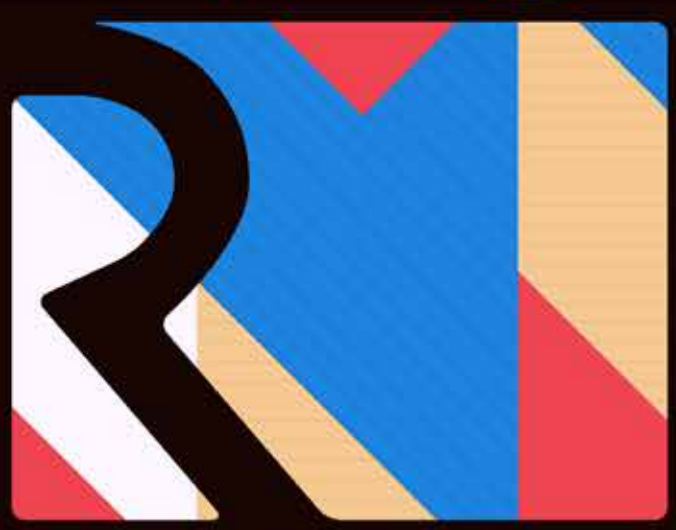


The only local voice for news, arts, and culture



**ERIE READER**  
July 2021 // Vol. 11, No. 7 // ErieReader.com



ERIE'S  
**40**  
UNDER  
**40**

*40 young innovators, entrepreneurs,  
and leaders shaping the future of Erie*

*free*



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Jessica Hunter, publishing and new media coordinator at the Erie Reader, focuses her camera outside Perry Square. All photography for this year's 40 Under 40 was shot on location at various sites around Downtown Erie.

NICK WARREN

## From the Editors

### On independence and interdependence

A lot can happen in 40 years. From the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to 1816, the United States of America more than doubled in territory (from around 800,000 square miles to over 1.6 million following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803), more than tripled in population (2.5 million to over 8 million), and asserted itself as a sovereign nation twice (as victors in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812). This time period also marked the American inventions of the swivel chair, bifocals, cupcakes, the cotton gin, the fire hydrant, the circular saw, and dental floss.

Indeed, as young upstarts, we'd more than cut our teeth by our 40th birthday. Take a large enough sample size over a long enough time span and there are bound to be impressive — even world-changing — accomplishments (e.g., the introduction of the coffee percolator in 1806). But if we were to look through our magnifying glasses (a 5th century BCE invention — sorry, America) and examine history more closely, we'd see our progress unfolding person by person, community by community, step by step, day by day.

It is in that spirit that we announce each class of Erie's 40 Under 40 annually. Whether our honorees are on the cusp of a scientific breakthrough or just breaking through to someone in need of a little light, it all adds up to a more positive present and a more promising future. As usual, this year's class runs the gamut in terms of backgrounds, professions, and personalities. Their paths to and paradigms of success vary widely — in our so-called "melting pot," that's how it was always supposed to be.

But even in a country founded on the premise of freely pursuing individual goals, that success is rarely arrived at independently. Independence and interdependence tend to complement one another. While it is possible to go far on our own, we can go so much farther drawing from the ideas, talents, and expertise of others. We can get plenty done by ourselves, but we can do so much more when lent a helping hand — perhaps even implement the kind of change that boosts the limits of what we can do as individuals.

In most cases, "making it" isn't easy. But however or whenever — whether it's before or after your 40th birthday — you (ethically) get there, we salute you. Congratulations to our 2021 class of Erie's 40 Under 40, and all those who help make the Gem City a better place.

## In the Forefront

Meet four under-40 ex-Erie achievers



(top left) Faith Toran is working on a humanitarian medical mission with Médecin sans Frontières in Haiti. (top right) Deandre Williams is human resources manager for Impact Public Schools in Seattle. (bottom left) Madeleine Nawrocki is serving with EarthCorps, part of AmeriCorps, in Seattle. (bottom right) Luka Glinsky, a writer and actor, is producing a mini-series in Brooklyn, N.Y.

She wrote for herself, not an audience, as another move was in store, this time to Upper Guinea, to work on a Communications for Development (C4D) project for the U.N. on climate adaptation and resilience.

COVID-19 cut that project short, and Toran was evacuated to the U.S. from Conakry, Guinea's capital.

Back in the U.S., she wanted to make the most of her down time. "Maybe you can revisit your book," a friend suggested. "What book?" Faith responded. Then she remembered the poems that had poured out of her soul in 2019. Faith realized that "maybe someone needs to be encouraged that it is possible to recharge your life. You can create narratives in a way to archive the past."

Her book of poetry and prose, *Freedom at Day Zero*, is available on Amazon, where one reviewer wrote: "(I) read this piece in one sitting, following the author on her journey of trauma, self-discovery, and coming of age as a young Black woman in Erie, Pa. ... The vulnerability and voice in these poems brought me to tears at times and made me reflect on my own traumas and childhood."

I marveled at Faith's writing when she was on the staff of Fresh Ink, the teen journalism program I led at the Erie Times-News. But I didn't know she had become a published author until I asked Deandre Williams, another former Fresh Ink writer, about his current reading list during an interview for this story.

Along with *All Boys Are Not Blue*, *A Memoir-Manifesto*, by George M. Johnson, and *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*, by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Deandre said he was reading Faith's new book. With that information, he reconnected me to Faith, who is currently working in communications for Médecin sans Frontières ("Doctors

By: Liz Allen

Erie Reader's "40 under 40" edition provides ample evidence that Erie can retain our best and brightest and attract new lights, too.

But as we emerge from a global pandemic, we can also celebrate young leaders who have Erie roots but have made their marks elsewhere. It's not brain drain when the world gains.

Today, we introduce you to four former Erie residents under 40 who have expanded their horizons far from our hometown.

For Faith Toran, 30, home is any place where there's human suffering. After graduating from Central High School, where she was class president, participated in the Academic Sports League, and played sports, she moved to Atlanta to major in political science at Spelman College, a historically black all-women's college.

In a 2014 op-ed column for the Erie Times-News, Faith reflected on her

decision to leave Erie. "I boarded a plane in 2009 with two destinations: Atlanta and destiny. I had a little money saved and a heart full of ambition, fear, and courage. As the second oldest of 11 children, born three months prematurely, I knew a little about overcoming obstacles."

At Spelman, she embraced the school's mantra: "It's my choice and I choose to change the world." So it was fitting that after graduation in 2013, she joined the Peace Corps. She was assigned to Burkina Faso, in West Africa, responsible for teaching 120 children ages three to seven.

In serving others, she stressed, it's important to "learn and to be in community," rather than assuming that you know the answers and have all the solutions. In Burkina Faso, the issues went far beyond lack of access to education. "It's about lack of access to healthcare. It's about lack of access to clean drinking water. You're more or less an agent of change around multiple sectors," she said.

After 27 months in Burkina Faso, a former French colony, she wanted to perfect her French skills and decided to pursue her Master of Arts in Global Communications at the American University of Paris. She fell in love with Paris and its multicultural vibe. "My friend group is like this small U.N.," she said.

During grad school, she took a six-month break to conduct an impact study in rural India, in the Tamil region, on how to reduce waste. Back in France, she worked on an organic farm in Normandy and a horse farm in the Jura region.

Returning from work one day in 2019, a wave of emotion swept over her. "I'm OK with discomfort," she said, so she decided to capture her memories and emotions. "I sat on the edge of the bed and just began to type. It wasn't a conscious effort but in two hours, I had charted my life from age three to 28 in poems." She wrote about our political system and racism, among other topics.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

without Borders”) in Haiti.

Like Faith, Deandre, 30, has landed miles from Erie many times. He is currently the human resources manager for Impact Public Schools in Seattle.

In 2023, he will receive his doctorate from Drexel University — quite a feat for someone booted out of public school in Erie after his “fifth strike” for not wearing a uniform shirt. No one bothered to find out or ask Deandre, an honors student, about the family circumstances that led to him not having a uniform shirt.

“People like me, African-Americans, are overlooked for our abilities,” he said. “People are coming in with assumptions that this person is not going to make it.”

He faced other stereotypes. “You’re tall. Play basketball,” he was told. “If I had listened to someone else, that would have been someone else’s dream.”

He signed himself back into an alternative high school program in Erie, then enrolled at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for a year before transferring to Morehouse College, Martin Luther King Jr.’s alma mater, in Atlanta, to major in sociology. At Morehouse, he was among “a lot of brilliant individuals who looked like me, who inspired me. We held each other accountable.”

Following graduation, he worked for various charter schools, including Freedom Public Charter Schools in Washington, D.C., and as an Education Pioneer Graduate School Fellow at ReGeneration Schools in Chicago. He received his master’s degree from Trinity Washington University and worked as relationship manager for UNCF (United Negro College Fund).

He made the leap from the District of Columbia to the state of Washington when he saw an opening for a six-month consulting position at Impact Public Schools in the Puget Sound area. Impact then offered him a full-time human resources position to help start a new school — in the midst of COVID-19. Working in HR, he had to develop health protocols and also work on Impact’s plans to open two new schools, in addition to the two that Impact currently operates.

“As with any business, you start out small,” he said. “Now we’re growing so rapidly we started an HR department.”

Content in the Pacific Northwest, Deandre has no plans to move back

to Erie. But he would like to give back to his hometown someday, maybe by starting a school or an after-school program, and certainly by sharing his story that if you can graduate from high school, you can graduate from college.

His advice to Erie youth?

“Always be true to yourself and understand the world around you,” he said. “There are many ways to achieve greatness. Don’t limit yourself to one way.”

Like Deandre, Erie native Madeleine Nawrocki, 23, has found a home in the Seattle area, at least for the short term.

At the University of Pittsburgh, Madeleine earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, a certificate in American Sign Language, and a minor in public and professional writing. She is currently working for EarthCorps, an environmental restoration program that is part of AmeriCorps, which also has included international participants pre-COVID.

Working on a team, she has removed invasive species, built rain gardens, and restored trails. Her stint began in February and continues through December.

After graduating from Villa Maria Academy, Madeleine first majored in occupational therapy at Pitt, but a year and a half into college, “I realized I had much more of a passion for ecology.” Her love of the outdoors was nurtured, in part, by working at Camp Notre Dame as a teen and reading *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, “the patron saint of the environmental movement.”

In her new home, Madeleine is learning about the “multifaceted” environmental challenges facing the Pacific Northwest, including the ecology of wildfires and changing salmon migration patterns. Environmental problems can seem overwhelming, and it might be easy to decide, “It’s bad, I can’t do anything, then throw up your hands,” she said. But that’s not an option, admitted Madeleine, who recently watched the film *There is No Planet B*.

“There is still an environment to save,” she said, and new paths to carve. For Madeleine, that will mean developing interpretive hikes for those who are hearing-impaired, as it becomes safe to gather in groups again.

Like the others in this story, Luka

Glinsky, 30, made productive use of the time afforded by the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.

When he left Erie, where he was home-schooled, for Carnegie-Mellon University, he had a goal of “affecting large-scale change” someday. He became “a bit more humble” after he graduated and moved to New York City to pursue his acting and writing career but found himself working “the usual side gigs to put food on the table.”

But he also learned that his skills as a champion chess player came in handy, as he taught chess to youngsters in a variety of settings, including to toddlers at a “very niche company.” Only in New York, he laughed, would there be such a market. Better to wait until a child is seven or eight to introduce them to the game, he now knows.

In 2020, he pivoted back to his writing — composing poetry, as he has done since high school, and working on short stories, essays, non-fiction pieces, and short plays.

He’s also crowd-funding a five-part mini-series, about the lives of millennials in Brooklyn. The first episode, filmed in a continuous take at Prospect Park, is in post-production; it will be entered into film festivals.

The pandemic hammered the arts temporarily, but Luka said they will bounce back. “It may seem like they’re dormant, but we’re waiting to be able to tell our stories.”

Even when those stories are set far from here, they will have an Erie element. “I live in a bubble here,” said Luka, adding that he often talks with his parents, Albert Glinsky and Linda Kobeler, about the opportunities he had in Erie, a “pluralistic community,” to meet people with differing viewpoints.

Changing the world will depend, in large part, he said, “on us breaking through some of those barriers” to learn “what makes others tick.”

Thanks to intrepid ex-Erieites, that’s what’s happening, coast to coast and to the Caribbean.

*Liz Allen has known Faith Toran, Deandre Williams and Luka Glinsky since they were teens, writing for Fresh Ink, the Erie Times-News youth journalism program, and knows Madeleine from St. Andrew’s Catholic Church. You can reach Liz at [lizallenerie@gmail.com](mailto:lizallenerie@gmail.com).*

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## Erie's 40 Under 40: Class of 2021

Innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders helping move us into the future

It's been a monumental year. Just ask anyone. It's taken a lot to get our community through these months together, and in those relatively dark times, there were people who helped to light the way. The class of 2021 for Erie's 40 Under 40 are some of these people.

