





Happy 55th Birthday, Starfire

NOTES FROM THE 2023 HOMEGROWN STEERING COMMITTEE

By Paul Lundgren

For the 25th time, the Duluth music scene is ready to rally to the call of its mascot chicken and bring forth a mighty celebration of rawk and/or roll. It's called Music Homegrown the Festival, and it requires a big, fat magazine to lay out the intricate details. The short version of the story, however, fits on this page and the even shorter version is condensed into the next paragraph.

Roughly 170 acts are scheduled to perform at 36 venues in Duluth and Superior from April 30 to May 7. The vast majority of it is live music, but there are also showcases of poetry, dance and other artistic spectacles. The performers all have a connection to the local music scene, of which Homegrown has been the annual hullabaloo since 1999. Below are the fundamental things to know for 2023.

The Schedule

Although great pains have been taken to lay down the straight facts in these pages, the schedule is subject to change and the most up-to-date version is at duluthhomegrown.org.

Admission Math

The cost to get into the full week of events is \$40 with a weeklong wristband. Admission prices were raised this year for the first time since 2016. Even with the increase, the cost amounts

to just \$5 per day and about 23 cents per band. It's a bargain and you're welcome. Also, more than one-third of the shows do not require a wristband, so penny pinchers can still attend a significant amount of the festival for free.

Transportation

Duluth Transit Authority shuttles will be circling Homegrown venues on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For those driving to Homegrown hubs, onstreet parking shouldn't be difficult to find within a few blocks of any venue. There numerous are parking ramps in Downtown Duluth, the locations of which are laid out at duluthparking.com.

Age Restrictions

About one-third of the shows at Homegrown are open to all ages. The various drinking establishments that limit shows to those 21 and older will be checking identification, so don't forget to bring it.

Capacity Issues

Many of the shows at Homegrown will reach attendance capacities. Admission to any particular venue is not guaranteed, so whether you purchase a wristband or just crash the free shows you should be prepared to either wait in line or move along to a different show if a particular venue is packed.

Kudos

This year's Homegrown marks the 55th birthday of Scott "Starfire" Lunt, the festival's founder. There have been numerous directors, board members, steering committee members and various others down the line who have put in their time over the years to build up Homegrown and keep it holy. The committee particularly thanks Melissa La Tour, who stepped down as festival director at the end of 2022 after six years of service. Thanks also to Cory Jezierski and Dereck Murphy-Williams, who stepped you, fans!"

in as interim co-directors to lead the organization of this year's festival.

Best Practices

The golden rule of Homegrown is to respect the people around you and prioritize their good time over your own good time. This festival has a long reputation of comradery over douchewadery; let's keep it that way. Also, it should be noted that although we are nearing the end of the COVID-19 emergency declaration, you should still wash your hands and avoid spitting when you're velling.

Final Props

Homegrown is all about the music, so we never forget it's the musicians who really make it happen. But the stars of the show always deflect the gratitude back to the audience for coming out night after night to celebrate our local music scene. So for the 25th time we say, "thank



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INTERIM CO-DIRECTORS Cory Jezierski

Dereck T. Murphy-Williams

	Dereek I. Marphy Willian
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PRODUCTION MANAGER	Scott Lillo
SCHWAG COORDINATOR	Jessica Nickila
TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	Tyler Scouton
ASST. TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	Joseph Sauve

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FIELD GUIDE PRODUCED BY Paul Lundgren * Kim Wickman

FIELD GUIDE COVER ART * Amy Abts

FIELD GUIDE PROOFREADING * Catherine Conlan

FIELD GUIDE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jenny Ahern ***** Mike Creger ***** Christine Dean Graham Hakala * Adam Herman * Sara Livingston Floerke Paul Lundgren * Rick McLean * Jessica Morgan Mark Nicklawske ***** Walter Raschick ***** Beth Ruark Izabella Zadra ***** Sean Zarn

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HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

P.O. Box 16505, Duluth MN 55816 duluthhomegrown.org *info@duluthhomegrown.org

Homegrown Music Festival, Inc., is a Minnesota nonprofit under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Keith Dust rips.

★ Sunday, April 30

The first performers at the 25th annual Homegrown Music Festival weren't alive when the inaugural Homegrown happened in 1999. They weren't even alive when the 10th Homegrown happened. That's because the aerialists who make up the Phoenix Flyers are all under the age of 15.

This year's Homegrown Children's Music Showcase at Dovetail Café and Marketplace offers an array of performances and activities geared to kids and families. Along with six stage acts, there will be playthings available courtesy of the Duluth Children's Museum and other entertainment. including balloon twisting and a beanbag toss fundraiser for remarks will be followed by Bags and Brews, which raises money to support Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for childhood cancer.

★ Monday, May I

Monday is in the Lincoln Park Craft District, one event will be held about a mile northeast at Hansen & Band close out a the Duluth Depot. The building's lower-level performance space, formerly known as the Underground, is now Studio Four, managed by the Minnesota Ballet. That's the scene for can," she said. "I'll be back a lot the 18th annual Homegrown Poetry Showcase.

"I expect 30 poets this year, as usual," said longtime organizer Tina Higgins Wussow. "Kenny Bressler will be accompanying the poets for a second year. I'm excited to check out the new space and expect it will be a good fit."

The bands Slope City and Stardust Collective precede the rendering of literary works at Studio Four. Meanwhile, 15 the mixture at Homegrown."

DAY ONE: **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Duluth Mayor Emily Larson will proclaim Homegrown Music Festival Week in the city of Duluth during a 4 p.m. reception at Hoops Brewing. The crew at Hoops is creating another batch of Emily's Extra IPA for the event. Owner Dave Hoops said the always dank India pale ale will be a special version this year that will be "extra dank."

Warned of the promised dankness, Mayor Larson did not falter. "That's risky," she said, "but I like it."

The mayor noted the introduction of a ceremonial chalice to last year's reception is a new tradition she's excited about.

Larson's proclamation and music at Hoops, Zeitgeist Teatro, Blacklist, Carmody Irish Pub and the traditional New Band Showcase at Pizza Lucé.

DAY TWO: **CRAFT DISTRICT NIGHT**

Though most of the action on more bands will perform at five venues in the Craft District.

At Duluth Cider, Sydney trio of shows. Hansen moved to Nashville last fall, but still spends about one-third of her time in Duluth.

"I come back as much as I in the summer to do some of the other regular festivals I do every year."

She'll be backed by a trio of Duluth musicians at Homegrown and is excited to play at Duluth Cider for the first time and also to get out and see a variety of other acts.

"I just love watching originals and I love seeing all the different genres that Duluth has to offer," she said. "It's cool to see

★ Tuesday, May 2

Ine main hub of Homegrown on Tuesday is the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. The DECC became a new Homegrown venue last year, hosting shows in its Harbor Side Ballroom. This year the DECC Arena will be the venue, with performances in the round.

DECC Entertainment Curator Emma Deaner promises an "intimate concert staged within an epic venue," noting it's "the same floor where greats like the Beach Boys, Bob Dylan, Elvis, Ozzy Osbourne, Santana, Pat Benatar, Van Halen, Mavis Staples, Tom Petty and more once performed."

Deaner said the basic plan is to have a stage in the middle of the arena floor. There will be some seating, but mostly standing space for audience members to move as they DAY THREE: CANAL PARK NIGHT

The main hub of Homegrown please. Upper-level seating in n Tuesday is the Duluth En- the arena will be closed off.

"People can dance, they can stand, they can sway, whatever they like," she said. "We'll have multiple viewing options available."

In between sets there will be a listening lounge in Paulucci Hall with locally inspired beverages and festival fare.

Though Homegrown has branded Tuesday as "Canal Park Night" since 2014, there is just one Tuesday-night venue that's actually in Canal Park: Vikre Distillery. The others the DECC, Dubh Linn Irish Pub and Sir Benedict's — are all *near* Canal Park, however, and all are within what's considered Duluth's Central Business District. So call it "CBD" night if you prefer. Or "Vicinity of Canal Park Night."

★ Wednesday, May 3 westside wednesday

Bouncing from place to place during Homegrown is never easier than on Wednesday. The five West Duluth venues are all within 600 feet of each other.

Wussow's Concert Cafe and the Jade Fountain host the earliest shows. As the evening progresses, things move into the *Bar*muda Triangle of the Gopher Lounge, Mr. D's and the Kom-on-Inn.

Marc Gartman is happy to have his band Glitteratti back at Homegrown. Scheduling this supergroup can get tricky. Drummer Kyle Keegan tours with English indie-folk star Ben Howard, among other acts. Guitarist Dave Carroll and bassist Tim Saxhaug are members of Trampled by Turtles. They have just enough time to play the mid-week Homegrown show with Glitteratti before heading off to Florida to begin a string of TBT tour dates.

Gartman was a spectator at last year's Homegrown, but is eager to get back on stage in 2023.

"Last year when I went out during Homegrown it was just such a fun, positive vibe," he said.

Closing out the night over at Mr. D's will be Black River Revue. Banjo player Tim Leutgeb said dropping the kids off at school the next morning will be a challenge, but he's looking forward to the late-night gig nonetheless.

"We've got a bunch of unreleased, unrecorded music that we're going to be playing at Homegrown," Leutgeb said. "We haven't been playing much lately, but we've got about an album's worth of new music. So we'll be playing some of our regular tunes with a lot of new tunes."

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★ Thursday, May 4

Thursday's largest venue — and Homegrown's only outdoor stage this year — is Earth Rider Brewery's festival grounds. Events there begin with Superior Mayor Jim Paine issuing a proclamation in recognition of Homegrown's annual Soup Town Night.

Performing under the shelter of canopy at Earth Rider are Emily Haavik and the 35s, Boku Frequency and DJ Nola. Haavik and her band have played outside at Earth Rider before, but in the summertime and not during Homegrown.

"We hope that it is warm enough and not snowing," she said. "This will be our first show since the addition of our newest band member, Robert. He will be three months old and will likely be playing his belly. He's really a natural. It'll be his first Homegrown and Robert says that he is thrilled to be



Although Homegrown is eight days long, half the bands play on either Friday or Saturday. During the thick of it, up to seven shows are happening at the same time. Planning is either essential or futile, depending on who you ask.

In a pinch, Kaylee Matuszak recommends choosing the best geographic starting point.

"Last year, Friday night I finished my gig at Wussow's and I was like, 'OK, go downtown. All right, what are the closest things to each other so I can see as many things as possible?" she said.

Matuszak is again performing on Friday, this year at the Owls Club. It's a place she hadn't been inside until recently.

"There was a baby shower there for my partner's co-work-

DAY FIVE: SOUP TOWN NIGHT

making his Homegrown debut." Haavik didn't know she was about two weeks pregnant during last year's Homegrown.

"We were on that crowded trolley where everybody got COVID on Thursday," she said, noting that she unknowingly put unborn Robert "through the wringer," but that "he seems fine."

As the sun sets and the evening chill sets in at Earth Rider, the Spin Collective will heat things back up by artistically tossing around combustible objects.

Empire Coffee and the Cedar Lounge will each have bands running in the early evening opposite the Earth Rider shows, with Tower Avenue Tavern and the Main Club starting up as the last outdoor shows wind down. The Reef Bar in Duluth hosts the traditional Thursday late-night shows.

DAY SIX: RAWK NIGHT

er," she said. "We went and then we ended up staying for like four hours after the baby shower finished. Because it's so awesome. Definitely going to become members."

Matuszak said she's a fan of old-school Duluth bars, so the Owls Club feels like a perfect place for her to perform.

"The vibe is amazing," she said. "It feels like a spot where ... it's just *right* that I'm there. It really fits with everything that I do and everything that I love."

Before and after her performance, Matuszak has a few Friday-night shows she is targeting: Misisipi Mike Wolf, Rich Mattson and the Northstars, Nvr Tgthr and her fellow Hermantown High School alum Lyla Abukhodair.

\star Saturday, May 6

It's a more storied sports rivalry than Lakers vs. Celtics, with more head games and smack talk than Frazier vs. Ali, and it's more tightly contested than Evert vs. Navratilova. It's the Rawkers vs. Rollers in the Homegrown Kickball Classic at Chester Bowl. Both teams have won and lost 11 times in the ongoing battle for sloppy pseudo-sports supremacy. This year's tiebreaker is sure to be a battle for the ages.

After the grudge match, all musical forces unite to bring the festival to its climax. More than 40 acts are scheduled across 14 venues.

New in 2023 is the Homegrown Movement Showcase at Studio Four in the Duluth Depot. Though Homegrown has had a variety of dance acts and other choreographed and unchoreographed displays of agility over the years, this is the first time they are clumped together on one night, at one place.

DAY SEVEN: ROLL NIGHT

Opening the Movement Showcase is Sea Smoke Aerial Arts, a group of four aerialists led by Suzy Jezierski. They will be engaging in acrobatics while hanging from a sling, which is a hammock-like loop of strong fabric used to perform tricks, flips and poses in the air.

Zenith Dance Collective is curating six dance numbers for the middle block of the showcase. Then the Duluth Dolls present the rousing finale with a glamorous, amorous and scandalous burlesque and cabaret show.

The late-night venues feature an array of heavy hitters, with Bratwurst stinking up R.T. Quinlan's with its meaty mess, Big Wave Dave and the Ripples bringing funk to Blacklist Brewery, All the Pretty Horses grinding out musical sparks at Pizza Lucé, and Winzige Hosen playing stein-waving punk polka anthems at Rex Bar.

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PACT

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\star Sunday, May 7

The last day of Homegrown is a little like a savasana — the final resting pose at the end of a yoga session. Things are less intense. There's time for reflection. The beers go down slower and Lake Superior is just outside the window to gaze upon as the final three bands bring the festival to its conclusion.

Opening the shows at Canal Park Brewing is Bark Point, a group Duluthians might mistakenly think was named as a twist on the nearby Park Point neighborhood. Not so, according to band leader Adam Hildebrandt. It's actually named after another point on Lake Superior.

"In Herbster, Wisconsin," he

DAY EIGHT: RECOVERY BEER LUNCH

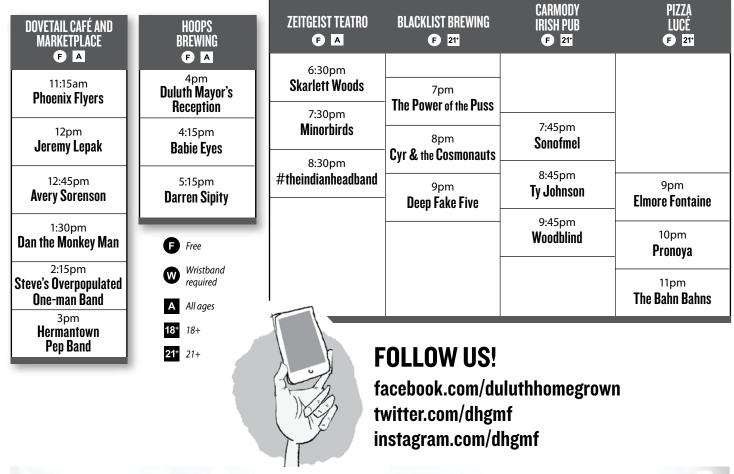
said. "It's like a little peninsula that, you know, goes around Bark Bay. That's where the name of the band comes from."

Bark Point played its first Homegrown show in 2022. It was also Hildebrandt's first time attending the festival.

"This year I'm actually planning on making it to every night of the week," he said. "I think that will be a lot of fun. I just turned 26, so I'm still kind of learning about the scene and how it all works, but there've been some bands that I've been keeping an eye on and it'll be fun to catch them for sure."

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Day 1 - Opening Ceremonies



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Day 2 - Craft District Night

MONDAY, MAY I

,							
STUDIO FOUR	WILD STATE Cider W 21	URSA MINOR Brewing F A	DULUTH Cider W 21	BENT PADDLE Brewing F A	CADDY Shack W 21		
5pm Slope City	^{5pm} Sugar on the Roof						
6pm Stardust Collective	^{6pm} The Rhizomes	6:15pm Severio Mancieri	6:30pm The Lindula Brothers				
7pm Homegrown Poetry Showcase	7pm Beyondbliss	7:15pm NewBerrigan	7:30pm Polkarobics	7:45pm Berserk Blondes!	-		
		8:15pm Shane Nelson	8:30pm Sydney Hansen & Band	8:45pm Life Parade	9pm		
				9:45pm The Crunchy Bunch	Norton Hastings Band 10pm Sour Venom		
F Free	W Wristband required A All	ages 18* 18+ 21* 21+			11pm Cooking with Chef		



TUESDAY, MAY 2

Day 3 - Canal Park Night

	VIKRE DISTILLERY W 21*	SIR BENEDICT'S Tavern on the lake F	DECC ARENA	DUBH LINN IRISH PUB F 21
DID YOU KNOW?	6:30pm The Trash Cats	6:45pm Adam Moe	 7pm Breanne Marie & the	
·	7:30pm Jan Schober	7:45pm	Front Porch Sinners	
The skywalk Northwest passage	8:30pm Alberto del Toro	8:45pm	AfroGeode & the Gemstones	
from downtown to the DECC		Tres Osos	9pm Boss Mama & the Jebberhooch	^{9pm} Hollow Profit
WILL HAVE Extended hours			^{10pm} Fenestra Funk	10pm Mumblin' Drew
on Tuesday night 'til midnight	F Free W Wristbar	d required A All ages 18 * 18+	- 21 ⁺ 21+	11pm Anderson Twuo



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Day 4 - Westside Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

WUSSOW'S Concert Cafe () A	JADE Fountain W 211	GOPHER RESTAURANT & Lounge © 21	KOM-ON-INN W 21	MR. D'S BAR & GRILL W 21
6:30pm Janie & the Spokes	7pm Zeb or Zeke & the			
7:30pm Woodsong Souvenir	Runaway Screamings			
8:30pm Thor Leseman	9pm	8:45pm Grand Holler		-
	9pm Wes Hadrich	9:45pm The Slamming Doors	9:15pm Glitteratti	10
		10:45pm	10:15pm Untold Stories	10pm C-Silence
	F Free W Wristband requi		11:15pm Bellerpuss	11pm Port City Limit
××	A All ages 18 ⁺ 18+ 21 ⁺ 21	+		12am Black River Revue

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THURSDAY, MAY 4

Day 5 - Soup Town Night

EMPIRE Coffee F A	EARTH RIDER BREWERY FESTIVAL GROUNDS W 211	CEDAR Lounge W 21°	TOWER AVENUE Tavern W 211	THE MAIN CLUB W 21	REEF BAR W 211
5:30pm	5:50pm - Superior Mayor's Reception	メメ			
Zeta Carinae	6pm Emily Haavik	x z X	N		
6:30pm Dirtbike Boyfriend	and the 35s		÷ ×	K K	
	7pm Boku Frequency	7:15pm	<i>x</i> + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +	$\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{z}$	4
7:30pm Nate J. Mattson	8pm	Austin Castle	-		XX X
	DJ Nola	8:15pm Darin Bergsven	8:30pm	-	* *
	9pm The Spin Collective	9:15pm	The Adjustments	8:45pm DJ A-Dub	
		Greg Tiburzi	9:30pm Anatomy of	9:45pm	9:30pm Jaze
			Ruminants	EddieDition	
			10:30pm New Salty Dog	10:45pm Ålamode	10:30pm Blu Volta
F Free W Wristbar	d required A All ages 18 ⁺	18+ 21 + 21+			11:30pm Indecent Proposal



FRIDAY, MAY 5

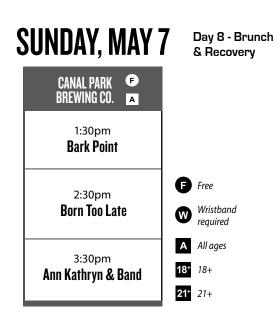
WUSSOW'S Concert Cafe © A	OWLS CLUB F 21°	ZEITGEIST TEATRO F A	SACRED HEART Music Center W A	LEGACY Glassworks F 21*	STUDIO FOUR © 21	SIR BENEDICT'S Tavern on the Lake 🕞 🔺
6pm Nio	6:15pm Forseer	6:30pm Misisipi	_			
7pm Big Into	7:15pm Brinn Major	7:30pm	7pm Robot Rickshaw	7:15pm	- 7:30pm	_
8pm PocketKnife	8:15pm	Flip Arkulary	8pm Horse Fzce	8:15pm	Owls Club Big Band	8pm Four Mile Portage
	Kaylee Matuszak	8:30pm Big Science	9pm	MN Moder	8:30pm G'narwals	9pm
	_		- Boxcar	9:15pm LeifHinkel	9:30pm	Prairie Fyre
					The Latelys	10pm Reco Daquon

CARMODY IRISH PUB W 21	DULUTH FLAME Nightclub W 21	R. T. QUINLAN'S Saloon W 21	DUBH LINN IRISH PUB F 21	BLACKLIST BREWING W 21	PIZZĄ LUCĖ W 21	REX BAR AT Fitger's W 211
8:45pm Side String Band	9pm					
9:45pm	DJ Sox	9:15pm Tragyc	9:30pm Elysium Alps	9:45pm Timbre Ghost		
P.B&J	^{10pm} Superior Siren	10:15pm Rich Mattson and the Northstars	10:30pm	-		
10:45pm Ryan Van Slooten	11pm Ingeborg von Agassiz	11:15pm	Dance Attic	10:45pm Nvr Tgthr	10pm Wilbur	
		Rick McLean	11:30pm JamesG	11:45pm Robyn Graves & the Sordid Affairs	11pm	10:30pm Lyla Abukhodair
					Danny Frank & the Smoky Gold	11:30pm Boog3ym3n
					^{12am} Mr Kickass	12:30am
XX	🛫 🕞 Free W Wr	istband required A All age	es 18 * 18+ 21 * 21+			Torment

SATURDAY, MAY 6

WUSSOW'S Concert Cafe W A	OWLS CLUB F 211	ZEITGEIST TEATRO F 🔺	SACRED HEART Music Center W A	LEGACY Glassworks F 21	ONE STOP Shop F A	STUDIO FOUR
6pm Underground 'til Sundown	6:15pm Goat Hill Quartet	6:30pm Israel Malachi	-			
7pm Wolves of the North	7:15pm The Bitter Spills	Orchestra 7:30pm The Langertsons	7pm • A Winter Downpour	7:15pm NorthWood Beats	7:30pm Eldri Snow	
8pm Blackhoof	8:15pm Stel	8:30pm Shadows of Me	8pm Father Hennepin	8:15pm TBD	8:30pm Lioness	8pm Sea Smoke Aerial Arts
CHESTER	12pm - Homegrowr	1	^{9pm} - Teague Alexy & the Common Thread	9:15pm T. Dack	9:30pm Ponyfolk	9pm Zenith Dance Collective
BOWL Park	Kickball Classic				FUIIYIUIK	10pm Duluth Dolls Burlesque

SIR BENEDICT'S Tavern on the Lake 🕞 🔺	CARMODY IRISH PUB W 21	DULUTH FLAME Nightclub W 21	R. T. QUINLAN'S Saloon W 21	BLACKLIST BREWING W 211	PIZZA LUCÉ W 211	REX BAR AT Fitger's W 21
^{8pm} The Repairmen						
9pm The Field Birds	8:45pm The Elements	9pm Tarli	9:15pm God's Holy Blood			
10pm Ian Alexy and Friends	9:45pm Discord at Dawn	10pm Sadkin	10:15pm A Band Called	9:45pm Fuzz Lung	10pm The Brothers Burn Mountain	10.20
	10:45pm Bill Berguson Band	11pm Lovehouse	11:15pm	10:45pm Damien	11pm Safe for Now	10:30pm Wild Horses
			Bratwurst	11:45pm Big Wave Dave and the Ripples	12am All the Pretty	11:30pm Quarterback Club
X	🛫 🕞 Free W Wris	tband required A All ag	Jes 18* 18+ 21* 21+		Horses	12:30am Winzige Hosen





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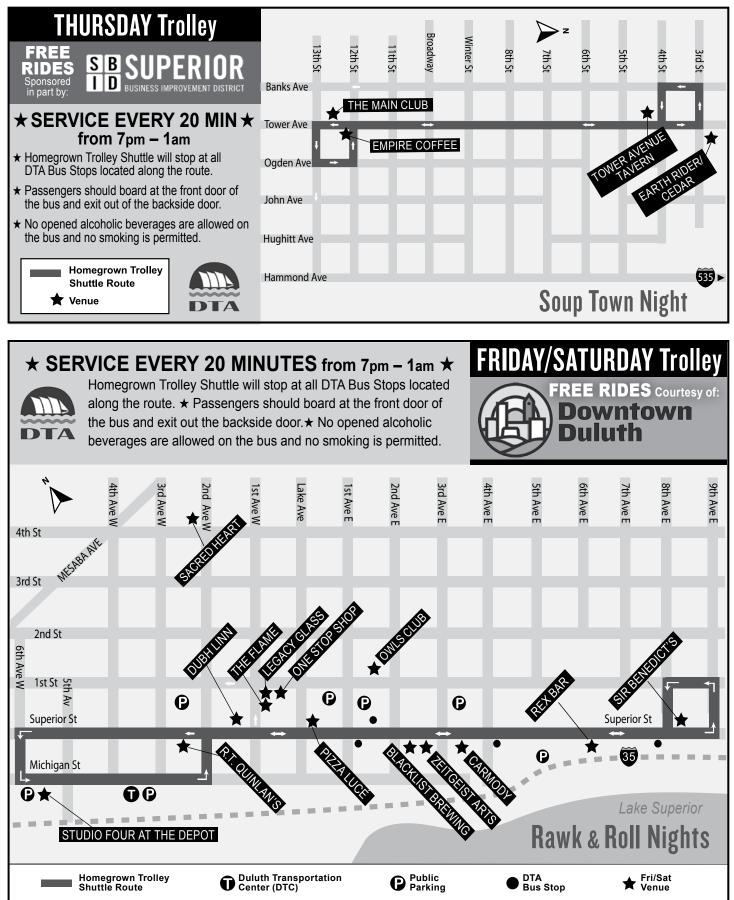
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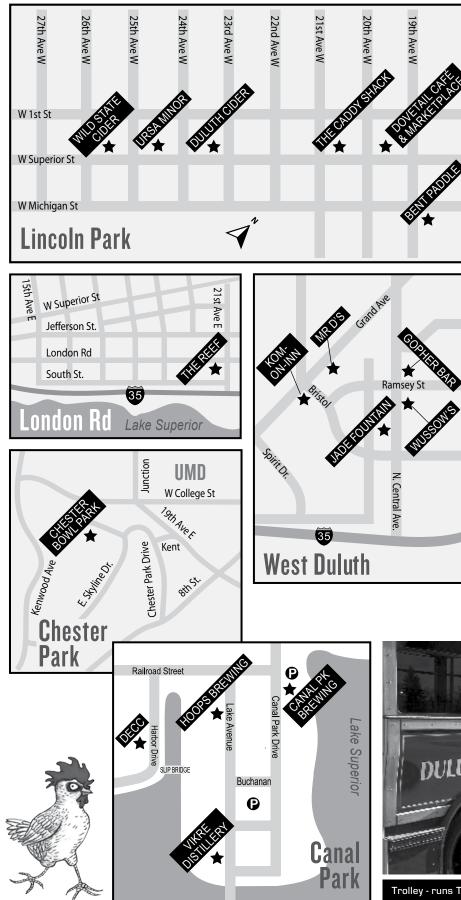
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***** Homegrown Shuttle & Venue Maps *****



***** Other Homegrown Venues *****



LESS WALK, MORE RAWK

Free shuttle service along Homegrown venue routes is offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Duluth Transit Authority's shiny trolley replica bus makes the rounds in Superior on Thursday, thanks in part to sponsorship by the Superior Business Improvement District. The trolley operates along Tower Avenue between the Main Club and Earth Rider Brewery.

