

Kenny Chesney brings "I Go Back" Tour to Little Rock

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

Kenny Chesney's I Go Back Tour was a hit in Little Rock at Simmons Bank Arena, with 12,849 fans in attendance.

Chesney is an American country music artist, who began his career at 26 with his debut album "In My Wildest Dreams," in 1994.

Chesney teamed up with Kelsea Ballerini from Knoxville, Tennessee, in the opening act featuring the song "You and Tequila." The two grew up near one another in Knoxville, which gave the fans an exciting moment. As soon as Ballerini walked out to the stage, the fans went nuts while screaming at the top of their lungs.

When Chesney walked onto the stage, it was a surreal feeling that made my heart swell. Being at Simmons Bank Arena in front of thousands of people gave a cool vibe. It felt awesome to be around people who enjoy the same music as you.

I grew up listening to Chesney's songs during his prime, and being able to see him in concert was a dream come true. It's pretty hard to dislike a guy like Chesney who has been a fan-favorite country artist for over 25 years.

The stage had a T-shaped runway, making fans pack in between the left and right sides. It may sound disturbing to be packed close to the stage, but the fans loved it as the majority stayed for the entire concert.

The concert also featured songs such as "When The Sun Goes Down," "Summertime" and "Somewhere With You." These three songs are some of the most viewed of Chesney's career, with 77 million total views just on YouTube.

They were my three favorites from the concert because of the atmosphere surrounding the arena and the people singing in tune with Chesney. I feel like most people born in the early 2000's can agree that "When The Sun Goes Down" is a hit. The noise of the fans when this song began seemed louder than every other.

"When The Sun Goes Down" was released in 2004. The song is about enjoying life and having fun with friends and loved ones, especially during the summer when the sun goes down.

Because of its meaning, I used to listen to this song with my friends at the lake during the summer. When I heard this song start up I was instantly hit with the reminder

of summer and good memories at the lake and the beach.

The song's upbeat melody and catchy chorus have made it a popular anthem for summer fun and partying. Overall, "When The Sun Goes Down" celebrates the joys of living in the moment and cherishing time with the people we love.

"Summertime" was released in 2006 as the lead single from his album "The Road and the Radio".

The song's lyrics celebrate summer's carefree and joyful atmosphere, which expressed that vibe during the concert. The song describes a scene of young people enjoying the summer weather, heading to the beach, listening to music and having fun.

The song is about letting go of worries and enjoying life's simple pleasures. This includes spending time with friends and family and enjoying the outdoors. It's a song that encourages listeners to embrace summer and all it has to offer.

I think not only for myself but others that concerts can relieve stress and improve one's mental health, soaking in the music.

Overall, "Summertime" is a fun and upbeat song that celebrates the joy and excitement of the summer



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARK

season. It encourages listeners to live in the moment and enjoy life's simple pleasures.

"Somewhere With You" was released in 2011 as the second single from his album "Hemingway's Whiskey".

The "Somewhere With You" lyrics describe the feeling of being unable to move on from a past relationship and constantly thinking about the person. During the chorus, Chesney leaned over to the fans pointing at them and grabbed

their hands while jumping back up to hype the crowd.

The song's chorus states: "I'm a desperado, underneath your window, I see your silhouette, are you my Juliet? I feel a spark, it's like the Fourth of July, I feel alive, and I can't deny that I want to be somewhere with you". These lyrics suggest that the artist is still in love with the person and wants to be with them. However, he knows it might not be possible.

"Somewhere With You"

is a song about heartbreak and moving on from a past relationship. It's a song that many people can relate to, as it captures the feeling of being unable to let go of someone who has meant so much to you.

As soon as the song started, cheers from all over the arena roared while men in their cowboy hats were whistling for everyone to hear.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

JACK BOND | OPINION EDITOR

"IRON LUNG" BY MARKIPLIER



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

YouTuber Markiplier recently announced that he would be directing and starring in a film adaptation of the 2022 game "Iron Lung." Although the film has no set release date, there is a brief teaser trailer on Marikplier's YouTube channel.