Perhaps it's because of the difficulties we faced, then, that we were even more eager to recognize those hard-working people that helped. And recognize them our readers did. We received a record number of nominations this year. It's obvious that there's an ever-growing pool of talented individuals right here close to home.

Erie is a resilient place. We're adaptive and resourceful. So is this class, one filled with artists, dancers, health care workers, teachers, and business owners. They're the people going the extra mile, the ones who are following through with plans and making a positive change in Erie. And hey, do you know someone you'd like to see on this list? Well, our 2022 nominations are now open.

So take a look at some of the people finding creative solutions to get things done. They have packed resumes and bright futures ahead of them, illuminating the path for all of us.

*Written by: Jonathan Burdick (JB), Kimberly Firestine (KF), Ally Kutz (AK), Aaron Mook (AM), Ben Speggen (BS), Cara Suppa (CS), Matt Swanseger (MS), Nick Warren (NW), and Jim Wertz (JW). Photographs by Jessica Hunter.*

**Peter Agresti, 34**  
**Director of the Pre-Law/Legal Studies Program,**  
**Gannon University**



Sometimes along life's journey, our passions guide our professional path. For Peter Agresti, that path started at the University of Pittsburgh, where he studied history and political science, graduating in 2008 summa cum laude as a University Scholar and Presidential Scholar and also winning the Social Science award. That led this Erie native to continue on at Pitt's School of Law, where he graduated with his Juris Doctorate in 2011.

But rather than plotting to spend decades in the courtroom, his law degree landed him back in the classroom — this time in front of it. He began teaching at

Gannon University in 2012 — the same year he earned the nickname "Professor Pete," working as a private tutor for students seeking LSAT preparation.

Just two years later, he became a full-time faculty member for the Pre-Law/Legal Studies program. Today, he serves as that program's director, where, in addition to teaching, he oversees and advises students within the program, providing pathways for students to explore their own futures in law.

Outside of the classroom, you can likely catch this Mercyhurst Prep alum at the Plymouth Tavern rooting for his favorite sports teams (Pittsburgh Penguins, Pittsburgh Steelers, Bayern Munich), or exploring Erie's many great breweries, festivals, and events.

Of Erie, this lawyer-turned-professor says: "I want to make a new generation of people see Erie like I see Erie: A great place to live, work, and build a better community." — BS

**Chelcie Alcorn, 25**  
**Executive Director, Erie County Democratic Party**



If you open *TIME Magazine's* Person of the Year issue from 2020 and turn to the article discussing how Joe Biden won Pennsylvania, you'll see a photo of McDowell graduate Chelcie Alcorn standing alongside five other locals who helped flip Erie County back to blue. Then a field and operations director, Alcorn is now the executive director of the Erie County Democratic Party. In this role, she is in charge of the daily operations of the party office, outreach, managing social media and email distribution, organizing events, and overseeing a vast network of volunteers while recruiting new ones.

At the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied biology and psychology, she was extremely active on campus, so it's no surprise that since graduating, she's equally involved herself in her communities and dedicated her time to bringing people of diverse opinions and experiences together.

"The potential is why I love it here," she says. "I want to be part of the movement that empowers people and enables them to live fulfilling lives, especially young people and historically marginalized groups of

people."

She works part-time at UPMC Hamot and ultimately has her eyes on going to medical school, but she has also volunteered for numerous political campaigns, was a founding member of the organizing committee that won union representation for the employees of Planned Parenthood of Western PA, and currently serves as president of the Erie County Young Democrats.

"Our institutions, especially democracy, should not be exclusionary and inaccessible," Alcorn adds. "I hope to be part of the chisel that chips away at the Old Boys' Club mentality and the pervasive civic apathy that impedes us from imagining and creating an environment that allows everyone to flourish."

She is off to an excellent start. — JB

**Jaime Babiak, 36**  
**Director of Operations, LECOM Institute for**  
**Successful Aging**



If ever there was a year to appreciate the dedication of the medical profession, this was it.

And Jaime Babiak, PharmD, MHSA — whose name you might recognize from her spotlight on Erie News Now as a Front Line Hero in October 2020 — has been a standout individual as the director of operations for the LECOM Institute for Successful Aging — before the pandemic, but especially during.

A McDowell alum who holds a B.S. in Biology, a master's in health service administration, and a Doctor of Pharmacy, Babiak remarked that she's proud of her ability to "grow from a clinician to my current role in more administrative areas, all by learning on the job and pushing myself out of my comfort zone."

Her role as director is fast-paced, involving planning, coordinating, budgeting, communicating and improving operations every single day, while overseeing nine locations and 800 employees, all in the service of older and aging Erieites. But she still takes time to enjoy life with her husband, two daughters, and dog, boating in the summers and skiing in the winters.

Babiak is also a lifelong learner who completed the Tideswell at UCSF (University of California San Francis-

co) Emerging Leaders in Aging Program, to further her understanding of, and grounding in, quality care processes for seniors.

Said Babiak, "I want to continue contributing to the expansion of age-friendly services and opportunities for our seniors in the Erie community. At the same time, I would like to inspire the next generation of health care workers in the field of geriatrics in the Erie community."

Babiak is the living embodiment of the adage that we're only as strong as the most vulnerable among us. — CS

### **Chelsea Bates, 29**

**Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, Erie County Department of Health**



The past two years have put public health officials in the spotlight and brought them into our collective conscience in ways that we wouldn't previously have thought possible. So it's no surprise that Chelsea Bates is most proud of the work she's done working on the COVID-19 response in Erie County during 2020 and 2021.

The Appomattox, Va. native and Virginia Military Institute grad now works to identify gaps in public health preparedness based on state and CDC guidelines, and works with various local agencies to determine priorities in order to strengthen preparedness efforts to effectively respond to various public health threats in the community. That means she connects the health department with internal and external local partners to plan and implement COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, conducts education and outreach in the community, and provides valuable guidance for local partners as the response evolves and continues to change throughout Erie County.

As a new triathlete, she knows how to goal-set. Whether it was trotting the globe, earning her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Florida, or helping to curb the coronavirus in Erie County, Chelsea Bates knows that a good plan leads to a good place. She's committed to her professional practice and to Erie County, "to be resilient when faced with public health adversities by promoting best practices and consistently anticipating and responding to the community's ever changing needs." — JW

### **Emily Biddle, 34**

**Marketing and Communications Director, Erie Sports Commission**

Sometimes, honoring someone as part of Erie's 40 Under 40 just seems like a slam dunk. It may read



like a goal, a hole in one, or a home run as well — especially if they happen to be one of the guiding forces behind the Erie Sports Commission (ESC). Emily Biddle racked up points easily, nearly setting a record for how many times she was nominated.

Responsible for nearly all aspects of the ESC's public presence, Biddle has helped to make the organization an award-winning one on the national level, and she's been there from the beginning. The Sports Events & Tourism Association named the ESC both Sports Commission of the Year and Destination Marketing Campaign of the Year twice.

This year, the ESC successfully hosted the NCAA Women's Frozen Four games. Because of the pandemic, what was originally slated for four teams and three games more than doubled to eight teams and seven games, all carried on ESPN networks. "Our whole committee worked really hard, and worked a lot of hours, to make sure that the event was a success so that these exceptional athletes had the opportunity to compete in a safe environment in a location that was excited to welcome them," Biddle explained.

Growing up in Seneca, Pa., Biddle graduated from Cranberry Junior-Senior High School, going on to the University of Pittsburgh and later to Duquesne University for her master's degree. She began as a volunteer with the ESC (winning their Volunteer of the Year award in 2013) prior to joining the organization full-time. In addition, she has served on the board of directors for CAFE (Cultures, Arts, Festivals and Events of Erie), as the VP of marketing for CelebrateErie, the board of directors and board vice president for the Erie Metro Chapter of the PA Sports Hall of Fame, and volunteers at the Kuhl Hose Volunteer Fire Department.

Sounds like a win. — NW

### **Chelsea Curlett, 35**

**Owner/Counselor, Chelsea Curlett Counseling Services; Director of Student Support Services, R. Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School**

As an Erie Native and a graduate of Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy and Edinboro University, Chelsea Curlett has seen her hometown adapt and change throughout her life. As a licensed professional counselor, she also knows that adaptation and change can weigh heavily on the collective well-being of the community. That's why she's committed her private



practice to "helping people grow and make changes" in their personal lives.

Among other endeavors, she's participated in Young Erie Professionals and is a graduate of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, directed by the Jefferson Educational Society. But she's taken a step back from those organizations to grow her private practice and focus on her work at the R. Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School. According to one nominator, "Chelsea serves as an example to youth and adults alike, of the direct relationship between hard work, self-discipline, integrity and the desire to empower others to improve their own lives and success ... It is a ripple effect that helps students become responsible citizens; women become confident, loving mothers; men become patient, understanding partners; and teenagers learn healthy ways to cope with stress."

As the nominator suggests, Curlett's work at the R. Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School means that she works with students as well as their parents to ensure that families have the supports and structures necessary to ensure the student's success. That's the central piece to how she sees the Erie puzzle. "Everyday I have the opportunity to make my students feel loved and accepted," she says. "I try to push them to make good choices and to believe that they can be successful." — JW

### **Nathan Ehrman, 31**

**Legal Counsel, Erie Insurance**



While born in Scranton, Nathan Ehrman moved to Erie when he was eight and considers it home. His Erie roots are deep. His family owns Ehrman's Allburn

## 40 UNDER 40

Florist, which has been in operation in the city for over a century and to which he attributes his work ethic. His grandfather was a Classics professor at Gannon, his grandmother taught Italian at Villa Maria Academy, and his mother is a science teacher at Our Lady of Peace.

"I knew I wanted to be a lawyer since I was a child," Ehrman explains, adding that he otherwise would likely be a teacher too. "My grandfather used to love to tell me that during the Roman Empire they referred to lawyers as 'Vir Probus Dicendi Peritus,' which means good person, expert in talking. ... This has essentially been my guiding principle in my professional life — to be a good, conscientious person and strive to be an expert in all aspects of legal advocacy."

After graduating from Cathedral Prep and Allegheny College, Ehrman left Pennsylvania for Cleveland where he attended law school at Case Western Reserve University and graduated in the top 10 percent in his class. He then worked at a law firm in Cleveland before recently finding his way back to Erie, now working in the Corporate Legal Department at Erie Insurance.

"I believe Erie is a wonderful place," Ehrman says. "My wife and I left behind great careers in a bigger city because we thought Erie would be an ideal place to advance our careers and have a family."

He enjoys taking his children on trips to the Erie Zoo and Presque Isle. He also volunteers much of his time, being involved in many Erie County Bar Association programs, a trustee for the Erie County Law Foundation, and a mentor for the Attorney and Kids Together

Program. He also serves as a member of Cathedral Prep's Advancement Committee. Mostly, he wants to be an advocate for Erie and remind young professionals of the opportunities here.

"[T]here are abundant opportunities here and they do not have to go elsewhere to have a fulfilling and successful life," he adds. "[I] believe Erie is on the verge of great things and hope to play a part in the city's resurgence." — JB

### **Ricardo Estremera, 35** **Assistant Teaching Professor, Penn State Behrend** **and Mercyhurst**

**A**s captain of the Puerto Rico National Track and Field team, Ricardo Estremera may very well be our fastest-ever 40 Under 40 honoree. The former University of Albany track star and San Juan native was mere seconds away from representing his homeland in the 2021 Summer Olympics, finishing just short of the qualifying standard in the Men's 3000-meter steeplechase, a grueling event featuring 28 barriers and seven water jumps.

It's an appropriate specialty for a man who takes pride in helping others make tough transitions — particularly New Americans as they attempt to get their feet wet in Erie. Learning English, finding a job, locating stable housing, and adjusting to a new culture can prove daunting hurdles for immigrant populations, but Estremera jumps at the chance to lend his support. He and his wife Sherez recently bought their first home in



Erie, and they hope it will not be their last — they plan to buy, renovate, and rent affordable properties to others down the stretch.

When Estremera is not teaching Spanish classes at Penn State Behrend or ESL classes at Mercyhurst University, he's volunteering his time coaching, studying for his PhD in Hispanic linguistics (his research is focused on the urban dialect of 2nd-generation Dominicans in Puerto Rico), and (of course) running.

How does Erie keep up with changing needs and demographics? "Education, respect, and understanding are the keys to coexistence." So long as we establish our footing in those areas, we should be right on-track. — MS

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**Matt Flowers, 31**  
**Founder and CEO, Ethos Copywriting**



What do you do if what you're looking for doesn't yet exist where you want to be? You can change your mind about the place you want to be, or you can change the place you are. Matt Flowers opted for the latter in 2016 when he created Ethos Copywriting.

