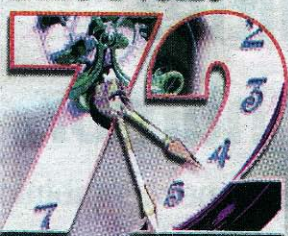


# The Next



## hours

weekend guide

**13** Emerald Garden Chinese Cook Hou

This Brunswick eatery a popular spot.

**15** Frank W. Smith IV

Proclaiming the word of God through song.

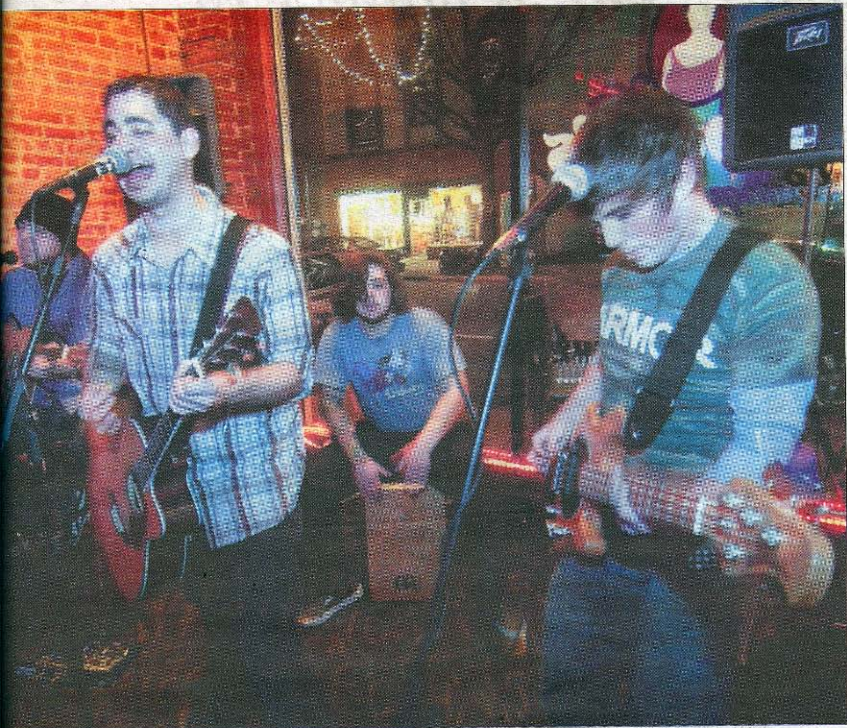
# Wonderboy

Wonderboy

WONDERBOY  
**The Frederic  
News-Post**

Thursday, January 11, 20





erboy played at Venuti's recently.

Staff photo by Skip Lawrence



*Music an addiction  
for this Frederick foursome*

By BILL D'AGOSTINO  
News-Post staff  
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**L**ike the songs he writes, the tattoos on Brian Severn's body tell stories. There's the crown on his wrist from when his son was born. There's the red and green stars he got with the mother of his son. And there's the words "Faith" and "Hope" scripted on his arms.

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# Wonderboy

(Continued from Page 4)

"Most of them have to do with my family or faith or the things that I love," said Severn, the 22-year-old songwriter, lead singer and rhythm guitarist for the Frederick rock band Wonderboy, which performs Saturday night at Port City Java in Hagerstown.

The biggest inspiration for both Severn's song-writing and body markings is his 2-year-old son Jakob.

"He's a huge influence on a lot of the songs that I write," Severn said. "He's a huge influence on everything that I do. He's like the most important thing to me in the world. And I have a good but kind-of-awkward relationship with his mother, which is also an easy target for writing."

Another of Severn's tattoos resembles the sheet music for the Wonderboy song "Eleven," named because Jakob was born on May 11, two weeks before.

"That was the longest two weeks of my life," the young dad said.

"Eleven," which can be heard on the band's MySpace page ([www.myspace.com/wonderboypenandsword](http://www.myspace.com/wonderboypenandsword)), begins with a fuzzy recording of Jakob's mother speaking to the cooing youngster, played underneath a strumming guitar. Lyrics describe the boy dancing "to any song that I make" and having a "chuckle that keeps me awake."

Like "Eleven," most of Wonderboy's songs are autobiographical.

"The inspiration for me to write is because I have something about my life on my mind," Severn said. "Although, there was one time where I wrote a song about a stripper that I never met. It just came out of nowhere. I was in New York City and I

was like, 'I wish there was a stripper.'"

Don't expect to understand Severn's biography by listening to the band's music, though. Many of the lyrics rely on metaphors and inside jokes to pass along meaning.

"I don't always like to blatantly say what's on my mind," he said.

"Hard in hand, a pocket full of sand / I'm walking by the water somewhere in my head," Severn sings in the catchy rock song "Since Summer." "I feel it shake, I watch it give and take / Like a thief caught with his hands still red."

Another tune, "The Glory Days," is an open letter to a friend, Jakob's godfather, who helped Severn through a battle with alcohol. "I made a list of everything I love to do and I hardly thought to have a drink," Severn sings.

It's an ironic song to perform in a bar, which the band did last week at Venuti's in downtown Frederick.

"Anybody drunk yet?" Severn asked the crowd between songs. "Anybody can't drive home?"

Behind Severn is a motley crew of music enthusiasts.

Paddy McGinley slams the drums. Brian Tessier is a serene presence as lead guitarist. And Chris Martin, who fellow bandmates have nicknamed "playboy," bops as he strums the bass. All three are 20 years old.

"If I haven't talked about music that day, it's because I haven't woken up yet," said McGinley, who works as the drum technician for Duet with Music, a music store in the Francis Scott Key Mall.

During last week's show, McGinley pounded the rhythm out using a wooden box. After the hour-long set, his hands were wisely swollen. Playing drums helps him stay sane through the chaos of his life, he says.

THURSDAY, JANUAR

"You should see the graveyard equipment that I have. It is the best out anger," McGinley said. "I've been divorced. I've moved nine times, be all the way across the country, I've out of hospitals. I've had my mom almost dying of cancer twice. It's music's the only thing that's ever g for me."

Wonderboy plans to release a r later this winter, and then record a album. Like most young rockers, th hope to become stars.

"I hate my job," said Tessier, w warehouse he wouldn't name, "so this to work."

Inspirations for Wonderboy inclu band Green Day and indie rockers Severn, who sings with a constant on his face, described Wonderboy's "independent rock music that is ge ratio."

"A lot of underground or indepe will never get radio play, for whatve added. "Our goal is definitely to be opposed to just trendy."

The band members rehearse in er in Woodsboro. They said they co place to practice in Frederick becau to make a lot of noise at all no No place could accommodate that.

Posters of bands and concerts walls of their large storage unit. A video game console sits in a corne

Wonderboy is not the only band Woodsboro facility as a rehearsal i bands can be heard practicing in n

"We kind of accidentally found a musicians who needed a place to p

drink beer," Severn said. "I'm definitely the victim."

"They're all a lot of people. I gave us the hair."

"Every other ers Tool songs."

All four mem Wonderboy grew Severn's mother teacher; His fath

"They're real in my life, the ma

"I'm able to do th

"They're real st They've always b in me, in my abil

For the fourse an addiction. The nights.

"It does feel don't play music days," Severn sa to change the wa body thinks abo

Or change their c have a good feel only thing I feel

to society. It's th could ever be ha

"So I'm taking I'm young and ho

somewhere, bec miserable doing



Staff photo by Bill Green

Wonderboy band members from left are Brian Tessier, Brian Severn, Paddy McGinley and Chris Martin. The local band recently played at the WestSide café.