years in their lifetime sitting in front of the idiot box. According to a study, a child born in 2013 will have spent an entire year of his/her life in front of a screen by the time he/she turns seven.

6. You spend 2 years watching commercials. -Did you know that a three-hour NFL broadcast only has 11 minutes of actual gameplay.



9. You drive a car for 4.3 years. -In that time, you'll cover enough distance to go to the moon and back 3 times.

10. You spend 3 months of your life in traffic, about 38 hours a year.

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RON HAMER

Ron Hamer started drawing at the age of 4 to make his grandmother smile. "I would draw Ant Man and the ant forces," he recalled with a grin, "I would show them to my grandmother, and she would be smiling."

Ron is a very accomplished artist who has won several awards

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and whose paintings are in high demand. He is fearless with color when he paints, and is quite a colorful guy, too.

"They would ask in elementary school, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' and I would say that I wanted to be an artist," he said.

We have his sister to thank for the fact that he started selling his work. "She inspired me to start selling my drawings when I was a teenager," he said. "Kids would need pictures for their assignments, and I would draw them and charge them a dollar a piece."

He studied comic book drawing, and even wrote a book called Win or Bust Card Shark Game Book. He got a copyright on the book, but was told that he needed a patent on it. The cost was "out of reach." He had written and illustrated it, but longed for more artistic endeavors.

He worked a variety of jobs, was in the military for a short time, but eventually ended up in Wichita Falls, where he had spent part of his childhood. But things weren't

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going well for him, and he found himself living at the Faith Mission, a homeless shelter.

But his story, like many others in history, turned around when it seemed that he was at his lowest point. Jane Spears Carnes to the rescue. Jane is an artist in Wichita Falls who is well renowned and extremely talented, and she also has a big heart. She was teaching art classes at Faith Mission, and Ron was one of her students. Under her tutelage, he began to hone his artistic skills. At the mission, he painted a very detailed mural of the city of Jerusalem in Christ's day and time, along with accompanying Bible verses and a legend. "She saw the mural and told me that I could sell my paintings," Ron said.

"I thought I had to be a millionaire

to oil paint, but that is what I wanted to do," Ron explained. "And later I found out that you don't have to be millionaire. I started painting and had my first exhibit 5 or 6 years ago," he said. "That is when I fell in love with oil painting."

"My paintings are what helped me get out of the mission," Ron explained. "I would add what I made with my paintings and a side job, and together, I made enough money to stay out of the mission." Ron then started renting a studio in Big Blue Building downtown, and later moved to a studio with Marsha Wright-Reeves and Janelle Michon-ski. He then moved to the Seventh Street Studio when it opened.

He likes to paint outer space in a "free loose contemporary style" and enjoys using his imagination to paint fantasy as he sees it; and his vision colors his world.

"I show my art at the Wichita Falls Art Association Gallery, the Seventh Street Gallery, and the Kemp Center," he said.

"This was always something I wanted to be, so I am living the dream," Ron said.

What started out as a way to make Grandma smile, is now a reason for those who view his art to smile.

- Cindy Kahler Thomas



Ron Hamer, surrounded by two of his paintings, loves to explain what is going on in his fantasy paintings.



Thee Wilde Hares



Wichita Falls' newest Irish rock band "Thee Wilde Hares" just formed in February, but they have already booked and performed several gigs. The band debuted to a full house at the soft opening of The Highlander on March 11th, followed by headlining their St Patty's Day grand opening on March 17th. They hydrated their sore heads and went at it again the following night at Stick's Place.

The group features James Ivey on trombone and banjo, John Tucker on bass, Beau Dameron on vocals, Nathan Jun on keyboard, Adam Lynskey on percussion and Brandt Jalowy on guitar.

"We play rock renditions of Irish ballads and other forms of traditional Irish music: jigs, reels and such. We play some covers of other contemporary Celtic rock and punk bands like Dropkick Murphy's and Flogging Molly, as well as originals," said Jun.

Jun uses a midi sequencer to emulate traditional Irish instruments like bagpipes and accordion. Irish fiddlers, pipers and accordion players are hard to come by in Texoma. He has prior experience playing the accordion in Polish polka bands, but last summer he began experimenting with using computerized synthesis which gives him a greater range of sounds to experiment with.

As for the band's name, Jun said: "Wild hares are prolific in Ireland and there's something about the way that the hares frisk about the heather and fight with each other and such. It sort of evokes the spirit of traditional Celtic music. Our spelling of Wilde is, of course, a reference to Oscar Wilde."

Thee Wilde Hares is the third band that roommates Jun and Lynskey have played in together since 2014. Lynskey is an Irish-American and the great-grandson of an Irish singer and fiddle player.

"My grandfather was extremely proud of our Irish heritage, and especially my great-grandfather Victor Lynskey. Victor was an Irish fiddler, and he also sang. We are fortunate that someone had the foresight to record him, and I have spent many nights listening to the songs he sang in his big booming

baritone," said Lynskey.

The Polish-American Jun grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, a city with a large Irish-American population. His first girlfriend was a first-generation Irish-American and through spending time with her family, Jun was exposed to a great deal of Irish folk songs, but had to familiarize himself with it musically last summer.

The group has a rapidly increasing repertoire of original songs. "We've tried to write songs that have some relevance personally, but draw on the idioms of traditional Irish music," said Jun. "I'm a music fanatic and I just love the music of all different cultures, but Irish music captures the experience of people, and while I'm not Irish, I identify with their experience because it is similar to that of Eastern Europeans and Jews. It's the music of the oppressed and the rebels."

Jun and Lynskey often incorporate traditional Irish tunes into their new material, melding old and new as seamlessly as possible. Jun's Faraway Gone is a caoineadh, or an Irish lament, as is Lynskey's Amber for Emeralds. From Beverly to Bridgeport is a song about the Irish-American communities on the south side of Chicago, Jun's adoptive hometown. It's sung to the tune of The Wearing of the Green, an old Irish rebel song. For the Shenanigans and One Last Pint are both laddish drinking songs, and Tropic of Cancer is a hard-driving sea shanty that features a newly composed original jig.

"People who have an appreciation for traditional Texas music, or Western Swing and bluegrass, should instinctively appreciate Irish music, because that music by and large grew out of musical traditions that were brought to this country by Irish and Scottish immigrants who settled in Appalachia and the plains," said Jun.

Thee Wilde Hares can be contacted via their Facebook page, which has details of future performances.

- Camille Shepherd



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