On Friday and Saturday, the DTA Trolley serves Downtown Duluth, sponsored by the organization of the same name — Downtown Duluth. The trolley operates primarily on Superior Street between the Duluth Depot on the west and Sir Benedict's Tavern on the east, stopping at various venues and all regular DTA stops along the way.

This year there are no scheduled performances on the trolleys, but musicians randomly playing popup sets is a Homegrown tradition that will likely continue.





HOMEGROWN VENUES

Bent Paddle Brewing Company Taproom

1832 W. Michigan St. 218-279-2722

bentpaddlebrewing.com

This craft brewery in Duluth's Lincoln Park Craft District has been part of Homegrown since 2015. All ages permitted; free admission.

Blacklist Brewing Company 206 E. Superior St.

218-606-1610

blacklistbeer.com

After sitting out Homegrown for three years due to the pandemic and the buildout of its new facilities, Downtown Duluth's Belgian-style specialty brewery is back hosting opening night and weekend shows during the festival. Must be 21 or older: free admission on Sunday, paid admission required on the weekend.

Caddy Shack Indoor Golf & Pub

2023 W. Superior St. 218-624-7768 caddyshackduluth.com

This drinking establishment in Duluth's Lincoln Park Craft District features golf simulators and other games, in addition to live music and craft beer taps. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Canal Park Brewing Company 300 Canal Park Drive

218-464-4790

canalparkbrewery.com This family owned restaurant and brewery, located just a few steps off the Duluth Lakewalk in the Canal Park business district, has hosted music on the last day of Homegrown since 2014. All ages permitted; free admission.

Carmody Irish Pub & Brewing 308 E. Superior St. 218-740-4747

In the heart of Downtown Duluth, Carmody specializes in the Irish tradition of hospitality and the Duluth tradition of eccentricity. Must be 21 or older; free admission on Sunday, paid admission required on the weekend.

Cedar Lounge

1715 N. Third St. 715-394-7391 cedarlounge.beer

Earth Rider Brewery is located at the north end of Tower Avenue in Superior. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Chester Bowl Park

1801 E. Skyline Parkway 218-724-9832 chesterbowl.org The Homegrown Kickball Classic is held on the large field at the end of the road-

way through the park. If conditions are wet, check the Homegrown website to make sure the game hasn't been moved to an alternate location.

DECC Arena

350 Harbor Drive 218-722-5573 decc.org

Since 1966, the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center Arena has hosted music legends, including Elvis Presley, James Brown and Ozzy Osbourne. This is The official taproom of the first time Homegrown will use Duluth's most storied venue. All ages permitted; paid admission required. Free parking is available in the DECC lot for those attending Homegrown on May 2.



Dovetail Café and Marketplace

1917 W. Superior St. 218-481-7888 dovetailcafe.com

A partner project of the Duluth Folk School in the Lincoln Park Craft District, Dovetail Café hosts the second half of the Children's Music Showcase. All ages permitted; free admission.

Dubh Linn Irish Pub

109 W. Superior St. 218-727-1559 dubhlinnpub.com

This Irish-themed pub and restaurant in Downtown Duluth has hosted Homegrown events since 2013. Must be 21 or older; free admission.

Duluth Cider

2307 W. Superior St.tival grounds is Hom218-464-1111grown's only outdoor veduluthcider.comue. Must be 21 or oldeDuluth's first craft ciderypaid admission required.

opened in 2018 in the Lincoln Park Craft District. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Duluth Flame Nightclub

28 N. First Ave. W. 218-727-2344 flameduluth.com This GLBT-friendly dance club in Downtown Duluth was a Homegrown venue from 2013 to 2016 and returned to the fold in 2022. Friday night shows will be on the lower level this year; Saturday shows will be in the upper level as usual. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Earth Rider Brewery Festival Grounds 1715 N. Third St. 715-718-2485 earthrider.beer Earth Rider Brewery's festival grounds is Homegrown's only outdoor venue. Must be 21 or older; paid admission roquired

HOMEGROWN VENUES

Empire Coffee 1204 Tower Ave. 715-718-0926 empirecoffeewi.com

This spacious coffee shop on the street level of Superior's Empire Block apartment complex opened in 2018. All ages permitted; free admission.

Gopher Restaurant & Lounge 402 N. Central Ave. 218-624-9793

This bar and restaurant in the heart of West Duluth has been a Wednesday night Homegrown venue since 2014. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Hoops Brewing 325 S. Lake Ave.

218-606-1666 hoopsbrewing.com Duluth's largest beer hall hosts the Mayor's Reception on Homegrown's opening day. Must be 21 or older; free admission.

Jade Fountain

305 N. Central Ave.

This cocktail lounge with eclectic décor from around the world is hosting Homegrown shows for the second time this year. The lounge opened in 2020, but the building's history as the Jade Fountain restaurant dates back to 1968. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Kom-on-Inn

332 N. 57th Ave. W. 218-624-3385

West Duluth's oldest drinking establishment invites you to kom-on-inn and krawl-on-out. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.





HOMEGROWN VENUES

Legacy Glassworks 32 W. First St.

218-720-0747

legacyglassworks.com Glassworks Legacy where the glass is homeblown and the music is homegrown. Must be 21 or older; free admission.

The Main Club

1217 Tower Ave. 715-392-3335 mainclubwi.com

Superior's original lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, allied, gueer and For more than a century intersexed bar has been a Homegrown venue since 2008. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Mr. D's Bar & Grill

5622 Grand Ave. 218-624-4178 mrdsbar.com

The unofficial city hall of **Pizza Lucé** West Duluth has been a Homegrown venue since 218-727-7400 2013. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

One Stop Shop 26 W. First St.

facebook.com/onestopshopduluth

is This Downtown Duluth store offers a variety of penny candy, airpods and airpod accessories, in addition to serving as an occasional live music venue. All ages permitted; free admission.

Owls Club

118 E. Second St. 218-727-3109

this fraternal order and bottle club has had a nest in Downtown Duluth. This is its second year as a Homegrown venue, with music on Friday and Saturday night. Must be 21 or older; free admission.

11 E. Superior St. pizzaluce.com This pizza restaurant and bar in the Duluth Technology Village transforms its dining floor into a concert hall. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required on Friday and Saturday, Sunday night New Band Showcase is free.

Reef Bar

2002 London Road 218-724-9845

This drinking establishment in the Endion neighborhood is the only Duluth venue during Thursday night of Homegrown. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Rex Bar at Fitger's

600 E. Superior St. 218-733-3090

This nightclub in the basement of the Fitger's Brewery Complex is always a Homegrown weekend hotspot. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

R.T. Quinlan's Saloon

220 W. Superior St. 218-722-3573

Located across from the Holiday Center in Downtown Duluth. this oldschool bar has offered the stage on its lower-level as the "underground" of the local music scene since before Homegrown existed. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Sacred Heart Music Center 201 W. Fourth St. 218-723-1895

sacredheartmusic.org

This former cathedral in Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood is the home of Sacred Heart Recording Studio and the historic Felgemaker organ. All ages permitted; paid admission required.



Sir Benedict's Tavern on the Lake 805 E. Superior St.

805 E. Superior St. 218-728-1192 sirbens.com

Widely regarded as Duluth's best drinking establishment, Sir Ben's hosts live music every night of the week throughout the year, including Homegrown shows on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. All ages permitted; free admission.

Studio Four

506 W. Michigan St. 218-733-7570

minnesotaballet.org

Formerly known as the Underground, this lower-level space in the Duluth Depot is now operated by the Minnesota Ballet and will host three nights of Homegrown events — the Homegrown Poetry Showcase on Monday, music on Friday and the Movement Showcase on Saturday. All ages permitted during the Poetry Showcase on Monday, with free admission. Must be 21 or older for weekend events; paid admission required.

Tower Avenue Tavern

405 Tower Ave. 715-392-0484 facebook.com/

toweravenuetavern This drinking establishment in the North End of Superior first hosted Homegrown shows in 2015. Must be 21 or older; paid admission re-

Ursa Minor Brewing

quired.

2415 W. Superior St., Suite B 218-481-7886

218-481-7886

ursaminorbrewing.com Lincoln Park's purveyor of "comfort beer" sports a parking-lot patio scene where the music and party flow out a garage door and into the open air. All ages permitted; free admission.

HOMEGROWN VENUES

Vikre Distillery 525 S. Lake Ave 218-481-7401 vikredistillery.com

Duluth's first distillery, located in the Paulucci Building in Canal Park, produces craft gin, vodka, aquavit and whiskey. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Wild State Cider

2515 W. Superior St. 218-606-1151 wildstatecider.com Located in Duluth's Lincoln

Park Craft District, this cidery opened two weeks before the 2019 Homegrown, and this year hosts Homegrown music for the first time. Must be 21 or older; paid admission required.

Wussow's Concert Cafe

324 N. Central Ave. 218-624-5957 wussows.com

Known as Beaner's Central for the first 20 years of its existence, this concert coffeehouse in West Duluth rebranded in 2019. Coffee, beer, wine and food are available. All ages permitted; paid admission required.

Zeitgeist Teatro 222 E. Superior St. 218-336-1414

zeitgeistarts.com/teatro Zeitgeist Arts' black-box theater in Downtown Duluth hosts theater, music and a variety of presentations throughout the year. All ages permitted; free admission on Sunday, paid admission required on the weekend.



Area 20 - mayo

* 2007 - BRIAN BARBER *

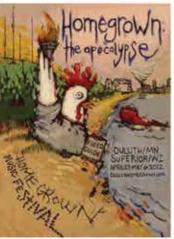


* 2009 - SARAH HEIMER *

Till Grups Intra 2 2010

* 2010 - BRIDGET RIVERSMITH *





* 2012 - ADAM SWANSON *



* 2013 - JAY WHITCOMB *



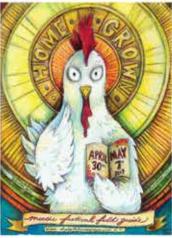
* 2014 - DAVID MOREIRA *



* 2015 - HEIDI BLUNT *



* 2016 - CAROLYN SUE OLSON *



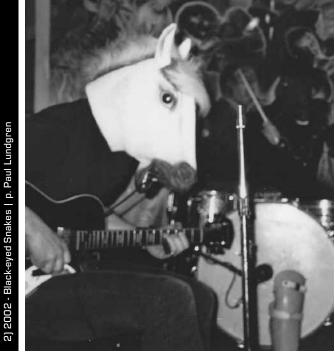
* 2017 - SARAH BROKKE ERICKSON *



* 2018 - CHRIS MONROE *









HOMEGROWN HISTORY: From Incubation to Infestation

By Paul Lundgren

Scott Lunt had five bands play at his 30th birthday party in 1998, then decided to hold a festival in 1999 called "Homegrown." The full story of how that transpired and how the event grew into an annual music juggernaut is much more complicated.

Lunt arrived in Duluth by way of Owatonna in 1992. Cloquet native Mark Lindquist graduated from Hamline University that spring and soon found himself in Duluth as well. Around the same time, Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker started a band called Low that quickly gained an international audience.

Lindquist later met Patrick and found at the top of his Nelson and formed the beginnings of the band Giljunko. A handful of other acts, such as Puddle Wonderful, the Fromundas and Swivelhead were beginning to form the basis of a very small original music on Low's 1999 album Sescene in Duluth.

now-defunct coffee shop at 15th Avenue East and Superior Street, the house music consisted of mix tapes, many made by Lunt. When Lunt gave a mix tape to his friend John Hartley, Hartley sent Lunt a thank-

you note referencing Lunt's disc-jockey skills: "Thanks DJ Starfire."

In the summer of 1997, "DJ Starfire" took his mix-tapemaking skills to the local airwaves, launching Random Radio, a pirate FM station broadcasting 80 to 90 watts of random music from his Central Hillside duplex. Dozens of friends volunteered to take shifts at the station, coming and going at all hours. Bands from around the region would stop by Lunt's home to guest host Random broadcasts.

The "Starfire" moniker started to truly take hold when Lunt came home stairway a cassette tape Alan Sparhawk of Low had left for him. It had the word "Starfire" written on it. and contained a demo of a song that bore Lunt's nickname and later appeared cret Name.

Over at J.D.'s Java, a Around the same time, Lunt started regularly spinning music at Fitger's Brewhouse on Thursday nights. Dubbed the "Starfire Lounge," the gig lasted six years and gave the name "Starfire" everything it needed to stick.

For the expanded version of Homegrown's history, visit duluthhomegrown.org/history

2004 - Starfire | p. Paul Lundgren



As Lunt's 30th birthday approached, his friend Mike Lowe happened to mention how "everybody should have a big 30th birthday party." Having recently attended an event at Lafayette Community Center, Lunt thought that would be a suitable venue.

Having assembled his first band, Father Hennepin, he decided to hold the group's debut performance on his birthday. He also invited Jon Olson, Amy Abts, Mark Lindquist and Gild to perform.

The show would be Starfire's first time playing in front of an audience.

"I had a lot of family there," he remembered. "People had no idea if I could do it."

He could do it. Starfire, Father Hennepin and the Duluth music scene were on their way up.

Then came a warning letter from the Federal Communications Commission. Lunt faced fines as high as \$100,000 if he continued his Random Radio broadcasts. As it turned out, he was ready to stop anyway.

"I got sick of it being in my house," he said. "It kind of got out of control."

There was still the matter of producing a CD of live recordings from the Random Headquarters, however. Setting up the release party meant doing something

that terrified Lunt: talking Music Festival. to Rick Boo.

Boo and two partners had taken over management of the NorShor Theatre, which had been an onagain off-again music venue for years. To Lunt's surprise, Boo was receptive to having the *Random Acts of Radio* CD release at the NorShor.

By then, Lunt already had designs on making his birthday party an annual music festival. He was sitting at his dining room table with his roommate, Bryan "Lefty" Johnson, drinking coffee and playing cribbage, when the name popped into his head — the Homegrown The South by Southwest

festival in Austin, Texas served as Lunt's model, though the landscape of Duluth would bear a stark contrast. The capital city of Texas has ten times the population of Duluth and promotes itself as the "live music capital of the world." While SXSW would feature more than 700 bands in 1999, Lunt set his sights at 10.

Tim Nelson, a critical player in developing the first Homegrown, remembers using the Misery Sessions in Houghton, Mich., as a more scaled-down model of how a town with onetenth the population of Du-







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luth could pull off a music festival.

Meanwhile. Tim's brother Brad Nelson had started a monthly newspaper with Cord Carbert (better known as ©rd R. Dada) called the Ripsaw.

"It was all very intentional." Brad Nelson said. "We knew that if we were going to build a following for local music, that group would need to be somehow edified, because it's hard to get interested enough in a band to go out and see a show if you don't have any inroads to it. That's what the Ripsaw was for."

Brad's partner in creating the Ripsaw played another critical role in developing Homegrown. Carbert drew the first chicken.

"I wasn't given any direction," Carbert said. "The concept was local musicians playing music. I was given the task to find something that was Homegrown-y."

age of a chicken standing on top of a basket of eggs and used that as his inspiration.

"It was a photograph and I turned it into an illustration," he said. "We had a few things we were looking at. Starfire liked the chicken and thought we could use a different farm animal every year, but I got busy doing the Ripsaw and it's been a chicken ever since."

★ 1999: Homegrown 1

The venue for the first Homegrown would be the NorShor Theatre, and Amy Abts was the first performer.

"People were crowding into the mezzanine, sitting on the stairs and on the floor by the stage," Brad Nelson remembered. "It was a great feeling to know that we were filling that room."

Abts' set was followed by a new band, the Black Labels, and a reggae artist He found a sourcebook im- who was somewhat new

to town, Max Dakota. Then Although Greg Cougar came Giljunko.

"We were used to playing at places like the Pacific Club (in Superior where Centerfold's Cabaret is now), where the audience either just wanted to hear the next band or wanted us to stop playing completely," Lindquist recalled. "Quinlan's and the NorShor mezzanine — particularly Homegrown – were kind of my first experiences where people wanted to hear what we had to play."

Starfire's Father Hennepin closed out the first night.

"It wasn't just another show," Lunt said. "Bands picked it up a notch that night. Lots of genres were represented. There was an awesome vibe. Everyone was so happy. It was so affirming. The NorShor mezzanine was just so full of people."

The lineup for day two consisted of the First Ladies, 2 Sleepy People, Ballyhoo, Crazy Betty and Gild.

Conley was heavily involved in the Duluth music scene before and after the first Homegrown, he was between bands in 1999 and didn't perform. During the next 19 years he played the festival every year as a member of 11 different bands.

"That first Homegrown is the only one I haven't played," Conley said in 2019. "I had about a year and a half where I didn't play anywhere. I remember going to Homegrown and thinking, wow, this is so cool."

Over two nights the first Homegrown drew an estimated 700 people. It might not have been apparent to most of them that an annual event was in the works, but Lunt did have plans to carry things into the future.

"There is something about that weekend that is perfect," he said. "There's an energy that first week of May, because summer is right around the corner.





1) 2007 - The Gallows | p. Rich Narum 2) 2009 - Fred Tyson | p. Barrett Chase

Duluth comes out of its hibernation for Homegrown. Everything is lighter. We have this jubilant week together."

***** 2000: Homegrown 2

A solid crop of new bands had emerged in Duluth by May 2000, including the Black-eyed Snakes, Both, Accidental Porn and Bone Appetit. Musicians who had left the area were starting to drift back, like Jerree Small, Jamie Ness and members of the Dames.

One month prior to the second Homegrown, the Ripsaw ramped up to weekly publishing and dedicated a special issue to previewing Duluth's second-annual music showcase. The issue served as the predecessor to what later became the Homegrown Field Guide.

Another tradition that began in 2000 was the kickball game between the bands that play on Friday night and the bands that play on Saturday night. Saturday won by a score of 7-6.

number of great Homegrown 2 performances - among them the Blackeyed Snakes playing with Alan Sparhawk's father sitting in, Bone Appetit cock-rawking the Nor-Shor's main stage, the First Ladies saving Homegrown from the villain Hu Phlung Pu, and Father Hennepin playing with a 10-member choir — the show that stuck out was Giljunko's set, which offered no theatrics, but brought the crowd to a frenzy.

"I think that never have so many people freaked out so hard for so long in the NorShor mezzanine," Ripsaw contributor Barrett Chase wrote of the Giljunko set. "People were even crowded into the bar area to dance, and the wall of mirrors in the lobby actually fogged up like a bathhouse mirror. Everyone was completely soaked through their clothes."

★ 2001: Homegrown 3

play on Saturday night. Saturday won by a score of 7-6. Although there were a down Moon (then known as

Mayfly), No Room to Pogo, Charlie Parr and James Moors (then known as Sterling Waters). Two new venues were welcomed into the fold — Beaner's Central (now Wussow's) and the Red Lion Bar.

In all, 38 bands were featured at Homegrown 3, including the first Homegrown appearance by Low.

One of the more significant things that happened in 2001, in terms of the ongoing history of the festival, is that it was the year cartoonist Chris Monroe drew the Homegrown chicken for the cover of the Ripsaw. Although a number of artists have illustrated the plucky cock over the years, Monroe's rendering has served as the iconic logo of Homegrown ever since.

★ 2002: Homegrown 4

In its fourth year, Homegrown expanded to include 67 acts over four nights in eight venues. Crew Jones, Dukes of Hubbard, Farewell Tour, the Keep Aways, Jackie & the Ripoffs, the State Champs, Stel & Lefty, Malec, the Undesirables and Haley Bonar all played the festival for the first time.

The capacity crowd for the 'Snakes performance flowed out into Superior Street and up Lake Avenue, with people watching through the windows. Inside the building, what many believe to be the first documented case of crowd surfing at a pizza restaurant occurred.

Lunt remembers Homegrown 4 as the year it started getting difficult to organize. He forgot to reserve Chester Bowl Park for kickball and had to quickly find an alternate location, and amps were blowing out at multiple venues.

"My phone was ringing off the hook," he said. "I remember playing kickball at Observation Park, talking on the phone under an umbrella while running bases and drinking a beer."

★ 2003: Homegrown 5

There weren't a lot of new bands in the 2003 Homegrown, but one of them would later become Homegrown's biggest draw —

28 * HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023 | 25TH ANNUAL *

Trampled by Turtles. The group was a four-piece at the time and hadn't come up with its name, so the show was listed on the schedule as "Dave Simonette Band," misspelling Simonett's name.

Also new at Homegrown in 2003 were the DTs, Words to a Film Score and Boy Girl Boy Girl. Homegrown expanded to five days for its fifth year, and included 77 acts. It was also the year of Homegrown's first "Chicken Shack." Starfire rented a tiny storefront on the northeast corner of Superior Street and Lake Avenue to serve as Homegrown's temporary headquarters. To mark the five vears of the festival, five baby chicks occupied a cage by the window.

★ 2004: Homegrown 6

In the months leading up to the sixth Homegrown, real adversity began piling up for the first time. Rick Boo had closed the NorShor Theatre in October 2003 because of mounting debt. The Ripsaw was struggling, and at the end of the year switched to a monthly magazine format in an effort to make it profitable.

