



Blue Highway

Feb. 12

8 p.m.

Spirit Square, McGlohon Theatre
345 North College Street

(704) 372-1000, www.blumenthalcenter.org

One of the most influential groups in contemporary bluegrass, Blue Highway has played roles in the genre's most influential acts such as Alison Krauss and Union Station, Larry Sparks, Doyle Lawson and Ricky Skaggs. The band's Feb. 12 release, "Through The Window of a Train," unveils its instrumental virtuosity, vocal interplay of top musicians and depth of songwriting talent.

Blue Highway's band members, Tim Stafford (guitar, vocals), Wayne Taylor (lead vocals, bass), Shawn Lane (tenor vocals, guitar, mandolin, fiddle), Rob Ickes (Dobro, Scheerhorn acoustic slide guitar) and Jason Bursleson (banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass vocals) are adept at balancing tradition with innovation.



Hermitage Ballet

Feb. 18

7 p.m.

Ovens Auditorium
2700 East Independence Boulevard

(704) 522-6500, www.ticketmaster.com

This troupe from St. Petersburg, Russia will perform the entire classical repertoire of the Mariinski Theater (the Imperial Theater of Ballet under the Romanov dynasty). There will be two numbers from "Swan Lake" and scenes from "Sleeping Beauty," "Nutcracker," "Giselle," "Don Quixote," "Corsair" and "The Dying Swan."

The ballet company's headliners come from the Mariinski Theater, the Bolshoi, the Hermitage and the Mussorgsky Opera Theater.

Home

Global Dish: Americana

Feb. 7

6 p.m.

Levine Museum of the New South
200 East Seventh Street

(704) 333-1887, www.museumofthenewsouth.org

Enjoy live music along with locally grown, hearty comfort food while celebrating the music and traditions of America. Dinner is provided by The Americana, a restaurant whose mission is to create a place where guests experience live roots music and fresh, wholesome food. The evening will include wine and dinner, along with an Americana music talk and demonstration.



Southern Spring Home And Garden Show

Feb. 27-March 2

Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Charlotte Merchandise Mart
2500 East Independence Boulevard
(704) 376-6594, www.southernhows.com

The 2008 Southern Spring Home & Garden Show will showcase the many ways of "being green." The gardens will feature easy-to-maintain plants, while the rooms will offer green options galore. The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association expands its green pavilion; kitchen and bath appliances will have energy conservation in focus; plus the horticulture and great garden stages will boast speakers and ideas to make life on easier and greener.

Joy of Gardening Symposium: Gardening For Outdoor Living

Feb. 23

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Winthrop University, Withers Hall, Rock Hill, S.C.
(803) 981-5303, www.winthrop.edu

The symposium's keynote speaker is landscape architect and gardening author Keith Davitt. There will be three breakout sessions allowing participants to select topics that meet individual needs and interests. In addition, vendors will have plants and gardening items available for on-site shopping. A luncheon is included.

Charleston Food + Wine Festival

Feb. 28-March 2

www.charlestonfoodandwine.com

Charleston, S.C.'s, festival pairs Lowcountry fare with Southern succulence to provide a sampling of the city's epicurean personalities. This four-day celebration of Charleston's finest features top-notch best chefs, culinary authors and wine professionals.