The game takes place after an event called the "Quiet Rapture," in which every known habitable planet and star has vanished. You play as a prisoner tasked with mining for resources on a moon filled with an ocean of blood in a welded-shut submarine nicknamed the "Iron Lung." It's a short, narrative focused game, so while the gameplay isn't exactly complex or challenging, its simplicity contributes to the game's strong point: atmosphere. The submarine has no windows. Your only means of seeing the blood around you is through taking photographs and checking the radar.

The goal of the game is to visit specific points on the map and take pictures of what's there. The silence of traversing through the blood sea is unnerving, and is only made worse by the occasional interruption of the beeping radar reminding you that you are not alone in this sea. The pictures don't provide any relief either. Every picture you take either shows the vast emptiness of the ocean or a glimpse of something bigger following you from location to location.

The game is short and simple. It's not the most engaging in terms of gameplay, but it more than makes up for it with a deeply unsettling atmosphere. It's an unforgettable experience, and a great way to kill an hour if you have a pc, switch or just watch a playthrough on YouTube.

His teaser for "Iron Lung" does not show much, though it is very intriguing. It simply shows footage of the submarine interior the game takes place in as it rotates into a still shot of the live-action version over some radio chatter. Markiplier has dabbled in the entertainment industry outside of gaming. His interactive movie "In Space with Markiplier" is a short series available on YouTube that serves as a sort of pick-your-own-adventure game.

It'll be interesting to see how Markiplier adapts to this new genre, but I have faith. With all the horror games he's played, it's fair to say he probably has a good sense of what makes horror scary at this point. His experience with the genre will make the translation from game to movie as fluid as the blood it takes place in.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

KARA CAMPBELL | LIFE EDITOR

"THE DUMB SONG" BY AJR



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

AJR released "The Dumb Song" on April 21, 2023. The catchy new indie pop song depicts the singer being called dumb, but he is un-bothered because when people ask him for favors or if he does something wrong he just blames it on him being dumb. The song mentions everything from making lunch to breaking up with somebody. I thought this was funny because it reminded me of when people say that you are not as good at something as them and then they wind up asking for your help. It is a very goofy sounding song, and the instrumentation matches the lyrics.

The actual music is much different than your average pop song. The band utilizes trumpets, a synth choir and different guitar pedals that create an overall new and interesting sound. The best way to describe the song is very busy. This may sound like a bad thing, but there are actually just so many layers. Each instrument has its own distinct part that gives the band their signature feel. Many of their other songs such as "The World's Smallest Violin," have a similar sound in that they utilize unique instrumentation. The song is also very fast paced, much like many of their other songs.

The new single is a simple, fun song. It is very playful, and while being called dumb certainly isn't nice, it's not a super serious topic which makes it fairly easy to listen to.

Overall I would give it a 7/10.

Annual Oasis Arts and Eats festival delights downtown Jonesboro

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Last weekend, I had the pleasure of going to the annual OASIS Arts and Eats Festival in downtown Jonesboro. A massive showcase of local food and art vendors, this festival was an absolute delight.

My trip to the festival was completely unplanned. What was initially supposed to be a lunch get-together with friends after an exhausting week turned into a three-hour walk down Main Street, admiring all the unique art, merchandise and food Jonesboro had to offer.

The Arts and Eats Festival truly had anything anyone could want. Like a massive Etsy shop, I found myself stopping at every booth to admire beautifully hand-crafted mugs, adorable earrings or some of the most creative artwork I'd ever seen.

One booth, owned by Jeannie Walsh, sold nothing but portraits of famous musical artists, but they were made entirely of guitar picks. Mrs. B's Grilled Cheese, a food truck, had gourmet grilled cheeses. One of my favorite booths had unique wooden die-cut ornaments, earrings and wall art.

With a high temperature of 65 degrees and a light breeze, it was a great day to be outside and enjoy downtown Jonesboro. The sun was also out, providing some much needed sunshine. Being a creative media production major who rarely sees the sun, it was a nice treat.