The sixth annual Homegrown would be the last one organized by Lunt. It was also the first year the number of bands decreased, with a roster of 74 acts, down three from the previous year. Lunt lost about \$3,000 on the festival, which was approximately the total cost of paying bands at the time.

"I obviously didn't get into it to get rich," Lunt said, steering committee, chair-

"but I sure didn't want to lose money."

***** 2005: Homegrown 7 Following the difficult 2004 Homegrown, a deal was reached where the Ripsaw would take ownership of the festival, buying out Starfire for the sum of \$3,000 — roughly what he had lost the year before.

There were 84 acts at Homegrown 7, including new bands like the Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank, the Little Black Books, Portrait of a Drowned Man, Sleepfarmer and Retribution Gospel Choir.

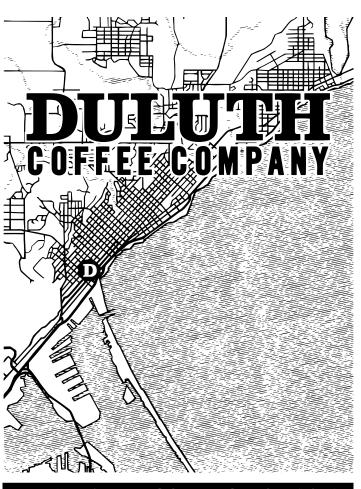
Still, it was the lowest moment of Homegrown's early days. By the end of the year, the Ripsaw was out of business, the NorShor was closed yet again due to fire code violations, and the Nelsons were through with running the Homegrown.

Fortunately, Don Ness was ready to roll up his sleeves and turn the festival into a nonprofit. Homegrown's biggest years were still ahead.

★ 2006: Homegrown 8

By the end of 2005, Homegrown had been passed off from private ownership into nonprofit hands - on paper fiscally managed by the Bridge Syndicate and organized by a steering committee comprised of artists, but in reality handed off to Don Ness, who would have to find those committee members and shepherd them.

Ness put together a large



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ed by Alan Sparhawk and Amy Abts, with a variety of subcommittees. By the time the festival was near. the steering committee was down to 10 people and the subcommittees were reduced to two.

Ness was bold with his vision, vastly expanding the festival. Under Ness, Homegrown would grow into an eight-day event, and for the first time include more than 100 bands. There would be poetry, videos and visual arts. The festival returned Superior to the fold, this time significantly. Themed shows like the New Band Showcase and Experimental Tuesday emerged.

The first Homegrown Field Guide, a 36-page magazine promoting the festival, was also published to compensate for the loss of the Ripsaw's coverage.

New bands performing in 2006 included Cars & Trucks, the Acceleratii, Batteries. Kritical Kontact and The Tap Room had moved Mr. Kickass — all of which would become Homegrown mainstays in the fol- Fourth Avenue West above

lowing years.

Sacred Heart Music Center hosted its first Homegrown show, featuring Orley Francois, Charlie Parr, the Three Altos and Trampled by Turtles. It was the first time a space that large had been used for a weekday show during Homegrown.

* 2007: Homegrown 9

ninth Homegrown The would go down in history for a number of things unrelated to music.

For the first time in Homegrown history, the Friday bands finally defeated the Saturday bands at kickball, winning 4-3. It was also the final Homegrown before Minnesota's ban on smoking in workplaces took effect, so it was the last time bar venues were filled with a nicotine haze during the festival — other than in Superior, where smoking was permitted until after the 2010 Homegrown.

out of Fitger's Brewery Complex to a spot on



1) 2015 - Chicken Shack | p. Crystal Holden 2) 2008 - Shaky Ray BBQ | p. Chip Rogers 3) 2007 - Prince Paul | p. Rich Narum

1) 2010 - A. Sparhawk & S. Garrington | p. Rich Nar 2) 2011 - Three Song Sunday | p. Bill Schwalbe



the Duluth Athletic Club Bar & Grill, where Trampled by Turtles played to a packed house.

Ness relinquished his position as festival director following the 2007 festival, announcing he was planning a run for mayor. That fall, he was elected.

The Homegrown steering committee appointed Paul Connolly, guitar player for Portrait of a Drowned Man, to be the next Homegrown director.

* 2008: Homegrown 10

A new tradition that started in 2008 was a Monday-night photo show featuring images from previous Homegrowns. The exhibit was coordinated by the Duluth Photographer's Guild, which had formed one year earlier and thoroughly documented the 2007 Homegrown experience.

Bone Appetit reunited for a show on the NorShor's main stage. The line outside Pizza Lucé extended around the block for the back-to-back performances of Giljunko and Tram-

pled by Turtles.

★ 2009: Homegrown II

Highlights of Homegrown 2009 included the last shows at the Blue Crab Bar, the first-ever Homegrown Pub Quiz, a reunion performance by surf rockers the Hadjis followed by Fred Tyson in all his glory at the Main Club, a logistical nightmare of an attempt to coordinate bus trips from the center of Duluth out to the Lakeview Castle (now the Clearwater Grille) for Retribution shows. and Gospel Choir performing an afternoon concert in an Endion-neighborhood living room.

It was also the first year Homegrown's video showcase became the Homegrown Music Video Showcase, with a new format of having videographers produce music videos for songs randomly drawn from a hat.

After two successful years running Homegrown, Paul Connolly announced in the summer he would be stepping down.

In July, the steering com- closing out the Rex Bar.



mittee convened to launch a search for a new director, and four months later, Shana David-Massett was chosen.

Ironically, David-Massett had been nearly cut from the list of performers for the 2009 Homegrown. She was new to town, no one had heard of her and she hadn't performed much outside of quest vocal slots during Saturday Jazz at the Club Saratoga. On the strength of the mp3 she submitted, the committee chose her for the last available slot in the 2009 festival. By the end of the year, she was running the whole thing.

* 2010: Homegrown 12

Among the bands reuniting for Homegrown 12 were the Fromundas and Ballyhoo. Both bands helped transform the local music scene in the late 1990s. The Fromundas had not performed together in 13 years; Ballyhoo had been broken up for eight years. Bone Appetit played what at that point was considered its final-final show, closing out the Rex Bar. The NorShor Theatre, still with a strip club on its mezzanine level, hosted a Saturday show that filled its main theater. Retribution Gospel Choir opened up, expanding its audience from the previous year's living-room show by about 800. Frank Nichols took the stage to say a few words and blast on his harmonica, then Trampled by Turtles drove it home from there.

***** 2011: Homegrown 13

Just to add a little extra work on the pile, a new off-season event was created in 2011 — the Homegrown Winter Fiasco. The inaugural event was held in January at Teatro Zuccone, Carmody Irish Pub and Rex Bar. The Winter Fiasco grew out of a need to start recruiting volunteers three months in advance of the full-blown festival.

Highlights of the 2011 festival proper included Homegrown's first shows at the new Clyde Iron Works, where Charlie Parr, Old Knifey & the Cutthroats and Trampled by Turtles filled the house.



tured 200 acts, although one canceled on short notice and brought the number down to 199. Up to that moment in the festival's history, it had grown at an average pace of a dozen acts per year.

Memorable moments in 2014 included the Blackeyed Snakes performing with Charlie Parr at Clyde Iron Works, a bat flying around ominously over the audience at Sacred Heart Music Center during a performance by Low, and Sarah Krueger turning her set at Rex Bar into a dance party.

***** 2015: Homegrown 17

Homegrown added its second out-of-town event in 2015, holding the inaugural Iron Range Invasion in March at three venues in Virginia. The main festival in May featured 200 acts, the most in the history of Homegrown.

Large-stage shows in 2015 included a first-time Homegrown performance by members of the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra in the Clyde Iron Works

Elton John was in town for a concert at the new Amsoil Arena, and his keyboard player Kim Bullard sat in with Jessica Myshack during her set at Fitger's Brewhouse.

Two legendary bands from before there was a Homegrown played the 13th annual festival. Low returned for the first time in five years and only the second time as a three-piece, closing out a show at Sacred Heart. Puddle Wonderful reunited at R. T. Quinlan's for its only show since 1998.

Walter Raschick, who was a Homegrown steering committee member at the time, said the Puddle Wonderful show was a personal highlight for him.

Raschick grew up in rural Wisconsin and came to Superior to attend UWS. He started hosting a radio show at the college station in 2004, taking on the persona of Walt Dizzo. By 2007 he was providing volunteer help for Homegrown, then became a steering committee member in 2009. When David-Massett decided after Homegrown 13 to return to Jacksonville, Fla. to open a movie theater with her husband, Raschick was the steering committee's clear choice to be her successor.

★ 2012: Homegrown 14

Raschick estimated he was working 78 hours a week together while putting Homegrown 14, between his other four jobs. Homegrown continued to expand in 2012 with 167 bands performing. The new tradition of a large midweek show at Grandma's Sports Garden was started with performances by the Boomchucks and Big Wave Dave & the Ripples. Another new addition to the festival was a Sunday afternoon show at Club Saratoga.

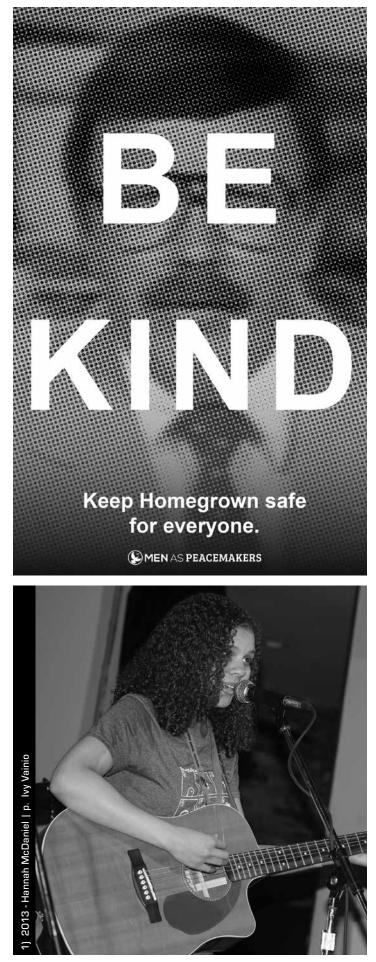
At Clyde Iron Works, Trampled by Turtles returned with Father Hennepin and Equal Xchange opening, an event that produced a full day of online speculation about the line outside the building for tickets, which ultimately flowed smoothly. ★ 2013: Homegrown 15 Under the leadership of Raschick, Homegrown became an independent nonprofit with its own board of directors.

Homegrown's 15th anniversary saw the festival grow to 184 acts — 173 bands, 10 DJs and one fire-spinning group. Performers on the big stage at Clyde Iron Works were Jason Wussow & Friends, the Keep Aways and Trampled by Turtles. The following night at the Sports Garden, Sarah Krueger, Charlie Parr and Fred Tyson & His Tysonettes played the big room.

Another off-season event was added to Homegrown in 2013. The Twin Cities Takeover was held at the Amsterdam Bar in St. Paul. The event would repeat in subsequent years with a new name, Twin Cities Invasion, and a different location, the Turf Club.

★ 2014: Homegrown 16

The last significant jump in the number of performers at Homegrown happened in 2014. The schedule fea-



event center. Also on that bill were Big Wave Dave & the Ripples and Trampled by Turtles.

* 2016: Homegrown 18

The 2016 Homegrown was the last organized by Walter Raschick. He held the job for five years, spanning 2012 to '16. In 2017 and '18 he served as director emeritus, charged with establishing connections with other festivals and doing regional outreach.

***** 2017: Homegrown 19

Melissa La Tour took over as director following the 2016 festival. Similar to Raschick, she rose up in the ranks, volunteering for Homegrown in various capacities before taking on the chief leadership role.

The biggest change with Homegrown in 2017 was the explosion of the Children's Music Showcase. The festival had experimented numerous times with holding a family event designed for kids, and the results were consistently tepid. The decision to hold the event on the opening day of the festival at the Duluth Children's Museum, however, brought people out in masses.

Westside Wednesday was also particularly well received in 2017, from the Social Disaster's scintillating performance at Clyde Iron Works to Al Sparhawk joining Low Forms for a set of Joy Division covers at the Gopher Lounge and Jimi Cooper tearing it up at Mr. D's with Father Hennepin. ★ 2018: Homegrown 20 The headline of the 2018 festival was the return of the NorShor Theatre, and a mini-return to event coordination by Scott Lunt. The Homegrown founder came out of retirement when he heard the 20th annual festival was not going to include music at its founding location.

The completion of the NorShor renovation overlapped the planning for Homegrown and it wasn't clear at the time if a music event could be pulled off there. Lunt wouldn't take that for an answer.

Lunt curated a Homegrown jam for his 50th birthday that opened with him sharing the stage for a performance sketch with Bryan Johnson and Rick Boo, written by Jean Sramek and narrated by Christine Dean. Music was performed by Father Hennepin, Jerree Small, Ballyhoo, Toby Thomas Churchill, the Little Black Books and Amy Abts.

***** 2019: Homegrown 21

The big change in 2019 was the realignment of Monday-night festivities. From the first time Homegrown became an eightday affair in 2006, Monday night had been considered "Ancillary Arts Night," with a focus on videos, photography and poetry. The new focus of Monday is bringing the festival to Duluth's Lincoln Park Craft District.

The Children's Music Showcase returned, at its third venue in three years. Lake Superior Zoo hosted

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six acts outside its main building.

Another new venue, Empire Coffee in Superior, was added to the Thursday lineup.

The overall schedule for Homegrown 21 included 193 acts at 41 venues. The future seemed bright in 2019. The biggest concern seemed to be how to manage the growth.

★ 2020: Homegrown 22

Planning for Homegrown happens year-round, but is primarily a six-month effort that begins in November. By mid January the first draft of the schedule is created and agreements with venues are set. Each year there are surprises that pop up and test the organizational skills of Hometee members. And those issues are always small in comparison to 2020.

It wasn't just the pandemic that hijacked the process. On Nov. 7, 2019, Homegrown Director Melissa La Tour's home burned down. There were no injuries, but the house was a total loss.

"It was devastating and emotionally draining," La Tour said. "It happened in the midst of planning the festival, and you know, I'm not going to lie and say it was easy to keep things together when that was going on."

The annual Homegrown Winter Fiasco was held at four venues in Downtown Duluth in January. Planning for the full-on festival in May continued as usual,

grown staff and commit- though concerns began to the Intrepid Building, a surface about a potential space that was supposed coronavirus outbreak. By February it had a name: COVID-19.

> At the start of March it was clear a pandemic could threaten plans for Homegrown. The first COVID case in Minnesota was reported on March 6. On the same day, the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas was canceled.

> "SXSW Cancelled! Is HGMF next!?!?!?" read a Facebook post by Homegrown founder Scott Lunt that same day. La Tour saw the post and realized things were getting serious.

> It was March 15 when members of the Homegrown steering committee and board of directors

to serve as the festival's Chicken Shack that year. In an atmosphere similar to a cabinet meeting during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a somber group made the difficult decision to cancel in-person Homegrown events.

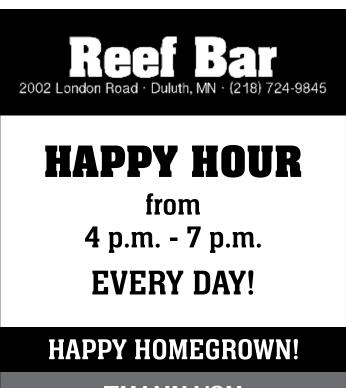
"I had been weighing pros and cons and reaching out to a few different people in the festival industry to try to get their insights," La Tour said. "I knew I was going to recommend canceling at that point. It was hard because we had just moved our stuff into that space maybe a week prior."

Not only was Homegrown's temporary headquarters freshly moved into, but met in the lower level of the schedule had been fi-



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THANK YOUfor supporting the Reef Bar! nalized and the 108-page Homegrown Field Guide was finished and scheduled to be sent to the printer the next day.

"When I sat down I could feel the tension in the room," La Tour said about the meeting. "I knew I was just teetering on tears. And when we all kind of decided that was the thing we were going to go forward with ... that's where I kind of lost it."

Although it felt like the festival was canceled in its entirety, it was specifically *in-person events* that were canceled. Hope remained that online events could be organized and perhaps concerts with physical distancing.

"Obviously Homegrown wasn't entirely canceled," La Tour said. "But it definitely was different." Names like "Virtual Homegrown" and "Fake Homegrown" were bandied about, but the one that seemed to catch on was "StayHomegrown."

The three somewhat official events were the Homegrown Poetry Showcase, Music Video Showcase and Photography Showcase, all pre-recorded and released online during festival week.

Most of the events of "StayHomegrown" were wrangled together outside the purview of the festival's organizational bodies, however.

Kala Moira of the band Winzige Hosen created the Unofficial Duluth Homegrown Music Festival Scavenger Hunt. Participants could declare a team on the Facebook event page, view a list of tasks and point values, then pursue

victory by sharing videos typically play for. Before and photos of the tasks being completed. Duluth," Starfire leaned

Breanne Marie, Ann Kathryn and Theresa Williams were among the artists who performed concerts on Facebook during the week.

A livestream Dance Attic show opened with Jimi Cooper and Suzi Ludwig on their porch. They launched into a cover of the Neil Young song "Homegrown" as Scott "Starfire" Lunt strolled and strummed his way into the frame to sing on the first three songs. The three musicians are all members of Father Hennepin.

Though the Starfire walk-on seemed like the iconic moment of "StayHomegrown," the trio wasn't reaching an audience anywhere near the Homegrown crowds Father Hennepin would

typically play for. Before launching into "I Like it in Duluth," Starfire leaned into a monitor to see who was watching. "We got 10 eyeballs," he said.

Duluth Coffee Company presented live music throughout the week via Instagram, with performances by Charlie Parr, Actual Wolf, Teague Alexy and Ingeborg von Agassiz. Parr also performed a concert live from Duluth Cider.

Longtime local music fan and photographer Rich Narum maintained his tradition of hosting performances in his living room on Thursday afternoon of Homegrown. His house is known as "2104" and the annual party carries the name "SoupB4Supe," because soup is served and the event is held before Homegrown shows in Superior. This time, the party included just musicians



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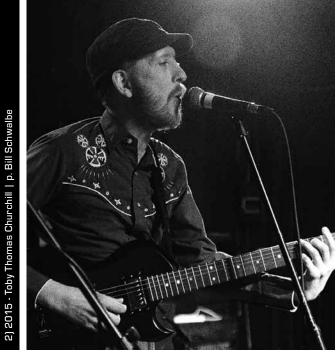
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and support people, all trying to stay spread out.

Though numerous events occurred during the week to keep the spirit of Homegrown alive, La Tour still felt so much had been lost.

"There's something about getting out there with our community," she said. "It was just very hard because I kept reflecting on how much work everybody put into (the planned in-person festival)."

La Tour had been planning to retire from directing Homegrown, and 11 days after the festival she made the announcement to the steering committee via email.

"I had lived through a house fire and lived through some pretty significant life happenings and thought it was a great time to complete my term," she said. "And then the pandemic happens and kind of shifts the condition of the festival and I wanted to make sure when my footprint was left that the festival was in good hands and good financial stability."

After talking with the board of directors over the summer, she eventually withdrew her resignation.

"The board asked me to stay on and guide the festival through the pandemic, which is basically what I ended up doing," she said. "And I don't regret that decision. I think that it was the right thing to do."

In September, the music community had another heartbreak. Scott Nelson, one of the owners of Pizza

Lucé, died after a difficult battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He had moved to Duluth in 2001 to open the third restaurant in the Twin Cities-based chain. The Duluth Pizza Lucé quickly became a hotbed for local music and touring bands, and Nelson himself was heavily steeped in it.

★ 2021: Homegrown 23

Though live music had returned to some venues in the second half of 2020, it tended to be outdoors or with a limited attendance. By the end of the year it was unclear what would be possible in May 2021. Vaccines were just beginning to become available, but it was unknown how smoothly that process would go.

Ultimately, the committee again had to make the difficult decision to not hold in-person concerts. This time, however, its members would be better prepared to carry out an online festival.

Musicians were asked to submit pre-recorded material to be curated into daily releases on the festival's YouTube channel during the festival. Homegrown's assistant technology director Joe Sauve led up the task of compiling the video releases.

Various Homegrown traditions returned, though in digital form. The Children's Music Showcase opened the festival, followed by Mayor Emily Larson's Mayoral Proclamation and the New Band Showcase. Also on opening day, Homegrown's stream featured

 $38 \star$ Homegrown Music Festival 2023 | 25th Annual \star

2013 - Sarah Krueger | p. Bill Schwalbe

the Minnesota Music Coalition's 2021 State of Minnesota Music Summit. Performing live from Sacred Heart Music Center were Cory Coffman, Superior Siren and AfroGeode

Programming during the week included the poetry, photo and music video showcases, along with a short film by Teague Alexy. There was a giant block of music from the Embassy art cult, with sets by a variety of local DJs. Rich Narum produced livestream events throughout the week, with Homegrown piggybacking on his Thursday night livestream. The festival's two big blocks of curated, pre-recorded music were released on Friday and Saturdav.

"Joe did an amazing job with the programming piece and put in so many hours to get all of that lined up," La Tour said. "A handful of us went to his house to watch over a little fire out on his deck."

Somewhat awkwardly, there actually was live music loosely affiliated with the festival that week. Although putting on a multi-venue indoor event like Homegrown at the time was considered unsafe. Earth Rider Brewery had outdoor festival grounds that were perfect for pulling off a smaller version.

Though not organized or promoted by Homegrown, the Starfire Unofficial Birthdav Bash at Earth Rider will nonetheless be remembered as part of the festival. The four nights of performances included

three performances from 23 acts, including Charlie Parr, Lanue, the Black-eyed Snakes, Father Hennepin, Superior Siren and New Salty Dog. It was a sign better days were ahead.

> Still, the pandemic continued to be unpredictable. Making decisions in October about events in May would be risky.

★ 2022: Homegrown 24

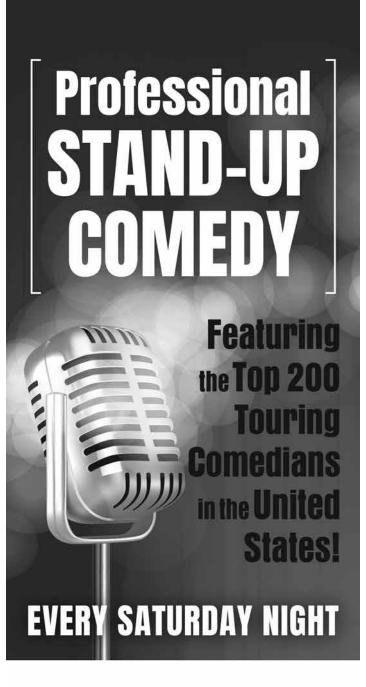
"My number-one fear was safety," La Tour said about her feelings as the 2022 festival approached. "How are we going to keep the crowds at a safe distance? Do we mask, don't we mask? That kind of thing."

A pair of local concerts in March led to small COVID outbreaks. Most people were not getting severely ill, however.

The committee knew convincing more than 40 locations to require masks during the festival when they did not in general would have been a heavy undertaking. Ultimately, it was left up to each venue to decide.

Sacred Heart would be the only masks-required venue during the festival. It dropped the measure shortly afterward.

Homegrown 2022 was a major success in terms of attendance and stellar performances. The festival got off to a great start with the introduction of a new Homegrown chalice at Hoops Brewing for the mayoral toast. Later that night, Keith Dust ripped the crowd into a frenzy at Carmody Irish Pub.



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The Duluth Entertainment tual Wolf concert, and it Convention Center hosted four bands in its Harborside Ballroom and added a bonus show in Symphony Hall featuring Cars & Trucks performing at the side of the stage with the audience also on the stage and no one in the seats. The band had been on hiatus, having not played together since 2015.

Westside Wednesday featured Ingeborg von Agassiz, Sadkin and the Latelys on the big stage at Clyde Iron Works. Thursday featured wild trolley performances by Jerree Small with various quest performers and then New Salty Dog. The line to see Lyla Abukhodair on Friday night at Pizza Luce went out the door and stretched for a block like the days of Trampled by Turtles Homegrown shows there. And as much as the party raged on Friday, Saturday exceeded it.

But by the end of the week it was clear holding so many indoor events in crowded spaces would end up being a superspreader.

"When the festival was wrapping up there were so many COVID positives, myself included, popping up," La Tour said.

Among the many who got show at Honor the Earth's sick was none other than Duluth Mayor Emily Larson. Although she had various none-Homegrown events she also attended that week, she's pretty sure a specific show at the festival was the source.

was worth it," Larson said. "It turns out that moving every hour into rooms with different groups of people who are unmasked during a pandemic is a terrific way to get COVID."

