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## Local shop to screen documentary to mark 'Record Store Day'

By Derek Gentile, Berkshire Eagle Staff  
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GREAT BARRINGTON -- Next Saturday, the Tune Street record and electronics store will become a mini-movie theater.

Before the owners of the nearby Triplex get too nervous, let it be said that it's a one-day only event.

The store, located at 290 Main St., will be hosting an all-day screening of the documentary "Last Shop Standing." The 50-minute film is about the rise and fall of independent record stores in Great Britain. But while the critically acclaimed movie is set across the pond, the situation is reflected in the record store industry in the United States, according to Tune Street manager Dan Jarvie, who arranged for the screening.

The advent of compact discs in the 1980s, followed by the surge in digital music downloading, has caused a dramatic decline in the sale of vinyl records, once a mainstay of the music industry. In recent years, more artists have been releasing new material in the vinyl format, and while traditional record stores have for the most part disappeared, some have endured thanks to a small but now growing legion of vinyl enthusiasts.

The film screening is part of the daylong "Record Store Day," an international event that celebrates music and musical recordings. Tune Street is the only site in the Berkshires where the movie will be shown, said Jarvie.

The screenings will run hourly from 10 to 4. Admission is free.

The annual event also is marked by the release of special vinyl recordings by dozens of artists



Jerry Gline, of New Jersey, looks at used vinyl records at Tune Street in Great Barrington. The store will host an all-day screening on Saturday of a documentary about the decline of the record industry. (Photos by Stephanie Zollshan / Berkshire Eagle Staff)

worldwide and has now become a big day for record collectors. This year, artists such as Bob Dylan, the White Stripes and Gaslight Anthem, among many others, have issued special vinyl discs.

The film, Jarvie hopes, will draw customers to his store. But beyond that, the staff of Tune Street hopes it will help raise awareness of the issues facing independent record stores like Tune Street.

"We get people in here all the time from out of the area," said David Grant, the store's buyer. "And they often say, 'Oh, this is such a great store! We don't have anything like this where we're from. We love to come and look around.' And I nod, and think to myself, that's great, I hope we're still here next year when you stop by," he said.

Grant and Tune Street sales associate Mark McGovern both pointed out that the store's diversity (it sells and installs television and sound systems in addition to CD and DVD sales) have kept the business doing well.

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And in fact, "Last Shop Standing" offers some hope that the independent record store is making a comeback.

"It's becoming more mainstream," Grant said of vinyl sales. "We're seeing more young people."

For those making the trek on Saturday, Grant had a few suggestions. First, the Tune Street theater will only hold a few people at a time. Also, he said, while he has ordered a good selection of recordings for Record Store Day, many are limited edition discs. Potential customers should call ahead at 413-528-4999 to see if the store will be stocking their favorites.

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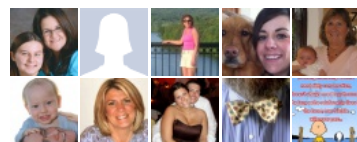
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