"When I started Ethos, this kind of company didn't exist here," explains the Erie native and Penn State University communications grad. "I want to ensure up-and-coming writers have ample opportunities in their city to develop and thrive. Further, I want to foster a positive, inclusive, and dynamic company culture that makes people proud to work right here in Erie."

Matt and his team at Ethos work in the world of word-smithing, flowing from fashion to finance to economic development and manufacturing, and plenty more in between with the 30-plus clients the start-up works with, producing what he estimates to be for him and his team a blistering 30,000 to 40,000 words a month.

As he puts it, Ethos serves as "a platform for Erie's best copywriters, content creators, and creatives to exercise their talents. At the same time, I'm helping businesses in Erie and beyond tell their stories and ensure it helps them grow."

When he's not churning out or editing copy and developing social media and SEO strategies, you can find him in the studio or on stage with his award-winning indie rock band Falling Hollywood or investing in local real estate in Erie's downtown. — BS

**Brian Gorman, 34**  
**Vice President of Operations, Waldameer & Water World**



Every summer, the catchy tune that hits the radio tells us, "It wouldn't be summer, it wouldn't be fun without Waldameer!" But it wouldn't be Waldameer without Brian Gorman, VP of operations for the local amusement park.

Born and raised in Erie, Gorman attended Fairview High School before going on to earn his B.A. in Marketing from Miami University. Gorman has always been passionate about Erie, wanting to showcase the amazing opportunities and promise the area has. "I hope to show the young people of our community that Erie holds so much potential," he said.

Overseeing the daily operations and maintenance that keeps Waldameer running, Gorman's proudest achievement is being able to provide a safe and family-friendly park where everyone can find something to enjoy. He's also a proud supporter of keeping things local, using his position to support local businesses through work done in the park each year.

Gorman exudes passion for Erie, holding multiple positions that promote the tourism industry in the area. As a chairman of Visit Erie, facility operations committee member for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, and former president of the Pennsylvania Parks and Attractions (PAPA) Organization, Gorman has gone above and beyond for Erie tourism. He is also secretary of the Rotary Club of Erie Scholarship Foundation, proving further his dedication to the Erie area.

When not at the park, Gorman enjoys Erie's great outdoors, collecting beach glass, and spending time with his wife, Allison, and their two children, 4-year-old Charlie and 2-year-old Rosie. — AK

**Dharma Gurung, 32**  
**Restaurant Owner, Tandoori Hut**



The *tandoor* ovens used in *tandoori* cooking are models of efficiency, trapping heat within their insulated ceramic walls and limiting the need for fuel. In some areas of India, communal *tandoors* can be depended on to provide families a quick, convenient meal (they can reach temperatures of up to 900 degrees Fahrenheit!) in a centralized location. From its inception in Downtown Erie to its recent move to West 26th Street, Tandoori Hut has embodied that spirit, feeding the community with authentically flavorful food at affordable prices.

Likewise, owner Dharma Gurung has proven especially adept at holding her fire, despite coming from a place where women's dreams receive little kindling. Within the largely patriarchal societies of the Indian subcontinent, girls are often taught that upward mobility is *naan* of their business — that roles beyond "mother" and "housewife" do not apply. Born to Bhutanese parents in India and raised in Nepal, Gurung spent most of

her life surrounded by these attitudes.

Fortunately, she didn't listen. Fleeing the tension and conflict that plagued the country of her upbringing, Gurung emigrated to the United States as a refugee, carrying aspirations of one day owning her own business. After years of scrimping and saving, she was finally able to cook up enough capital to open Tandoori Hut. She eventually purchased her partner's shares of the eatery, and in doing so became Erie's first solo Bhutanese restaurant owner and only female restaurant owner under 30.

A member of the Bhutanese Community Association of Erie (BCAE) and Mayor's New American Council, the trilingual Gurung advises Erieites to respect one another regardless of where they come from, "no matter what color, accent, or religion." When it comes to Erie's future, Gurung hopes everyone has a place at the buffet. — MS

**Alivia Haibach, 30**  
**Health Equity Coordinator, Erie County Department of Health**



Throughout the pandemic, it's been hard to find a more valuable resource for Erie than the Erie County Department of Health. Public health educator Alivia Haibach has spent the last year making information about the virus accessible to those for whom it otherwise might not be.

"Erie County Department of Health was the first health department in the state to have COVID-19 information available in multiple languages," says Alivia. "I am really proud of my advocacy for language access for every resident of Erie County."

Alivia has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from Allegheny College and is currently in Gannon University's Master of Public Administration program. Using her platform and credentials to serve the needs of the community, her work is focused "on health equity and health literacy. I develop programming and outreach for every resident of Erie County and make sure that diverse voices and perspectives are being considered."

Working for the Erie County Department of Health followed time spent in Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and China, which is why Alivia's mission for diversity and inclusion is so critical to her. Alivia believes you can't help someone without asking what they need help with first. "I want to be really intentional about making sure that every resident of Erie feels as if they are valued. To make Erie a better place, we have to work with people, we have to ask people what they need." — KF

**Stephen Henderson, 31**  
*Director of Pharmacy, AHN Saint Vincent and AHN Westfield*



If anyone deserves to pour himself another pint, it's Stephen Henderson.

The avid craft beer collector and trader has been at the head of the Allegheny Health Network's COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Erie County, with close to 60,000 doses administered and 30,000 individuals inoculated since December. As director of pharmacy at AHN St. Vincent, Henderson admits that "leading a team of healthcare providers through the pandemic has been challenging," but also "rewarding" and "gratifying" in terms of its overall impact and its contribution to bringing an end to the pandemic.

A native of Titusville, Henderson earned his PharmD from Ohio Northern University before becoming a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) via the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS). He met his wife, Carmen, during a residency program in Erie and followed her to Pittsburgh, but upon expecting their first of two children, the Gem City beckoned again.

"Erie has always been like home to me," says Henderson, who during childhood traveled north once or twice a week to attend services at the Church of Christ on West Grandview Boulevard. "I want to show young professionals and families that Erie is a great place to raise a family and build a life. For Erie's continued and sustained success, we must attract and retain hard-working and talented individuals."

Few are as assiduous as Henderson — who's worked tirelessly this past year to ensure AHN's local vaccination clinics and events were fully scheduled, well-staffed, and met all quality standards of vaccine integrity and patient experience. But if there were more of him, it'd be a real shot in the arm. — MS

**Amanda Hines, 36**  
*Owner, No Dirt Farms*

If you're a gardener, you can appreciate the effort it takes to grow even a single vegetable successfully. Now imagine feeding an entire city with the fruits (vegetables?) of your labors.

"I would love to see No Dirt Farms be able to provide healthy, sustainable food all year round to more of our Erie community," said Amanda Hines, owner of No Dirt Farms, LLC in Fairview. She's well on her way, but her current reach is not too shabby.

The 36-year-old Erie native and McDowell alum runs a state-of-the-art hydroponic farm, including a fully automated — and fully pesticide, fungicide, and insecticide-free — greenhouse that has enabled the grower



to co-start Erie's first winter CSA program, 814 Fresh. This monthly subscription box is full of not just local produce, but all kinds of other local goodies, like candles, honey, meat, and more, making it a celebration of all things in Erie — particularly small businesses.

Hines added that she is incredibly proud of "getting USDA Harmonized GAP certified. This was a huge undertaking, but makes me eligible to sell safe produce to schools, universities, and hospitals," and she is currently in the process of establishing a "veggie Rx" initiative with area hospitals.

The avid camper and owner of Creative Artistry in Hair (as well as a stylist at Bickford Senior living and employee of Action Shots Photography) is also extremely close with her family, including her husband and two daughters, as well as her parents and in-laws, and she cited their support as crucial to allowing her to pursue her mission of growing nutritious, wholesome foods that nourish the Erie community. — CS

**Megan Jell, 36**  
*Art Teacher, Grandview Elementary School*



If there's one thing Megan Jell wants to teach her students, it is the significance of community: "As a community member, it is so important to me that we embrace our city's rich history, especially on the water. As an art teacher, I am always looking for opportunities to help students of all ages foster a sense of place within their community," she said.

Born in Erie, Jell attended Harborcreek High School before going on to earn her B.A. in Art Education and Art Therapy from Mercyhurst University, a school where she is currently an adjunct professor in their arts education program. Jell also holds an M.A. in Art Education from the Boston University College of Fine Arts.

Drawing from her enthusiasm for Erie, Jell inspires her students in the classroom to work together on projects that explore the history of the region as well as appreciate and celebrate different places within the city. For Jell, one of the greatest rewards is when her lessons hit home with students: "The best moments are when

I see students make connections between classroom content and their own life experiences," she said.

Megan's achievements as a teacher have surpassed the classroom, too. In 2020, she was named the Pennsylvania Art Education Association's Elementary Art Educator of the Year, and has been selected as a participant in the 2021-2022 Art21 Educators Program, a year-long professional development initiative and learning community based in New York City.

Jell is also a founding board member of Seiche Dance Collective, a local non-profit performance based dance company. She is currently a company artist with the group, alongside fellow 40 Under 40 honorees Danielle Kaiser and Andona Zacks-Jordan. Jell also performs with the Erie Playhouse.

When not teaching or performing, Jell enjoys spending time with her 2-year-old Newfoundland dog named Felix, who is currently in training to be a therapy dog in schools. — AK

**Katie Jones, 35**  
*Operations Director and Music School Director, World of Music*



When the coronavirus pandemic changed in-person interactions, schools had to pivot in an instant. Katie Jones, the 35-year-old school director for the local landmark World of Music, sprang into action.

"I was able to change an in-person lesson school of over 500 students to a virtual and semi-virtual school within a matter of a couple of months," said Jones. But it wasn't easy. "I basically had to build the school back up from zero, and we are currently at over 200 students (and growing!) both virtually and in-person."

This impressive turnaround is part and parcel for the North East High School and Mercyhurst University grad, who is also the operations manager for what has long been one of Erie's largest continuously operating small businesses and an iconic stop for any music lover in the city.

Jones, who has a bachelor's degree in business and music studies and a master's degree in organizational leadership, does work which places her among the panoply of local artists, musicians, and cultural movers/shakers who make Erie a more vibrant and welcoming place to put down roots.

Every day, whether it's guiding people to the right instrument, jumping in on the cash register or encouraging youngsters to pursue music (even in the midst of a global pandemic), Jones' seemingly small everyday acts further her mission of "highlighting the artists' talents and encouraging and inspiring a whole new generation of artists to bloom in Erie." — CS



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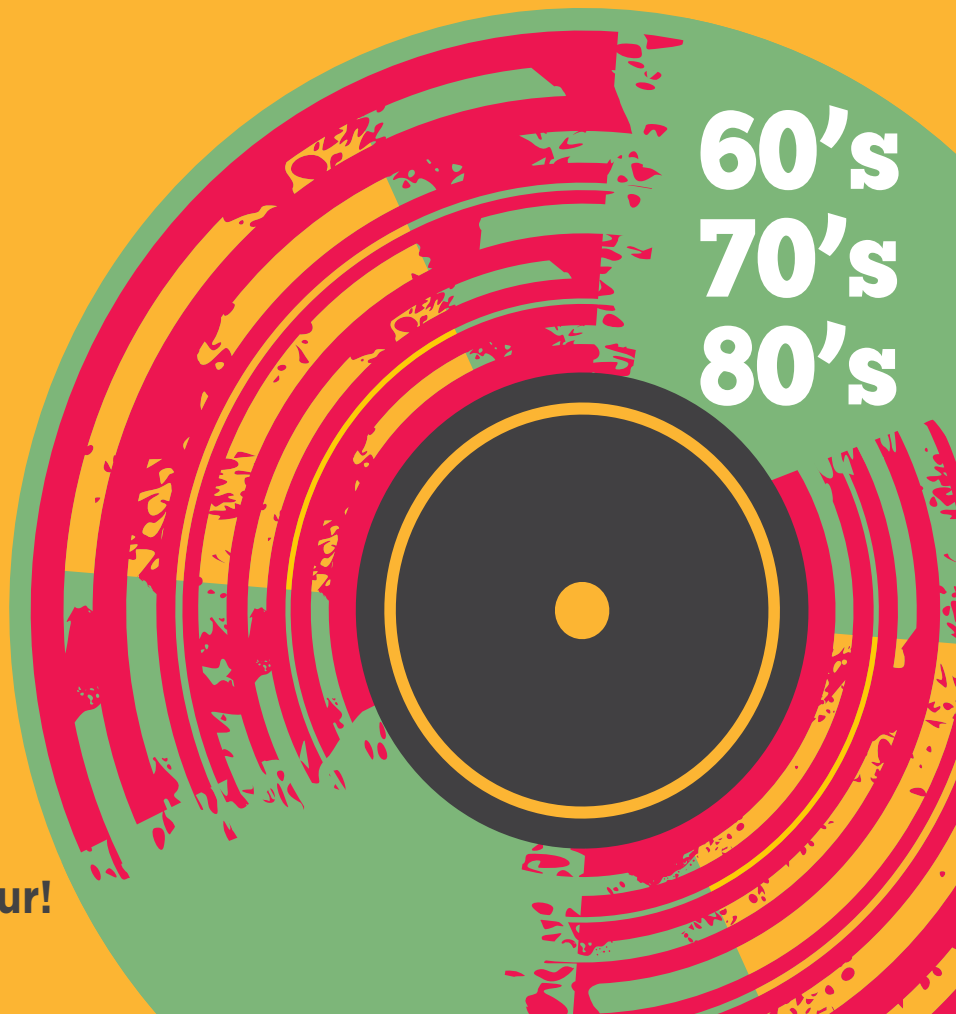
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**Danielle Kaiser, 33**  
**Administrative Assistant/Adjunct Faculty,**  
**Mercyhurst University; Head Coach, MU Dance Team**



Sometimes, you take stock in all someone offers the community and simply wonder how they find the time. Danielle Kaiser is one of these people.

