

LUCAS COUNTY

JANUARY

Through March 4 — Storytelling in Miniature, Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe St. About 140 miniature engravings and prints from Renaissance through contemporary. Free. Companion digital catalog available free online. www.toledomuseum.org.

Through March 25 — Small Worlds Exhibition, Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe St., Toledo. (419) 255-8000. Small Worlds brings together thoughtful works of art on the smallest of scales. Five artists offer more than 40 small worlds rendered as relief paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs. There is a fully functional 65-square foot house. www.toledomuseum.org.

Jan. 13-14, 20-22, 26-29 — “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940,” Toledo Repertoire Theatre, 16 10th St., Toledo. The creative team of a Broadway flop assembles at the estate of a wealthy “angel.” What ensues is comic mayhem as bodies drop in plain sight, knives spring out of nowhere, masked figures drag their victims behind bookcases and accusing fingers point in all directions. Adult \$18, senior \$16, student 12 and younger \$5, student 13 and older \$10. www.toledorep.org.

Jan. 13 — “The Wizard of Oz,” 8 p.m., Valentine Theatre, 425 N. St. Clair St., Toledo. Travel down the Yellow Brick Road and beyond with Dorothy and friends. www.valentinetheatre.com.

Jan. 6-21 — “True West,” Village Player’s Theatre, 2740 Upton Ave., Toledo, 8 p.m. American classic explores alternatives that might spring from the demented terrain of the California landscape. Sons of a desert dwelling alcoholic and a suburban wanderer clash over a film script. www.thevillageplayers.org.

Jan. 14 — “Skippyjon Jones,” 2 p.m., Valentine Theatre, 425 N. St. Clair St., Toledo. Musical features Skippyjon Jones, a Siamese kitten, who looks like a Chihuahua dog and wants to be anything but a cat. Donning mask, cape and accent, Skippyjon Jones transforms into Skippito Friskito, the greatest canine sword fighter in Old Mexico. When a pack of Chihuahuas is terrorized by a gigantic bee named Alfredo el Bandito, we find out if Skippyjon will be ‘fraidy-cat or the top dog. www.valentinetheatre.com.

Jan. 19 — Studio Orchestra, 7 p.m., Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts, 30335 Oregon Road, Northwood. Performance by Toledo School for the Arts Studio Orchestra in a concert of classical and popular music. www.owens.edu/arts/.

Jan. 20-22, 27-29 — “Hunting Cockroaches,” Valentine Theatre, 425 N. St. Clair St., Toledo. 8 p.m., 2 p.m. Sunday. A pair of Polish artists relocated to a slum apartment in New York, grapple with the difficulties of pursuing their muses in a new place and new language in a bittersweet comedy. www.glacity.org/currentseason.html.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 — “Color Theory,” 7 p.m., Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts, 30335 Oregon Road, Northwood. Presented by Toledo School for the Arts. Moving from black and white to technicolor, Color Theory uses modern dance and ballet to explore the good and bad of our increasingly complex lives. www.owens.edu/arts/index.html.

Feb. 5 — Spencers Theatre of Illusion, 4 p.m., Valentine Theatre, 425 N. St. Clair St., Toledo. The Spencers present a high-tech magic show that combines drama, comedy, romance and suspense with elaborate stage illusions. www.valentinetheatre.com.

Feb. 7-26 — “Jersey Boys,” Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo. www.theaterleague.org/shows/?id=135. 2006 Tony Award-winning Best Musical about Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Four Seasons.

Feb. 10-11 — “The Dixie Swim Club,” 8 p.m., Maumee Indoor Theatre, 601 Conant St., Maumee. 8 p.m., 2:30 p.m. Sunday. About five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, as they set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. www.watervilleplayshop.org/season.html.

Feb. 11-26 — “Forever Plaid,” Valentine Theatre, 425 N. St. Clair St., Toledo. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. The Plaids bring you a 1950s foot-tapping, seatrocking good time. www.valentinetheatre.com.

Feb. 12 — Opera Gala Concert: From Vienna to Paris to New York, 8 p.m., Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theatre, 2445 Monroe St., Toledo. The symphony’s principal conductor, Stefan Sanderling, will lead vocal artists, the symphony and the Toledo Opera Chorus in a festive evening at the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Theater. www.toledoopera.org.

Feb. 17 — Dances from the Heart of Rock and Roll, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, 8 p.m., Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts, 30335 Oregon Road, Northwood. Reserved seating \$24, students \$14. www.owens.edu/arts/rock-roll.html.

Feb. 17-19, 24-25 — “Sylvia,” 8 p.m., 3 p.m. Sunday, Fasset Auditorium, 3025 Starr Ave., Oregon. Oregon Community Theatre. Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after 22 years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg’s career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate’s career, as a public-school English teacher, is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park — or that has found him — bearing only the name “Sylvia” on her name tag. She offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. www.oregoncommunitytheatre.org/.

Feb. 18 — “Fancy Nancy, Duck for President and Other Story Books,” 2 p.m., Valentine Theatre, 425 N. St. Clair St., Toledo. Tea, Petit Fours and Etiquette led by Condessa Croninger (added charge) at 1 p.m., show starts at 2. Fun-filled musical revue of eight best-selling children’s stories. www.valentinetheatre.com.

Feb. 24 — “Of Ebony Embers,” 8 p.m., Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts, 30335 Oregon Road, Northwood. A chamber music theater work with actor and trio celebrating the lives of the great African-American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay. The musical score includes works by Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton, Billy Strayhorn, Thelonius Monk and Charles Mingus. Reserved seating \$18, students \$10. www.owens.edu/arts/ebony.html.

