

## Sofa King returning to AMVETS Jan. 28

After packing the house back in November, the Ephrata-based band Sofa King returns to the Ephrata AMVETS for a show Saturday, Jan. 28.

The band—which will feature a handful of new tunes added to its unique mix of hits from the '80s, '90s and modern day—will be performing from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at the 614 South State Street club.

# Nobody's Perfect

## Mark Boyd, of World Famous Nobodies, brings acoustic set to Cafe Chocolate

**STEPHEN SEEBER**  
*Local E Staff*

Cafe Chocolate continues to showcase local art and entertainment. Joel Ember's murals will be on display through February, and now Mark Boyd will be playing guitar on Friday nights.

Boyd, of Lititz, is one-half of the rock duo World Famous Nobodies. The other half, Paul Ledoux, resides in Louisiana...so, Mark will be playing solo at the Lititz cafe.

The Nobodies recently released a CD, "Here Goes Nothing," and they have a website at [www.worldfamousnobodies.com](http://www.worldfamousnobodies.com).

### Something about Nobody

Paul was in a band in Louisiana a few years back called Liquid Jelly Monkey Love, and they built up a huge following in the Baton Rouge area.

"They always packed the clubs where they played and were really cool to my band, Zen Engine," Mark recalled. "They let us play a short set during one of their breaks at THE hot spot for music in Baton Rouge, and that got us in for regular bookings. When our bands split up, I started recording original demos at his studio and we became friends."

The pair found they had a lot in common, especially the drive to create original music.

"We started talking about forming a band, and we both agreed that the band would have to have an identity," Mark said. "And what better identity than Nobody!"

"Seriously though, we wanted a concept/foundation that we could believe in and really have fun with. Paul called me one afternoon and said, 'I don't know what the name of our band will be, but I have our first album title...World Famous Nobodies.'

"He didn't see it as a band name at first. We really get a kick out of people's reaction to the name...it's almost always a smile, which is exactly what we want."

The newly anointed Nobodies played some acoustic shows as a duo and, according to Mark, things got a little wild:

"People were dancing...and there were no drums! Just two crazy guys with acoustic guitars playing very rock-based songs. We always stayed away from traditional acoustic songs (i.e. singer/songwriter stuff). We had fun...playing 'Mexican Radio,' 'The Distance' by Cake, songs by the Cult (of course), the Cure, Zepplin, Stone Temple Pilots, Seal, Tea Party, Live, Cowboy Mouth, Train...there were no limits, and the response was always really good."

It was still tough to get gigs, though, because a lot of clubs wouldn't book solo or duo acoustic acts. So, the Nobodies eventually enlisted a drummer and did its first band show as a three-piece at the Cateria in Baton Rouge (the aforementioned "hot spot").

"We've played the Millennium Music Conference in Harrisburg as well," Mark added. "In the last year and a half, we've really spent most of our time recording and putting songs together. We're happy with the sound on the EP, but we've already found ways to improve our sound so we're moving forward with the next disc."

### Local E Q&A with Mark Boyd

LE: "Here Goes Nothing" is not your typical record production. Is it difficult to make an album when half of the band is 1,000 miles away?

Boyd: It is difficult at times, but mostly it's amazing. We have space on a website called XDrive.

When I record, say, a guitar or vocal part, I upload the sound file to XDrive. Paul then downloads it to his computer and puts it in his multi-track studio program. Conversely, when Paul records a guitar part...well, you get the idea.

We have the same audio software in our studios and send instrument and vocal parts back and forth until the song is complete. It's a lot like putting together a puzzle. I still can't believe we're doing this...it's unreal. I think once in a lifetime you find that musical chemistry that's just magic. Paul has a knack for finishing my ideas and I have a knack for finishing his. We just click, and I'm grateful that technology allows us to make this happen.



Mark Boyd performs, above and on the cover, during a recent Friday night performance at Cafe Chocolate. (Photos by Stephen Seeber)

LE: Who writes the songs? Are they autobiographical?

Boyd: Paul and I both write songs. Paul usually comes up with parts of songs and sends them up to me to play around with and finish. I usually come up with what I think are complete songs...then he takes them and turns them into something better. The songs are both autobiographical and observational. There are autobiographical elements to all of the songs I write, and I try to write where people can identify with the songs in their own way. Hopefully, the songs will mean different things to different people.

"Drivel" is the first song we put together for the EP. Sometimes the hardest part of writing songs is being honest, no matter what you think the reaction might be. I've caught a lot of flack for the lyrics to that song. Somebody once told me that I obviously didn't care about the words because they're so meaningless and stupid. Truth is, they're supposed to be. It's about meeting someone in a loud club. It never made sense to me. You see someone you're attracted to, yell over the music in each other's ear, don't understand a thing, act like you do."