Balancing the public health concern with the desire to rock and roll remains an ongoing issue going into Homegrown 2023.

"The reality is, yeah, this is a variable we live with now," Larson said. "Hopefully they'll be opportunities for people to feel safe and comfortable."

In August, having led Homegrown back from the pandemic, La Tour again announced her retirement as director, effective at the end of the year.

The return of live music in 2022 would end up being overshadowed by another crushing loss in the scene, however. Mimi Parker of Low died of ovarian cancer in November.

For three decades, Low was Duluth's best-known band, with Parker's vocals and drum work a central part of group's "slowcore" sound.

"Another really tough, tough loss to the community," La Tour said. She got to see Parker and Low's final Water is Life Festival at Bayfront Park.

"Being out front and watching that performance and how she got up on stage and she played with so much power and so much love. I feel grateful that I "I know I got it at the Ac- was able to be there for



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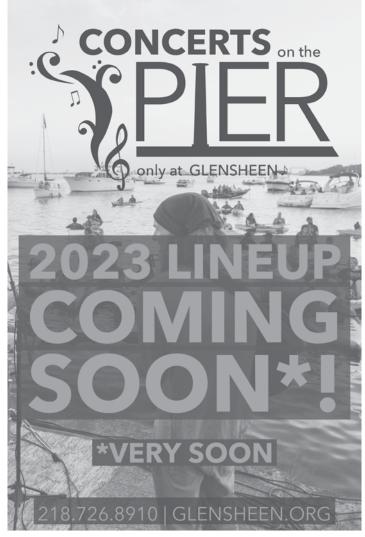
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2020 - Meeting to cancel in-person Homegrown | p. Paul Lundgren

that performance and I can't put into words the loss I feel for (Parker's husband Alan Sparkhawk) and the family and the community as a whole. It's devastating."

★ 2023: Homegrown 25

Homegrown's board of directors tapped two steering committee members to serve as interim co-directors for the 2023 festival — Cory Jezierski and Dereck Murphy-Williams.

"Both are very strong in what they've done for Homegrown in the past, so I feel confident about that and have worked with them and the board to ensure a seamless transition," La Tour said. "And I feel really good about where the festival is going. I think that going into the next quarter of a century of the festival is the perfect time to bring on a fresh set of eyes."

Homegrown held its annual Winter Fiasco at five Lincoln Park Craft District locations in January. Spirits were noticeably high and the venues were packed for performances by 15 bands, including Fenestra Funk, All the Pretty Horses and Torment. Free of directorial duties, La Tour attended the Winter Fiasco as a fan. After all she went through leading Homegrown through COVID, she found out a few days later that a different virus had got to her this time. Call it a parting gift from Homegrown's mascot; La Tour had chickenpox.

"Of all the things for me to exit with," La Tour said. "You know, let's go out full on and get chickenpox at the age of 53!"

She didn't get infected at the Winter Fiasco, however.

"My boyfriend's dad had contracted shingles while we were in Chicago for Christmas," she said. "Since I had never had chickenpox I didn't get shingles from him, I got chickenpox. So, totally unrelated to Homegrown but kind of funny that I ended up with chickenpox."

25th Annual 🔭 Homegrown Music Festival **BAND PROFILES 2023**

Lyla Abukhodair

10:30pm Fri 5/5 Rex Bar at Fitger's Pop-punk princess Lyla Abukhodair has put together a killer band capable of harnessing the howling wind storm at the center of her glorious sound. As a vocalist, Abukodair can roar with the lions and purr with kittens. Big chorus anthems, catchy melodies or jazzy riffs, her songs are balanced, playful and can leap to the top of even the highest Marshall stack. Expect a high-energy, uninhibited performance with Marshall Dillon, Emanuel Eisele, Jackson Engstrom and Robert Runnels providing the big guitars and heavy rhythms that keep it all from blowing away.

The Adjustments

8:30pm Thurs 5/4 **Tower Avenue Tavern** Straight-ahead, no-nonsense rockers the Adjustments have deep roots on the Iron Range — the Chisholm High School All Class Reunion they played in 2022 provides the evidence. The quartet produces a freewheeling, bluesy groove that features solid four-part harmonies, sweet melodies and an easy double-quitar

son Browne, David Crosby, Laurel Canyon sort of sound — if Laurel Canyon were located between Aurora and Biwabik. The Adjustments are Justin Lofquist on rhythm guitar, Alex Nelson on keyboard, Timy Paul Nelson on lead guitar and Charles Lattimore on drums and vocals.

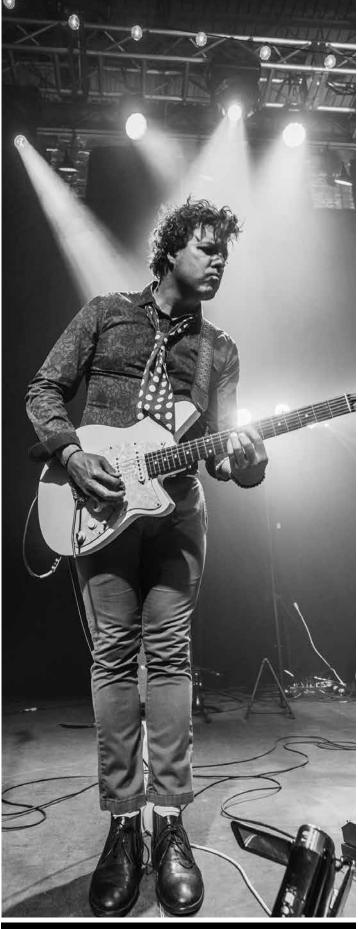
AfroGeode & the Gemstones

8pm Tues 5/2 **DECC** Arena

Each element of AfroGeode & the Gemstones could stand alone as a noteworthy entity, but the collective unit creates a magnetic field that's smooth, soulful and sincere. Founding member and vocalist Diona Johnson, also known as AfroGeode, possesses a powerfully alluring voice and a lyrical prowess, both showcased on the artist's debut EP, Unprotected Woman. With the Gemstones. additional vocals are provided by keyboardist Courtney Ellian. The band's jazz and funk influences are further illuminated through saxophonist Allison Payonk, quitarist Josh Nickila, drummer lan Hopp, and bassist Emanuel Eisele. A attack. They have a Jack- followup release featur-



Max Mileski | p. Matthew Moses



Nicholas Hanson | p. Matthew Moses

ing the full band is in the with Spanish lyrics, takworks.

Alamode

10:45pm Thurs 5/4 The Main Club

If indie-pop dance band Alamode were a dish of ice cream, what flavor would it be? "It's vanilla with a cherry on top," vocalist Nathan Holte said on the PBS North show The PlayList. "And maybe some whipped cream on the side." The group, formed in 2015, released its now classic full-length album Swell in 2018. It's groovy, sweaty, seductive and still drips with flavor four years later. Bright guitars, big beats and a hi-hat sound filled with glossy synths and punchy bass lines always makes for a sweet scoop of dance music. Holte is backed by guitarist Peter Knutson, keyboard player Ned Netzel, bassist Alex Piazza and drummer Rio Daugherty.

Alberto del Toro

8:30pm Tues 5/2 Vikre Distillery

Alberto Serrano Rivera moved from Puerto Rico to Minnesota at a young age, spending time in of a ceremonial guitar ... both St. Cloud and the Twin Cities before finding his way to Duluth where, for many years, he fronted the introspective rock band A Winter Downpour. As a way to stay connected to his first language, he started writing songs percussion, who promise

ing inspiration both from his post-punk/rock background and from the music he heard growing up, including romantica, salsa and merengue. At first intimidated by the idea of sharing this music, Serrano Rivera found inspiration in how young Latin American artists in the indie music scene incorporate their identity into their work. Adopting the name Alberto del Toro for the project, he made his Homegrown debut last year, performing solo on electric guitar.

Teague Alexy & the Common Thread

9pm Sat 5/6 Sacred Heart

Teague Alexy has been a regular performer at Homegrown since 2001. His band the Common Thread features sweet vocal harmonies. a dvnamic fluctuation of mellow to menacing rhythms, and the ability to build anticipation and make a big splash. For example, Alexy closed out the 2018 Homegrown with a performance that culminated in the surprise smashing on a Sunday afternoon. Along with longtime collaborators Tyler Dubla on percussion and Brian Wells on bass, the full band adds Jacob Mahon on guitar, Rob Jones on keys and Eric Bong on



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folksy, Americana original Ian Kvale and Todd Garsonas.

to enrich Alexy's often solo and with "Friends" land.

Ian Alexy and **Friends**

10pm Sat 5/6 Sir Benedict's Tavern Rock-and-roll vagabond lan Alexy moved to Duluth 20 years ago and launched a music career performing in a variety of Americana and folk bands — including Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank with his brother Teague. The group recorded five albums, toured the nation and scored a hit in Green Bay Packerland with the sona "Old Number Four." A 2008 move to the Twin Cities saw the formation of lan Alexy and the Deserters where his song- I Think the Darkness, in writing expanded into June. funk, rock and world music. Now back in Duluth. Alexy is a member of the group Babie Eyes, along with regularly performing

All the Pretty Horses

12am Sat 5/6 Pizza Lucé

Duluth native Venus de Mars is once again bringing her full Minneapolis-based glam-punk band home for Homegrown. The roots of the group go back 30 years, though there have been numerpersonnel changous es along the way. The current lineup features bassist Danimae Vossen. drummer Trever "T-Rev" Hawley and guitar player Susanna "Sweet" Mae Schlangen. The group released a new album.

Anatomy of **Ruminants**

9:30pm Thurs 5/4 **Tower Avenue Tavern**

Both ancient and futuristic. unbound to terrestrial limitations yet deeply intertwined with the earth, Anatomy of Ruminants is one of the most unique offerings in the sprawl of Duluth music. Layering together synthesized soundscapes. samples from the natural world and the human voice as an instrument, Tina Fox has crafted an ever-changing, cathartic drone project that wraps its reverberations around the listener and holds on tight. In collaboration with fellow noisemaker Tobin Dack. the immersive waves of sound challenge conven-tions and open the door to other realms, like a pagan ceremony for the modern age.

Anderson Twuo

11pm Tues 5/2 **Dubh Linn Irish Pub** Anderson Twuo is an experimental, free-form jazz duo featuring percussionist Garth Anderson and saxophone wizard Joseph Anderson. Formed in 2021, the prolific pair has posted eight releases on Bandcamp, including live performances from West Duluth institutions Wussow's Concert Cafe and the Jade Fountain. The instrumental work is edgy and mysterious. Compositions feel improvised and can take off with the force of a fighter jet or float like a falling maple leaf. Keyboard and guitar are occasionally introduced to give pieces another dimension.

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Ann Kathryn & Band

3:30pm Sun 5/7 **Canal Park Brewing**

Duluth native Ann Kathryn first drew attention with her powerful vocals in bands including Lookdown Moon. Since striking out on her own, she's added keyboards and songwriting to her repertoire, releasing an impressive debut solo album. Entr'acte. in 2019. Her soulful, dynamic sound is rounded out by her band, featuring Duluthians George Ellsworth on bass and guitar and, occasionally, Brian Bluhm on French horn, plus Minneapolis-based lead guitarist Dominic McFadden. Band highlights from the past year include a performance at the Lake Superior Harvest Festival at Bayfront Festival Park in September. A sophomore album is in the works.

Flip Arkulary

7:30pm Fri 5/5 Zeitgeist Teatro As former guitarist for the Half Hearts, singer for Exiles and guitarist for Tyrannicals, Flip Arkulary made a name for himself as a performer in the Duluth music scene and beyond. He opened a recording studio in 2019 and has since become more known as a sound engineer. He's not done making his own music, however. In August Arkulary released the lo-fi vibrations.

edition of his first solo album, a space opera titled Dipper, and is working on two follow-up releases. Many of the musicians who appear on Dipper are expected to join him on stage at Homegrown, such as Moriah Robyn Skye, Benjamin Brueland, Kenneth Gregory Bressler, Eric Pollard and Misisipi Mike Wolf. Expect costumes, story arcs and plenty of synthesizers.

Austin Castle

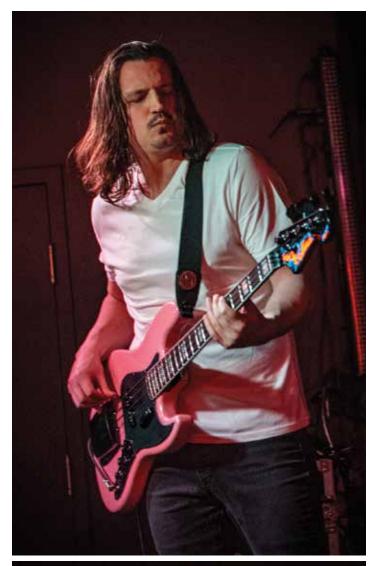
7:15pm Thurs 5/4 Cedar Lounge

Beaver Falls native Austin Castle Ourada got his start in music while studying audio production in the Twin Cities and working in a lumberyard to earn money for recording studio time. He moved to Duluth about three years ago and released his debut album Northwoods in August. While primarily focused on country music, he explores multiple genres with the general goal to make music his friends and family can sing along to. Cole Mikel Gewerth fills out the sound on guitar.

Babie Eyes

4:15pm Sun 4/30 **Hoops Brewing** Babie Eyes is a five-piece jam-rock band formed a little over a year ago and already filling bar rooms and breweries across the state with trippy, good The group







Derrick Alan | p. Matthew Moses
 Darling Danger | p. Matthew Moses

features abstract visual artist and songwriter Heidi Feroe fronting topshelf guitar player Jacob Mahon and Hobo Nephew lan Alexy on bass. Keyboard whiz Kenneth Bressler and veteran drummer Curtis Bellows round out the sound. The band plays sparse, groove-heavy songs that roll down from the stage like a puff of smoke. Feroe's clear, rich voice cuts through it all. A debut album has been recorded with Rich Mattson at his Sparta Sound studio.

The Bahn Bahns 11pm Sun 4/30

Pizza Lucé

Gritty garage rockers the Bahn Bahns formed during the pandemic to cut a collection of songs written by singer and quitarist Andy Bahn. The resulting 12-track demo "We Are The Sun," posted on YouTube, rollicks and roars like "Marquee Moon" if Television wore parkas and stocking caps instead of CBGB street fashion. Supporting Bahn are longtime Duluth rockers Andy Nielsen on bass, Nate Stumme on guitar, and Tim Ollhoff on drums, who have performed around the Twin Ports in cover bands like Sons of Fogtown and the yacht-rock trio Wife of the Butcher.

A Band Called Truman

10:15pm Sat 5/6 R.T. Quinlan's Saloon The seven-piece "rockska-boogie-down affair" called A Band Named Truman is led by singer and guitarist Leon Rohrbaugh. The band has been featured on the compilation albums Free Wheelin' Duluth Does Dylan, Cedar Sessions, Vol. 1 and One Week Live, Volume 17. Spanning ages "30 to 70 and everything in between," the band includes lan Connell on drums, Jim Pospisil on keys, John Erickson on bass, and a horn section comprised of Dale Shimmin on trombone, Jessica Lilja Olson on trumpet, and Kelli Hallsten Erickson on saxophone. Throwing down mostly uptempo original tunes with a punky, soul groove, the band is known for jumping around and sweating. "For a bunch of old farts, we're pretty hyper," said Rohrbaugh. "I'm excited every time we play."

Bark Point

1:30pm Sun 5/7 Canal Park Brewing The past year has been a major launching point for Adam Hildebrandt. Following the release of Bark Point's debut EP, the self described "earthgrass" stylings of the singer-songwriter found an enormous audience of folk enthusiasts online tens of thousands of listens over the course of tle the boredom of the a few months, the music proved itself of both its vitality and virality. Mellow, modest and comfortingly evocative of their natural surroundings, Hildebrandt's songs are met with string-filled harmonies from Chase Rabideau and Thomas Sticha for additional texture and depth.

and beyond. Reeling in another necessary creation brought on to batlockdown epoch. Guitarist Kyle Barden, bassist Amy Kozak, and drummer Al Panchyshyn make up this rowdy sounding outfit, and together they are sure to bring down the house with their loud, riffheavy jams. Their threesong EP can be found on Bandcamp.

Bellerpuss

11:15pm Wed 5/3 Kom-on-Inn

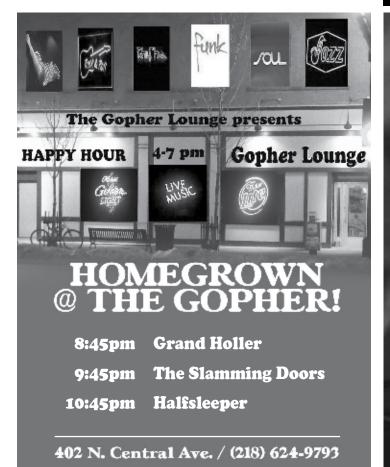
The members of Bellerpuss aren't afraid to turn tarist Darin up the heat and blast any unsuspecting crowd with a ferocious and driving energy. The three-piece heavy punk band was

Darin Bergsven

8:15pm Thurs 5/4 Cedar Lounge Duluth-based jazz gui-Bergsven has performed with an amazing number of the region's musicians both on stage and during his regular YouTube channel



Sue Hagge | p. Matthew Moses



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show Coffee & Guitar. The list is long and diverse: Owls Club Big Band, Maxi Childs Trio, Woodblind, Alan Sparhawk and Breanne Marie to name a few. Why so many collaborators? Because Bergsven is a skilled soloist and creative improviser. His light touch and laid-back style is honest and natural. A YouTube post earlier this year saw him light up a hollow body Epiphone with "A String of Pearls," made famous by Glenn Miller in 1941, followed by the Pixies' 1988 rock classic "Where is My Mind?"

Bill Berguson Band

10:45pm Sat 5/6 **Carmody Irish Pub**

A three-track sampler on the Bill Berguson Band website showcases the quartet's tight, rock-forward sound: blazing guitar, wild organ and heavy drum work. The group leans into the experimental with two tight instrumentals and takes a critical look at modern-day work life on the song "I Will Be Free." Band leader Bill Berguson is a straightfrom-the-gut singer and has developed both a light touch and fire-wagon roar on the Strat. Multi-instrumentalist Mark Eskola shines on the keys but also contributes on the guitar and cello. Travis Hilton on drums and Chris Engstrom on bass hold down a solid-gold rhythm section.

Berserk Blondes!

7:45pm Mon 5/1 **Bent Paddle Brewing** Duluth-based songbird Kavlee Matuszak and Iron Range one-man-band Steve Solkela have joined forces to fight a boredom-plaqued society as the Berserk Blondes! With superpowers that include squeezebox anthems and string-plucked ditties sung in pure Minna-sotah style, the new duo promises to rend northland doldrums asunder. There will be music. There will be laughs. There will be amazing feats. The duo promises a little bit of rock 'n' roll, a little bit of pop and, yes, axes. Matuszak and Solkela call Berserk Blondes! "a song-beltin' adventure toward musical excellence."

Beyondbliss

7pm Mon 5/1 Wild State Cider Social and political commentary make Superior-based rapper David Kittelson sizzle like a Fox News TV feed on fast forward. His Beyondbliss YouTube channel burns with hot takes on the permanent pandemic, bigtech corruption and Travis Scott. Another piece, "Divide and Conquer," features a split-screen red vs. blue debate over what controversial characters

Rittenhouse like Kyle mean for the country. Kittelson has been a Home-

50 ★ HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023 25TH ANNUAL ★

grown mainstay since his days in the band Kritical Kontact and promises new material for his 2023 appearance.

Bigbabyjay

7:15pm Fri 5/5 Legacy Glassworks

Florida native Jalawrence Minus got started in music at the age of 9, writing rhymes and singing in church. "Music has always been my passion," he said, noting his inspiration comes from the music of Michael Jackson, Lil Wayne and the Notorious B.I.G. He spent part of his younger days in Duluth, moved back to Florida, then returned to Duluth in 2017. "For a while finding people to take me seriously with my music was hard," he said, "but now I have a wonderful team behind me that believes in me." A handful of Bigbabyjay singles dropped in 2020 and 2021, but 2022 was a breakout year with an EP and two full-length albums — *Latto World* in February, *A Mile in My Shoes* in June and *What it Takes to be King*, a collaboration with Loc Da Realist, in July.

Big Science 8:30pm Fri 5/5

8:30pm Fri 5/5 Zeitgeist Teatro The electronic chefs in Big Science don't really have a recipe for their "Sound Soup." Tyler Scouton, Aaron Molina, Tim Kaiser, Nate J. Mattson and Jake Larson bring their strange, homemade ingredients to their kitchen stage in boxes, laptops and keyboards. They plug everything in, mix it all together and let the sound boil over. The concoction is served up in a wash of beeps, buzzes, screeches and drones. It's a hearty, stick-to-your-ears that has as much flavor as a beef stew made with a truck load of potatoes and every vegetable in the SuperOne produce section.

Big Into 7pm Fri 5/5

Wussow's Concert Cafe Big Into is an edgy, twopiece nerd-rock band featuring vocalist and guitar player Jozef Conaway

Curtis and drummer "Kraft" Mattson, who also adds vocal work. Formed in 2017, the band advances experiments from Conaway and Mattson's previous weirdo spacerock band Good Colonels. They create a groovy, trippy sound with long distance links that stretch feast from 1950s bongo rock to post-punk Pere Ubu and off-beat K Records goofiness. The Big Into recorded its debut album Cold Fortunes and Warriors Obscura at Sparta Sound and released the 14-track recording in 2020.



p. Crvsta Anton Jimenez-Kloeckl | p. Paul I Dan the Monkey Man |



Big Wave Dave and the **Ripples**

11:45pm Sat 5/6 **Blacklist Brewing** It's been a dozen years now since "Big Wave" Dave Adams and his crew playing steady began gigs. The lineup has shuffled over the years,

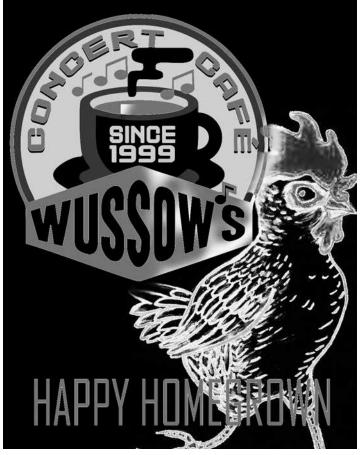
but fully half of the 2023 Twin Ports. Adams belts members were there in out the vocals, backed by 2011. The band's mix of Peter Knutson and Alex soul, funk and blues and the singular mission Wells on keys, Scott Millis to get people dancing on drums, Alex Nordehn has made it a favorite on trombone, Matt Wasat large festivals, private parties and practically every nightclub stage in the

Piazza on guitars, Brian mund on baritone sax, and David Rode on trumpet.

The Bitter Spills

7:15pm Sat 5/6 **Owls Club**

It might feel like a reunion show, but Rich Mattson and Baby Grant Johnson have remained active as the Bitter Spills for 17 years. The 2023 Homegrown show is a bit of a







reunion nonetheless, because the duo played the festival eight years in a row from 2007 to 2014, then sat out the next eight years. At last, the chicken has called them back for more traditional folk, blues and country tunes from their four albums and uncatalogued repertoire of additional rags and hollers.

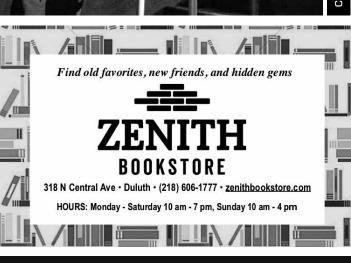
Black River Revue

12am Wed 5/3 Mr. D's Bar & Grill Ten years ago, Black River Revue got its start playing gigs at Bev's Jook Joint in Superior and what is now Wussow's Concert Cafe in West Duluth. These days the band travels to large festivals across Wisconsin and Minnesota with its "freshwater bluegrass," even playing gigs in Alaska last summer. The four-piece group is led by singer and guitarist Adam Stariha and features Tim Leutgeb on banjo, lan Kvale on bass, and Nate Hynum on man-

dolin. They deliver tight, insightful, original string songs and take occasional side trips over unexpected cover tunes. The Black River Revue catalog includes three studio albums and a live release from 2020, *Gitchi Tracks Live, Volume One*, recorded at Sacred Heart Music Center.

