

Midwest band Wingtips coming to Baker City

By Lisa Britton

Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — When Wingtips arrives in Eastern Oregon, the band's stop will be part of the second leg of a current tour that includes much of the West Coast.

And it'll be all new.

"I'd never heard of Baker City before," said Vincent Segretario, who formed Wingtips with Hannah Avalon.

The Illinois-based post-punk synth-pop band plays Saturday, Aug. 6, at Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St. (enter through the 16th Street parking lot).

Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.churchillbaker.com, or \$15 at the door. Proof of COVID vaccination or a negative test is required. Fully vaccinated children age 15 and younger have free admission with a ticket-holding adult.

In typical years, which now means pre-pandemic, the band would tour two to three months out of the year to play 30 to 40 shows.

"We're out there a lot," Segretario said. "Touring is our livelihood."

He and Avalon met in college, where they were both studying theater.

"But I always knew I wanted to perform professionally," he said.

Perform music, that is.

"I was more interested in music," he said, "but I learned a lot about performance and vocal techniques."

Wingtips started in 2015.

"We were very much operating like a punk band, very much for fun," he said.

"We kept touring, and as we kept going, we were getting bigger and better shows."

They started navigating the music scene as a business and acquired a manager.

Segretario said 2018 was when Wingtips really got going.

"We started to really figure it out," he said.

Then came a record deal, streaming

WINGTIPS

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services and a booking agent.

"OK, we're really a band now," he remembers thinking at that point.

They toured in 2018 and 2019. A European tour was planned for 2020.

"Everything shut down. For a year it was a waiting game," he said.

They used the pandemic downtime to plan, and played 40 shows in 2021.

And their sound, he said, is always evolving but does have a steady description.

"It's all rock 'n' roll, at the end of the day," he said.

As for the band name? That dates back about 10 years ago, to another project, when Segretario showed up wearing wingtip shoes and got a compliment of "nice wingtips."

He thought that sounded like a fine name for a band.

"I haven't worn wingtips since that day," he said with a laugh.

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Wingtips will play Saturday, Aug. 6, at Churchill School in Baker City.

Heritage Station Movie Night

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