"I work outside of work!" she enthusiastically responds when asked about her hobbies. "However, none of it feels like work because it is my passion! Outside of my various positions at [Mercyhurst University], I teach dance at Little's Dance Studio and work as a freelance choreographer for studios in Erie, Greater Pennsylvania, and Ohio."

Those various positions at MU include administrative assistant and adjunct faculty, where she works in areas such as mentoring, teaching, and accreditation tracking (among other things) as well as head coach and advisor of the MU Dance Team, where she works in recruitment, retention, and choreography. Additionally, Kaiser is a founding board member (alongside fellow 40 Under 40 honorees Megan Jell and Andona Zacks-Jordan) and the artistic director of Erie's newest not-for-profit dance company, Seiche Dance Collective, where she has been able to pursue high level dance while also offering a space to adults who want to experience dance for the first time, or continue to study dance in some capacity.

"I want to continue to work to bring quality arts and dance to Erie, preserving the integrity of dance education [and] using my knowledge in the fields of education and dance to create pathways for the future generation of dancers, choreographers, and dance educators," says Kaiser. "I am hoping that I can continue to do work that not only strengthens and unifies the Erie dance community, but also invites young, emerging artists to make Erie home and to invest their time, energies, and talents here."

Kaiser's choreography has been presented at the Cleveland Ballet Conservatory, Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre, Erie Dance Theatre, and at the Northeast Regional Dance America Festival here in Erie, where it was nominated for the prestigious Monticello Choreography Award in 2015. Still, somehow, Kaiser finds time to spend with her husband Nick and new baby boy, Caden, along with their two dogs. She enjoys exploring what Erie has to offer a new young family. — AM

**Jamie A. Keim, 28**  
**Creative Director, Lake Erie Arboretum; Designer and Educator, Erie Art Museum; Graphic Artist/Painter**

Erie native Jamie Keim returned home two years ago after a seven-year tour in New York City, where she



graduated from Pace University. As she explains it, her time in New York gave her a greater appreciation for all that Erie has to offer and enhanced her desire to stay closely connected to life here, particularly in the arts community.

On trips home to visit her family, she volunteered at the Neighborhood Art House and when she fully returned two years ago her volunteer connections led her to LEAF, the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier. Now she directs educational initiatives and has helped launch some Erie instant favorites such as the LEAF Open Market, a farmers' market in Frontier Park that started as an alternative grocery store during the height of the pandemic, giving people a safe(er) way to shop and giving local vendors a space to sell their goods when many doors to traditional retail were closed.

Keim also helped launch the ReLeaf project, which aims to plant 275,000 new trees across Erie County — one for each resident. She calls this one of her favorite projects to date and it's easy to see why. "Right now is the best time to plant that tree, say hello to your neighbor, make a meaningful connection, volunteer at a local arts organization, pick up those pieces of trash in your local park, learn something new, send that introductory email, put yourself out there," she explains. "Right now is the time to be a part of the better conversation. Right now is the time to stay in Erie and offer up your skills and time to people and places that need it the most." — JW

**Bill Kern, 33**  
**Owner and Operator, Bastion Studios**



If you happened to drive down Peach on any first Saturday of the month this past spring, you might have noticed a pretty impressive to-do just north of shops like Pointe Foure and Topsy Bean.

The location: Bastion Studios, owned and operated by Bill Kern, a Fairview grad, woodworker, and musician, who founded the space as "a membership-based art studio, recording studio, and art gallery aimed at helping people get their best work out into the world."

Said Kern, "I want to see Erie with a stronger social

and downtown scene that highlights great local music and art; my way of contributing to that is by creating a community where these are the focal point."

Kern's community-within-a-community is housed inside a beautifully restored and preserved historic three-story mansion, whose 7,600 square feet houses a visual arts studio on the second and third floor, woodshop and metal shop in the garage, and an art gallery on the first floor.

The first floor is also where the aforementioned to-do — known as Local Lovin': An Erie Pop-Up Shop — takes place. These monthly events have expanded to include live music and food trucks, in addition to homemade goods and local makers, all thanks to the vision of a young Erieite whose day job is project manager at the C.A. Curtze Co.

Said Kern, "I am very proud of what we've created at Bastion Studios, a creative space for artists to come together...I'm hoping that the combination of these efforts with the efforts of everyone on [the 40 Under 40 list] will help propel Erie to new heights." — CS

**Dr. Divya Koradia, 36**  
**Physician, AHN Saint Vincent**



Dr. Divya Koradia says her philosophy for her career is to treat her patients like her family. "I really value building meaningful interpersonal relationships with my patients and their family members." By forging those bonds, Koradia has provided essential health-care services to Erie's diverse international community.

A family practice physician at Saint Vincent Hospital, Koradia is heralded as a true representation of work-life balance and dedication to the Greater Erie area. Part of that includes serving on the Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Greater Erie (IAGE) and volunteering with the Erie Asian Pacific American Association (APAA). Koradia, from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India, hopes to "continue to serve Erie's immigrant and refugee populations."

Koradia isn't just a practitioner in the medical field — she also enjoys cultivating and participating in local arts & culture events. Celebrate Erie, the Erie APAA's Asian Festival, and AmeriMasala Festival are just a few of the events where you can find Koradia performing dance, showcasing art, and "advancing the mantra of unity in diversity."

Bringing her specialties of preventative medicine, mental health, and well-being to the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic, Koradia served as an in-depth educator to her patients about the virus and the benefits of vaccinations.

Aside from building strong relationships with her community and patients, Koradia makes sure she has

time to do one of her favorite things: adventure sports. Whether she's rappelling down waterfalls in Costa Rica, hosting educational sessions on Diwali, or showing the importance of diversity within the Erie community, Koradia has already had an impact well beyond the scope of her office on West Ridge Road. — KF

**Christopher LaFuria, 35**  
**Deputy Communications Officer, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania**



When Tartans talk, what do they sound like? One answer is an award-winning podcast.

The brainchild of Christopher LaFuria, *Tartan Talks* shares stories of the lives and careers of faculty, students, and alumni of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania — the place where LaFuria not only received his Master of Education degree in Middle and Secondary Education, but also works as the deputy communications officer. Just one year after launching in 2019, his podcast notched second place in Pennsylvania at the College and University Public Relations and Associated Professionals Awards.

"The diversity of Erie folks and the variety of stories makes this region unique in the tristate area," says this North East native who now resides in Millcreek Township. "By sharing stories of the students and faculty that live in Erie and promoting an affordable and sustainable education, we can all work together to help this region grow and succeed."

When he's not getting Tartans to talk, Christopher is working on the university's social media and public relations, as well as writing and taking photographs — putting to good use his bachelor's degree in communications and media studies from Penn State Behrend.

Off-campus, Christopher can be found spending time with his wife Lauren raising their two children, coaching varsity girls soccer at Our Lady of Peace, attending concerts, enjoying the wines and culinary treasures of the region, and listening to music (and, yes, podcasts). On Saturdays, you can find him participating in Father Figures Walking Group — a social collective where fathers and non-fathers alike walk and talk about life lessons, from parenthood and politics to the workplace, music, and mental health. — BS

**Gianpiero Martone, 35**  
**Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist & Medical Director of Psychiatry, LECOM Health**

Innovation and medicine go hand-in-hand for Gianpiero Martone: as medical director of psychiatry at LECOM Health, he is always thinking outside the box and collaborating to meet the needs of the Erie community.

Born and raised in Scarsdale, N.Y., Martone graduated



from Scarsdale High School before going on to earn numerous degrees: he holds a B.S. in Biological Sciences, a master's degree in public health through New York Medical College, Doctor of Osteopathy through LECOM, and a master's in medical education through LECOM. He has also been the recipient of the Kevin Love Genuine Hero Award (for mental health advocacy) and the Xavier Scholarship through Fordham University.

Managing the largest group of psychiatrists in the region as medical director of his department, Martone leads by example, providing excellent care to each of his patients, something he prides himself on. "It's humbling to be trusted with past traumas and struggles and working with families and individuals to try and better their lives," he said.

Martone is also a huge supporter of the arts and enjoys spending time at museums, galleries, and studios. His nonprofit, heART for the Mind, is a testament to his advocacy — Martone is the president of the organization, which works to bring artwork to hospitals, clinics, schools, and organizations in the local community.

Martone's main message to the Erie community is to never give up: "I want Erieites to know that they are never alone. That there is always someone out there that's willing to help and listen. I was able to help neutralize the stigma associated with mental health and be an advocate for all living with mental unrest." — AK

**Patty Mazza Rounsley, 36**  
**Library Clerk, Erie County Public Library**



The Raymond M Blasco, MD Memorial Library is the flagship location of the Erie County Public Library, one of the true gems of the Gem City. It's an inclusive place, and one of the key people fostering that sense of community is unquestionably Patty Mazza Rounsley. Patty grew up in Erie, attending Edinboro University after graduating from Collegiate Academy. At the library, she's the one responsible for setting up the library's countless displays for Pride month, Black history, child grief awareness, adoption month, women's history, Hispanic heritage month, mental health awareness month, autism acceptance month, and recovery month, to name a few. "The displays also tackle stigmatized topics and

marginalized groups," she explained. "I want to make people feel included. The library is truly a place for everyone and I want people to feel that. I didn't always feel like I belonged so I think it's important to make people feel like they belong." Those sentiments were echoed by the many nominations Patty received this year, highlighting her passion to uplift diverse and underrepresented voices. Serving on numerous committees with the library, she is helping to guide the organization into its modern-day role as an integral focal point of our community, as well as working with organizations such as The Caring Place and The Office of Children and Youth. She's also an accomplished artist, having taken part in Arts and Drafts for six years, and having her work displayed at the Whole Foods Co-op, as well as at the library itself. Anyone that knows Patty knows that she is a wonderful and genuine person, full of heart and passion. She loves spending days with her husband Bill and their two dogs, finding time to garden and read. Her vision for a more inclusive city is one we can all feel grateful for. — NW

**Jon Meighan, 36**  
**President, Lake Erie Rubber & Manufacturing**



If you're wondering why the name Jon Meighan rings a bell, you probably saw his appearances on *Undercover Billionaire*. In the hit Discovery reality series, Meighan showcased the One Leg Up! line of dog toys produced at Lake Erie Rubber & Manufacturing, where he is president and owner.

Meighan says that becoming a plant manager at GE Transportation and going on to own and grow his own company are what he is most proud of. For Meighan, his desire to improve and create jobs in the area are what drove him to where he is now.

"Increasing manufacturing is one of the best ways to make an economic impact in Erie because the majority of our products are purchased by companies outside of Erie. This means we are bringing outside dollars into the Erie economy to pay wages, purchase local services, etc," says Meighan.

One nominator described Meighan as "one of the most sincere, caring individuals who lifts people up. Jon works tirelessly to improve the lives of his employees at Lake Erie Rubber & Manufacturing. He is committed to being a positive contributor to our local community in work and play."