Blackhoof 8pm Sat 5/6

Wussow's Concert Cafe Straight out of Barnum, Blackhoof is a five-piece classic rock and country band. The foundation of the group goes back to around 2014, when a similar band called Canyon Creek was formed. The name change came in 2019 after some personnel shuffles. The current lineup features Zach Langhorst on guitar and lap steel, Mike Higby on guitar, Jon Lundberg on bass, Gary Herma on drums, and Josie Langhorst adding vocals. Along with rugged country and



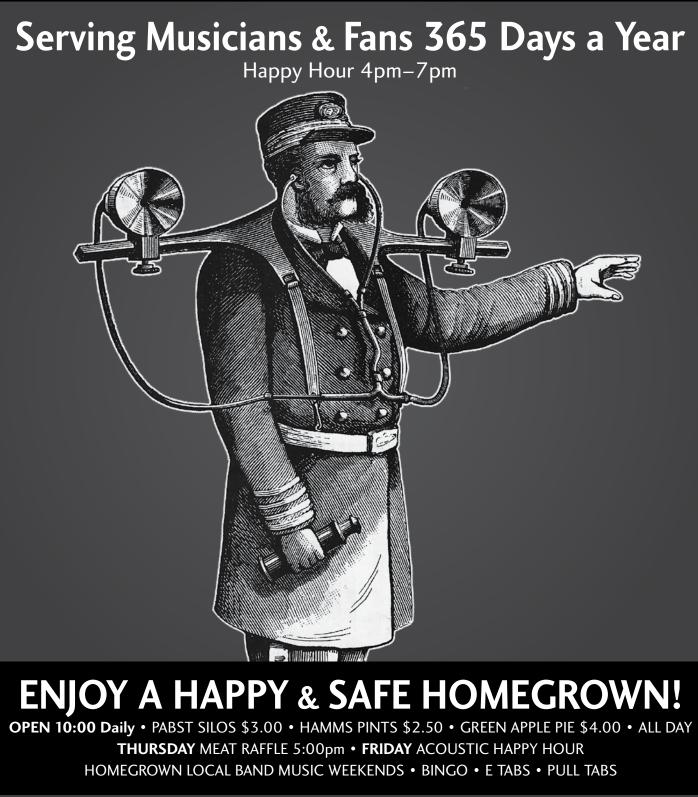
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rock favorites, Blackhoof Harris. The lean, mean, plays a mix of soulful original tunes that fit right in at events like the Carlton County Fair, Spirit Valley Days or the Mahtowa Hootenanny. The band won the Oktoberfest Battle of the Bands at Moose Lake Brewery in 2021.

Blu Volta

10:30pm Thurs 5/4 Reef Bar

Blu Volta mixes alternative rock with hints of blues, country and jazz. Vibrant quitar, driving drums and thick bass quide the sound with a plethora of Marshall Stack-inspired riffs, blues jams and psychedelia. Guitarist and vocalist Tom Johnson fashions most of the bands heavy tracks while bassist Warren Mattila and drummer/vocalist Michael Smišek add controlled heat to the eruptive vibes.

Boku Frequency

7pm Thurs 5/4 Earth Rider Brewery Guitarist Terry "Redeye Dread" Gums and bassist Thomas "Too Sharp" Harris have been playing psychedelic funk rock in Duluth for 20 years as Boku Frequency. Various drummers have occupied the stool behind them over the decades, the latest being Elliot "Backbeat"

x × × × × × × ×

down-in-the-groove power trio combines its members' styles with influences including James Brown. Jimi Hendrix. Isaac Hayes, War, Sly and the Family Stone, Santana, the Isley Brothers and a whole lot of other 1960s and '70s powerhouses.

Boog3ym3n 11:30pm Fri 5/5

Rex Bar at Fitger's Boog3ym3n is a collaboration between emcees C-Silence (Chad Brown) and Willie Diction (Willie Winklesky), produced and DJed by MidiEvil (Nick Pawlenty). The three have been making music on and off together for more than a decade. The sound is a mix of trap, hip-hop and vaporwave genres, with story-like writing and innovative hooks. With lush pads, heavy 808s, pounding drums and catchy lyrics, Boog3ym3n is not the typical hip-hop group.

Born Too Late

2:30pm Sun 5/7 **Canal Park Brewing**

Born Too Late started plaving gigs in 2016, when its members were still in elementary and middle school. They were "born too late" to have lived in the eras of the mu-K K sic in their set × * * * * *





1) Dignitaries | p. Paul Lundgren 2) Chandler Gufflyr | p. Matthew Moses



list, which featured the features songs of rock bands such son-Kava as Guns 'n' Roses and her bro Fleetwood Mac, along son-Kava with country artists such Taylor S as Johnny Cash and Patand Jon sy Cline. Since then, the Their de band has won a pair of *el Child*, battle-of-the-band contests, performed at a slew of festivals in the region and played hundreds of bar gigs. Born Too Late

features Rokkyn Nelson-Kavajecz on vocals, her brother Traxx Nelson-Kavajecz on guitar, Taylor Shykes on bass, and Jon Clark on drums. Their debut album, *Rebel Child*, was released in July.

Boss Mama and the Jebberhooch

9pm Tues 5/2 DECC Arena Mahtowa-based singer/ guitarist Colleen Myhre put out a note to the world in 2019 with the release of the album *Boss Mama*. In the lower right corner of the album cover are the words "just getting started." Though she'd been

performing for more than 20 years, she was indeed just getting started. Collaborations with a slew of the region's musicians led to the gradual and seemingly ongoing formation of Boss Mama and the Jebberhooch, a band that pushes Myhre's country soul to new levels with deep grooves and a visible sense of joy. The



band typically features Jeff Gilbertson on bass. Jacob Mahon on quitar and Owen Mahon on drums. Other musicians potentially joining in the jebberhoochery at Homegrown include Caleb Anderson, Nate Hynum, Bryan "Lefty" Johnson and Cavan Denning.

Boxcar

9pm Fri 5/5 Sacred Heart

Boxcar is a hard-driving country band with a rock 'n' roll edge. Led by singer/quitarist Blake Shippee, the group seeks to whisky-soaked cleanse souls in the names of George Jones, Hank Williams and John Prine. Joining Shippee in the band are Misisipi Mike Wolf on guitar, Rick Bruner on drums, and Gordon Lewis on bass. Boxcar's original repertoire can be heard on the 2020 album Cheap Hotel. A collection of tributes to the music aods, Covers - Vol. 1, hit Bandcamp in 2021. Shippee released a solo effort in 2022, It All Started from a Whisper.

Bratwurst

11:15pm Sat 5/6 R.T. Quinlan's Saloon

A Change.org campaign was launched last September demanding а performance Bratwurst at Red Rocks. Petitioner and frontman Tyler Scouton savs his noise/ industrial group has been

playing for 20 years and deserves the "dream" of playing the famed Colorado amphitheater. But do Scouton and band members Jason Ratajek, Leon Rohrbaugh and Brennan Atchison really dream? Their performances are more like nightmares. The group violates raw meat, punishes plastics and celebrates the destructive power of grinding steel. A 2019 Homegrown performance saw the death of a white teddy bear.

Breanne Marie & the Front Porch Sinners

7pm Tues 5/2 **DECC** Arena

Breanne Marie crafts classic country sounds through the lens of life up north, calling her music "Great Lakes country." Her band, the Front Porch Sinners, brings additional authenticity to the stage with Evan Tepler on guitar, Kyle Gondik-Anderson on bass, Matthew Groom on drums, Kailyn Spencer on fiddle, Danielle Gondik-Anderson on vocal harmonies. and Johnny "Blaze" Peterson alternating between pedal steel and mandolin. Their most recent release is the 2021 album Juniper, which features eight original songs and a cover of the Iron Range Outlaw Brigade song "Dead Man Walking."



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2) Children's Music Showcase |
p. Matthew Moses



Brinn Major

7:15pm Fri 5/5 **Owls Club**

Brandon "Brinn" James Gordon, known professionally as Brinn Major, is a rapper, singer-songwriter, actor, music producer and DJ who has also performed under the moniker Illyrik. A 10-year veteran of the Twin Ports hip-hop scene, Brinn Major coats raps in smooth, high-tech synths and sweet, shiny beats. Tracks glisten with a positive message. A 2022 four-song Soundcloud release, Spectrum, delves into weighty issues like sexuality and mental health. "People take their shots, I deflect it. Born with a mind I am blessed with," the rapper says on the uplifting title track.

The Brothers Burn Mountain

10pm Sat 5/6 Pizza Lucé

The Brothers Burn Mountain, real-life brothers Jesse and Ryan Dermody, built a recording studio out in deep woods Minnesota years ago. They've tried to capture the sound of the howling north wind, warm spring rain and evening crickets ever since. The quitar-drum duo has logged close to 2,000 shows in 22 years of performing. Their 11th fulllength album, The Thrill and the Flame, was released in July and is described by the brothers as

"our ode to resilience, our mantra to joy, our attempt at describing brief encounters with the divine in each of us."

C-Silence

10pm Wed 5/3 Mr. D's Bar & Grill Hip-hop bartender Chad Brown has been performing across the Twin Ports as C-Silence for almost two decades. A solid emcee, his work is easy, understated and as fresh as a predawn loon call. Big space between beats, words and synths create a clean sound for tracks that tackle everything from the 2020 social unrest to the beauty of Norwex cleaning products. The C-Silence Bandcamp page is loaded with more than 30 titles - singles, EPs and albums - including collaborations with Northwood and Andy "adubsgotbeats" Watson. The 19-track Bomdotcom II was released in October.

Cooking with Chef

11pm Mon 5/1 **Caddy Shack**

Cooking with Chef knows how to cook up a super-sized, quick-and-easy punk-rock burger. Just mix two hot guitars, a big fat bass and some thick, center-cut drum work with a bowl of bad-boy attitude. Set it all on fire and watch it burn for 2:09. Serve loud. Band members Alex Mason, Riley McShane,



noun - US informal

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Marcus Esters, Josiah Melton say the group is "as much about the party as it is about the music." A debut EP was released in December. Don't miss the Cooking with Chef aprons at the merch table.

The Crunchy Bunch

9:45pm Mon 5/1 Bent Paddle Brewing The Crunchy Bunch DJ collective has been lighting up dance parties, burlesque shows, beer-hall blingo and special holiday events across Duluth for more than 10 years. Chris LeBlanc, Jack Hazelton, Dan Branovan and Alexis LeBlanc spin all forms of sonic delights including house, electro, hip-hop and super-pop remixes. While two members have moved to bigger cities. the group brings it all together for Homegrown. The Crunchy Bunch regularly hosts fundraisers on its twitch.tv channel. In 2022, the group traded tunes for donations to organizations like the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault, the Harm Reduction Sisters and the YWCA.

Cyr and the Cosmonauts

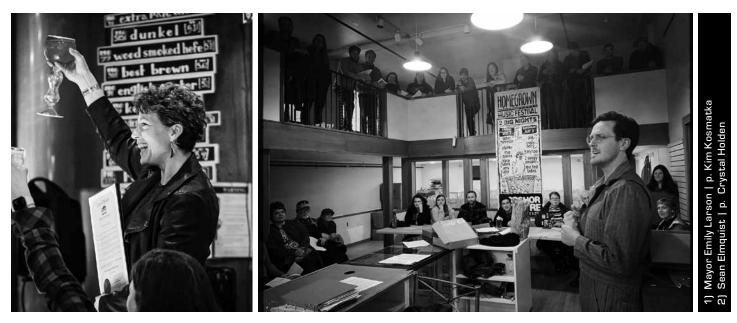
8pm Sun 4/30 Blacklist Brewing Eric and Rachel Cyr began performing as a brother-sister duo in 2014, although they have been singing together their entire lives. Eric, who won

Josiah the One Week Live Songwriters Competition in 2018 at what is now called Wussow's Concert Cafe, plays guitar and writes the melody and lyrics for the group's songs, which explore the cosmos with existential. story-form musings. Rachel comes up with the harmonies. The expanded group features Brady Kamphenkel on drums and John Mc-Loughlin on keys. The latest Cyr and the Cosmonauts album, Songs to Sing Before We're Dead, was released in 2021.

T. Dack 9:15pm Sat 5/6

Legacy Glassworks Electronic artist Tobin Dack creates atmospheric. instrumental music for a new world. In 2019, Dack released the fulllength concept album Entropic Blue. It's a psychedelic dream filled with stories inside the sound. "This album invokes goddesses and gods, madness and desire," Dack said. "The album is angry, terrifying and yet is subtle and mellow with hints of mystery." A live performance features enough synthesizers, drum machines and cabling to fill a NASA Mars Rover. If there is another audio dimension to be found. Dack will discover it.

Suzi Ludwig | p. Amber Nichol



Damien

10:45pm Sat 5/6 **Blacklist Brewing** During the pandemic, Marc Gartman invited drummer Owen Mahon to jam with guitarist Alan Sparhawk and his bass-playing son Cyrus Sparhawk. Together they formed Damien, a quintessential Duluth band complete with Gartman playing a Casio keyboard he acquired for \$15 at Savers. Fusing together electronic music, lo-fi and Afro-Cuban rhythms, the band plays songs that Gartman describes as "Super Mario Brothers music ... groovy with repeated arpeggios," but "with a lot of open-ended space." The lyrics to Damien's newest material tell the story of when Gartman's father read him the Japanese fairy-tale The Boy Who Drew Cats to scare him before going to bed.

Dan the Monkey Man

1:30pm Sun 4/30 **Dovetail Café and** Marketplace

Each year, the Children's Music Showcase at Homegrown features a different array of performers and one simian sensation. Dan the Monkey Man is the mainstay, having played the showcase each year since 2016. The man under the monkey ears is Dan Munthe, who plays for grownups in two other bands at Homegrown — Deep Fake Five and Life Parade. But when he pins on the curled tail for the kiddos, it's a rambunctious dance and art show where any primate can sing along.

Dance Attic

10:30pm Fri 5/5 **Dubh Linn Irish Pub** Americana duo Dance Attic can charm the boots off even the most grizhonky-tonker zled in town. Dressed in cowboy er and Renagade. A purhats and colorful western wear, speed-burning quitarist Jimi Cooper and accordion whiz Suzi Ludwig sing, smile, dance and kazoo their way into the hearts and feet of their audience. The pair perform a wide variety of music from clever rock covers of bands like the Cars to the "(You-nameit) Polka." Dance Attic has two albums of original music under its big, silver belt buckle. The most recent. Livin' for Today, was released in 2020 and features the songs "My Little Pink Wazoo" and "We're Gettin' Saucy Tonight."

Reco Daguon

10pm Fri 5/5 Sir Benedict's Tavern Reco Daguon has been a Twin Ports hip-hop scene maker for years and has worked with a long list released in December of local names including Mac Streetz. Pinnacle Point Studios, MN Mod-

ple-soaked YouTube video for the single "Wanna Ball" features a rap from Tren10 and was filmed on a West Duluth basketball court. "Music has been a part of my life since I was a kid," he said. "It's all about creating the vibe and capturing the world's attention, and that's my mission." The Reco Daquan Tik-Tok feed promises a new rhythm-and-blues album for 2023.

Darren Sipity

5:15pm Sun 4/30 **Hoops Brewing** Darren Shabaiash is Darren Sipity, a Native American rapper from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. His most recent project, an EP titled Probably Your recorded Cousin, was during quarantine and 2020. The record takes on a laid-back vibe as Shabaiash examines so-



cial unrest. Native history and his own personal journey. "You can't test the water without jumpin' in it first," he raps on the track "My Mind is a Computer." "Cannonballs all on the side of your ship. We were being ourselves, never tried to beat this." Collaborations include work from Twin Cities rappers Manny Phesto and OKnice.

Deep Fake Five

9pm Sun 4/30 **Blacklist Brewing**

Old school meets older school meets high school dropouts in the band Deep Fake Five. Instrumentally, the band features the loud drummina of Scott Kimball, the louder guitar playing by Dan Munthe and Cliff LaVigne, and the more reasonable volume of bass playing by Ted Larson and keyboard work by Cameron Mathews. The various screams. death rattles

and love songs are vocalized by Munthe and Mathews. Now booking for weddings and funerals.

Dirtbike Boyfriend 6:30pm Thurs 5/4

Empire Coffee

Dirtbike Boyfriend is a solo indy-folk, poetry-rock project launched by photographer, clothing designer and videographer Bret Holland. Holland sings like Daniel Johnston in a crash helmet and strums a laid-back electric quitar like he doesn't want to break it. The full-length debut Yamaha, released on Bandcamp in 2022, features a collection of sharp, wickedly observational songs about getting high behind the hardware store, being chased by police and moving to the country. Dirtbike Boyfriend sounds fresh, takes unexpected turns and dives into dark places without feeling heavy.

Hop on, it's a great ride.

Discord at Dawn

9:45pm Sat 5/6 **Carmody Irish Pub**

Hard rock four-piece Discord at Dawn released the single "Sanguine Way" on Bandcamp in August. The track follows a warped, heavy-metal riff into a loud, murky forest of sound. Lightning-bolt quitar solos slash through the darkness. Drums blast in the distance. Vocalist Joel Conley howls like a wounded wolf: "Blood spills on the dust, the around drinks it up, but I can still smell my prey." This is what fear sounds like. Formed in 2015, Conley sings and plays guitar with Andy Morrow also on guitar, David Anderson on drums and bassist Dan Krauss.

DJ A-Duh

8:45pm Thurs 5/4 The Main Club Andrew Watson,

performs as DJ A-Dub, features a wide-ranging, diverse and tasty menu of artists on his playlist. Inspiration comes from giants like Parliament, Dave Brubeck, Sugarhill Gang, N.W.A., Daft Punk, Armin Van Buuren and Kendrick Lamar. "I love funk. I love house. I love hip-hop," he said. "Anytime we can take music and blend it to bridge audiences and fans is a win in my opinion." DJ A-Dub has worked with Twin Ports acts like C-Silence, Carnage the Executioner, Jaze, MN Moder and Reco Daquon. This will be his first Homegrown performance.

DJ Nola

8pm Thurs 5/4 Earth Rider Brewery Nola Wick is a funk, disco and techno DJ who throws a party called Freak of the Week around Minneapolis that has who been going strong for five

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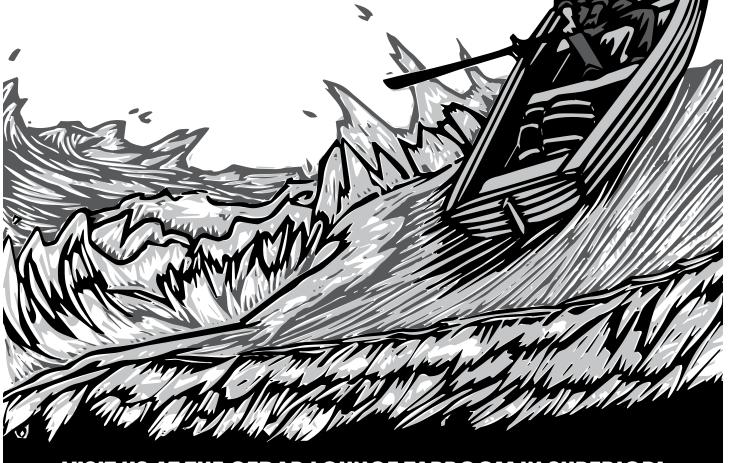


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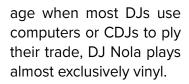
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years. She also hosted it at Earth Rider Brewery in Superior during the sum-



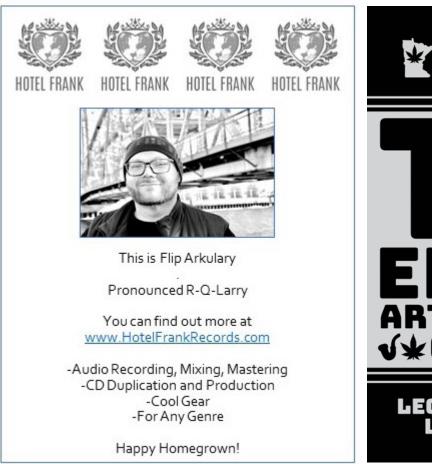
mer of 2021, and in 2022

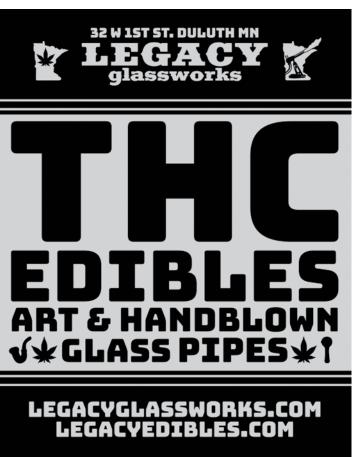
began making her mixes available

DJ Sox 9pm Fri 5/5 in Duluth Flame Nightclub podcast form. Garrett Prisk booked, In a day and promoted, curated, per- much reside in Duluth,"

formed and collaborated he said. "It's always been in 2020. He loves spin-Paul, my DJ roots still very

on electronic music in Du- home to me, and I still find luth for five years before myself there all the time moving to the Twin Cities for performances and to attend shows as a fan." ning bass-filled house and The DJ Sox style of house disco music. "Although is based in loops and I've made the move to St. layers of pulsing drums, soulful vocals and groovy bass lines.







Janie and the Spokes | p. Brian Barber 2) Homegrown Trolley | p. Crystal Holden

Duluth Dolls Burlesque and Cabaret Troupe

9:30pm Sat 5/6 Studio Four

When it comes to tassel-twirling, pastie-pounding, merkin-melting, glittery good times there's substitute for the no Duluth Dolls Burlesque and Cabaret Troupe. The performers engage in everything from jazz-dance group numbers to classic strip tease peppered with bawdy comedy. The tantalizing troupe includes Mauve Stinger, Velvet Noir, Scarlett Muse, Ivy X, Miss Violet, Brock Harde, Crimson Fox, Dances La-Fleur, Roxxie Nyx, Betty Champagne, MC Kala, Rosie Sparx. Khaos, Dusty Luster, Ursa the northland's

stine.

EddieDition

9:45pm Thurs 5/4 The Main Club

EddieDition is the mic moniker for Twin Ports rapper Eddie Higgins. He has been prowling stages for close to 10 years and continues to refine his sharp, often uplifting sound. "(I'm a) rapper, more on the backpack, hiaher consciousness side of things — not a trap rapper," he said. Over the vears, EddieDition has worked with Duluth standouts like Jaze. Kritical Kontact, Bliss and C-Silence. He also performed at the massive Splatfest Khaleesi 22 which saw a fleet of

conic Love and Kirk Eck- the grounds of Superior a major project, they have Paintball.

The Elements 8:45pm Sat 5/6

Carmody Irish Pub Hip-hop producer Michael Johnson provides vocals for the Elements, a modern rock band that also features drummer Andy Larson, bassist Nolan Schmidt, and lead quitarist Raphael Toma-Johnson, Schmidt ny. and Larson met in Duluth during their college days and began playing together at local venues. Tomany joined them later, helping to flesh out their good-time sound, which springs from their varied musical backgrounds of for Paradox, a recurring everything from indie and hottest jazz to heavy metal. While

Vain, Ginger Brandy, Dra- hip-hop artists take over they continue to work on recorded several singles since 2019, two of which can be found on most streaming platforms.

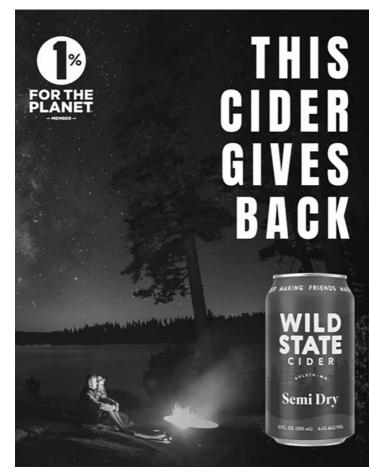
Elvsium Alps

9:30pm Fri 5/5 **Dubh Linn Irish Pub** Duluth-raised. Minneapolis-based DJ and producer Jamie Larson specializes in genre-blending, era-spanning sets of dance music and beyond. In 2022 he took his act, Elysium Alps, to New York City, performing behind the board at Mansions in Queens and Jupiter Disco in Brooklyn with the Acme Collective. Larson also spun regular gigs dance night at the Conga Lounge in Minneapolis. A

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techo-laced performance and dancing landed on Cafe Ha, a radio station Particle FM in January. The two-hour set is available on the Elysium Alps Soundcloud.

