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[Back](#)

Youths want more bands, publicity

By **Adam Rodewald**

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The list of bands and musicians in the world could span miles, but any effort to identify the single "rock" factor that attracts their fans might be in vain.

Music is subjective, and every person has his own reasons for enjoying, or not enjoying, a group's live performance, said 24-year-old Clayton Venzke of Marshfield.

Venzke has frequented every type of show from the Black Crows to local acts such as Elijah Blair, and both of them rock the stage equally, though in their own way, he said.

"The local artists feel the music just as much as the big-time artists," he said.

Still, the scene in Marshfield struggles.

Grace Foote, 16, of Spencer loves to see emerging musicians.

"If I've heard of them before or people tell me they're good, then I'll go," she said.

The problem is she doesn't always know they're in town. Better publicity will go a long way in boosting attendance, she said.

Better venues also would help attract more, and better, bands, said Kylan Hastreiter, 15.

A better stage "would be a bonus for everybody, with better seating, better sound system," he said.

Clearwaters Hotel and Convention Center, Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts, Utopia Lounge and other taverns in town occasionally host bands.

Cody Kunding, 15, of Auburndale said attracting larger, popular bands would bolster the local scene.

"I'm thinking some local bands opening for big bands because then you would still get a look at the local ones" while bringing in more people, he said.



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Music fans take in a concert at Clearwaters Hotel and Convention Center in Marshfield. *Dan Young/Marshfield News-Herald*

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That's precisely the philosophy of Brian Sauer, who runs the Vox series, which regularly brings nationally touring musicians to Marshfield.

"If you give people more options, or better options of what you might find in a big city, they have a tendency to grow," he said.

Sauer said he is trying to build a music venue with a coffee shop type feel "from the roots up" in an effort to build a popular scene in Marshfield.

"I'm too addicted to this stuff to stop it. There's too much talent in this place," he said.