Aside from his ownership gig, Meighan is a board member of Junior Achievement of Western PA, a long-time sponsor of Big Brothers Big Sisters, a member of CEO Erie, and a member of the Manufacturer's Association. — KF



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## 40 UNDER 40

### Audra Miller, 19

**Lead Singer, First To Eleven/Concrete Castles; Vocal Instructor, Rock School Studios**



For years, it's been impossible to escape First to Eleven, one of Erie's most high-profile groups led by young vocalist Audra Miller — and quite frankly, why would you want to? The band produces high-quality, genre-twisting covers on a weekly basis. As performers, they've cut their chops for years before just recently launching Concrete Castles, an original band composed of the same members who recently signed deals with Velocity and Equal Vision Records. It seems like there's never been a better time to be a young musician in Erie, but for Audra Miller, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"I want to be able to inspire younger kids in Erie to do what they love. Being able to play music for a living is

something I never thought would be a possibility, but with the help of my bandmates, family, and teachers, it was able to become a reality. I want to be that person in other kids' lives, someone they can look up to and thank for taking that first step in chasing their dreams."

It helps that Miller has the platform to do so, not only with her words, but in teaching. In addition to being a three-time Rock Erie Music Award winner (including the female vocalist category), Miller is a vocal instructor at Rock School Studios, where she teaches students of all ages. Continuing her sentiment about inspiring others in Erie to chase their dreams, Miller says that if that dream happens to be music, she feels fortunate to be a teacher and a mentor for them.

In addition to performing, Miller loves to spend time with family and friends, travel, and make vlogs for YouTube. Despite the inception of Concrete Castles, First To Eleven continues to post weekly covers, with their Youtube subscriber count currently sitting at over 1.5 million. As fans follow the band down their newest path, Concrete Castles' views continue to grow. — AM

### Brian Morgante, 34

**Graphic Designer, Flesh & Bone Design**

Brian Morgante exemplifies independent entrepreneurial spirit, and would laugh it off if anyone told him that. He's a person of many talents and convictions, remaining refreshingly humble and honest, while at the same time accumulating one of the most impressive portfolios imaginable. Morgante is the brain



behind Flesh & Bone Design. Since its inception over 10 years ago, Flesh & Bone has been contracted by national clients, quietly becoming one of — if not the — most successful designers Erie has ever seen. Some of his past clients include The Rolling Stones, Tupac, Father John Misty, Best Coast, She & Him, Eazy-E, Machine Gun Kelly, Neil Diamond, Sublime, and the Foo Fighters. Morgante's focus on the music industry makes perfect sense. He's a musician himself that long ago fell in love with the touring lifestyle — the invigorating, DIY ethos and relentless wanderlust, easily staying away from any *Behind the Music* type situations. For years he played guitar with the instrumental indie band Deadhorse, and still tours with his friend Jack M. Senff. "I was brought up along the shores of Lake Erie," his bio reads, alluding to his days in North East. "That taught me the importance of community over competition." He collects



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records and zines (even overseeing one that got this author writing music reviews for the first time), and loves to thrift (with a keen eye for mid-century modern treasures), and finding some great vegan food with his longtime partner, Rachel. He's an activist, against the gentrification of Erie by large corporations, and for the abolition of police departments and prisons. Maybe the title of one of his albums says it best: *We Can Create Our Own World*. — NW

### Leroy Oglesby III, 37

**Permanency Supervisor, The Bair Foundation**



Leroy Oglesby III knows how important second chances can be. As permanency supervisor for The Bair Foundation, he oversees adoption and permanency services for children in Erie and the surrounding counties.

Oglesby hails from Wyandanch, N.Y. and graduated from Randolph-Henry High School in Charlotte Court House, Va. He holds a B.S. in Liberal Studies, an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, and an M.Ed. in Special Education. These degrees hold a lot of meaning for him, too: once considered a college dropout, the completion of his degrees is one of his proudest achievements.

One of Oglesby's responsibilities as permanency supervisor includes reviewing families and homes to make sure that the children they are placing have a safe and secure place to live.

Oglesby's commitment to the Erie community is showcased in the multitude of organizations he serves with: he is a member of the LGBTQ Advisory Council for the City of Erie; a NWPA Pride Alliance Advisory Board Member; an Erie Community Human Relations Commission Advisory Board Member; and a Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships Committee Member.

As a foster parent himself, one of Oglesby's biggest concerns is creating a better community for both children and adults alike: "I want to see Erie as a place where our children can thrive," he said. "This means addressing systemic racism, addressing systems that have been in place for years that are flawed. We need to focus on quality education for all students in Erie schools. We must continue to address the stigmas around mental health in Erie. We must choose to focus on the majority of Erie citizens that live in poverty and how to help them have more equitable and quality lives."

Outside of work, Oglesby enjoys spending time with family and friends, coaching wrestling, and cooking. He also secretly enjoys karaoke, a now not-so-secret fact that many may be surprised to know about him. — AK

### Kaitlyn Page, 25

**Freelance Watercolor Artist, The Inner Observer**



In a society that leaves many third eyes blinded, Kaitlyn Page defiantly allows herself to gaze inward, foraging into depths of vivid, surreal, and at times haunting beauty. "I want to help keep Erie a colorful place where creativity is celebrated and the stigma that surrounds pursuing a career in the arts is no more."

Since graduating from Maplewood High School in 2014, Kaitlyn has been diligently painting over those tired narratives, with watercolor being her preferred medium. Over the years, she's seen her work featured in numerous exhibits and publications while simultaneously building a substantial following across multiple digital platforms. Her video tutorials and time-lapse process videos have accumulated millions of views, and for good reason — the detail she puts into her paintings is truly painstaking, and it's absolutely captivating to watch her spellbinding scenes and expressive faces spring to life.

She attributes her imagination to a childhood spent exploring the countryside and backpacking through nature, inspiring a strong curiosity in biology and astronomy (animals and celestial scenes still feature as frequent subjects). Throughout her youth, peers often labeled Page as "weird" or "annoying" or "overbearing" as she wrestled with severe anxiety and fitting in — only recently did she discover that Autism Spectrum Disorder was at the root.

Nevertheless, she found solace in art, and believes others should do the same. "Many of those who have struggled in life find comfort and a voice through creative outlets, which is never a loss." Page is resounding proof that unapologetically combining passion with talent is a winning formula — she has two consecutive Best of Erie awards for Best Fine Artist to show for it, and undoubtedly more to come. — MS

### Bailey Pituch, 25

**Community Impact Manager of Data and Evaluation, United Way of Erie County**

Three points on a map charted the way for one of Erie's youngest adult difference-makers: Union City, New York City, and, of course, Erie. Although Bailey Pituch has worked with stars like David Letterman and Bill Murray, she found herself desiring to make a major community impact at home.

Currently serving as United Way Erie's community impact manager of data and evaluation, Bailey has spent the last few years on the Erie Blues & Jazz Festival board of directors, volunteering for The Ally Coalition's



Annual Talent Show, and serving as the house manager for Seiche Dance Collective. Oh, and she's only 25.

Bailey's drive can be found in her desire for access to quality education for all. "That's why I applied to work on United Way's Community Impact Team in 2019. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish any of this if it weren't for the education I received and the opportunities that came with it."

In her role at United Way, Bailey works with ten schools throughout Erie County through their community school program. Here, she assists each school in performing a needs assessment "that identifies what specific non-academic barriers to student success and family stability that school community is facing." This, according to supervisor Mike Jaruszewicz, helps United Way Erie "remove the guesswork from identifying community needs and resource gaps."

When she's not spending time finding new ways to better her community, Bailey loves shopping local and hanging out on the Lake Erie Ale Trail. "You can often find me playing an awful game of tennis at Bayview Park or enjoying Canadohta Lake from my grandma's cottage/pontoon boat in the summer with my husband Raymond." — KF

### Ashley Russell, 31

**Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Penn State Behrend**



When she left for graduate school, Ashley Russell thought she would never come back to Erie. But, thanks to her dad's love of the 6 o'clock news, she heard about the open position of assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology that she would eventually be hired for at Penn State Behrend.

Born and raised in Erie, Russell attended Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy before earning a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in biology from Penn State Behrend. From there she earned her Ph.D. in Neurosci-

ence from West Virginia University of Medicine and went on to complete a post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Her achievements don't end there, though. Russell has presented her research at numerous regional, national, and international conferences, earning several awards for her work. She has also authored 12 peer-reviewed publications and has received multiple grants to fund her research.

Russell's ultimate goal is to improve Erie's position in the biomedical world, wanting the region to become a major biomedical research hub. Thanks to the proximity to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo, Russell feels that Erie has significant geographical potential to attain this goal.

She has faith in her students to help make this happen, too. "So many bright students come to the local colleges, get their degrees, and leave because there simply are no opportunities for them to pursue scientific careers here," she said. "Increasing Erie's biomedical research infrastructure in both the academic and private sectors will create good jobs, encourage young people to stay, and help recruit world-class scientists and clinicians to the area."

When not working, Russell enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, and being outdoors. She also enjoys taste testing for her husband, an avid home cook who is always trying new recipes. — AK

**Kristen Santiago, 27**  
*Owner, Gone Local Erie, Ivy + Atlas*



It's nearly impossible to find a business so clearly championing Erie as Gone Local. There, you can

find and purchase hundreds of locally-made products, as well as expertly curated boxes. When The Erie Reader puts out its annual "Made In Erie Gift Guide," Gone Local is the very first place we go to find the best items around. Most recently, they created a series of International Food Boxes, highlighting foods from Erie's New American community. At the center of this is Kristen Santiago, taking over the business in April of 2020. A Fort LeBoeuf graduate, she received her BA in Business Management from Mercyhurst University, and is currently working towards her MBA at Penn State Behrend (receiving the Junior Achievement's 2019 Celebrating Success Award). She was a founding board member of Erie ClaySpace (and former president of the board), a current board member at Erie Art Museum, a member of Athena Circle of Trust cohort III, and co-organizer of monthly Local Lovin' Pop-Ups at Bastion Studios, and is working to become an instructor at Liege Barre and Pole. Santiago is also the owner of Ivy + Atlas, offering business consultation and teaching new entrepreneurs how to start their own businesses. "Every city needs a thriving small business community," she noted. "These are the restaurants, shops, and establishments that make it a unique and desirable place to live. So if I can continue to support Erie's entrepreneurs and makers, either through consulting services or with their products in my store, I'll be positively contributing to our city's growth and future." We're happy that she is. — NW

**Christopher R. Shelton, 36**  
*Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology & Director of Virtual/Augmented Reality Lab at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Today, Illinois native and University of Wyoming graduate Christopher R. Shelton has a great career, a wonderful wife and daughter, and two "fur-babies." Yet, when he reflects on his experience having to drive a cab on weekends to put himself through college, he recognizes the hurdles many of his own students have to overcome in order to get an education.

"More specifically, it helped to push me towards trying to create as many opportunities for my students as I can," Shelton says. It's clear that as a professor, students come first for Shelton. When asked



about his own accomplishments, he finds a way to circle the conversation back to his students.

"One of the things I am most proud of is the undergraduate and graduate students that I am so fortunate and thankful to work with and mentor as researchers in the VAR Lab," he explains, adding how fulfilling it is to work with each of them. "I really enjoy helping each of my students to achieve their goals within the lab and with an eye on the future as well. I cannot wait to see how these students will leave their mark on the world."

Whether it's dressing up on Halloween to teach, helping them turn their research into a paying job, or simply advocating, it is always about the students. On campus, he also is the co-advisor of Active Minds, a mental health awareness organization and even helped students develop a "mental health and mindfulness" app called Serene over the past year. He views technology as an important way to overcome the shortfalls often seen in the mental health field.

