

EVERY OTHER NIGHT OF THE WEEK

The nightlife scene has a weeknight for everyone

MONDAYS MAKE THE BARS FUNAGAIN

I'm a pretty boring 23-year-old — my idea of a fun night is sitting around a table with my friends playing Dungeons & Dragons (fifth edition, of course).

So when I go out for a night on the town, I'm typically looking for a place with nice, big tables and plenty of seating, and I grab my game of Settlers of Catan to take with me.

One bar in town is known for its weekly board game night — The Barn Light.

Every Monday night at 7 pm, The Barn Light brings in Cary Madden of Funagain Games to host a board game night. "It seems like people are looking for more direct human to human contact and interaction," Madden says.

Each week Madden selects 20 to 25 games from his shop to bring to the bar. "I generally bring stuff that you can play at a bar and learn fairly easily," he says. He teaches the rules to those interested and lets patrons peruse the constantly rotating collection. "The combination of adult space and play and alcohol — that's a pretty irresistible cocktail, right there."

If you want to find your own game to bring along when you head to the bar, Madden suggests something abstract and relatively simple — the fewer pieces, the better. Dixit is a good option: Made up of cards depicting strange, surreal or cute scenes, the game starts as one player says a phrase that comes to mind when they view the scene. Other players select a similarly surreal card from their hand that matches the verbal cue, and then everyone guesses which card the first player put down.

Another great option for the bar is a game created by the web comic *Cyanide & Happiness* called Joking Hazard. Similar to the ubiquitous Cards Against Humanity, players compete to combine cards for the greatest humorous effect. These cards, however, are comic panels instead of words. "You're building a three panel comic," Madden says. — *Kelly Kenoyer*

Board Game Night, hosted by Funagain Games, is 7 pm every Monday at The Barn Light, 924 Willamette Street, thebarnlightbar.com. FREE. Funagain Games is open 11 am to 11 pm Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 7 pm Sunday and 11 am to 6 pm Monday at 1280 Willamette Street.

WEDNESDAY PINBALL KNIGHTS

A warm Wednesday finds Darren Dorman giving the lowdown about Pinball Knights at Blairally Vintage Arcade. He tells me, "We are changing the rules to align with the IPFA. We should be certified soon."

IPFA?

"The International Pinball Flipper Association."

Of course pinball has a governing body that believes "the sport of pinball has been dormant for far too long."

For many, Pinball Knights are all about the memories. "My dad would take me to play Captain Fantastic as a kid and now I get to play it at Blairally," Dorman says.

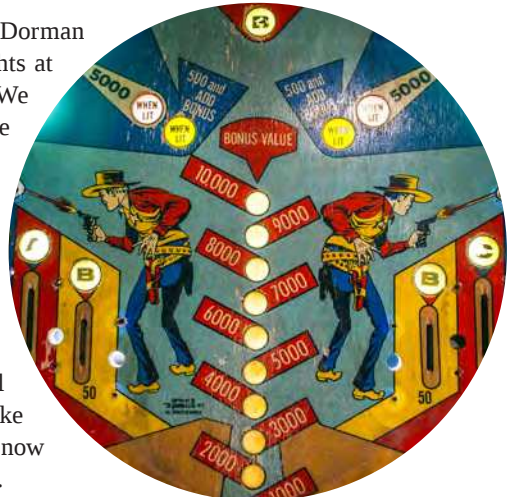
"You can't put a price on nostalgia," says co-owner Chad Boutin. "It's about things that can't be duplicated."

And if you want to take a deeper daylight dive into the games, pinball doctor and Blairally neighbor Chris Nash holds mechanics classes Tuesday mornings.

"We measure the tilt, replace bulbs, scrub flippers, install new legs and wax tables. We keep up constant maintenance and game rotation to ensure a good experience," Nash says. "We open the machines up for people. They get to feel different parts, see what they're doing and observe how the machine works."

"It's about learning, coaching and getting people involved in the community," Boutin says. — *Matthew Denis*

Pinball Knights Tournament at Blairally Vintage Arcade are 8 pm to 11 pm Wednesdays, 245 Blair Boulevard, 541-683-1721.



DRINK WHEEL THURSDAYS AT AGATE ALLEY

Thursdays at 9 pm, Agate Alley Bistro morphs from serving Asian-influenced Northwest fare to imparting the college experience. Oil landscapes and owl eyes on the wall witness this strange migration as the cute, upscale restaurant fills with college celebrants for Drink Wheel Thursdays.

Every half hour, volunteers spin the "drink wheel," a plastic pointer declaring the next \$2 well drink. Lines snake through hallways of the converted house, bodies fill crannies and behinds rest on throwback furniture.

"We're a chameleon establishment," says general manager Tony Schmidt. "We like to let loose on Thursdays."

Brown rum-and-cokes, clear gin-and-tonics, amber yellow tequila shots, cherry-red vodka-and-crans form islands of monochromatic drinks fashioned by Schmidt and two intrepid bartenders: local rocker Calysta Ruper-Anderson smiling and lining up drinks, and bejeweled Bue Brown calling out cocktails with a booming laugh.

The night blurs, multitudes of assignments and unpaid labor fade in fuzzed light.

Get there early to get a good spot. And be responsible — take a cab home. — *Matthew Denis*

Drink Wheel Thursdays at Agate Alley are 9 pm to 1 am Thursdays, 1461 E. 19th Avenue, 541-485-8887.

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