My friends and I arrived when the festival was in full swing, so the atmosphere was lovely. People brought their dogs out and it was wonderful to hear people talking, laughing and admiring the art and food.

There was also live music and shows, as numerous street musicians and performers delighted crowds. They did not disappoint and added a great ambiance to the entire festival.

Additionally, it wasn't too hard to find a bargain. While I did have to walk away from some items due to price, if I went down the street another 200 feet, I would find another adorable item for a far better price.

I bought some super cute yellow gummy bear earrings from Elegantly Unique for \$6. I also picked up a pink planter with hand-painted strawberries from another vendor for \$4. So for only \$10, I got to support local artists and get my own unique merch.

The festival was hosted on



PHOTO COURTESY OF OASIS ARTS AND EATS FESTIVAL

Festival-goers enjoying different booths at the downtown Jonesboro Annual Oasis Arts and Eats Festival.

April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If I were to do this again, I would try to get there as soon as it opens, as opposed

to later in the day. I would also make sure to budget a bit more appropriately, so I could come home with more merch!

Overall, this was a great time and good distraction from the stress of finals and work. Getting outside, spending the

day with friends and enjoying the community does wonders for the soul, so you can bet I will be going back next year.

Shrimp tomato basil pasta

ISABELLA DAVIS

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Ingredients

- Farfalle (others are also good, but I personally like this pasta) - 3/4 box
- Large shrimp (~1 lb), peeled
- At least 10 oz Cherry tomatoes, rinsed and halved
- Basil (fresh or paste preferred)
- Mozzarella
- Salt
- Pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, mashed
- Olive oil
- Butter
- White cooking wine (I leave this out but it is up to you)
- Half and half

Directions

1. Sauté shrimp in oil and butter until cooked, set to side
2. Using oil from shrimp, sauté tomatoes until skin blisters and soft, add garlic, stir
3. Once the garlic is moderately cooked, add ~1/4 cup wine, let simmer until about



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA DAVIS

A pan full of the completed shrimp tomato basil pasta.

4. While cooking tomatoes, half cooks off
5. Lower heat, Add shrimp back, stir
6. Add half and half and starch water until a light sauce is made, stir
7. Add pasta
8. Add basil
9. Add mozzarella, salt, pepper to taste
10. Enjoy!

Vote@A-State joins as new student-run organization

LAILA CASIANO

STAFF WRITER

Vote@A-State is a new student nonpartisan organization at Arkansas State University which focuses on mobilizing student voters.

All the founding members previously went to Washington, D.C., for the "Inside Washington Seminar," where they attended an event where speakers working in higher level education or government discussed how the effects of students partaking in voting creates substantial changes on local levels.

Garret Partain, a junior political science major from Lepanto, Arkansas, is the president of the new organization.

"We hope to get students at A-State active in local elections," Partain said. "Local elections affect us directly and we deserve to have our voice heard. The only way that can happen is if we first assert our voices."

The organization's main motivator is to push the campus community and students to be active in local elections. The group plans to disseminate voter information and invite candidates to A-State



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL RUDD

Vote@A-State organization members on their trip in Washington D.C.

campus for opportunities to discuss topics with students. Ellie Foote, a senior in political science from Jackson, Missouri, is a member of Vote@A-State and has been circulating flyers around the community. The flyers have voting and registration information all in Spanish, to provide more inclusiveness and connection to the legislative process.

"I'm really excited for this organization to promote voter registration across campus and inform the public on its importance," Foote said.

Cailee Williams, sophomore political science major from Trumann, and member, joined because this is a passionate discussion for her. Williams

said her trip to Washington, D.C., reminded her that having the influx of young voters and influence behind policy change and impact on local elections is vital and important to our nation, town and community.

"I'm excited for the future of Vote@A-State because it's hopefully going to lead to more young voters, especially from our campus," Williams said. "The importance of voting is huge and lets people participate in democratic process, so with that I hope to see more young voters registered, working the polls and encouraging others to register and vote."

For more information about the organization, visit their Instagram page, @vote_at_astate