"I want to help Erie students and the community become well versed in these cutting-edge technologies that we will see become a staple of many fields over the coming decades," says Shelton. He's modeling this by overseeing partnerships and VR projects with the Hagen History Center, the Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society, Three Forts of Presque Isle LLC, and Friends of Wintergreen Gorge. "Ultimately, training our students and community to use this technology is one, of many, paths towards creating a more technologically advanced workforce within Erie, and thus building a stronger, more equitable Erie for all." — JB

**Bailey Pituch.**  
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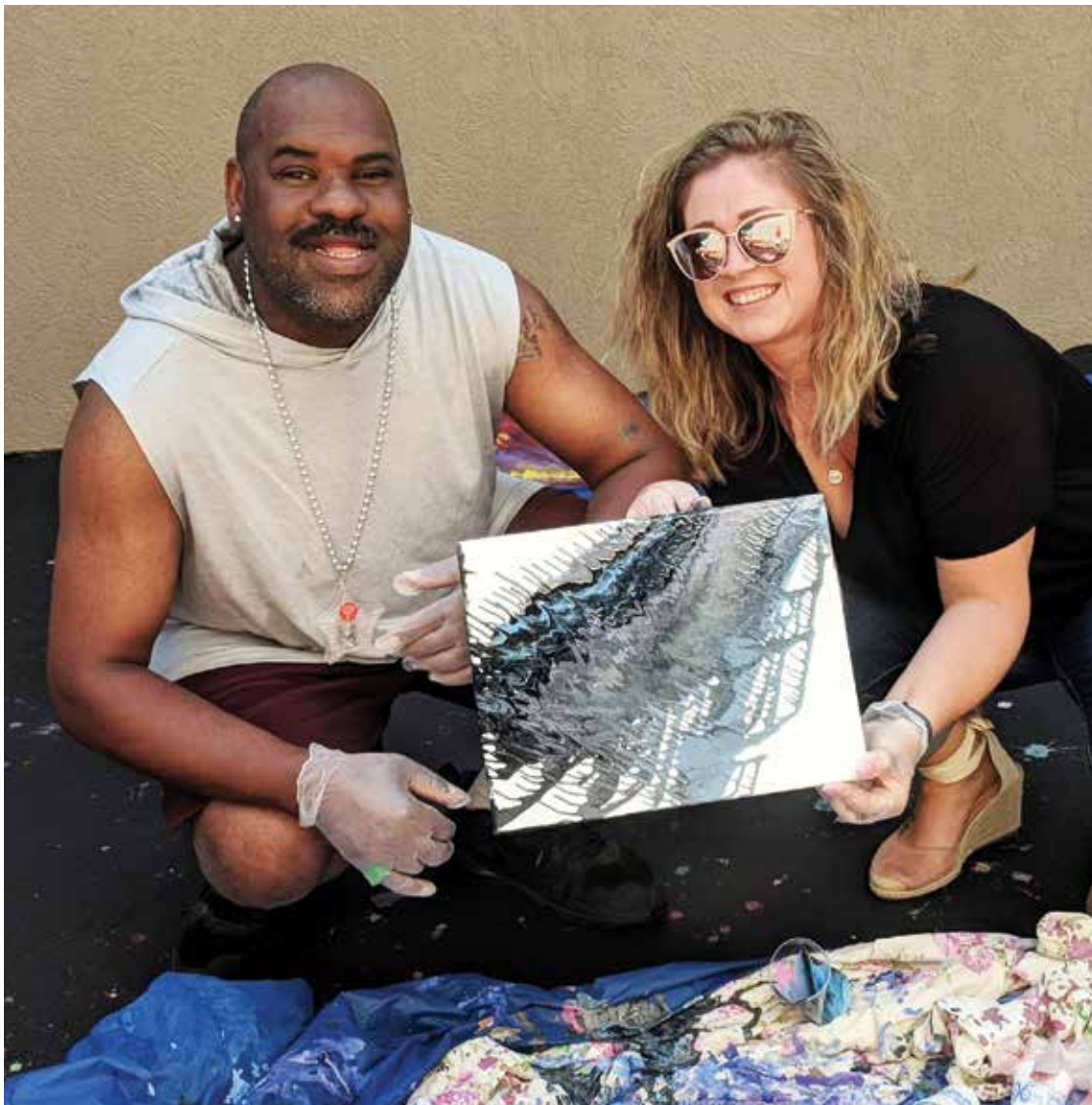
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**Anne M. Styn, 36**  
**County Detective & Digital Forensics Examiner, Erie County District Attorney's Office**



In a world where true crime media is more popular than ever, there are still people out there unfamiliar with the concept of “digital forensics,” and Erie County detective and digital forensics examiner Anne M. Styn is happy to clarify that for them.

“What is a digital forensic examiner, you may ask?” starts Styn. “Well, digital forensics is the process of identifying, preserving, analyzing, and documenting digital evidence. Some examples of where digital evidence [can be] located are cell phones, computers, smart devices such as Alexa, smart watches, smart TVs, and even vehicles.”

As an International Association of Computer Investigative Specialists (IACIS) Certified Forensic Computer Examiner, Styn assists local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with investigations involving digital devices. But making Erie a safer place is more than just a career for Styn; it’s a passion that comes across in the courses she teaches as an adjunct professor with Gannon University, including “Cybercrime and Society” and “Digital Evidence.”

“I want to help parents create a safer digital world for their children to grow up in,” says Styn. “Through the district attorney’s office, I have had opportunities to speak with schools as well as parents about internet safety. I love seeing the technological advances our country is making, but with that comes responsibility...Teaching parents about the digital world their children are involved in, the apps they use, and the restrictions they can put on their devices will help keep them safe.”

Long before Styn decided to go into law enforcement, she was the only girl in an all-boys baseball league and dreamt of being the first female to play for the Cleveland Indians — a team she still roots for year after year. In her free time, Styn enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and dog, hanging out at Room 33, re-watching *Friends*, and cycling. — AM

**Traci Teudhope, 38**  
**Marketing Manager, WQLN PBS NPR**

Sometimes, professional paths take the shape of a circle while those along them continue to spiral upwards. That is the case with Traci Teudhope.

This Bethany College alum, who studied communications, first landed in Erie and on the media scene in 2005 as WQLN’s education and outreach manager, where for five years she facilitated the station’s educa-

tional programs, including its flagship program, *WQLN Families*. In 2010, she joined the JET24 team to anchor *Good Morning*, where she “proudly spent a decade helping our community start their days on a positive note.” While at JET, she also conducted high-profile interviews, including one with the President of the United States.

But in 2019, her path brought her back to WQLN. As the marketing manager, Traci led the company’s re-branding efforts, recreating all of the company’s TV, radio, digital, and print marketing to match its new image. When the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in March 2020, Traci helped train the staff to build and use in-home recording studios, served as the conduit between the County Health Department and local media outlets for the daily briefings, and more.



Outside of work, she earned a master’s degree in organizational leadership from Mercyhurst University and serves as the vice president of Hooked on Books for Kids. She enjoys spending time with her husband of 14 years and their three boys, coaching on their baseball teams, and exploring the outdoors, including back-country camping.

Of Erie she says: “I want to make Erie better by continuing to be a community champion. I will always boldly share my love of this town, and I encourage others to do the same. Erie is a beautiful place — filled with hidden treasures and endless opportunities for growth.” — BS

**Breanna Watts, 33**  
**Director of Advancement, Mercy Center for Women**



Breanna has always called Erie “home.” It’s only fair she does what she can to help others in her community feel the same way about her beloved place of residence as she does.

While she is the director of advancement for Mercy Center for Women, Breanna balances her career with serving as the co-chair of Athena Circle of Trust Co-

hort III. She’s a member of Young Erie Professionals, the Young Erie Philanthropist Committee, a Bronze Member of the Erie Women’s Fund, and the supervisor of the Mercy Center’s AmeriCorps VISTA program.

“I have been privileged to watch the growth of each program I have worked on,” says Breanna. This includes her work in creating more matches at Big Brothers Big Sisters, implementing new and more diverse members of the Erie Women’s Fund, and spearheading the most successful Women Making History event ever (during a global pandemic no less).

Nominator and 2020 40 Under 40 alumna Amanda Duncan says Breanna’s work for women has been game-changing for the Erie community. “All of her volunteering, employment, and even personal relationships have a common thread of women empowerment — she truly does everything she can to see great women succeed in whatever stage of life they’re in or whatever trials they’re facing. This impact has been felt within her Athena group, with her VISTA volunteerism, and even in her friendships.”

For Breanna, the work she does to help others is the most meaningful. “We can only truly make Erie a better place if we take care of one another.” — KF

**Karin Wickwire, 39**  
**Nurse Practitioner for Critical Care Medicine, UPMC Hamot**



If there’s ever been a position worth defending — a hill worth dying on — it’s our right to agency over our own bodies. It was somewhat prophetic when Karin Wickwire received a large print of Brigadier General Strong Vincent defending Little Round Top (during the Battle of Gettysburg) as a high school graduation present — not just because she’s a self-proclaimed Erie and Civil War history buff (and SV alum), but because it’s so perfectly symbolic of a career devoted to taking a heroic stand for the vulnerable.

In her various roles at UPMC Hamot and UPMC Children’s, Wickwire provides cover for victims of sexual assault and abuse on multiple fronts. As nurse practitioner for critical care medicine at UPMC Hamot, she works diligently to comfort those who have just suffered some of the most unimaginable traumas of their lives. As clinical coordinator for UPMC Hamot’s forensic nursing program, she oversees the day-to-day administration of care to victims in recovery. And as nurse practitioner at the Erie CARE (Child Abuse Referral & Evaluation) Clinic, she lends

## 40 UNDER 40

ongoing support to kids who have been neglected and abused.

On (Little Round) top of that, she *still* finds time to train reinforcements for this vital cause both as an adjunct professor in nursing at Gannon University and as a faculty member of the Duquesne University SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program — she even recently co-authored a chapter in a SANE certification review guide. She serves on the board of directors of the Crime Victim Center of Erie, as the president of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN), and on the IAFN's research committee at an international level. Her research work has been published in the *Journal of Forensic Nursing*.

Despite being an avid Beatlemaniac, Wickwire advises Erie to not simply let it be. As a child, her mom told her that “no matter how little you think you have, there is always someone who has less. I want to share that mantra in our community in my own way, because I think it is important for every person to see that they can make a difference in another person's life — everyone has something to give, and everyone has something they need ... I want to help people see outside of the box of what giving is — giving doesn't mean (and for many cannot mean) opening their wallet. You can share a meal, your time, a laugh, your knowledge, and skill, and in many other ways.”

You can take a sad song and make it better. — MS

**Jacqueline R. Williams, CPA, 37**  
**Firm Administrator and Accountant, Rust Belt Business Law**



**A**lthough a B in a one-credit tennis course may have prevented Jacqueline Williams from graduating Clarion University with a perfect 4.0 GPA, she's been more than holding serve ever since.

A dual major in accounting and finance who earned her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and went on to pass her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam in one try, Williams considers herself more of a NASCAR driver anyhow (she owns a 6-speed manual convertible after learning to drive stick shift at the age of 30). She navigates both her private and professional lives with pace and grace, despite a packed schedule in both lanes.

Outside work, she enjoys spending time with husband

Adam (a 40 Under 40 honoree in 2013), children Royce and Penny, and their pet Weimaraner Camber — in addition to horseback riding, barre classes, distance running, fashion, karaoke, reading, podcasts, volunteering for Emma's Footprints (a nonprofit supporting families grieving from infant loss), and serving on the Athena Powerlink Advisory Panel.

At the office, she juggles financial, human resources, and operations duties while helping small business owners (Rust Belt Business Law) and home-buyers (Goldfinch Settlements Co.) find their paths. Among her proudest achievements in the past year was helping local small businesses secure and manage millions of dollars of funding through Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans during the pandemic, assisting with budgeting and filing for loan forgiveness. In fact, if you were to ask her to share her excitement, she'd be as likely to sing about it as talk about it — a quirk of which she is well aware.

Regardless of vocal (a)tonality, these endeavors are right in line with her personal mission: “I want to inspire and help people and business owners in our community find opportunity and solutions to the puzzles presented in life.” Game, set, and match. — MS

**Marcus Yuille, 28**  
**Manager of Outreach Services, Erie County Public Library**

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graduating from Monessen City Schools, Yuille arrived at Penn State Behrend, receiving his BA in Political Science and Government. It only made sense then, that he's an important person to watch in Erie's political landscape. This year, he ran as a candidate for Erie City Council, and though he didn't land a spot on November's ticket, it's safe to say that you'll be seeing more of him. "I believe that Erie is a city of great potential and promise," he told the Erie Chamber and Growth Partner-



ship this year. "My experiences in the community have enhanced my perspective and passion for our city. I am committed to creating positive change in Erie by devoting my voice to ensure that inclusion is a reality for all who call Erie home." He's driven to revitalize the City of Erie, fight for affordable housing, and make sure that all voices are heard when it comes to decision-making. Education advocacy and a passion to improve public health services help to fuel his political aspirations. In his work with the Erie County Public Library, he helps to oversee things like the Bookmobile and utilize the services of the library to benefit all members of the community, also having worked at the John F. Kennedy Center as a prevention specialist, providing substance abuse education. Through his stances and responsibilities he hopes "to address inequity and search out opportunities to replicate revitalization in the neighborhoods and areas of the city that have been most affected by poverty. No neighborhood, small business, or entrepreneur should be ignored or overlooked." — NW

**Andona Zacks-Jordan, 31**  
**Public Defender, Erie County**

Typically people feel more left-brained or right-brained; Andona Zacks-Jordan is that rare power-



house combination of both.

She is a public defender for Erie County and practices law privately as a founding partner of A to Z Law; and she is a musician, violin teacher, and dancer. Even where Zacks-Jordan contributes artistically to the cultural community in Erie, her vast intellect also enables her to serve artistic organizations in an administrative or management position, ensuring their continuity.

See, for example, her volunteer work with the Erie Art Museum on its board of directors, and her position as a founding board member for the Seiche Dance Collective, both of which are near and dear to her heart. Her nominator said, "The work she does behind the scenes to make ... events happen for the community is incredible, and I truly think she must be recognized. Erie is so lucky to have her."

