# Replacements' Stinson ready to bash in Pittsburgh

py scott lady

MISSUREH — Tommy

Stinson served as the bassist and emotional spark plug for one of alternative rock's most admired bands, The Replacements, before starting an 18-year stretch with Guns N' Roses.

Though it's his two current bands that bring Stinson back to Pittsburgh, first for an intimate Friday show at Get Hip HQ on the city's North Side, and then a Sept. 19 show at Mr. Smalls in Millvale.

"I do have a lot of good memories of Pittsburgh, though they're mostly recent," Stinson said.

He looks to make more memories here starting

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memories here starting
Friday with a show starring Stinson and fellow
guitarist Chip Roberts
playing a special acoustic
set as a duo dubbed
Cowboys in The Campfire.
Tickets are \$20 sold via
eventbrite.com for the
7 p.m. show that begins
with a guest deejay set by
Gregg Kostelich of
Pittsburgh punk band The
Cynics, signed to the Get
Hip record label that's
hosting the show in its
headquarters on
Columbus Avenue, a block
from the Manchester
Craftsmen's Guild jazz
venue.

Craftsmen's Guild jazz venue.
Not counting a quick
New Jersey radio station appearance, this will be the tour's opening night for Cowboys in The Campfire, which finished its 2016 tour at another nearby recording studio, Liveburgh, in Pittsburgh's North Hills.
Cowboys in The

North Hills.
Cowboys in The
Campire will play new
songs, solo ones by Stinson
and maybe some
Replacements tunes along
with anything else they
improvise on the spot
during their nine tour
dates on nine consecutive. dates on nine consecutive

nights.
Stinson won't get long to rest, as he soon gets back on the road with his plugged-in, post-Replacements band Bash + Pop. performing Sept. 19 at the Funhouse, the upstairs lounge at the Mr. Smalls concert site. That show is \$15 in advance via ticket-flycom.

\$15 in advance via ticket-fly.com.
Two local Stinson shows within two months might help take away a bit of the sting from the
Replacements canceling the 2015 Stage AE date on the group's 33-city reunion tour. Yeah, Stinson feels bad about that.
"Aw, I know, but Paul (Westerberg, the band's singer) got pneumonia and it was a bad scene," Stinson said. "He got it in Detroit and we had to peel him off the floor. He was sick as a dog, and so they had to jack him up with cortisone to



Tommy
Stinson, left,
and guitar
partner Chip
Roberts
compose
the duo
Cowboys in
The Campfin
performing
Friday in
Pittsburgh.

finish the tour."
Stinson's songs with
Bash + Pop have a
Replacements-meetsRolling Stones raucousness and swagger,
particularly "On The
Rocks," a song for anyone
who's experienced a
live-in relationship turned
sour.

who's experienced a live-in relationship turned sour.

Bash + Pop memorably performed "On The Rocks" on Stephen Colbert's late-night show in January. True to his reputation for good-natured recklessness, Stinson ended the song by wrestling and rolling around on the floor with Colbert.

"It looked serious though if you look at it again you can see where I'm cracking up," Stinson said. "That was totally off-the-cuff and not scripted. We had told his producer if he wants to unplug us to make it funny, we're cool with that."

Colbert did yank Stinson's guitar from its amp before their wrestling match ensued.

Bash + Pop got a good reaction from that TV appearance. So did

Colbert, who also in that episode finally reverted back to his "Colbert Report" blowhard commentator character.
"His ratings skyrocketed after that," Stinson said.
Juggling acoustic and plugged-in bands comes easily for Stinson.
"It's good in two ways. I love being in a rock band, but some fans will say they can't always hear all the lyrics with a full band, but in a little club where it's more intimate you can," Stinson said. on said.

Cowboys in The Campfire was sparked by

\$6.00

watercolor painting his bandmate Roberts created, depicting two cowboys at a campfire.

"We started joking we should do a little tour as a duo called Cowboys in The Campfire," Stinson said.

"We're working on some new songs this weekend.
We'll probably do two or three of those in Pittsburgh," Stinson said. Stylistically, Cowboys in The Campfire isn't much different from Bash + Pop.

"Maybe it's a little more country minded or rockabilly. Chip brings that," Stinson said. "I bring more

ne singer-songwriter part,

the singer-songwriter part, I guess."
With an esteemed wordsmith like Westerberg at the helm, Stinson didn't get many chances to write lyrics for The Replacements, which along with its more commercially successful rivals R.E.M. spearheaded the early 1980 scollege-radio movement that morphed into the alternative-rock format.

rmat. The Minnesota-bred Replacements' spectacu-lar rise and equally spec-tacular fall — including being banned from NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and raising the nightly ire of concertgoers as the warmup act on Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers' 1989 tour — is the stuff of

legend. It's all meticulously

It's all meticulously documented in last year's 436-page Replacements biography "Trouble Boys," which Stinson hasn't read. "I lived through it, I don't need to read about it," Stinson said, adding that he knows the author and trusts he got the facts straight.