LE: Where have you guys performed as a group, and what do you do (performance-wise) while you're apart?

Boyd: As a group, we'll do music industry conferences, like the Millennium Music Conference, Dewey Beach or South By Southwest. I played acoustic at Dewey Beach in late September and we did Millennium Music Conference 8 two years ago. We have a song on the compilation CD from MM8 — "If She Just Knew."

Other than that, Paul plays some in Baton Rouge and I do solo acoustic gigs up here. I've played the patio at General Sutter Inn, Cafe Chocolate, Symposium, McCleary's, Bube's Brewery and the Tiki Lounge at the Chameleon Club to name a few.

I also have a trio that will be performing at area wineries this summer. We played Twinbrook Winery last summer and it was cool. Ryan Shelly plays drums and Mike Berg does keyboards. It's really cool because we'll do WFN songs, but they sound totally different. Those guys are amazing musicians. Come see us...it's a lot of fun.

LE: Do you focus mostly on original material? When you do covers, who do you like to cover?

Boyd: When we perform as a band it is all original, although we might throw in one cover for fun. Something like

"The Hollow Man" by the Cult, which is one of our favorite songs and one of our favorite bands.

As for my acoustic shows, I perform as much original material as possible. I don't have enough originals worked up yet to fill two hours, so there are definitely cover songs. When I started doing acoustic shows while living in Louisiana, I wanted to do something different than your typical singer/songwriter stuff (i.e. James Taylor, Neil Young, Paul Simon, etc.). It's all been done, and done well by others. No one really needs to hear my rendition of "Fire and Rain," you know? I'm not comfortable doing that, anyway, because my background is rock. What I try to go for is songs that weren't done acoustic to begin with. It's amazing how a song that was recorded totally electric can take on an entirely different personality when it's done acoustic. The old Wall of Voodoo song "Mexican Radio" always gets a great reaction; people can't believe an acoustic guy is playing it.

LE: Who are some of your favorite bands/performers?

Boyd: My favorite band is The Tea Party, from Canada. Then there's Swell, from California. Clutch is just brilliant. Neil Fallon, their singer, is a phenomenal lyricist—intelligent and tremendously witty with whimsy and word play.

Other favorites include: The Cult, Tricky Woo, Kiss and Rush.

LE: What inspired you to do this?

Boyd: I was originally inspired by bands like Led Zepelin and Santana, but the truth is Kiss inspired me to want to perform.

LE: If you were ever unfortunate enough to be shipwrecked, what would be your top 10 desert island discs be (you're allowed to include your own work)?

Boyd: If I can include our stuff, I'll have to put "Here Goes Nothing" at the top of the list. I'm hesitant to do that because it looks egotistical, but the truth is Paul and I write songs that we want to listen to. When we're putting songs together, they HAVE to be what we want to listen to. Man, when you're going through the recording and production process you're going to hear each song dozens, if not hundreds, of times. If you still like the song after that, you know you've got something (ha ha).

Outside of our own stuff, here's what my top 10 list would look like:

The Cult, "Electric;" Tricky Woo, "Sometimes I Cry;" The Tea Party, "Edges of Twilight;" Clutch, "Pure Rock Fury;" Kiss, "Alive!;" Celtic Frost, "Into the Pandemonium;" and Police, "Message in a Box."

Check out Mark and his message this Friday night at Cafe Chocolate, starting at 7:30 p.m., in downtown Lititz.

## GOING OUT GUIDE... GOING OUT

### Music

#### THURSDAY, JAN. 26

Cheers Bar - Manheim: Karaoke with Charlotte 9 p.m.

K-ville Hotel & Tavern - Kleinfeltersville: Quesadilla Night each Thursday...10 different varieties!

Rawhide Saloon & Eatery - Ephrata: Famous Ribs, Wings & Liquid Things every Thursday from 4-10 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 27

Toy Soldier - Lititz: Karaoke with DJ Piper 9:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 28

AMVETS - Ephrata: Sofa King 9 p.m.

Cheers Bar - Manheim: The Skyes 9:30 p.m.

Toy Soldier - Lititz: Karaoke with DJ Piper 9:30 p.m.



Jacksonville natives Yellowcard will perform at Philly's Theatre of Living Arts on Jan. 28.