Father Hennepin

8pm Sat 5/6 Sacred Heart

Father Hennepin plays mostly original country songs that roll like the hills over Riverside, twang like a pickup on the Blatnik Bridge and sound as sweet as a summer day on Park Point beach. Led by Homegrown founding father and birthday boy Scott "Starfire" Lunt. the band features Ted Anderson on guitar and vocals, Bob Olson on bass, Brad Nelson on drums, Susie Ludwig on keys and Jimi Cooper on guitar. Among the cover songs that often land in a Fat Hens set folk and country. "(We're) is the anthem "I Like it in Duluth," originally recorded by the Moose Wallow Ramblers in 1976 and cemented into the city's musical canon by Starfire and company.

Fenestra Funk

10pm Tues 5/2 **DECC** Arena A fenestra is a small, natural hole such as the opening to the inner ear. Funk is a style of dance music based on elements of blues and soul. Fenestra Funk, quite simply, plays music for your listening

pleasure. The group's members call show streamed over San the sound "doom-funk Diego-based DIY internet yacht rock." They are sax and guitar player Michael guitarist Adam Schell, Wambeke, bassist Kyle Sullivan, and drummer Nathan Fowler. Occasionally Jessica Hodge joins in on trumpet. Fenestra Funk's self-titled debut album was released in July.

The Field Birds

9pm Sat 5/6 Sir Benedict's Tavern Traditional string trio the Field Birds make music that sounds like it was recorded during a hot, dusty North Carolina barn dance sometime in the mid-20th century. Featuring Kyle Orla on guitar, Clancy Ward on fiddle and Jen Krussow on bass, the group creates original music while it covers and reimagines old-tyme driven to bring a relevant voice to old sounds." Krussow said. The Fields Birds recorded the fivetrack EP Troubles on Belmont Road somewhere above Chester Creek in Duluth and released it in November.

Elmore Fontiane

9pm Sun 4/30 Pizza Lucé Singer-songwriter and "indie-vidual" Elmore Fontaine delivers a modern, laid-back vibe on a handful of singles he has posted to Bandcamp.

The songs are short and glossy, boasting a light, high-tech rhythm-andblues groove that sounds like they could have been made in the den with a group of friends between dinner and dessert. Fontaine said his songwriting "marvelousness seeks in the mundane" as he blends folk, blues, rock and soul into something that sounds fresh and clean. The single "Anything 4 U" takes just 63 seconds to deliver its message.

Forseer

6:15pm Fri 5/5 Owls Club

Cole Forcier is a singer-songwriter and guitarist from Duluth who last fall began billing himself as Forseer. "I've been singing ever since I can remember," Forcier said. "I started playing guitar when I was 15, and have been making original music since the age of 16." Now 26, Forcier has been playing open mic nights and a variety of café and coffee shop gigs since 2016. The debut Forseer album, titled Breathe, was released in October.

Four Mile Portage

8pm Fri 5/5 Sir Benedict's Tavern Whether it's a dirt-floor barn wedding, a northwoods senior center community event or a hip Lincoln Park brewery bash, old-time fiddle and







Top: Emily Haavik | p. Ivy Vaino • *Middle Left* :Kala Moira | p. Paul Lundgren • *Bottom Left:* Eddie Gleeson | p. Paul Lundgren *Right:* Steven Bockhold | p. Crystal Holden





tage will be there with the band performed to an enough music to flood the dance floor. Banjo player Tom Maloney, fiddle player Brandy Forsman and string-ace Kyle Orla play original songs about old coon dogs, tree stump chairs and cold perseverance. They also do a mean take on the classic "Cotton-eyed stomper Joe."

Danny Frank & the Smoky Gold

11pm Fri 5/5 Pizza Lucé

Singer-songwriter Danny Frank fronts a band of familiar Duluth players to plav a mix of Americana that draws influence from folk, bluegrass, country, classic rock and blues. Banio player Harrison Olk, bassist "Smokin" Joe Scarpellino, and fiddle savant Erin Aldridge provide a unique sound, blending soulful vocals with rich harmonies and invigoinstrumentation. rating Frank's songwriting vacillates between themes of depression, love, and political and social topics.

Fuzz Lung

9:45pm Sat 5/6 Blacklist Brewing

If a band's performance can be judged by bathroom graffiti, Keith Dust and Friend's Homegrown debut last year was a huge success. "Keith Dust Rips" was scrawled in a women's room stall at

banjo duo Four Mile Por- Carmody Irish Pub, where enthusiastic crowd. Soon after, Dust and bandmates Josh Palmer, Zach Dornfeld and Anthony Brown, dubbed themselves Fuzz Lung. Their sound is driven by Dust's lo-fi, experimental aesthetic, as heard on several solo releases, including two singles out in the past year, precursors to a new album. In addition to several house and bar sets in the Twin Ports in the past year, the band performed its first out-of-town show in St. Paul in January.

Glitteratti

9:15pm Wed 5/3 Kom-on-Inn

Ten years ago, Glitteratti was formed when songwriter and guitarist Marc Gartman, guitarist Dave Carroll, bassist Tim Saxhaug, and drummer Kyle Keegan started doing acoustic covers around town. Since then, the band has evolved, and now incorporates Gartman's original songs into its ever-expanding repertoire. The group released a full-length album in 2020, Among the Wild, and was heading toward releasing another. Instead, two complementary classic-rock inspired EPs were released in 2022 — Rectify! in July and A Delicate Ballast in September.

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HOMEGROWN FRIDAY, MAY 5

10:30PM LYLA ABUKHODAIR

11:30PM **BOOG3YM3N**

12:30AM TORMENT

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10:30PM WILD HORSES

11:30PM QUARTERBACK CLUB

12:30AM WINZIGE HOSEN

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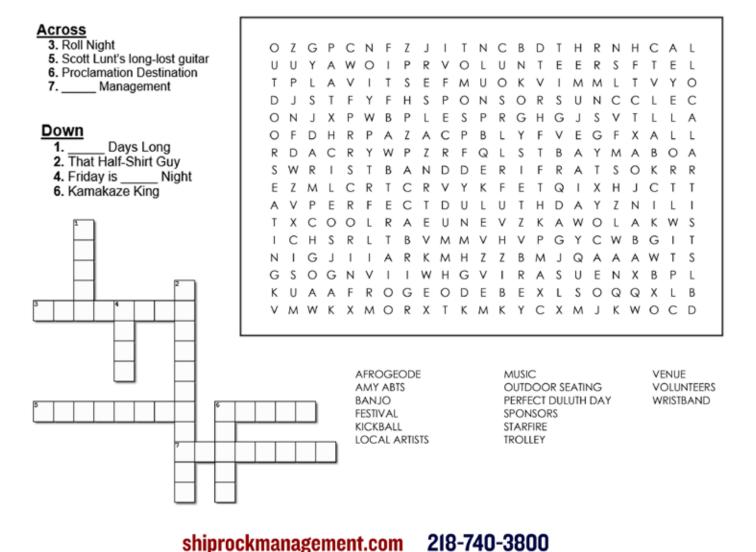
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G'narwals

8:30pm Fri 5/5 Studio Four

G'narwals is a three-piece instrumental rock band. It hasn't always been called G'narwals, it hasn't always been a three-piece, it's not always completely instrumental, but the group is consistent with the important thing, which is the rocking. Guitarist Sean Moria, drummer Jake Daire and bassist Austin Korkowski tend to do said rocking in forms that beg for further description, such as alternative rock. punk rock or hard rock. Each of those descriptors are almost accurate.

Goat Hill Quartet

6:15pm Sat 5/6 Owls Club

Goat Hill Quartet is a traditional string group that specializes in late 18th Century English country dance music. It's the kind of stuff that might have been played for novelist Jane Austen while she was socializing at a Steventon, Hampshire town hall gala. The group features Tom Maloney on viola, Brandy Forsman and Sue Hagge on violins and Peg Oman on cello. Be cautioned: Goat Hill Quartet is occasionally accompanied by a troupe of dancers who perform routines set to specific music pieces. Puffy shirts and flowing dresses are not required.



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VOLUNTEER

TRAININGS

April 18th - 5pm

April 20th - 7pm

April 22nd - 11am

Thank



God's Holy Blood

9:15pm Sat 5/6 R.T. Quinlan's Saloon

by scream-queen Led Starr Brainard, God's Holy Blood belts its audience in the gut with monster guitar riffs, violent drum work and enough volume to unearth the dead. This

is stoner doom-metal in white face paint, jack boots and a kilt. The group released a self-titled album in January featuring the singles "I'm Your Nightmare" and "Mystery of the Sphinx." Black Sabbath gets an energetic shout-out with a cover of

"Paranoid." joined by Andy Lipke on Flying V guitar, drummer Mike Guello.

Grand Holler

8:45pm Wed 5/3 **Gopher Lounge** Bluesy roots-rock

Brainerd is sounds like it's meant to be played out of a rusty old pick-up truck makes John Leppke and bassist up the tracklist on Grand Holler's debut album Out of the Past. The title gives a good indication of where the band pulls its inspiration from. Listenthat ers can hear the appre-





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Check out what's on tap.

Seger and Bruce Springsteen in vocalist Andy Spaeth's delivery as he thunders out ballads with bandmates Jesse Annala. Mark Erickson and Travis Farleigh. Playing across various taverns and festivals throughout the region, the band has started writing material for its music. Despite being a second album.

Emily Haavik & the 35s

6pm Thurs 5/4 Earth Rider Brewery Singer-songwriter Emily Haavik has been playing quitar with her upbeat alt-country band since before she moved from Duluth down Interstate 35 to Minneapolis in 2015. She and keyboardist Dave Mehling, who preceded her with the same move. still make the trek to their

ciation for artists like Bob hometown to play harmony-driven songs with vocalist/quitarists Lisa and Bryan Wentworth, bassist Matt Prois, drummer Luke Mirau, fiddler Alyssa Mesedahl, and banjo player Nate Weiler. While the last full album was released in 2018, the band continues to record new single, "Do You Think You Protect Me?" was listed among the "Best Local Albums 2022" by Southern Minn Scene, an arts and lifestyle magazine covering the lower half of the state.

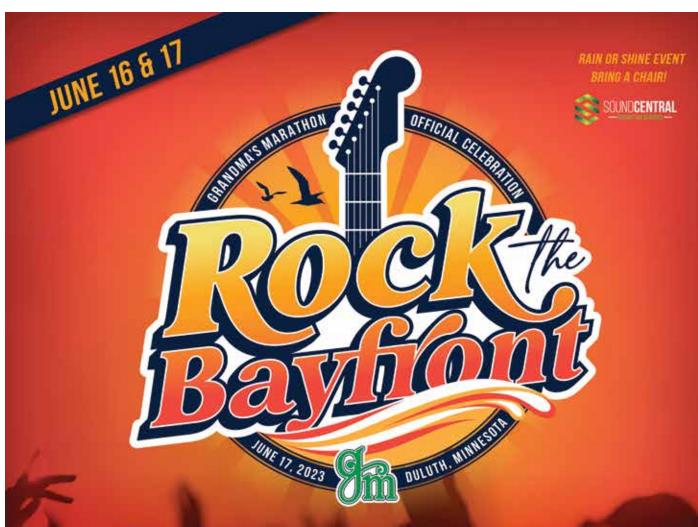
Wes Hadrich

9pm Wed 5/3 **Jade Fountain**

Singer-songwriter Wes Hadrich performs country and folk with a finger-picking guitar style. He shared the stage with drummer and bassist Greg Tiburzi for roughly five years, recording the albums Naturally Blue and Portland Rain. Now mostly playing solo on acoustic guitar, Hadrich delivers songs with an easy, laid-back vibe. Themes within his songs include loneliness, heartbreak and material that speaks to a greater truth. "I think my songs naturally find those lonely places inside of me," he said. This year's set will include a mix of old and new songs, setting some of them to an upbeat melody. "Think of Bruce Springsteen's 'Hungry Heart," he said.



Tim Kaiser | p. Kim Kosmatka



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1) Boku Frequency | p. Matthew Moses 2) Chris Shea | p. Ron Kutsi 3) Woodblind | p. Brian Barber

Halfsleeper

10:45pm Wed 5/3 Gopher Lounge

The post-metal band Halfsleeper takes an experimental and melodic approach to creating its music, with elements of doom and black metal combined with psych rock and shoegaze, among other genres. Formed in 2019, the band includes Anatomy of Ruminants members Tobin Dack and Tina Fox as well as Kirdan Wenger, Ian Erickson and Rio Mariucci. They performed a handful of shows in the past year, including the Northern Wisconsin Metal Fest and the Homegrown Winter Fiasco.

Sydney Hansen & Band

8:30pm Mon 5/1 Duluth Cider

Duluth born and raised, Sydney Hansen recently moved to Nashville to chase her country music dreams. She writes and performs her own songs, which focus on her "personal triumphs and tribulations, loves and losses, and successes and failures." There's been a lot of success lately. Hansen released the single "Somebody's Nobody" in 2022, and teamed with Dolly Parton producer Kent Wells to cut an album's worth of material at his studio in the Music City. At Homegrown, she will be supported by lan Alexy on lead guitar, Wade Grawe on bass and Jake Willis on drums.

Hermantown High School Pep Band

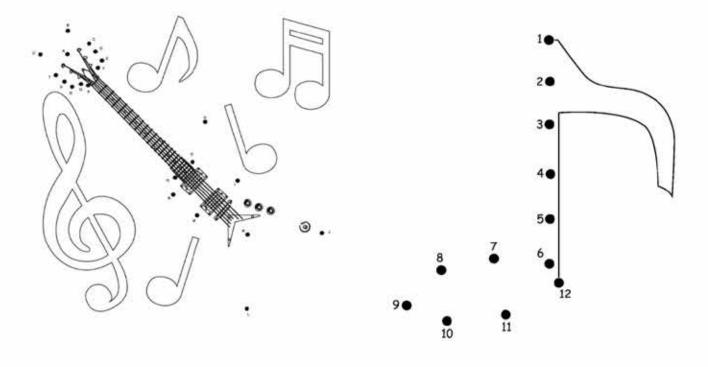
3pm Sun 4/30 Dovetail Café and Marketplace

A mighty yellow bus carrying the Hermantown High School Pep Band roaring comes down Highway 53 pulling a trailer full of drums, brass and rah-rah-sis-boom-bah. The biggest group on the 2023 Homegrown schedule is led by band director Nicholas Allen, who instructs a team of 68 students in grades 9 through 12. These Hermantown Hawks are equipped with enough musical firepower to rattle bleachers in school gymnasiums across the Lake Superior



Emily Haavik | p. Matthew Moses





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Conference. Expect rousing, out-of-your-seat versions of classic pop tunes typically performed to spur on slam dunks, power-play goals and 75-yard touchdown passes.

Hollow Profit

9pm Tues 5/2 **Dubh Linn Irish Pub** Brody Burke has proextensive duced an amount of old-school boom-bap hip-hop in the past four years as Hollow Profit. His work gives insight into his stay-positive, stay-motivated, stay-real mindset. The beats and electronic melodies are a mix of stark charm and professional production while his lyrics are point-



without delving into glib cynicism. Burke regularly drops new tracks on Soundcloud, and released a new Hollow Profit EP, Letters from Noir, in February.

Horse Fzce

8pm Fri 5/5 Sacred Heart

Since the expansion to a full band, the members of Horse Fzce have given themselves room to amplify their music and infuse other characteristics. Certainly still grounded in folk music roots, songwriters Heather Surla and Eric Krenz let their talents drift into blues, rock and sometimes pop stylings with the help of Tom Frichek and Liz Young. Playing both covers and originals, Krenz proves his proficiency as a lead quitarist with ripping solos while Surla sings out pretty melodies while plainly declaring in a signature time.

ed, confident and clever song that she's not some "Prettv Youna Thina." Those who haven't seen this band yet will soon find it's time to fzce the music.

Indecent Proposal

11:30pm Thurs 5/4 **Reef Bar**

There's no documented connection to the 1993 film of the same name, but the members of Indecent Proposal do hold a place in their hearts for pop culture of that decade. Starting as a 1990s-era cover band, they've since written a handful of originals that could land seamlessly into a mixtape of radio hits from that era. But again, no one is saying that Robert Redford tried to seduce any wives. Formed from past projects turning into jam sessions, Josh Brown, Jevin Joki, Peter Dotson and Terry Beckman have locked into a tight set of alternative rock songs designed for having a good

#theindianheadband

8:30pm Sun 4/30 Zeitgeist Teatro

Lyz Jaakola leads this Anishinaabe/Arikara/ American family band that plays a repertoire of originals and strange mashups of songs about Indigenous peoples, issues or influences. The goal is "to open audiences' hearts and minds and grow stronger community bonds," Jaakola said. Accompanying her onstage are multi-instrumentalists and vocalists Jackson Ripley, Jeremy Gardner, Hunter Jaakola, Xander Ripley-Jaakola, Jagger Ripley-Jaakola, David Ripley and Darcey St. John.

Ingeborg von Agassiz

11pm Fri 5/5 **Duluth Flame Nightclub** lt's been eight years since visual artist Emma Rustan transformed into



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electronic folk musician Ingeborg von Agassiz. By the end of 2017, her debut album, O Giver of Dreams, had established her place among Duluth's most popular musicians. The 2021 followup, Coventry Carols, a collection of "original dark holiday tunes inspired by Victorian ghost stories and the winter blues," expanded her catalog of often bleak, always beautiful songs. Though she sometimes performs with just an acoustic guitar for smaller audiences, the full-on Ingeborg von Agassiz experience has the artist using keyboards and other electronic instruments to create looped layers of sound.

Rory Van James

8:15pm Sat 5/6 Legacy Glassyrks folk sing-When acos er Rory James first playe in 2009 he was a student at the University of Min-

stop on his musical journey was Homer, Alaska, where he began writing songs for his first album. Following four months of solitude in Alaska's vast coastal wilderness, / he moved to Seattle, where he performed with several groups and recordhis debut record. ed The Passage, released in 2012. He traveled to Abbey Road Studios in London for his next project, Sewn Silhouettes, released in 2020. Last year, he moved back to Duluth and of late has been playing frequently at Sir Benedict's. Joining him on stage at Homegrown will be Nik Kemmer and Jake Ransom.

JamesG

11:30pm Fri 5/5 **Dubh Linn Irish Pub**

James Geisler is a hiphop artist, entertainer and semi-professional performer of wheeled-sneaker stunts. He emerged in the Duluth music scene nesota Duluth. The next as a UMD student cir-

ca 2015 and defined his sound in 2018 with the self-produced EP Dumb. After moving to Minneapolis in 2019, he became a TikTok sensation for his "Heely Tricks," gliding around various parking climbing lots. leaping, and spinning his way to millions of online video views and a performance on America's Got Talent. His music blurs the lines of introspection, social commentary and satire.

Janie and the Spokes

6:30pm Wed 5/3 Wussow's Concert Cafe Janie and the Spokes is a four-piece alternative rock band that has spent the pandemic years creating upbeat original music. Guitarist Jane Aas and drummer Garth Anderson handle the songwriting, collaborating with electric quitarist Peter Aas and bassist Jordan Ash to bring those works to life. Their music has lay-

nies, and occasionally is interspersed with B-side covers. The group will be releasing its first album of original music this spring.

Jaze

9:30pm Thurs 5/4 **Reef Bar**

Delivering hip-hop and rap lyrics for a mature audience, Jesse Unger performs as Jaze on top of beats laid down by Derek Delgado. The two have performed together for nearly 20 years, originally in the group Kritical Kontact. As Jaze has gotten older, his music has shifted to explore "feelings or a certain kind of mood," tapping into events happening in his life versus focusing on the latest trends in the music scene. Newer material tackles subjects such as "feeling depressed, overcoming addictions [and] just speaking on something real." This year's Homegrown set includes songs from his upcoming EP, ers of jams and harmo- Perfect Story Purgatory,





which will be released in three separate "chapters."

Ty Johnson

8:45pm Sun 4/30 **Carmody Irish Pub**

Ty Johnson is a solo acoustic guitar player who performs heartfelt and at times dark originals ranging from blues, jazz and Americana. Some songs speak of societal issues, some reach to the depths of the human spirit, while others are comedic. The catalog of cover songs can stray into Dolly Parton and Prince, but generally hangs in the Neil Young and Cat Stevens area. In 2019, Johnson took second place at Wussow's One Week Live Songwriters Competition.

Tim Kaiser

8pm Wed 5/3 **Jade Fountain**

The true aenius behind what Tim Kaiser does isn't just in the sounds he's able to create but in how they're created. Building his own unique devices, each with their own effects, the artist is able to craft something that can't be replicated with conventional instruments. Through layered frequencies and signals, the music detaches from the melodic limitations of standard song structures and shifts the focus onto textures and feeling. Mirrored by the scientific oddities of the audio com-

ponent, the visual characteristics of the instruments are aesthetically fitting to what people in the previous century thought the 2020s would look like.

The Langertsons

7:30pm Sat 5/6 Zeitgeist Teatro The Langertsons are a young, Mahtowa-area rock band consisting of two pairs of siblings, Josie and Audrey Langhorst and Amri and Eli Gilbertson. They perform original music, mostly written by Josie, and have released two albums to date with a third on the way this summer, all recorded at Sparta Sound with Rich Mattson. The Langertsons formed when they were in elementary school and now the two oldest members are freshmen in college and the two youngest are in high school.

The Latelys 9:30pm Fri 5/5

Studio Four

Duluth's premiere soulpop trio is now in its sixth year of writing and performing songs that bounce, sway and wail like no other act. Bassist and vocalist Jenna Harting is responsible for all of the wailing and one-third of the bounce and sway. Keyboardist CJ Hanson also sings but does not wail, sharing additional bounce and sway duties with drummer Rachel Riefenberg. In addition to



Samuel Miller | p. Amber Nichols

last year's stellar Homegrown performance at Clyde Iron Works, the past year's highlights include shows with S3RA at Duluth Cider, One Less Guest at Earth Rider Brewery and Gavin St. Clair Trio and Nat Harvie at Wussow's Concert Cafe. The Latelys debut full-length album, Waiting for You, was released in 2019.

LeifHinkel

9:15pm Fri 5/5 Legacy Glassworks released his

length album, Wowmom. Closing the six-year gap between the release of the EP Get on the Move, the ambigram-titled album shows a broadenina of instrumentation from the artist's previous releases. Overlaying the acoustic guitar and vocals that have been at the core of LeifHinkel's music from the start, the songwriter adds in more beats and samples to flesh out the minimalism that's defined past recordings. Last summer LeifHinkel The songs are emotionfirst full- al and candid, address-



ing things like family life, mental health and social superficialities. It's kind of folk, it's kind of emo, but not 100 percent either.

Jeremy Lepak

12pm Sun 4/30Dovetail Café and Marketplace Duluth native Jeremy Lepak has been a ventriloquist for more than 15 years and deploys a whole cast of characters in his act, which includes comedy, impersonations, magic tricks and music. He performs at a wide array of events, including parties of all types, county fairs, conventions, fundraisers and assisted-living facility resident gatherings. This is his second year putting on his show during the Children's Music Showcase at Homegrown.

Thor Leseman

8:30pm Wed 5/3 Wussow's Concert Cafe Iron Ranger Thor Leseman might be a Homegrown rookie on stage, but he played in the festival's kickball game last year and that's enough to earn him Chicken Club status. "I started writing music at 15 years old," he said, "surrounded by family members in bands such as Good Colonels, Big Into, and Rich Mattson and the North Stars, giving me a steampunk rock songs while traveling the 'n' roll background." Leseman's

galactic folk music did hit two festival stages north of Duluth in 2022 -Pierce Plaza Palooza and Libbfest.

Life Parade

8:45pm Mon 5/1 Bent Paddle Brewing Life Parade is a pop-rock band led by Cameron Mathews. The roots of the act go back to Mathews' solo work in 2014, which culminated in the lauded 2019 album Suburban Life. Members of the now-defunct band the Resonance have rounded out Mathews' catchy pop songs in recent years. The lineup features Dan Munthe on keys and guitar, Cliff Lavigne on bass, and Scott Kimball on drums.