Zacks-Jordan, who grew up on a farm in the Erie area, attended Collegiate Academy and is a triple-degree holder, appreciates "the balance between living in a reasonably sized city, and still being able to enjoy the natural beauty and open rural space of our Great Lakes region."

But she recognizes the challenges facing in Erie. "Right now, with my work in the criminal justice system alongside my identity as a peacemaker, I'm interested in exploring the potential for more intersectionality in the approach to resolving problems," Zacks-Jordan said.

She emphasized, "Establishing shared understanding and perspective is possible in even the most contentious conflicts."

Erie is indeed so lucky to have this mediator, musician, dancer, and attorney on our side. — CS

**Brian Zona, 37**  
**Forensic Blended Case Manager, Barber National Institute; Relief Assistant, L'Arche Erie**



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many of us began to learn new words and phrases used to explain the rapidly evolving world around us. Among them: "frontline workers" — and Brian Zona embodies the dedication, compassion, and care associated with the best, both before and during the pandemic, his nominators said of his role as an assistant with L'Arche Erie.

"Since the pandemic [started], instead of backing off, Brian stepped up and probably doubled his workload without hesitation," one nominator wrote. That included working with folks who'd contracted the virus but still needed hands-on care.

This Edinboro University grad, who earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and is working on a master's degree in communication, is not only stepping up, but is stepping into new roles. At the Barber National Institute, he'll take on the position of forensic blended case manager, working with both adults and youth as an advocate and to arrange services — all the while remaining with L'Arche as a part-time relief assistant.

His care for his community extends beyond the working day, as he's coached in the Special Olympics and worked additional hours during the summer at various camps. As a graduate of the Jefferson Educational Society's Civic Leadership Academy in 2019, this Cathedral Prep alum went on to become a JES Raimy Fellow in 2021.

When he's not at L'Arche caring for others, you can find Brian spending time with his family and his dog, Rudy — named after the famed Notre Dame Golden Domer Rudy, as Brian's an avid fan of the Fighting Irish. He also enjoys traveling the world, exercising, and gardening. — BS

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## Magic Returns with *Into the Woods*

The Erie Playhouse presents an outdoor production of the Sondheim classic



**Live theater is no longer the stuff of fairy tales —with the Erie Playhouse production of the Stephen Sondheim musical *Into the Woods*, it's become quite real (of course, fairy tales still make great subject matter).**

having the actors feed off the energy of the audience and vice versa, is an experience that technology just can't replicate. Whether you're after that experience again or for the first time, there is no better chance than the upcoming production of *Into the Woods* at the Erie Playhouse.

Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Jack (and his beanstalk) are not just characters that have been appropriated by Disney. They and many, many more — mostly from the works of the Brothers Grimm — have ingrained themselves in Western culture so thoroughly that the idea of them being used in a musical is expected. How long that musical has endured, however, may surprise.

In 1986 *Into the Woods*, by acclaimed composer Stephen Sondheim (with book by James Lapine) premiered in San Diego, and went on to Broadway, numerous awards, film adaptations, and enough productions at every level of theater to fill a giant's treasure hold ten times over. Despite being a staple, it's always worth seeing. Rousing numbers like "Giants in the Sky" give way to

beautifully haunting ones like "No More." The audience follows various well-known (and not-so-well-known) fantastical characters trying to obtain their "happily ever after." When they find it, will it be what they truly wanted? The lessons and struggles that come with it are what makes this incarnation a cut above just another rehash of these much-retold stories.

The Playhouse will also go a cut above just a traditional retelling of this famous musical by performing it outdoors — allowing people to gather safely as we slowly come out of the pandemic. Audiences and the Playhouse will venture out of Downtown Erie to the lush greenery of Wayside Presbyterian Church. Make sure to bring your own folding chairs, and note that no alcohol will be permitted. With a cast of 24 actors consisting of Erie-area theater veterans as well as several new faces, director Domenic Del Greco and assistant director Kate Neubert-Lechner are sure to make your summer a bit more magical. Don't miss your chance to truly be taken away — if only for a moment — *Into the Woods*. — J.D Mizikowski

July 9, 10, 11, and 15,16,17 at 6:30 p.m. // Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Road // \$20.75 adults or \$12 students // Tickets available at [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org) or 814-454-2852

As the world begins to return to some semblance of its previous self, we are also rediscovering what makes life worth living. While bingeing shows on any number of streaming services is great, there is much more life in the live theater experience. It's an act of creation, humanity at its best, working together to create something to both teach and entertain. The collective nature of watching a work unfold with other people,

## Erie Food Truck Festival is Ready to Groove



SATURDAY, JULY 10

Brightly colored food trucks line the former GE Fields, music plays, the smell of barbecue, fries, and other local bites fill the air. The Erie Food Truck Festival is here.

The event will host local food trucks — including SorcErie, Donutology, Tasty Twist, JEBs, Chameleon, and more — as well as local brews — from Lavery Brewing Co., Erie Brewing Co., Six Mile Cellars, Presque Isle Vineyard, Black Monk Brewery, and Arundel Cellars — and local bands. Attendees are welcome to enjoy the festival outdoors with a purchase of a ticket in advance.

Tommy Link will start the day off at 3 p.m., with Zack Orr following at 4:30. The day's headlining act, The Groove will take

the stage at 6 p.m., closing out the night.

"The Groove rocked our virtual Front Porch Festival during the pandemic, so they were the natural headliner for this year's return to the field. We're ready to get together and get tuned up again this year," said event organizer Kate Philips, CEO of Parker Philips.

While last year's event supported local businesses, this year's cause will return to its original goal. The festival is organized to benefit the Iroquois School District Foundation, a nonprofit organization that allows educational opportunities for district students in grades K-12.

"This year we're back to our initial mission which is to support the School District Foundation," explained Philips. "It supports the school and the kids, it's a celebration of all that is great about our local food and brewery and wine scene, and our local bands. It's a celebration about what Erie County is all about."

Tickets are on sale at \$15 a person with full access to the local brews, local bands, and local bites. Tickets will be on sale until Friday, July 2 at midnight. — Katelyn Kruszewski

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. // Former GE Fields, Water and Main streets (Lawrence Park) // \$15 // [eriefoodtruckfestival.com](http://eriefoodtruckfestival.com)

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## EVENTS

### ERIEBANK 8 Great Tuesdays Set for July

One of Erie's best-loved event series doesn't miss a step



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Nick Warren

The Erie-Western PA Port Authority's iconic event series is back. The ERIEBANK 8 Great Tuesdays concert

lineup is officially happening, having been previously canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. David Zimmer, President of ERIEBANK, noted that "we are pleased that the COVID-19

The familiar sounds of live music will fill the air surrounding Highmark Amphitheater and Liberty Park this summer with the much anticipated return of the ERIEBANK 8 Great Tuesdays concert series.

restrictions have eased, and we can once again sponsor ERIEBANK 8 Great Tuesdays." He continued that "bringing the community together for music at Highmark Amphitheater and sunsets over the bay will give us the feeling of normal we have all been craving."

The concerts run from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A free shuttle service, provided by the "e" (Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority), begins at 5:30 p.m. from the Erie Intermodal Complex, and from the Hoffman Transportation Hub (near 12th Street and Lincoln Avenue).

Brenda Sandberg, Executive Director of the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority said in a press release that "the Port Authority made a conscious decision to change the normal line-up to feature four local bands as headliners and book all local opening acts

to assist western Pennsylvania artists who have been unable to perform this past year."

**July 6 - The Pop Rockets, I-90s**

**July 13 - Chris Higbee, Refuge**

**July 21 - The Purple Madness (Prince tribute), The Breeze Band**

**July 28 - The Earthquakers, Phunkademic**

**Aug. 3 - Vanessa Collier, Mambo**

**Aug. 10 - Cracker, Matty B and the Pickles**

**Aug. 17 - The Vindys, Aria and the Voiceless**

**Aug. 24 - Erie All Stars, CEE Brown**

Highmark Amphitheater & Liberty Park, 828 W Bayfront Pkwy. // Tuesdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. // For more information, go to [porterie.org/8-great-tuesdays/](http://porterie.org/8-great-tuesdays/)

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## EVENTS

### Bringing Inclusivity and Engagement to Downtown Erie

The Erie Downtown Partnership offers the area more summer events than ever before



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Morgan Ashlee Grenz

If you've driven through Downtown Erie recently, the crowds forming in Perry Square are no coincidence. The Erie Downtown Partnership organized more events for this summer than ever before. From daily activities to monthly series, these events all serve the same purpose: to bring life back to downtown.

"Our events this year are really meant to drive people downtown and safely build back that density so that people can discover Downtown Erie again," said EDP events coordinator David Tamulonis.

Many of the events introduced this year were planned for last summer, but were delayed due to the pandemic. The EDP's mission has always been to make Downtown Erie safe, fun and welcoming. However, they're now taking even extra care to bring the community together through new summer offerings.

"The events we've shifted our focus towards are meant to improve the inclusivity of downtown and to improve the engagement of people that come down," said Tamulonis.

All of the events can be found on the EDP website calendar. But here is a breakdown of what you can expect to see this summer down in Perry Square.

Every Sunday from now until Oct. 17, a **farmers market** featuring local vendors is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition, there is live music on the park stage from noon to 1 p.m. as part of the **Farmers Market Concert Series**. These relaxing Sundays are followed by **Kids Storytime Mondays** where every week kids of all ages can gather for stories in the park. Story times are 11 a.m. to noon through Sept. 27.

**Brandon Wiley, executive director of Opened Eyes, speaks at the Erie Downtown Partnership's monthly lecture series Listen to Your Neighbors. The series invites speakers to share their experiences dealing with systemic racism and encourage empathetic listening.**

For all of you fitness enthusiasts, Tuesdays are your day. EDP's **Time Out Tuesdays** offer games from bean bag toss to volleyball to leisurely enjoy with friends from 6 to 10 p.m. Or join licensed fitness instructor Kaitlyn Falk for an hour-long conditioning-style workout around downtown Erie. Groups meet at the Perry Square Stage and are open to everyone with the choice of difficulty level.

If this doesn't appeal to you, consider attending **Wellness Wednesdays** and zen out with a sunrise or sunset yoga class. Morning classes are from 6 to 7 a.m. at Dobbins Landing while evening classes take place from 6 to 7 p.m. in Perry Square. Both sessions will continue through Sept. 29. Finish off your workweek by picnicking in the park with live music on Fridays. **Lunchtime Music on the Stage** lasts from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and runs through the last Friday in September.

Aside from weekly activities, look out for monthly events. **Monday Movies in Perry Square** will take place on the last Monday of each month from now through September. The EDP partnered with the Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania to present movies such as *42* and *West Side Story*. Movies begin at dark with trivia and the chance to win prizes taking place beforehand.

To music lovers, **The Back to the Music Concert Series** runs every fourth Thursday of the month 7 to 10 p.m. The first of





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spectators will fill Perry Square once again this summer as a full lineup of downtown events will occupy virtually every day of the week, through the efforts of organizers with the Erie Downtown Partnership.

five concerts in the series took place this past Thursday where people gathered in the park for chill music alongside local vendors.

Also on Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. is a monthly lecture series named **Listen to your Neighbors**. The EDP is partnering with Opened Eyes for a community presentation and discussion on systemic racism in the Erie region and beyond. This series is meant as a way for speakers to share their experiences and encourage empathetic listening.

The first Friday of every month resi-

dents are encouraged to shop, eat and drink locally. Participating in **1650 Fridays** gives you the chance to win a \$50 Downtown Gift Certificate redeemable at over 60 locations. You can also earn a \$10 Downtown Gift Certificate by volunteering to clean up downtown streets. **Clean & Green Workdays** take place on the last Saturday of the month through September from 9 to 11 a.m.

Since kicking off their events in June, the EDP says they have seen even larger crowds than in 2019.

"It's great for us to see people downtown and great for the businesses and great for the community," said Tamulonis.

Morgan Ashlee Grenz can be reached at [morgan@eriereader.com](mailto:morgan@eriereader.com)



# JULY EVENTS!



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## BOOK REVIEW

### Survive the Night

Newest from Riley Sager promises thrills at every turn

Scene: two strangers driving through the night on a deserted highway in 1991. Charlie, a college student and movie fanatic needing a ride home to Ohio, and Josh, a mysterious stranger who has offered her a ride — but who might also be a serial killer.

This is the premise of the new novel *Survive the Night* from Riley Sager, an author often praised as a modern master of suspense. Following the success of 2020's *Home Before Dark*, Sager follows with what can best be described as a horror film on paper.

