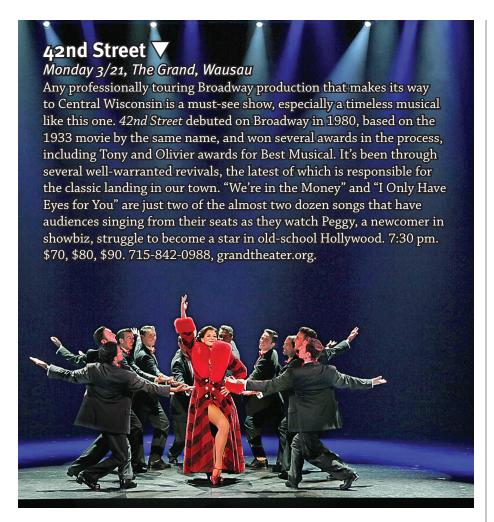
HIGHLIGHTS by Becky Meyer



The Flowers are Burning ▼

Opens Friday 3/18, Center for the Visual Arts, Wausau

Watercolor is a beautiful medium that's incredibly challenging and unforgiving for the artists trying to create them. Madison artists Helen Klebesadel and Mary Kay Neumann created the watercolors of this exhibit, featuring all flowers—not simply delicate



Mary Kay Neumann's "Howl" in the CVA's exhibit, The Flowers Are Burning

around in a field but flowers that represent power. The images are big and boldly colored. They are, however, blurred and seem near melting as a representation of the hazards of climate change, habitat destruction and overuse of land. The exhibit is part of a broader project, and visitors are encouraged to write down something missing or endangered in their lives. On display through May 14. Opening gala Fri., March 25, 5-7 pm. Gallery hours Tues.-Fri. 10 am-5 pm, Sat. 10 am-4 pm. 715-842-4545, cvawausau.org.

flowers blowing



▲ The Hook Up

Friday 3/18, Great Dane, Wausau

With heavy sound influences from Weezer, The Strokes and Sublime, this Appleton dance band incorporates fast-paced drum solos with equally fast-talking vocals, powerful hooks and a cool, almost retro rock approach. The band performs covers as well as tons of original material. Formed in 2012, the band had some lineup changes a couple years later and is now a trio. With these guys onstage, there definitely won't be a dull moment all night. The sound is punk, fun and "you better keep up with these rockers or be left behind." 9 pm.

Comedian Chris Barnes

Saturday 3/19, Koo Coo's Nest, Schofield This guy has wanted to be a comedian his whole life, and in 1980, he stepped on stage for his first comedy show at a club in Milwaukee. He's goofy, a bit vulgar at times, but always hilarious. Barnes performs all over the Midwest (and does a spot-on Yooper accent, by the way), and has headlined in New York City comedy clubs. His anecdotes on his own life experiences make it near impossible not to crack a smile. Also featured is comedian Adrian Cosby from Yellow Springs, Ohio. The evening is hosted by Marty Clarke. Seating 7 pm, show 8 pm. \$12. 715-571-0081, wausaucomedy.com.



St. Paddy's Rock Party ▼

Thursday 3/17, Q&Z, Ringle

This holiday is filled with food, drinks and parties. But if you're simply looking for a lot of loud, live music—Irish or not—this may be your best bet. With five bands all in one place, you get a lot bang for your buck. Rock out and show your Irish pride with a plethora of green attire. \$5. Doors 6 pm, show 7 pm. QZexpoentertainment.com. **Left of Reason** • These rockers from Brodhead, Wis., have a metal sound with vocal style similar to James Hetfield of Metallica.

Cosmic Wool · Oklahoma-based rock band with metal and classic rock influences.

Death Valley Dreams · Named after their Pennsylvania hometown, this recently formed band mixes indie and psychedelic sounds.

 $\textbf{Indigibliss} \cdot \textbf{This Wausau trio} - \textbf{drummer Erik Juvonen, bassist Orlando DiValentin and guitarist Caleb}$ Delaney—brings thumpin' beats and heavy bass.

Annie B and The Complication · This Milwaukee alt-rock band led by female vocals hits the stage with



Annie B and the Complication perform with four other bands at Q&Z for St. Paddy's Day