STINSON, PAGE D8

Haircut



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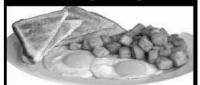
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# The Replacements' Tommy Stinson headed to Pittsburgh

STINSON, from D7

There's still time to add a new chapter if the Replacements ever do another tour or album. "I never say never," Stinson said, "Though I thought (Westerberg) summed it up best when he said we came and went and did our thing." Stinson could say the same about his nearly two decades with Guns N' Roses starting in 1998, and ending when he wasn't included in the famed hard-rock band's 2016 comeback/original members reunion tour. Stinson was aboard when the Axl Rose-led band finally finished its long awaited and critically praised "Chinese Democracy" album. Stinson says only favorable things about his GNR tenure. "It was a good run for

"It was a good run for which I'm grateful," he

which I'm grateful," he said.

"It was meaningful for me not just financially. That kept me going for many years and I met a lot of great people through it, and worked on a lot of very good, creative stuff that hopefully will come out someday," Stinson said. "Some tracks that didn't

"I never say never.Though I thought (Paul Westerberg) summed it up best when he said we came and went and did our thing."

TOMMY STINSON. ONTHE STINSON,
ONTHE REPLACEMENTS
RECORDING ANOTHER
ALBUM OR GOING ON
TOUR

make 'Chinese Democracy I hope will come out, and some other old songs we did in some sessions."

did in some sessions."
Hey, to quote from one of his new Bash + Pop songs:
"Anything Could Happen."
The 50-year-old Stinson intended that song as a statement on where he's at in his life.
"I'm kind of putting it all out on the table that this is my life, and I just keep rolling along," he said. "I just keep moving through all the twists and turns, the fun stuff and the not-so-fun stuff."



### Moon dust valued at \$2 million to \$4 million up for auction

NEW YORK (AP) - Moon dust NEW TOWN (AP) — Moon dust that Neil Armstrong collected during the first lunar landing was dis-played Thursday at a New York auction house — a symbol of America's glory days in space now valued at \$2 million to \$4

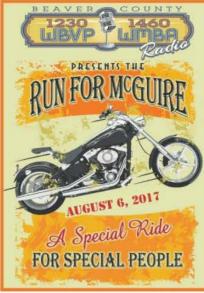
million.
The late astronaut
brought the dust and
some tiny rocks back to
Earth in an ordinary-looking bag.
It's one of 180 lots
linked to space travel that
Sotheby's is auctioning off

July 20 to mark the 48th anniversary of the pio-neer lunar landing on that date in 1969.

The moon dust is the first sample of Earth's satellite ever collected.

The bag has had a storied existence, a

decades-long trajectory during which it was misidentified and nearly landed in the trash. About two years ago, it appeared in a seized assets auction staged on assets auction stag behalf of the U.S. Marshals Service.



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tre Players' "The Addams Family" include, from left, Ellen Barrett, Layne Bailey, Jason Swauger, Caleb Porto, Bronte Lucci, Jeff Hall and Ben

# HEY'RE CREEPY AND THEY'RE KOOKY, MYSTERIOUS AND SPOOK

# Center Theatre Players bringing 'Addams Family' to Rochester

ROCHESTER he Center Theatre Players' summer musi-cal will turn mysterious and spooky, with the ntation of "The Addams ily" starting Thursday at the nester Borough Theater.

The production, which enjoyed Broadway run in 2010 through 2011, features the famed characters from "The Addams Family" cartoon series, about whom eral film and television adapta

tions have been made over the

Center Theatre Players direc-tor Sandy Reigel said, "It's a really funny show, good for the sum-mer, and we wanted to follow up last year's 'Spamalot' with something that would entertain a

de age range." The Addams Family" musical features Gomez (Jason Swauger of Beaver), his wife Morticia (Bronte Lucci of Center Township), daughter Wednesday (Layne Bailey of Wexford), son Pugsley (Ben Stanton of Cranberry Township), Uncle Fester (Jeff Hall of Center Township), Grandma (Ellen Barrett of Mo-naca) and Lurch (Caleb Porto of

Center). Wednesday's future in-laws, Beinekes, as well as several Addams' ancestors, pepper the plot with life lessons, humor, plot with life lesson and a family-friendly twist of the

Reigel feels the audience will enjoy seeing these familiar charac-ters come to life with tunes such as "When You're an Addams," "Pulled" and "Happy/Sad."

"They'll also enjoy a nice mes-sage; the show talks about defining normal. The Addams family is not what we'd consider normal, but as the show progresses, the other 'normal' family involved realizes the Addams are not as weird as people think they are," Reigel said.

Additional cast members include John Buria (Rochester)

include John Burja (Rochester), Mia Petersen (Beaver), Josh Brown (Center), Alex Bowman (Center), Douglas Campbell (Industry), Ashley Crook (Green

THEATER, PAGE D2



## Pittsburgh bash

Tommy Stinson of the Replacements (and Guns N' Roses) is headed to Pittsburgh for two shows. First comes a Friday acoustic duo gig in the city's Manchester section hosted by local record label Get Hip. In September, he and his band Bash + Pop will play the Funhouse at Mr. Smalls in Millvale

See Page D7

### Blues f estival gets a new look and location

The new-look Pittsburgh Blues and Roots Festival opens at a fresh location after a year's absence with some headliners familiar with the Beaver Valley. Also in this week's Scott Tady column: Pinegrove is a band to put on your radar, a New Brighton rocker gets Warped, and a Chippewa church hosts a chart-topper. See Page D3