### Theater

**Ephrata Performing Arts Center:** EPAC's 2006 Family Series kicks off with "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," the classic children's story of an eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka and Charlie, a good-hearted boy from a poor family who lives in the shadow of Wonka's extraordinary factory. Long isolated from his own family, Wonka launches a worldwide contest to select an heir to his candy empire. Five lucky children, including Charlie, draw golden tickets from Wonka chocolate bars and win a guided tour of the legendary candy-making facility that no outsider has seen in 15 years. Dazzled by one amazing sight after another, Charlie is drawn into Wonka's fantastic world in this astonishing and enduring story. Performances will be held Friday, February 17 at 7:30 and Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19 at 2 p.m.; and then continues on Friday, February 24 at 7:30 and Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26 at 2 p.m.

**Lebanon Community Theatre:** Plaza Suite, directed by Rom Roy. Hilarity abounds in this portrait of three couples successively occupying a suite at the Plaza. A suburban couple take the suite while their house is being painted and it turns out to be the one in which they honeymooned 23 (or was it 24?) years before and was yesterday the anniversary, or is it today? This wry tale of marriage in tatters is followed by the exploits of a Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He calls a childhood sweetheart, now a suburban housewife, for a little sexual diversion. Over the years she has idolized him from afar and is now more than the match he bargained for. The last couple is a mother and father fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her or as mamma yells, "I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!" Show dates are Jan. 26-28 and Feb. 2-4 at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 at 2:30 p.m.

### Books n' Stuff

**Ephrata Public Library**  
Located at 550 S. Reading Rd., Ephrata, 738-9291. Hours are: Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (winter); Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (summer). For additional activities, check out the library's website at [www.ephrapubliclibrary.org](http://www.ephrapubliclibrary.org).

**THURSDAY, JAN. 26**  
**Friends of the Ephrata Public Library** will meet at 7 p.m.

**Lititz Public Library**  
Located at 651 Kissel Hill Road, Lititz, 626-2255. For additional activities, check out the library's website at [www.lititzlibrary.org](http://www.lititzlibrary.org).

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25**  
**Natural Health Book Club** meets at 7 p.m. Join Bonnie Young for a book group that focuses on natural health. The group will discuss SuperFoods Rx: Fourteen Foods That Will Change Your Life by Steven G. Pratt and Kathy Matthews. Participants may bring healthy snacks to share.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 26**  
**Hurry Sickness: Learning How to Slow Down and Live Within your Limits** at 7 p.m. People seem to be in a hurry to run off and do the next important thing. Just how many most important things can we fit into one day? Parents, in particular, are often caught up in being over accessible, overloaded and overwhelmed. Wellness educator, Brenda Coffin, will highlight 12 new ways to decelerate and live within your own speed limit.

**MONDAY, JAN. 30**  
**Suspense Book Club** meets

at 7 p.m. Get together with others who enjoy thrilling reads.

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 31

**Sculpting with Paint** at 7 p.m. Cory Wanamaker will show and talk about how his training as a sculptor has influenced his two-dimensional artwork on canvass in this program sponsored by the Village Art Association.

**Adamstown Area Library**  
Located at 3000 N. Reading Rd., Adamstown, 484-4200. Hours are: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Check out the library's website at [www.adamstown.lib.pa.us/](http://www.adamstown.lib.pa.us/) for upcoming events and activities for both adults and children.

#### THURSDAY, JAN. 26

**Puppet Show** at 4 p.m. "The Harriet Tubman Story"

#### Eastern Lancaster

##### County Library

Located at 11 Chestnut Dr., New Holland, 354-0525. Check out [www.elancolibrary.org](http://www.elancolibrary.org) for more information about upcoming events.

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 31

**Barn saver John High: Reclaiming History for America's Future** John High has saved all or parts of more than 200 barns or other structures as a way to recycle them. He will talk about his work in barn preservation through a slide show presentation. Wife and author, Linda Oatman High, wrote "The Barn Savers" a children's book based on John's work. For more information about John High go to [www.barnsaver.com](http://www.barnsaver.com). Registration is required, please call 354-0525.

### Events

"Show and Tell" program will be held at the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley on Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 p.m. Do you have an interesting, out of the ordinary object at home? Bring it in for identification and some good, enjoyable discussion! The program will be held at the Eicher Arts Center, located on Cocalico Street in Ephrata's Tom Grater Park.

**Annual Oriental Rug Sale** will be held January 27 through February 25 at Ten Thousand Villages, 240 North Reading Road, Ephrata. Enjoy 10 to 40 percent off the entire stock of handknotted Persian, Bokhara, Kilim, Sumek and Tribal carpets. All rugs are crafted by fairly paid adults involving more than 700 families in Pakistan.

