

# Family band reinvigorates Snyder



Photo provided

The Snyders — bass player Philip, left, drummer Lorrie and guitarist Southside Denny — will release their new album, "Growing Pains," with a performance Monday at Fat Tomato in Elkhart.

**a**

lot has changed for Southside Denny Snyder since he left South Bend in 2007 to move north with his family to Montréal, Canada.

For one, he has mostly dropped "Southside" from his name. It made sense when he was in South Bend. Not so much in Canada.

Snyder fronted the Skintones and the Southside Denny Band during his years in Indiana, but now the band he leads as singer and guitarist is The Snyders, consisting of daughter Lorrie, 18, on vocals and bass, and son Philip, 14, on drums.

And the most shocking change: Snyder has cut off his signature ponytail.

"I've been thinking about it for a long time," he says. "I was just tired of it, but I didn't know what to do. I went to the lady that cuts my hair all of the time and said 'Just do something.' I was tired of having it tied back. I have been using that look for about 15 years and it was time to change. Also, I wanted to start wearing my hat again."

On The Snyders' new album, "Growing Pains" — released June 8 and available at the CD release party at Fat Tomato in Elkhart on Monday — Snyder is tossing off tasty blues licks like he did 30 years ago.

"I feel like the haircut goes along with the rest of this project," he says. "Maybe it's be-

cause my band members are so young, but I feel kind of like I've gone back to my beginnings. I went back to the type of guitar sound that I had many years ago."

Snyder's first guitar was an old Les Paul SG Jr., and now he is traveling with it as a backup to the Godin LG he used to record "Growing Pains."

"It's the first album I have ever recorded with no Stratocaster," Snyder says. "I didn't even realize it until it was all over. I had a Strat there at the studio, and never bothered to plug it in. So, in a lot of ways, I'm thinking and feeling about music more like I did a long time ago."

The Snyders released their self-titled debut album as a family band in 2012, and although Snyder says there was no actual pain involved, the growth of the family as a band is unmistakable on the new album.

"I really feel that way," he says. "The whole thing really came together in the last year or so. We have had two years of playing shows. This time, Lorrie and Philip collaborated a lot more with me."

Snyder and son co-wrote the instrumental "Funky G" while all three Snyders worked together on "Chili Jeff" and "Makes You Feel Like You've Got Something."

"Lorrie wrote one song, 'Poupée' all by herself, words and music," Snyder says.