Lindula Brothers

6:30pm Mon 5/1 **Duluth Cider**

John and Brian Lindula were born and raised on the Mesabi Iron Range and both graduated from college in Duluth. The influences of Bob Dylan and Trampled by Turtles were the Lindula Brothers' gateway to Woody Guthrie, traditional American folk and bluegrass. The ensuing search for musical roots in traditional English and Irish folk songs saw the brothers learning quitar, banjo and mandolin, and writing original country. After more than neo-traditional years of playing, the duo

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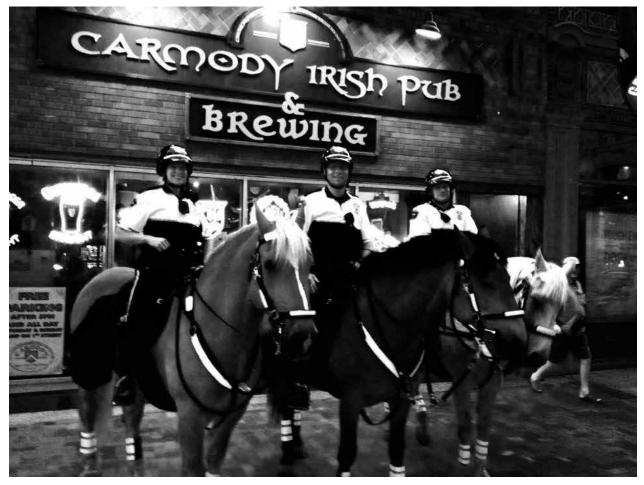


is excited to perform originals for Duluth after John's return to the Carmody Irish Pub area.

Lioness

7:45pm Sun 4/30 Lioness is a mother/ daughter musical duo that tackles a wide variety of musical genres using vocal harmonies and cre-

ative methods on guitar and drums. Jane Irene Aleckson uses an octave divider on her electric guitar to provide both lead, rhythm and bass lines while Inga Ruth Weis has a unique approach to



playing a drum set while Eric Bong on bass and belting out lead vocals. The duo plays originals as well as covers.

Lovehouse

11pm Sat 5/6 **Duluth Flame Nightclub** Lovehouse is an indie rock band that formed in a house in Duluth's East Hillside. Bassist Joe Flood was the first to take up residence when he began attending the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2019. Lead singer Henry Seymour moved in with Flood in 2020, and lead guitarist Parker Ruedy followed in 2021. That's how Lovehouse was formed. Drummer Kevin Fischer was added to the crew in early 2022 when Seymour met him while working at Burrito Union. The band has garnered an underground following punctuated by the release of its first EP Shades of Red, recorded at Sparta Sound with Rich Mattson and released last summer, along with a video for the song "She's Gonna Catch You."

Israel Malachi Orchestra

6:30pm Sat 5/6 Zeitgeist Teatro

The Israel Malachi Orchestra is a good-time, high-energy ensemble with lots of guitar and funky basslines. Playing an exacting style of guitar and singing clean, sweet vocals is Israel Malachi. who is joined again by

Jack Seiler on drums. The addition of violinist Shawna Weaver in 2022 has opened a whole world of musical magic for the orchestra.

Severio Mancieri

6:15pm Mon 5/1 **Ursa Minor Brewing** Hailed as a guitar virtuoso, Severio Mancieri's blues- and folk-driven solo acoustic guitar and voice have earned him a consistent seat at the table of the Duluth music scene. His musical craftings are thoughtful, but the complexity of the playing is also passionate and pleasing. Mancieri has served up 250 shows in the past two years locally and in six other states.

Nate J. Mattson

7:30pm Thurs 5/4 **Empire Coffee**

Modular synthesized music artist Nate Mattson works on the experimental edge. Performing on a collection of interconnected electronic boards piled with wiring that looks like a spaghetti dinner, Mattson sequences a stunning array of sounds. He melds music, sound effects and electronic beats into something distinct and unsettling. Mattson described his 2022 release, Volume 2, as the "perfect background music for a science fiction horror role-playing game or an actual alien hunting



5



expedition." His debut EP, into a more edgy, Ameri-Volume 1, was released in cana-ablaze sound. 2017.

Rich Mattson and the Northstars

10:15pm Fri 5/5 R.T. Quinlan's Saloon Iron Range rock-and-roll linchpin Rich Mattson has been writing, recording and performing with partner Germaine Gemberling in a group Northstars called the since 2014. Based at their Sparta Sound studio, the pair create shiny, jangly, country-coated songs inspired by giants like Neil Young, Tom Petty and X. The Northstars currently include drummer Chris Petrack, bassist Kyle Westrick and newcomer Dan Anderson on keys. In 2022, the group released its sixth album, 10-track longplayer ล called Out There. The album departs from previous "cosmic-folk" efforts

Kaylee Matuszak 8:15pm Fri 5/5

Owls Club

Kaylee Matuszak has a song for Duluth in her heart. The singer-songwriter performs solo with just an acoustic guitar and a voice as bright as a Lake Superior sunrise. "I write songs about the city, and also love and all that," she said. "I also do covers that people like." Matuszak released her debut album. Stirring Skies, in 2016 and has been promising a follow-up for years. "I've been trying to do another but some stuff has happened," she said. Sometimes "stuff" makes for a great song. Check out the eccentric "Duluth's Famous Kaylee" Twitter feed @kayleefabulous.

Rick McLean

11:15pm Fri 5/5 R.T. Quinlan's Saloon Singer-songwriter and rock-and-roll ringleader Rick McLean plays supercharged folk, punk-country and anything else that will get a few drunks to sing along and slam dance. McLean calls his songwriting "joyfully sardonic." His three releases feature songs with titles like "Make Fred Dead," "Apologies to Petula Clark" and "Dog Kennel Blues." During his 2022 Homegrown performance. McLean dedicated a song to a 2000 Toyota Corolla he sold to a buddy. A new album is promised in 2023. The trio includes Pete Biasi on bass and Mike McLean on drums.

Minorbirds

7:30pm Sun 4/30 Zeitgeist Teatro While they contend their played Homegrown 13

souls are exhibited most distinctly in the minor key, Brooke Anderson and Megan Barr of Minorbirds write and perform in a range of styles, including folk, soul, roots, country and Americana. With the added influences of Jeff Gilbertson on upright bass, Caleb Anderson on keys, and Ben Berg on drums, their music is driven by rich harmonies and deep lyrical connection, providing depth and degree to their performances. The followup to Minorbirds' 2021 self-titled debut album was recently recorded at Sparta Sound is set for release this spring.

Mr. Kickass

12am Fri 5/5 Pizza Lucé Longevity and consistency are not necessarily punk-rock traits. Nonetheless, Mr. Kickass has

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nickenbone George" Alan Sparhawk | p. Crystal Holden



times in the past 17 years, including a pre-pandemic run of 11 years in row. What really matters, though, is that bassist-vocalist Mike Fradenburgh, quitarist Jed Olsen and drummer Jake Daire adhere to the three critical elements

that maintain punk cred. They play 'em short, they play 'em fast and they play 'em loud. Get ready for Homegrown ass-kicking number 14.

MN Moder

8:15pm Fri 5/5 Legacy Glassworks Minnesota А multi-hyphenate who is his own best hype man, Zachary Moder aka MN Moder can be found on stages entertaining audiences

with original rhythm-andblues tracks laced with feel-good lyrics. Positivity, personal accountability and overcoming obstacles is the MN Moder vibe and when he's not rapping or singing he's dabbling in modeling, acting



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and offering advice he calls "Modervation." Taking life's challenges and becoming the person you were meant to be is core to Moder's motivation and that belief in yourself has certainly worked for him thus far.

Adam Moe

6:45pm Tues 5/2

Sir Benedict's Fiddler, quitarist and songwriter Adam Moe spent eight years touring in the folk-tonk duo Pushing Chain before launching a solo career in 2020. Moe performs his original songs on tenor quitar — a little smaller than a standard six-string but a little bit more punchy. "I believe that good music can make strangers share a table, and I try to prove it every time I play," he said. Moe writes music that is both witty and poiqnant and delivers it with a clear, bluesy vocal. The song "Truck Stop Rose," featured on his website, shows off his sweet, down-to-earth songwriting.

Mumblin' Drew 10pm Tues 5/2

Dubh Linn Irish Pub

Andrew Temperante plays traditional country-blues in his solo folk act Mumblin' Drew. He has released several recordings over the past decade with projects, from various string band to punk-infused minor-chord folk, and even hip-hop. As Mumblin' Drew, Temperante utilizes banjo, resonator guitar and harmonica, along with a singing voice that could pierce the walls of an Arkansas shotaun shack. He moved back to Duluth in June after spending a decade in the Twin Cities.

Shane Nelson

8:15pm Mon 5/1 **Ursa Minor Brewing** Superior's Shane Nelson performs original, retrospective quitar-based

songs. His passion for music takes him all over northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, playing every theater, saloon, restaurant, trading post, brewery, resort, farmers market or malt shop gig he can fit in. His self-titled debut album came out in 2020 and the followup, The Music Saved My Life, is due out this year. Though he often plays solo, his band includes Traxx Nelson Kavajecz, Taylor Shykes and other assorted family members and friends.

New Salty Dog

10:30pm Thurs 5/4 **Tower Avenue Tavern** The five-piece boogie entourage New Salty Dog is composed of two drummers, two guitar players and one Calzone. Owen Mahon and Bryan "Lefty" Johnson make up the percussion duo, Jacob Mahon and Sam "Samtana" Deters are the string duo, and bassist Calvin Lund is the "Calzone." In- friends in their loud, prog-

spired by folk and funk traditions, New Salty Dog can be found playing gigs across the region, but the group anchors in Duluth on Monday nights for its "High Key Monday" residence at Bent Paddle Brewing.

NewBerrigan

7:15pm Mon 5/1 Ursa Minor Brewing Guitarist Paul Newberg and bassist Tom Berrigan jammed their names and talents together in 2018 to form NewBerrigan. It's a cover band that plays just one gig a year — Homegrown and Homegrown only. With Jake Willis on drums, the trio plays a mix of blues, folk, rock, pop and country.

Nin

6pm Fri 5/5 Wussow's Concert Cafe Brothers Rio and Nik Mariucci have been playing together for 20 years, at times incorporating









1) Nick Hyde, the Mad Violin Scientist | p. Matthew Moses 2) Emily Larson, Melissa La Tour and Don Ness | p. Crystal Holden 3) Rick Chida | p. Paul Lundgren 4) Cole Webster | p. Ron Kutsi

gy rock group. Bassist dude. Josh Schuchard was a frequent collaborator over the years, but died unexpectedly in February. "We got the news on Super Bowl Sunday," Rio Mariucci said. Though the loss has been difficult, he said the duo will be ready to play at festival time. "Josh was looking forward to playing Homegrown with us. It was always a fun time for him. He fucking loved Homegrown. He was an all-around good

NorthWood Beats

7:15pm Sat 5/6 Legacy Glassworks

NorthWood Beats is Cole Oksa, a local DJ and music producer at Pinnacle Pointe Studios in Duluth. He has been DJing house parties and clubs since 2015, and producing music professionally since 2018. Primarily a hip-hop DJ, Oksa often approaches Homegrown with a few collaborators on his sets, aiming for a party vibe.

Norton Hastings Band

9pm Mon 5/1 Caddy Shack

Norton Hastings Band plays a collage of jam, rock and jazz-influenced originals with an occasional cover song. Rhett Bonner and Joshua Tesch handle the guitar and vocal work, strumming and harmonizing on top of the rhythms laid down by bassist Tim Rubin and of a synth and moonlights

drummer Jeremy Roseth. "We've all lived, played and worked in Duluth for many years," Rubin said. "We strive to provide the listener with a relaxing, pleasing and sometimes exciting musical experience.

Nvr Tgthr

10:45pm Fri 5/5 **Blacklist Brewing** Drummer Ryan Nelson describes Nvr Tgthr as "a rock group that got ahold

as a pop group." The band is fronted by Chandler Gufflyr, a graduate of the Shirley Manson School of Rock. Jesse Hoheisel, formerly of the Social Disaster, handles the guitar work. Former bassist Derrick Alan now stands behind a synthesizer, bringing the aforementioned pop sounds. The founding members solved the "former bassist" dilemma last summer by adding Nikki Moeller, whose bass-guitar résumé includes stints with several local bands, including punk sensations the Keep Aways.

Owls Club Big Band

7:30pm Fri 5/5 Studio Four

Named for the Duluth fraternal bottle club where the group made its debut, the Owls Club Big Band is a foot-tapping, head-nodding, swinging jazz band that's always a hoot to hear. The 16-piece ensemble features Alex Nordehn, Eric Cyr, Will Collins, David Leslie, Blake Peterson, David Ralph Adams, David Rode, Josh Moore, Lehigh, Greg Matt Wasmund, Marlena Boedigheimer, Joseph Anderson, Andy Peterson, Darin Bergsven, Ian Hopp, Mark Glenn. They are the Owls Club Big Band, assembled under the Order of Owls for mutual pleasure and entertainment.

P.B&J

9:45pm Fri 5/5 Carmody Irish Pub Although the name

Although the name P.B&J comes from the first letter of each group member's first names, the joining of fruit preserves with a spreadable paste made from peanuts is still part of the show. "We dress up in sandwich costumes and throw out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as part of our act," said auitarist Peter Anderson, who is backed in the band by the B&J rhythm section of drummer Becca Fredericks and bassist Jake Ericson. They have released four full-length albums and another is on the way. "We are currently going in the direction of playing harder metal music," Anderson said, "but still like to slow it down for a song or two."

Phoenix Flyers

11:15am Sun 4/30 Dovetail Café and Marketplace Phoenix Flyers is a group of youth aerialists ages 11-14. They train with Sea Smoke Aerial Arts, a program founded by Suzy Jezierski that operates out of Destination Fitness in Rice Lake, just north of Duluth. Sea Smoke offers adult classes and youth classes to anyone ages 5 and older.

The Phoenix Flyers showcase will feature Izzy Furman, Lily Brandt-Griffith, Elizabeth Aysta and Isis







Turgeon. They will be performing on the aerial sling and dancing to Minnesota-made music.

PocketKnife 8pm Fri 5/5

Wussow's Concert Cafe The members of the Iron Range band PocketKnife combine their collective talents toward the goal of writing Americana songs with the grit of rock and lyrics of folk music. That Ponyfolk sound was achieved with last year's release of the EP Rivard Road Sessions and shared across Minnesota and Montana during last summer's tour, in addition to a gig at the Prairie Pothole Festival in North Dakota. The group features singer and guitarist Karl Sundquist, fiddle and cowbell ace Jill Burkes, lead guitarist Rob Wheeler, bassist Josh Palmi, and drummer Sam Papin. They have been writing music together in overlapping projects over the past 15 years.

Polkarobics

7:30pm Mon 5/1 **Duluth Cider**

Formed in 2017, the Polkarobics rose to the demand for polka and Oktoberfest music in the Duluth area. Suzi Ludwig and Jimi Cooper of the duo Dance Attic lead up the onslaught of polkas and waltzes, backed by Veikko Lepisto on bass and Brad Nelson on drums. Their set list includes polka favorites but deviates from tradition in fun and unexpected ways. Aside from performing their original songs, their set list includes punk-pol-Ramones ka covers, country swing and Blondie songs thrown through the polka grinder. Songs about sweaty lederhosen and hoppy beer are also crowd favorites.

9:30pm Sat 5/6 **One Stop Shop** Multi-instrumentalists Clifton Nesseth and Paul Sauey formed the duo Pony in 2014 in Minneapolis. Focusing heavily on their vocal harmony work and building their songs around intricate finger-picking textures and Scandinavian-inspired modalities, they released a self-titled EP in 2015. Since then, the sound has evolved to more "maximalist soundscapes," defined by droning layers of guitars, strings and synth textures undergirding emotionally evocative lyrical imagery. Drummer Aaron Hays joined the band in 2021, Nesseth moved to Duluth in 2022 and the band name has since evolved into Ponyfolk. A full-length album is expected in 2023.

Port City Limit

11pm Wed 5/3 Mr. D's Bar & Grill Port City Limit plays classic rock hits and originals

such as the 2018 singles "Drunk Before Noon" and "Dance Like You Should." The band features Kaleb Montgomery on rhythm guitar and vocals, John Zmyslony on bass and harmony, Marty freakin' White on drums, and Nick Stenstrup on the quitar. This will be their third Homegrown performance, and they promise to "bring the heat," just like in 2019 and '22.

The Power of the Puss

7pm Sun 4/30 Blacklist Brewing

String trio the Power of the Puss performs originals and covers in a folk-pop style about "breakups, day-to-day life and people who come into your life then vanish again." Casey Dunn, who danced with the Duluth Dolls for six years, writes lyrics, sings and plays guitar. She said the band's name comes from a conversation with grandmother and her friends that included the phrase "that's the power of the puss!" Ukulele player and vocalist Justine Fosle and Dunn are both grad students in the University of Minnesota Duluth's nursing program.



When Dr. Audrey Toddhunter is not playing violin the

physics at UMD. All three of the P.O.P. musicians are mamas who "are motivated to spread girl power by being silly, sassy and sexy all at the same time."

Prairie Fyre

9pm Fri 5/5 Sir Benedict's Tavern After an unfortunately timed case of COVID-19 sidelined Prairie Fyre's performance during last year's Homegrown, the band is looking to rock extra hard this go-around. Singer and guitarist David Leppke is joined by his brother John Leppke on drums, with Michael Gibbs also taking up guitar and vocals. New to the lineup this year is Moriah Robyn Skye on bass. Tapping into influences such as Black Sabbath and Gojira, Prairie Fyre puts forth a psychedelic grunge sound, complete with crunchy, fuzzy guitars and a heavy pounding rhythm section.

Pronoya

10pm Sun 4/30 Pizza Lucé

The start of the COVID-19 pandemic was the end of a hard-rock band called the Conformist Party and the beginning of a new metalcore act. Conformists Ryan Walker. William Richardson and Kyle Wolden wanted to write music that was with more modern and heaviband, er sounding, so they creshe teaches ated a new identity with

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Abe Curran Band | p. Paul Lundgren
 Ty Johnson | p. Kim Kosmatka



Pronoya. Connor Slawson and Loren Dawson joined the fold and now the fivepiece is poised to release a debut EP.

Quarterback Club

11:30pm Sat 5/6 **Rex Bar at Fitger's** Quarterback Club has a nostalgic sound, seamlessly flowing through multiple decades worth of inspiration and genres while maintaining a familiar quality indie rock fans will recognize. Bassist Grant Ertl and lead guitarist Christoph Bruhn collaborate on the songwriting and vocals. They are joined by Matt Lilla on rhythm guitar and David Smith on drums. The focus is on thoughtful songwriting that looks to explore the tensions of the modern world. The band released its second EP. Second String, in June.

The Repairmen

8pm Sat 5/6 Sir Benedict's Tavern Garth Anderson, a drummer in two other bands at Homegrown this year, leads the Repairmen with his guitar and vocal skills. The style is folk-rock, with a deep repertoire of originals mixed with covers of songs by the likes of Bob Dylan. Joining Anderson in the band are threefourths of the Norton Hastings Band - guitarist Joshua Tesch, bassist Timothy Rubin and drummer Jeremy Roseth.

The Rhizomes

6pm Mon 5/1 Wild State Cider

The Rhizomes emerged in 2019 from a conversation in an alley near Chester Park. The four neighbors have been rocking out in neighborhood basements, living rooms and in a Two Harbors bar ever since. Following its 2022 debut at Homegrown, the group has written new songs that explore how not to be a jerk amidst planetary chaos and existential crisis. The musical vibe is singer-songwriter with off-ramps into power-pop and surfadelic. The lineup features Brian Barber on guitar, Emily Gaarder on guitar and keys, Chris Handsone on drums, and David Syring on bass and trumpet.

Robot Rickshaw

7pm Fri 5/5 Sacred Heart

Robot Rickshaw is the name of the platform and performance persona of Troy Rogers and his cart full of robots. But now that the robots were ritualistically destroyed with the electric hatchet that was controlling them during last year's Homegrown performance, what awaits? Stay tuned and buckle up, fair humans.

Robyn Graves & the Sordid Affairs

11:45pm Fri 5/5 Blacklist Brewing Still here, still queer and still doing whatever the

still doing whatever the fuck she wants musically, Moriah Robyn "Graves" Skye is not your average rebel girl. Featuring Chris "Sand Hill Crane" Shea on grooving drums and Cole "Quail" Webster on wiggling bass, the trio released the EP 2 Hard 2 Soft in October. Falling proudly under the genre of queercore, Robyn Graves & the Sordid Affairs play sludgy, thrashy, loud and dynamic music with lyrics that depict anything from trauma to bad sex. The band members have declared in an official statement that they are not responsible for spilled beer or other bodily fluids produced by the audience. They also ask that fans please use protection ... in the form of ear plugs.

Sadkin

10pm Sat 5/6 **Duluth Flame Nightclub** Max Mileski's post-futurist, art-pop band Sadkin plays synth-driven music in the style of the New Romantic movement. Live performances are accentuated with a choreographed light show and fog. The debut Sadkin album. *Élan Vital.* was released in 2017 and followed up with a collection of remixes and B-sides titled Reimagination in 2018. Two singles and two remixes have followed in the past two years. The group features Mileski at center stage on vocals and guitar, Nicholas Hanson on guitar, Chris LeBlanc on drums, Alex Piazza on bass and Anton Jimenez-Kloeckl on synthesizer.

Safe for Now

11pm Sat 5/6 Pizza Lucé

The former five-piece pop-punk band Safe for Now is looking to get loud this year. Moving from his old position on the drums, Joel Kunze is joined by new member Cory Kemi and original member Riley Vessel on the wall of six-stringed mayhem. Another new addition, Casey Sawyer takes up the position on the drums, with Mike Guello on bass. Rounding out the now six-piece band is Jessie Stowe on lead vocals.

Jan Schober

7:30pm Tues 5/2 Vikre Distillery

Jan Schober moved to Duluth in the winter of 2020 and started playing the open mic at Wussow's Concert Cafe. Her community of music folks began to develop over the following summer. She loved the warm, quirky, eclectic environment that Wussow's offers and felt welcomed to try new things and experiment on stage. These days she's mostly playing songs on acoustic guitar - sometimes with friends - with a style that ranges from glam, doom, punk and love ballads.

Sea Smoke Aerial Arts

7:30pm Sat 5/6 Studio Four Suzy Jezierski, aka Suzy Q, is the founder of Sea Smoke Aerial Arts. She has been practicing aerial arts for six years and specializes in the sling, a long and strong loop of fabric used to dance and perform tricks, flips and poses in the air. Jezierski has performed alongside a variety of Duluth musicians in various aerial/ musical collaborations throughout the years. She also teaches aerial sling classes at Destination Fitness in Duluth. During this vear's Homegrown performance, Jezierski will be accompanied by some of the advanced student





Ryan Dermody | p. Amber Nichols
 Steve Solkela | p. Brian Barber



flyers from her aerial classes - Lily Brandt-Griffith, Elizabeth Aysta and Lilly Furman.

Shadows of Me

8:30pm Sat 5/6

Zeitgeist Teatro Taking influence

from of the many areat post-grunge and nu-metal bands of the early 2000s, Shadows of Me keeps that hard-rock style alive with strong, quality musicianship and songwriting. Cory Christofferson takes on lead guitar and vocals, with Rick Chida on rhythm guitar and vocals. Bass player Matt Erickson and drummer Ryan Gundstrom round out the rhythm section. The band formed in 2005 and played its first Homegrown in 2019.

Side String Band

8:45pm Fri 5/5 **Carmody Irish Pub** Side String Band plays

bluegrass, old-time and progressive folk music. The members were sidemen in various bands and wanted to make some music together in a way that highlighted each of them leading tunes they enjoyed playing. Members are Adam Staupe on bass and guitar, Harrison Olk on banjo, Nate Hynum on mandolin, and Clancy Ward on fiddle.

The Slamming Doors

9:45pm Wed 5/3 **Gopher Lounge**

Adam Herman's passionate folk-rock music is inspired by his roots in a small western Illinois river town. Over the past decade his band the Slamming Doors has been a northern Minnesota powerhouse of high-energy acoustic and electric barroom Americana. Herman leads the group on Makky on lead guitar, Alex Nelson on keys, Ben Anderson on bass. Matt Johnson on drums, and Matt Groom on percussion. The Slamming Doors have released three studio albums, the most recent, Brown Bears, came out in 2020.

Slope City 5pm Mon 5/1

Studio Four

Best known for his visual artistry, Michael Smišek has also been carefully crafting music in recent years. The graphic artist behind Šek Design Studio and DLH Clothing writes songs that are woven into a blend of genres. From upbeat, windows-rolleddown soul to slow-building blues and folk, the element that holds Smišek's music together is a sense of familiarity and rhythm. Ten tracks of Slope City demos are available on SoundCloud, with an alrhythm guitar, with Tarek bum release in the works. Wisconsin

Eldri Snow 7:30pm Sat 5/6

One Stop Shop Eldri Snow is a Duluth based singer/songwriter whose influences include Gillian Welch, Nancy Griffith and John Prine. Last summer she hosted the Eldri Snow Variety Show at Earth Rider Brewery's arounds festival and performed at the Great Northern Squash Festival in Chaffey, Wis. Joining her on stage are guitar player Misisipi Mike Wolf, drummer Shanna Willie and purported special guests.