**Ephrata Groundhog Day Celebration** gets underway Saturday, January 28 at 8 a.m. in Tom Grater Park. Ephrata's groundhog, Cocalico Cal, emerges to prognosticate the weather for the balance of the winter.

**Akron Fire Company Bingo** will be held Saturday, January 28 at the fire station located at 1229 Main Street, Akron. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.; games begin at 6:15. Kitchen open at 5 p.m. This event is held every Saturday.

**All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner**, hosted by Boy Scout Troop #115 will be held Saturday, January 28 from 3:30 to 7 p.m. at Melling's Lutheran Church in Schoeneck. Cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 6-11. Children age 5 and under eat for free.

**Jammin' for Jess**, an evening of live music, dancing, food and auctions to benefit The Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, will be held Saturday, January 28 at 7 p.m. at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Popular oldies group, The Bad Toupees will perform. For ticket info call 1-800-762-6202.

**Village Art Association** will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 31, at the Lititz Public Library's community room. Featured artist will be Cory Wanamaker. For additional info contact Joyce Durkin at 285-3385 or check the Web at [www.lititzart.com](http://www.lititzart.com).

**Super Bowl Party** will be held Sunday, February 5, from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Ephrata American Legion, located on Cocalico Street in Tom Grater Park. Food, refreshments and fun for all for the nominal cost of \$10. Call 733-2576 for tickets or additional information.

**Introduction to Oriental Rugs Seminars** will be held Fridays, February 3 and 17, at 7 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 240 North Reading Road, Ephrata. Experience the history and art behind the creation of handknotted Oriental rugs. Learn how the rugs are made, from dyeing the wool to tying the fringes. Admission is free.

**Quilting Bee**, hosted by the Rothsville Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, will be held Feb. 7-9. Doors open at 8 a.m. and lunch will be provided. For more info or transportation contact Kathryn Musser at 626-5193.

**Valentine Dance**, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, will be held Saturday, February 11, from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at OMPH Church's Father Jackson Center, located at the corner of Church and Pine streets in Ephrata. Doors open at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$17 at the door. Snacks, mixers and beer provided. "BYOB." For tickets and additional info call Ken at 738-2952.

**A Celebration of the Arts**, will be held Saturday, February 11 at 7 p.m. at 21 Tyler Drive, Ephrata. Bring your family-oriented art, music, poetry, talent to share or simply sit and enjoy and evening of expression and inspiration. For additional information contact Luann Scribani at 738-5144.

**Lititz Fire and Ice Festival**, sponsored by the Lititz Women in Business, will be held February 16-18 in historic downtown Lititz. Ice sculpting, a marshmallow roast, music and a chili cook-off are just some of the highlights of this first-ever event. Buttons are \$2 in advance or \$3 on the day of the event. For more info check out [www.lititzwomeninb.usiness.com](http://www.lititzwomeninb.usiness.com).

**Peddlers Village Bus Trip** is being planned by the Adamstown Area Woman's Club for Tuesday, March 14. Along with a visit to the 70 quaint village shops, the bus will also stop at Fonthill, a castle constructed by Dr. Henry Mercer; and the Mercer Museum, which featured 30,000 various artifacts. The bus will depart from Peace UCC in Swartzville. For more information or reservations contact Margaret at 336-7145 or Carol at 484-4858.

### Worth the Miles

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25**  
Less Than Jake, 6 p.m., Chameleon Club, Lancaster, \$15, all ages/21 to drink, (717) 393-7133

**THURSDAY, JAN. 26**  
Big Head Todd and the Monsters, 9 p.m., Theatre of Living Arts, Philadelphia, \$25, (215) 922-1011

**FRIDAY, JAN. 27**  
Valencia, 6 p.m., Trocadero, Philadelphia, \$10, all ages/21 to drink, (215) 922-LIVE

George Strait, 7:30 p.m., Wachovia Center, Philadelphia, \$49.50-\$59.50, (215) 336-3600

Paul Green School of Rock, 6 p.m., Trocadero, Philadelphia, \$15, all ages/21 to drink, (215) 922-LIVE

**SATURDAY, JAN. 28**  
Yellowcard, 8 p.m., Theatre of Living Arts, Philadelphia, \$20.50, (215) 922-1011

Sevendust, 8:30 p.m., The Electric Factory, Philadelphia, \$20, (610) 784-5400

**SUNDAY, JAN. 29**  
Staind, 7:30 p.m., The Electric Factory, Philadelphia, \$34.50, (215) 784-5400

Submissions for the Going Out Guide may be e-mailed to [jtodd.eph@lnpnews.com](mailto:jtodd.eph@lnpnews.com) or faxed to (717) 733-6058. Deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.