By TOM CONWAY | Tribune Correspondent

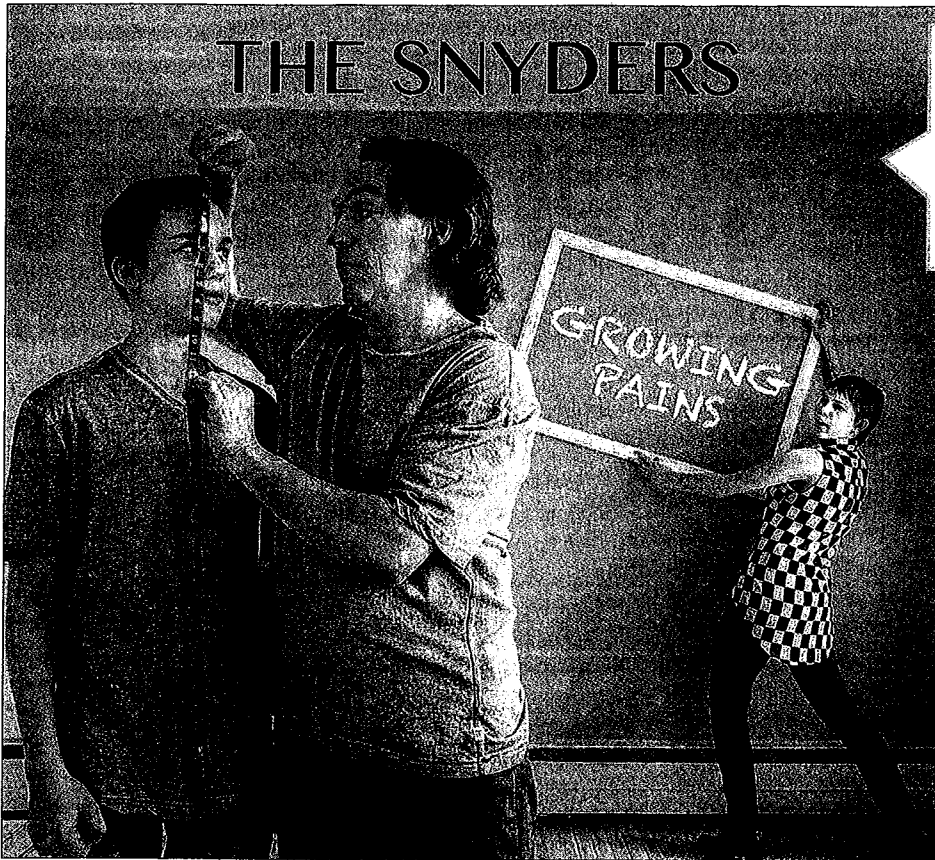


Photo provided

Despite the album's title, Denny Snyder, center, says no pain was involved but his band with son Philip and daughter Lorrie definitely is growing musically with the addition of more collaboration songwriting contributions from Philip and Lorrie.

"Another one, 'You'll Never Change,' she basically wrote and I just spiced up a chord progression for her." Singing on the songs she wrote, Lorrie is a jazz vocalist beyond her years. Along with the New Orleans jazz on the title track and "Laundry Blues," The Snyders have opened their blues-based sound to some jazz influence.

"Poupée means doll in French," Lorrie says. "I wrote the lyrics when I was younger. Everybody was scared of dolls because of

horror movies and all of that. I find them really cute and pretty and I wondered how they would feel if they were living beings. And I really like jazz and it is pretty jazzy. The other one, 'You'll Never Change,' I was just mad. I was mad that day and I wrote a song about somebody that says they will never change."

The Snyders remade "Highway 8," which appeared acoustically on Snyder's 2006 solo album, "Roots and Branches." Written about a stretch of road

in northwest Indiana, the song is even spookier and freakier in the new version.

"That was originally what I wanted," Snyder says. "I wanted it to be electric and I wanted it to be scary sounding. At the time, I was having so much trouble keeping a band together, so I did the solo stuff. I just had the attitude, 'I'll do this by myself.' I tried 'Highway 8' before with other guys, but it just never really gelled. With Lorrie and Philip, right away, it sounded really

cool. It was a scary sound, so let's take it a step further and make a bunch of weird noises."

Growing pains or not, Lorrie says she likes performing with her dad and has learned a lot from him.

"It is like working with a friend," she says. "You get to mess around a bit more because he is your dad. He is a good boss. He doesn't boss us around too much."

At 55 years old, Snyder says his kids have re-invigorated him and reminded him of why he got into play-

in concert

- **Who:** The Snyders
- **When:** 7 p.m. Monday
- **Where:** Fat Tomato, 4100 E. Bristol St., Suite 1-2, Elkhart
- **Cost:** Free
- **For more information:** Call 574-206-1111, or visit the website [the3snyders.com](http://the3snyders.com)

ing music in the first place. "I've re-listened to a lot of the old stuff I learned from and started realizing how much I love that kind of sound," he says. "Lorrie and Philip are so young and musically curious that

sometimes they ask me about things I had forgotten about. Just being around their youthful energy has made me lighten up and have more fun and just think about sounds and experimenting more."

**ACTIVATE AND WIN \$100!**

IT'S EASY!



**SUBSCRIBERS:**

Activate your digital South Bend Tribune subscription by July 31 to win a \$100 Martin's gift card. All entrants, and subscribers who have already activated, will automatically be entered to win!

**ACTIVATE at SouthBendTribune.com.**

Need additional help? Call us at 574.235.6464 or 1.800.220.7378



\*No purchase necessary. One subscriber, drawn at random, will receive a \$100 gift card. Winner must complete and sign a W-9 tax form, provided by the South Bend Tribune. Contest ends 7/31/14. Winner will be notified by phone on or before 8/5/14.