Sonofmel

8:30pm Sat 5/6 **One Stop Shop**

Americana balladeer John "Sonofmel" Adler plays songs from the world-weary road. That once meant wandering the globe to Adler, but in recent years the road has become a busy northwest performance

circuit. From the Fat Radish in Cornucopia to the Thirsty Pagan in Superior and the Out of the Woods Winery in Hayward, Adler brings his rustic, storied songs to destinations with names as colorful as the nice guy playing outlaw music inside.

Avery Sorenson

12:45pm Sun 4/30 Dovetail Café and Marketplace

Avery Sorenson started playing piano as a little kid, then got really into ukulele. "Around a year and a half ago I picked up a guitar, taught myself chords and I fell in love with everything about it," Sorenson said. "I haven't put it down since and any chance I get I play guitar." Now 16 years old, Sorenson is a student at Harbor City International School and has played gigs at coffee shops and the Festival of Sail.

Sour Venom

10pm Mon 5/1 **Caddy Shack** Sour Venom plays original music heavily inspired by hard rock from the 1970s forward. "We're trying to bring our version of the feel-good, head-banging rock that we grew up with to Duluth," vocalist Ron Nordberg said. He's backed in the band by guitarist Paul Palusky, bassist Rob Johnson and drummer Ryan Kivisto. Crowd participation is highly en-

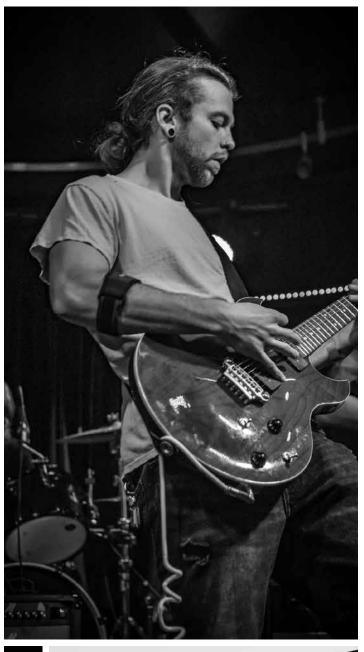




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 Rhett Lila | p. Matthew Moses 2) Steven Bockhold and Annmarie Geniusz | p. Amber Nichols



couraged at a Sour Venom show, whether that involves sitting in a chair, tapping toes or hitting the dance floor. "Either way, you're guaranteed to feel the music with us and have a great time," Nordberg said. The band has 24 songs ready for release, some of which will drop this summer on the debut Sour Venum EP.

The Spin Collective

9pm Thurs 5/4 Earth Rider Brewery This rotating group of dance performers has been a Homegrown regular since 2010, keeping the festival aflame with hoops, fire sticks, staffs, fans, funky tribal beats and more. Whether the event calls for a steampunk twist or a Day of the Dead homage, Spin Collective members Aleasha Hladilek, Jayme Hudson, Matthew Lindberg, Erin Filletoe, Amethyst Harle, Samantha Linder, Jillian Forte and Denise Hooper are there in full regalia, ready to get the town lit.

Stardust Collective

6pm Mon 5/1 Studio Four

Dynamic song structures and evocative lyrics from writers Aaron Tank and Eric Bong fuel this original rock band. Themes of love, spirituality, hope, politics, beauty and the possibilities of the human spirit are laid on top of this texture-rich rock en-

semble. Tank and Bong swap between guitar and bass, backed by the solid foundational drumming of Duluth mainstay Amy Ugstad. The songs are ornamented by the intuitive beauty of Shawna Weaver's violin and keyboard parts. Two- and threepart vocal harmonies are a keystone of many song choruses. Be prepared to smile, thrash, love, dance, reflect — and sometimes all at the same time.

Stel

8:15pm Sat 5/6 Owls Club

Brian Stelmaszewski plays acoustic guitar and sings classic tunes, some blues and a few original songs. He is a founding member of Sweetgrass and has opened for Hank Williams III. His timeless guitar technique and poignant voice are as much of a musicology history lesson as they are lowlit, intimate-stage, microbrew entertainment. Stel has been performing for more than 25 years and continues to hold down a twice-a-month residency at Thirsty Pagan Brewing in Superior.

Steve's Overpopulated One-man Band

2:15pm Sun 4/30 Dovetail Café and Marketplace Accordion all-star and Mesabi funnyman Steve

102 ★ HOMEGROWN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023 | 25TH ANNUAL ★



Solkela describes

Solkela is the leader of a entertaining the mass-17-piece one-man band es." In 2022, he released called Steve's Overpop- his fourth full-length alulated One-man Band. bum in three years, Sauhis na Knights, featuring a performance as "a caf- collection of "Minnesota feine-fueled tidal wave flavored novelty songs." of testosterone and cre- A comedic instructional ative energy; hell bent on video for the single "Up world domination ... and on da Range" exhibits

painful stilt walking, dangerous ice dam removal, arm wrestling, a moose mascot and watermelon abuse.

Sugar on the Roof

5pm Mon 5/1 Wild State Cider Music is what's most im-

portant to the members of Sugar on the Roof, but that doesn't mean they aren't thinking about merch. The band's custom-printed kazoos were released to fans in September. The barn-dance regulars play a repertoire spanning traditional string-band tunes



Volunteers at Wild State Cider | p. Matthew Moses
 Jeremy Lepak | p. Matthew Moses



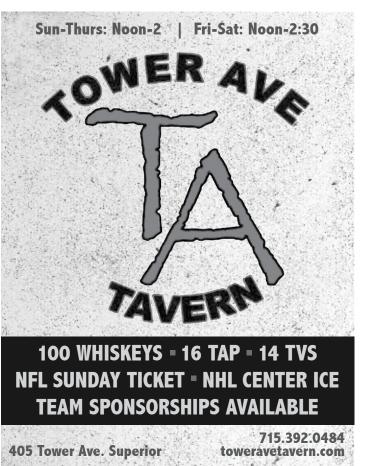


to the roots of Western swing. Megan Orwig Reynolds plays guitar and leads the honeyed harmonies, Jefferson Reynolds works the banjo and trombone, and Clancy Ward handles the classic country fiddlin'. They blend traditional American music from the 1930s and '40s with their originals to create a signature sound.

Superior Siren

10pm Fri 5/5 Duluth Flame Nightclub From the depths of Lake Superior, an ethereal voice comes through the mist. It grabs a hold of you, leading you away, and if you aren't careful, you just might crash into the rocks. This female-fronted, female-backed band is unnervingly good, whether live or through studio work. Laura Sellner, who released the





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solo EP *Kill Your Darlings* in 2021, fronts the band, offering her talents as both songwriter and vocalist. Holding the precise and hypnotic rhythms is Emma Deaner on drums and Nyssa Krause on bass, with Rachel Gobin haunting audiences from the cello.

Tarli

9pm Sat 5/6 Duluth Flame Nightclub

El Tarli Karnwie-Tuah has been creating waves in the Minnesota hip-hop scene for more than a decade, originally as EL.i.BE. For the past year he's been performing under his middle name, Tarli, an homage to his native country of Liberia. The name originates from his mother's tribe and means "successful journey." Tarli's powerful lyrical journey encompasses the beauty and challenges of being a first-generation refugee in America. His 2017 fulllength album Liberation has received airplay in a variety of mediums and the accompanying tour led to an offer of a publishing deal. Tarli is no stranger to Duluth stages, having shared bills with Willie Diction, NonFic and C-Silence. Last summer he was handpicked to open for Mac Lethal at Pizza Lucé. DJ MidiEvil will provide the beats. and Graydon Francis and lamKaye, both of Sounds of Blackness, will accompany Tarli with soulful vocals.

Greg Tiburzi

9:15pm Thurs 5/4 Cedar Lounge

Greg Tiburzi's authentic local voice lulls listeners while simultaneously commenting on society with acute insight. Inspired by pop radio, Woody Guthrie, Chuck Berry, Bob Dylan and American folk music, he uses quitar, harmonica and voice to deliver compositions of "love, loss, regret, emancipation, joy, pain, concealment, acceptance, change, trust, mistrust, patience, prolonging, forgiveness, remembrance, loyalty, hope, faith, forgetfulness, longing, peace, fealty and feeling good." He's released four albums in the past three years, the most recent being last summer's Songs of Mesabi.

Timbre Ghost

9:45pm Fri 5/5 Blacklist Brewing Multi-instrumentalist Dustin Tessier has released a half-dozen recordings under the name Timbre Ghost, sewing contemplative lyrics into various styles of an alt-country backdrop. The Duluth-born and raised artist turned mountain transplant has been inspired from time spent in the landscape of Western Montana. The outcome is delectable Americana à

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Isbell. Tessier's residence in the mountains clearly has transposed his melancholy tone to a more hopeful outlook heard in his intimate vocals and quitar work.

Torment

12:30pm Fri 5/5 Rex Bar at Fitger's

Metal, punk and raw aqgression come together in the deathcore band Torment. Up front are Caden Dudek's nightmarish vocals, breaking through a brick wall built by the industrial-grade guitar tones of Kyle Rudd-Pulkinen and teeth-rattling bass of Connor Slawson. Anyone left standing is quickly knocked down by Andrew Olson's drums. A new album, Swallow Your Teeth, was released in November, letting fans bring the D-Town Beatdown into their homes or wherever their headphones travel.

Tragyc

9:15pm Fri 5/5 R.T. Quinlan's Saloon Tragyc is а new thrash-metal band in Duluth. The group emerged early last summer and made its biggest splash in October during a Fright vue, to share their takes Night mosh-a-thon at R.T. Quinlan's Saloon, sharing the bill with Count Spookula and Cooking with Chef. The five-piece outfit consists of Shae Sarvela, Josiah Melton, share some guitar duties

la Neil Young and Jason Alex Mason, Antonio Davis and Dustin Giersdorf.

The Trash Cats

6:30pm Tues 5/2 Vikre Distillery

Imagine this: it's midnight and you've got a rumbling hunger for something to snack on. You find your way to the downtown alleys, and jump inside the first dumpster you see. After pawing through the garbage, maybe batting a few empty Pizza Lucé boxes around, you see it. Your prayers have been answered. There, illuminated by the moonlight, sits a delicious fish skeleton. This is the feeling one finds when the Trash Cats hit the stage. This duo de force consists of Matt Sjelin on keys and Sean Mahoney on guitar, both sharing the vocals.

Tres Osos

8:45pm Tues 5/2 Sir Benedict's

Those who've been hankering for the sweet mandolin plucking of Nicholas Klee, formerly of Borderstone and Two Many Banjos, are in luck. Klee has joined forces with fellow bluegrass aficionados Tim Leutgeb and Ian Kvale, both of Black River Reon traditional bluegrass, country and maybe a gospel song or two. While Klee will likely get a lot of time with the mandolin, both he and Leutgeb will



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while Kvale will hold it all like Tech N9ne, 50 Cent, together on the bass. And Twista, Do or Die and Leutgeb can't be kept more. He also appeared away from the banjo for at the 2019 Homegrown long — it is Duluth, after all. Look for the bears to be playing some extended jams and spreading the old-timey love up and down the highways of where he has occasion-Northern Minnesota.

Underground 'til Sundown

6pm Sat 5/6 Wussow's Concert Cafe Underground 'til Sundown looks like a fourpiece band of blue collar but sounds hooligans like rock and rollers with skate punk and thrash metal nailed into the riffs and tempos. Mitch McCarroll and Brad McCarroll team up on guitar and vocals. Ryan Juntunen plays bass and Teddy Dowling handles the drumming and supports with backup vocals. The band hails from Grand Rapids, but has played a number of shows in the Duluth-Superior area over the past few years at venues such as R.T. Quinlan's Saloon and the Caddy Shack.

Untold Stories

10:15pm Wed 5/3 Kom-on-Inn Walter "Renagade" Taylor Water Cat has been making music 7:45pm Tues 5/2 his whole life. His new collaboration, Untold Stories, pairs him with fellow Duluth artist Joseph Black. Taylor has shared Spanish,

under the moniker #igotwork. Taylor operates a combination penny-candy and airpod store in Duluth called One Stop Shop, ally performed along with other hip-hop artists and musicians. On weekends Taylor opens his shop to visual artists as a place to show off their work.

Ryan Van Slooten

10:45pm Fri 5/5 **Carmody Irish Pub** Ryan Van Slooten has balanced his solo music career with being a stay-athome dad and raising two daughters. His original songwriting reflects the kind of thought, insight and dedication needed to balance a stage life with a family life. Easily fitting into a playlist with John Mayer and David Gray, Van Slooten has a clean, honest voice that he can turn up to rock like the Goo Goo Dolls or the Wallflowers. The ninetrack album About Time, Van Slooten's first new album in 10 years, was released in March.

Sir Benedict's Water Cat is a duo that sings a stompy, sexy, bluesy mix of French, Italian, Malithe stage with rappers an and American music.



Henry Bullard and Emma out, earth-shaking guitar Musto formed Water Cat riffs and plodding drums in France almost three years ago before moving to Duluth in 2022. Bullard plays a rock-solid resonator guitar, harmonica, electric guitar and banjo. Musto supplies vocals in an array of languages that sound as fresh and clear as a morning stroll in the Jardin du Luxembourg. The pair perform their eclectic mix of international covers and new originals in places like Carmody Irish Pub and Bent Paddle Brewing.

Wilbur

10pm Fri 5/5 Pizza Lucé

The self-described "bummer metal" music of Wilbur focuses on the angst and frustration of modern existence. Slow, fuzzed-

provide a wall-of-soundstyle backdrop for dark lyrics ranging from personal feelings of depression and anxiety to frustration at modern America's lack of care for its most vulnerable people. Wilbur is composed of members of three other groups: Diegetic, Lecture Hall and Minneapolis' Small Kitchen Appliances. The group is inspired by modern stoner metal acts like Bongzilla, Weedeater and Bongripper, as well as genre pioneers like Kyuss and Earth. The debut Wilbur EP is expected to be released by summer.

Wild Horses

10:30pm Sat 5/6 Rex Bar at Fitger's Grand Rapids-based **

band Wild Horses plays a brand of folk rock and western Americana that often gets it compared to the Lumineers, Gregory Alan Isakov and Mumford & Sons. With roots in the Minnesota bluegrass community, frontman Jed LaPlant draws inspiration from the simple storytelling of traditional music, but offers a more dynamic and driving approach sonically. Backing him up are Ariana LaPlant on keys and fiddle, McKeon Hugh Roberts on bass and J.J. Snell on drums. The group released its 11-track debut album Runaway in 2022.

A Winter Downpour

7pm Sat 5/6 Sacred Heart

A Winter Downpour is a Duluth-based indie rock quartet that performs a collection of moody, introspective songs about surviving the beauties and disappointments of everyday life. It's music designed to soothe the doldrums of darkness, bitter cold and snow piled out the back door. Founded by frontman Alberto Serrano Rivera more than a decade ago in St. Cloud, A Winter Downpour has gone from a solo acoustic project to its current lineup featuring drummer Ken Nyberg, avant-garde guitarist Paul Connolly and

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bassist Kevin Zak. The Francisco where he twice group has released two full length albums.

Winzige Hosen

12:30am Sat 5/6 Rex Bar at Fitger's Mix the frosty beer steins, sweaty dance floor and amped-up accordions of polka music with electric-quitar power chords, shredded vocals and unhinged energy of punk rock and it sounds like Winziae Hosen. The seven-piece band was formed in 2018 and has been blowing out beer aardens and dance hall tents this side of the Munich Oktoberfest ever since. The group features the red tuba of Kala Moria. Schanzenbach on accordion, Luke Nyen and Abe Curran on guitars, trumpet player Patrick Sunderland, bassist Eric Bong and new drummer Tommy Kishida, Prost!

Misisipi Mike Wolf

6:30pm Fri 5/5 Zeitgeist Teatro

Singer, songwriter, guitar wizard and poster artist for the stars Misisipi Mike Wolf cannot be easily categorized. His songwriting is influenced by John Prine, Townes Van Zandt and Hank Williams, but his guitar work dabbles in David Gilmore psychedelics as much as Jerry Garcia jam-a-thons. Originally from Mississippi, Wolf spent some time in San

won the readers poll for "Best Singer/Songwriter" in the Guardian. In Duluth, he also performs with Boxcar, Palm Sunday (a Garcia tribute band), Eldri Snow, Actual Wolf and Crooked Mile. Wolf will be joined by fiddle player Clancy Ward and friends.

Wolves of the North 7pm Sat 5/6

Wussow's Concert Cafe "Hey, do you want to start a punk-rock easycore band?" That's how Joel Kunze asked Jessie Stowe to begin a collaborative musical journey that was solidified 2018 with the addition of drummer Brady Madden. brewmeister Brian Adding and subtracting guitar players, the band, then known as Winning Isn't Everything, played a ton of shows and gained a popular Midwest following. However, last year the core members found the new songs they were working on were less punk and far heavier. They changed the band name to reflect the new sound and Wolves of the North was born. The trio found guitarist Judea Thomas to add extra punch and the new pack was complete.

Woodblind

9:45pm Sun 4/30 **Carmody Irish Pub** It's safe to say guitarist Jason Wussow and bassist Veikko Lepisto's ska band Woodblind has be-

come a Duluth music institution. The pair have performed their catchy, clever and dance-till-youdie original music in pizza parlors, breweries and coffee shops across the northland for years. The duo has released two full-length albums featuring quest turns from an all-star team of local musicians — who also frequently join the fun on stage. "We play happy music that makes you dance, except that one song," Wussow said. Dog owner warning: There will be whistling.

Skarlett Woods

6:30pm Sun 4/30 Zeitgeist Teatro

Skarlett Woods blends mesmerizing vocal passages with an acoustic quitar groove far advanced beyond the average singer/songwriter. Her combining of folk with a West Coast jazz style is both unique and wonderfully familiar. Last year she won honors at the Duluth Dylan Fest Songwriting Contest, performed at the Duluth Does Bonnie Raitt concert and participated in a Ukraine Benefit hosted at the Sacred Heart Music Center. She also held down an October residency at Sir Benedict's Tavern. A sophomore album with producer Kevin Bowe is in the works and scheduled for release this fall.

Woodsong Souvenir

7:30pm Wed 5/3 Wussow's Concert Cafe The acoustic supergroup Woodsong Souvenir meets every Sunday to create new music, rehearse, record and share stories. The band features a talented collection of Iron Range-based musicians dedicated to tuning up the strings and turning down the amplifiers. Led by singer- songwriter Christopher David Hanson, who fronts his own hard-touring rock band, the group includes fiddle player Jill Burkes and guitarist Rob Wheeler of the duo Morningbird, bassist Lynn Evenson from the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra and percussionist Matt Jarva. A 15-song debut album, A Handful of Sundays, is set for release in 2023.

Zeb or Zeke and the Run Away Screamings

7pm Wed 5/3 Jade Fountain

Luke Moravec's one-man band Zeb or Zeke and the Run Away Screamings incorporates drums, guitar, keyboard and vocals into one you-had-to-be-theretype experience. "I don't release music," Moravec said. "No albums, nothing like that. For me, a one-man band shouldn't be experienced through a CD player. I like that it's a live experience only —









1) Emily Haavik & the 35s | p. Brian Barber 2) Mariana Rose | p. Paul Lundgren

when it's done it's done, when I'm gone I'm gone." Moravec's songs are all inspired by the animated television series Scooby-Doo, which he found gave him something to focus on. "What's my identity? What's my angle? What's my muse? Turns it's Scooby-Doo!" out ZOZATRAS might not travel to gigs with a Great Dane, but be prepared for a mysterious and groovy show.

Zenith Dance Collective

8:30pm Sat 5/6 Studio Four

Locally choreographed rhythms 2022 he performan 2022 he performan Dance, a fusion bel tive, durin Movement Showcase, they are curating six numbers, including Alan Sparhawk and the Cluckin' ferent mi Cloggers. Organizing the such as o affair are local dancers accompanied by 1000 hereina to the such as o gonite.

Amber Burns, Brianna Hall-Nelson and Tom Maloney.

Zeta Carinae

5:30pm Thurs 5/4 Empire Coffee

Zeta Carinae is a wideranging electronica creation orchestrated by Duluth-based artist Marshall Hampton. The Zeta Carinae Bandcamp page is a "musical composition diary" loaded with almost 50 releases in the past three years - most of them singles. Hampton explores sonic styles from synth doom to brighter synthwave using a variety of manufactured melodies, rhythms and beats. In 2022 he soundtracked a performance for Alchemie Dance, a Duluth-based fusion belly dance collective, during Homegrown. The six-track album Metal was released in January and attaches sound to different mineral elements such as osmium and ara-

Rollers win 2022 Homegrown kickball, knotting series at 11

By Mike Creger

The chant is heard sporadically throughout the annual Homegrown Music Festival Kickball Classic. "MVP. MVP. MVP."

It usually comes when obviously non-sportsball scenesters, worn out from a week of festival shenanigans, actually catch a ball instead of having it carom off their chests or heads, arms akimbo, the rubber orb tumbling to the turf. But hey, at least they didn't knock over their beers.

If the 2022 version of the day scored the eventual aame on the field at Chester Bowl had one marker, it was the extraordinary series of popup catches that kept the score low. Saturday built an early 4-0 lead, kicking to all the right spots in the infield to move runners along. The Friday Rawkers could not catch up and eventually had to submit to the reality that the Rollers had knotted the series at 11 games apiece after a 6-4 win.

"MVP. MVP. MVP."

Most valuable plan? Was it the small-ball approach taken by the Rollers? It

wasn't bunts, but nicely placed balls in the infield that got Saturday on the board. The Friday Rawkers, who usually rely on a power game, never really found a groove, although Mike Smišek smashed a ball into the outfield in the bottom of the fourth for an inside-the-bowl homer that gave Friday its first run, making it 4-1.

Most valuable pressure? The little excitement that Friday had after scoring was erased when Saturgame-winner in the top of the fifth and added the cushion with one more. They wouldn't have to score again.

Most valuable parachute? Brittany Lind, local music follower and host of The Duluth Local Show on the Current, brought a gym parachute to the game and it was an immediate hit as people grabbed a handle, formed a rainbow canopy, and children and adults zoomed inside and let the parachute collapse.

Most valuable pitch? The Wrong Notes Pep Band entertained again, including a horn solo at the pitcher's mound to start





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★ 2023 Homegrown Kickball Classic ★ Saturday, May 6 | High Noon

Chester Bowl Park, 1800 E. Skyline Parkway



1) Victorious Rollers team | p. Mike Creger 2) Wrong Notes Pep Band during 7th-inning stretch | p. Mike Creger 3) Gym-parachute glee | p. Mike Creger

the proceedings. It turned into a marching band during the seventh-inning stretch. With silver pants and a found trombone she's been noodling with the past year, Carolyn Reisberg was joy personified.

Most valuable participation? Saturday pitcher Bryan "Lefty" Johnson sat by himself along the first date with some fielding baseline shortly after the plays that led to put-outs ignored "high noon" start time. Over on the third base side. Fridav team members snickered about early baserunning skill, what was starting to look like a one-man team.

Then came Ellen Vaagen across the outfield with a wagon full of kickball inspiration. The Saturday coach had arrived and suddenly the Rollers outnumbered the Rawkers nearly two to one.

Most valuable player. Oh, yeah, that thing. Johnson made for a strong candiand even a few double plays. Vaagen had pep talks and some excellent beer flying and legs whirring.

Vaagen put things to rest ing 60 degrees met kickas Saturday huddled for a postgame celebration. El Karnwie-Tuah, who performs as Tarli, was named base and playing through a sore quad. Vaagan handed him the game ball and he smiled, reminding everyone it was a team game. Tarli was a vacuum at first down. base, catching foul balls and pop-ups and taking many a throw from Johnson for outs.

The Homegrown goddess was kind as a cloudless sky and temperatures near-

ballers and fans. Just the week before, it was 30 and raining with 60 mph winds in Chester Park. Like the MVP for stellar work at first partying during the game, the weather was extreme in a good way, but led to the realization of sunburns all Saturday night as Homegrown shows wound

> Most valuable protection was needed. ★



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