MARCH

March 2 — Marrakesh Express, 8 p.m., Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts, 30335 Oregon Road, Northwood. Marrakesh Express excels at reproducing Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young’s complex songs and cascading, layered harmonies. Reserved seating \$26, students \$18. www.owens.edu/arts/marrakesh.html.

March 9-24 — “School for Husbands,” 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Village Player’s Theatre, 2740 Upton Ave., Toledo. Two brothers, Sganarelle and Ariste, are guardians to two sisters, Isabelle and Léonor. The brothers have two very different theories of how to school their wards. The stern and repressive upbringing Sganarelle imposes on his charge is in direct contrast to the loving treatment his brother, Ariste, gives to his own young ward. Molière shows that Sganarelle’s folly is no match for a woman’s resourcefulness. www.thevillageplayers.org.

March 12 — “Stuart Little,” 3 p.m., Owens Center for Fine and Performing Arts, 30335 Oregon Road, Northwood. \$12, students \$10. www.owens.edu/arts/stuart.html.

ATTRACTIONS

Audubon Islands State Nature Preserve, in the Maumee River within the city of Maumee and adjacent to Perrysburg — Birding. Migratory waterfowl. Open daily 7 a.m.-dark, but accessible only by private watercraft.

Bluebird Passenger Train, boarding at Waterville or Grand Rapids — A breezy, 20-mile round trip on a 1930s-era passenger train. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays May-November, Tuesdays and Thursdays June-August. (419) 878-2177.

The Butterfly House, 11455 Obee Road, Whitehouse — Contains more than 500 butterflies of many different species. Live butterflies flutter from flower to flower feeding on the nectar. Serenity will surround you with the wonderful garden setting, where you can sit back and relax with the background sounds of the waterfall and nature itself. (419) 877-2733.

Campbell State Nature Preserve, east of the Toledo Express Airport along Crissey Road south of SR 2. Access by permit of Natural Areas and Preserves — Part of the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio. Includes wed sedge meadows, swamp forest,

sand dunes, sand barrens prairie and oak openings. Home to 34 state-endangered species of plants.

COSI Toledo, 1 Discovery Way, Summit and Adams streets, downtown Toledo — A center of hands-on science, learning and fun, delivered in the Workshop on Wheels program to school classrooms and auditoriums. Science center on the riverfront currently is closed. (419) 244-COSI.

Historic Old West End — One of the nation's richest collections of late Victorian homes. Walking tour brochure available. Annual festival in June.

Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve, 10 miles west of Toledo. From I-475/US 23, follow US 20 west about three miles to Centennial Road and south about one mile to Bancroft Street, then west on Bancroft — Wet prairie dominated by sedges and rushes. Habitat for migrating songbirds and waterfowl. Rare plants and animals.

Kitty Todd State Nature Preserve, 10420 Old State Line Road, Swanton — Native wildflower garden and walking trails through globally rare habitat. Open house weekends, nature hikes and nature festivals throughout the "green" season. Open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday May 1-Oct. 31. (419) 867-1521, www.oakopen.org.

Maumee Bay State Park, 1400 State Park Road, Oregon — Resort lodge, resort cottages, camping, trails, picnicking, fishing and hunting, winter sports, boating, swimming, golfing, nature center. (419) 836-7758.

Metroparks of the Toledo Area — Eleven metroparks with rare natural habitats and historic sites. Trails, picnicking. Open 7 a.m.-dark all year. (419) 407-9700 or www.metroparkstoledo.com/metro.

Raceway Park, 5700 Telegraph Road — Toledo's showplace of harness racing. Eleven races each night. Open 7 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday March-December. Live racing 6 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Children under 12 admitted free. (419) 476-7751.

Ritter Planetarium, University of Toledo — Stargaze with the experts. Weekend shows throughout the year. (419) 530-2650.

Sandpiper Canal Boat — Public tours from a variety of loca-

tions. This 1850s 100-passenger replica of a Miami and Erie Canal Boat cruises upriver past riverside estates or downriver to Lake Erie. Lunch cruises available. May-October. (419) 537-1212.

Sylvania Heritage Museum, 5717 N. Main St., Sylvania — Exhibition themes change every two months. Carriage house at rear converted to Artisan's Village, a community of artists, artisans and craftspeople re-creating the atmosphere of early Sylvania. (419) 882-4976.

Toledo Botanical Garden, 5403 Elmer Drive south of Central Avenue — A 57-acre setting of meadows and gardens, artist galleries and gift stores. Festival of the Arts in June. Open year around until dusk.

Toledo Firefighters Museum, 918 Sylvania Ave. — Vintage pumpers, uniforms and equipment used by the city's first bucket brigade. Traces Toledo Fire Department's growth and educates youngsters in fire safety. Noon-4 p.m. Saturday. Other times by appointment. Free. (419) 478-3473.

Toledo Museum of Art, one block off I-75. Works by such masters as El Greco, Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso and Hopper. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, except 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Free. (419) 255-8000.

The Toledo Zoo, Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25) — Highlights include the Gorilla Meadow, which replicates the gorillas' African homeland, and the Interpretive Center, which focuses on the lives and behaviors of the greatest apes. Also home to the world's only Hippoquarium. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily April-September, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily October-March. (419) 385-4040.

Willis B. Boyer, International Park — A maritime museum aboard the 617-foot freighter. A tribute to the city's rich port heritage. Walking tours, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday.

Wolcott House Museum Complex, Maumee — Indian artifacts, antique toys, household goods, farm implements. Buildings include Wolcott House, log home, saltbox farmhouse, railroad depot and church. Open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. (419) 893-9602.