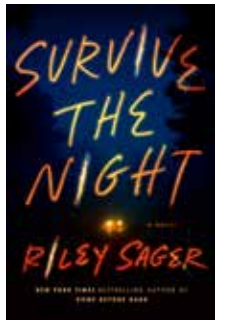
Charlie is reeling after her best friend was murdered by a serial killer dubbed the Campus Killer, something she feels she could have prevented. After being put on medication to deal with the guilt she feels, Charlie realizes that the “movies” that play back in her head are gradually fading away, leaving her feeling even worse. In an effort to push past, she stops taking these medications to allow the movies to return and decides to head off campus and back home.

Posting notice of needing a ride to her hometown in Ohio, Charlie meets Josh,

a charismatic stranger who offers to drive her overnight. In an era before cell phones, the internet, and sometimes common sense, Charlie accepts the ride and gets into a car with a complete stranger. When she discovers that this stranger isn't telling the truth — and may be closer to her best friend's murder than she realizes — it is a race against time to figure out what is real and what is just part of the movies in her head, and what this stranger wants with her.

Living up to his well-earned reputation, Sager has written an excellent, edge-of-your-seat novel that has surprises at every turn, leaving readers scrambling to the end to know the answer to one question: will Charlie survive the night? — Ally Kutz

Hodder & Stoughton // 336 pages // Suspense, Mystery, Thriller



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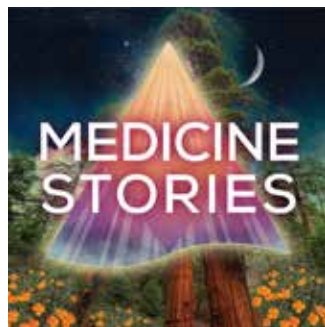
## Podcasts Picks: July 2021

Some of the favorite voices in our heads this month

### Medicine Stories

Hosted by Amber Magnolia Hill // [mythicmedicine.love](http://mythicmedicine.love)

Understanding ourselves through myth has been one of the oldest goals of literature and a forgotten tool of self-care as we grapple with our identities outside of algorithmic social media feeds. For those looking to unplug, re-



frame our self-perspectives, and reconnect with our bodies and the gnosis they carry, the *Medicine Stories* Podcast is a well-spring of compassionate knowledge.

A practicing herbalist with 16 years of experience, host Amber Magnolia Hill's intentions are to honor our ancestral histories, learn how to listen to the unique messages our bodies send us, and heal. The guests she brings on are other herbalists, spiritual healers, doctors, and educators who offer insights outside the dominating dialogue of the Western medicine industrial complex. Do not be surprised if this podcast literally changes your entire approach to an area of health. Episode 63: "Your Cycle, Your Self: Period Empowerment, Fertility Awareness, & the Risks of Hormonal Birth Control" with Dr. Elizabeth Wade explained the emotional and physical processes of menstruation never once offered by my gynecologists or doctors in an inclusive and wholly demystifying way. Concrete and care-infused answers to your unasked health questions are waiting to be told in the next *Medicine Story*. — Livia Homerski

### The Duncan Trussell Family Hour

Hosted by Duncan Trussell // [duncantrussell.com](http://duncantrussell.com)

For some good ol' prospecting around the inner workings of the brain and traversing the edges of the Multiverse — and all the weird, wobbly, beautiful, funny, sad, silly, deep, dumb, scary, inspiring, and infalli-



bly interesting spaces we can happen upon between — *The Duncan Trussell Family Hour*, hands-down and always, is my mindf\*\*k of choice. With its path lovingly laid by the wildman gravel-hum that is the voice of OG podcaster/comedian/psychonaut/creator/philosopher Duncan Trussell, the *DTFH* lets him, his guests (a beautifully motley rotation of comedians, musicians, artists, authors, teachers, and other thinkers and doers) delve — and deep — into all manner of silly/serious talk about the psyche, space, religion, and other topics too. Fans of the astoundingly animated Netflix series *The Midnight Gospel* will get some flashbacks, as some of the pod's early episodes served as source material for their animated counterparts. And with so many recorded conversations perpetually floating under its astral belt — it's coming up on Episode 450! — the *DTFH* has become a vast (and getting vaster) trove indeed. I listen to it on Spotify while I paint walls, mostly. You can do your own thing with it. — Ryan Smith

### Round Springfield

Hosted by: Allie Goertz and Julia Prescott // [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org)

There's a lot to be said about comfort viewing. For generations, *The Simpsons* has been a bastion of rewatchability and quote-mining. Beginning in March of 2015, comedians and Simpson-



philes Allie Goertz and Julia Prescott (who in 2020 got her own *Simpsons* writing credit) started *Everything's Coming Up Podcast*, later titled *Everything's Coming Up Simpsons*. After a six-month hiatus this year, the show — now known to fans as *Round Springfield* — officially returned for its *final* five episodes on June 21. In the early days, their guests would talk about an episode — presumably their favorite — as each show's topic. About 150 episodes in, things began to wear thin, and the show's format was expanded to venture outside of *The Simpsons*. With a deep appreciation for the writers involved in the show, *Round Springfield* has some of the best guests that you probably won't recognize by name, but who no doubt influenced your comedic identity, especially if you loved the first 10 seasons. The duo even put out a book in 2018, *100 Things the Simpsons Fans Should Know and Do Before They Die*, a fun-to-digest megalist with a foreword by former showrunners Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein. It's a perfectly cromulent podcast. — Nick Warren



# SAVE THE DATE

# Friday, Sept. 17

Stay tuned for more info on food, drink, music, entertainment, and more!

Hosted by:





## Artists to Look for in 2021, Pt. 2

Tayjer, DJ Voto, and L Cardio are making moves this year



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

**By: Charles Brown**

What's going on readers and music lovers? As we're breaking into summer, the world is opening back up after an intense year of dealing with the deadly COVID-19 outbreak. Fans of live music no longer had shows to attend to catch their favorite acts, especially here in Erie. But as always, our local musicians will use any opportunity to curate more projects for our thirsty ears, whether the world is on timeout or not. Here are three more of our 814 musical craftsmen that you can expect to hear this year.

**Tayjer (Rapper)**

Between a fiery flow and connecting with some major artists, Erie's own Tayjer has not let his foot off of the gas yet.

With his recent video and single, "Motivation," featuring Erie artist Ducky and the legendary Fat Joe on the intro, this artist is allowing his content to prepare us for what's next. "I actually plan to do two EPs," says Tayjer. "The goal is to make people see that there really are people in this city taking themselves seriously and who have the talent and could make it into something professional one day." Tayjer has been keeping his recording sessions with the same engineers (OTOD Duck and Nick IAmADon) and has been working with producers such as Bino BeatItUp and NoTes to build his EP. He is also in talks with DJ Salt and is interested in working with producer/engineer Chauncy Bill\$up. "As far as a time frame goes, all I can say right now is that it's all in

Look forward to new projects this year from (left to right) EDM DJ and producer Voto, rapper Tayjer, and producer and rapper L Cardio. Undeterred by the mass cancellation of live shows in 2020, the three men have been diligently honing their craft.

the very early stages, and I'm currently in the process of collecting the perfect package of beats," claims the rapper. "But I promise I'm going to make it all count, no matter how much time it takes. I'll also be working on and releasing singles in between."

**DJ Voto (EDM DJ/Producer)**

EDM music has made quite a name for itself, packing venues and showing the dancefloor little mercy all over the country. The sound itself is warped, atmospheric, heavy, and hyped — which drives high energy and all around good fun. DJ Voto has seemed to master this craft, but with a year of venues being closed down, the DJ and producer took his time away to hit the laptop and put some pieces together. "The creative process on my new project has been very easy!" Voto exclaims. "It isn't always easy to produce the next song but it seems like these songs are flowing easily out of my mind into the software." This time around, the EDM artist is working up a surprise. "Expect something a little different," he hints. "I am experimenting with some new sounds with the same trap duo style I tend to go for. It will definitely be something you'll enjoy!" DJ Voto confesses that the lack of shows

made creating music seem forced but was able to reassess his down time. "I figured it out by the middle of the pandemic. So luckily for me, I got out of my funk and made one of the most funky tracks of my career! I took it all with a grain of salt and made the process as positive as possible."

**L Cardio (Producer/Rapper)**

L Cardio is no stranger to the local hip-hop scene. Multiple tracks and even full albums have had his production attached to them through the years, making him one of the top producers in the City of Erie. Now, the young producer is not only giving us beats but also rhymes for his solo debut \*It's My Turn. "I'm doing both (producing and rapping) this time around, but I normally produce so this time I'm displaying my art and my craft," says L Cardio (aka Cardi Beatz). "I have a lot to prove. This is my debut mixtape since I haven't dropped my own project in years so I have a lot of surprises for this project such as features and producer collaborations. So be prepared for the newness of me." L Cardio has always been the kind of artist to renew himself sonically and show you a different side to his works. With his debut mixtape on the way, listeners will be in for yet another treat from the legend himself. "Yeah, I've been cooking something up," says L Cardio prior to our interview. Best believe that our plates are ready.

Charles Brown can be found on Facebook and Twitter @CEEBrown814, and online at [ceebrown.com](http://ceebrown.com)

Come celebrate summer and enjoy your favorite craft brews at the premier beer event of the season, Beer Not on the Bay! Tickets available now at [eriebrewingco.com](http://eriebrewingco.com) Cheers!

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JULY 24th**  
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## Burnham's New Special Takes Viewers 'Inside' Their Own Minds

Prodigiously talented comic capitalizes on the chaos

★★★★★



What starts off as an odd, eccentric musical number quickly turns to a hell-bending, psychological dance through the emotional turmoil of the past year, all in the distinguished style

of comedy's Bo Burnham.

Burnham's new Netflix special *Inside* not only explores the experience of physically being locked inside for an entire year, but it also gives insight to

the many feelings people experienced.

Burnham himself asks the question of whether it's appropriate or not to be joking about the world while it's in such a desolate state, described in his song "Healing the World with Comedy."

But this might just be the Malcom X meets Weird Al Yankovich crossover you've been looking for as Burnham executes the special perfectly, covering issues on class, race, mental health, and societal structure. He's not a stranger to taking on heavier topics, but taking away the camera crew and audience makes it increasingly more difficult for performers to find ways to connect with their audience. Burnham does this using relatable one-liners and quick quips that lead to unrestrained laughter.

Song numbers cover how the world works, FaceTiming with your mom,

looking at a white woman's Instagram, experiencing the Internet, and just overall feeling crappy. The musical numbers are broken up with stand-up bits that give a look into Burnham's journey outside of his creative videography which on its own is a feat not many others could do on their own.

Much like his introspective remarks about the internet, this special gives you a little bit of everything — and although hilarious, it isn't one of those specials you can listen to on repeat. Being put in a state of self-reflection isn't something we often do in such an authentic way, but Bo Burnham seems to be changing that narrative, using his comedic talent to, in fact, heal the world a little bit. — Chloe Forbes

Now streaming on Netflix // Written by, directed by, and starring: Bo Burnham // Unrated (R equivalent // 87 minutes

## Listen to Your Block:

*In the Heights* is Saved by Its Musical Numbers

★★★★

As a fan of the big, bombastic movie musicals from Hollywood's Golden Age, I always hold out hope that a new musical will come along and take audiences to those same dizzying, Technicolor highs. We came close with *La La Land*, but even that lacked some of the energy that the old classics had in spades. Now Lin-Manuel Miranda's stage play *In the Heights* has its own film adaptation to bring that same spectacle to a new generation. While the musical numbers are appropriately energetic and fun, the overstuffed storylines and meandering plot sometimes make this a chore to sit through.

Usnavi (Anthony Ramos) tells us the story of when he was a bodega owner in Washington Heights, a mostly Latin/Caribbean neighborhood in New York City that we're told is slowly disappearing. Usnavi has dreams about closing his store and retiring to the Dominican Republic but he is conflicted about leaving his neighborhood. This story is interspersed with others in Washington Heights, including that of Nina (Leslie Grace), who is torn between

staying in college or returning home, and Vanessa (Melissa Barrera), who dreams of becoming a fashion designer.

While the actors all play their characters well, the various conflicts are often too surface-level to fill the entire runtime, and as a result, the movie drags during its second half. However, the musical numbers are the real attraction here and they are all joyous, kinetic experiences with dazzlingly creative camerawork and the talented singers giving us everything they have. The hip-hop/salsa inspired songs make it worth sitting through the sometimes less-than-engaging spells. — Forest Taylor

Directed by John M. Chu // Written by: Quiara Alegria Hudes, based on the musical stage play, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda // Starring: Anthony Ramos, Corey Hawkins, Leslie Grace, Melissa Barrera, Olga Merediz, Daphne Rubin-Vega, Gregory Diaz IV, Stephanie Beatriz, Dascha Polanco, Noah Catala, Marc Anthony, and Jimmy Smits // 143 minutes // Rated PG-13 // Warner Bros. Pictures



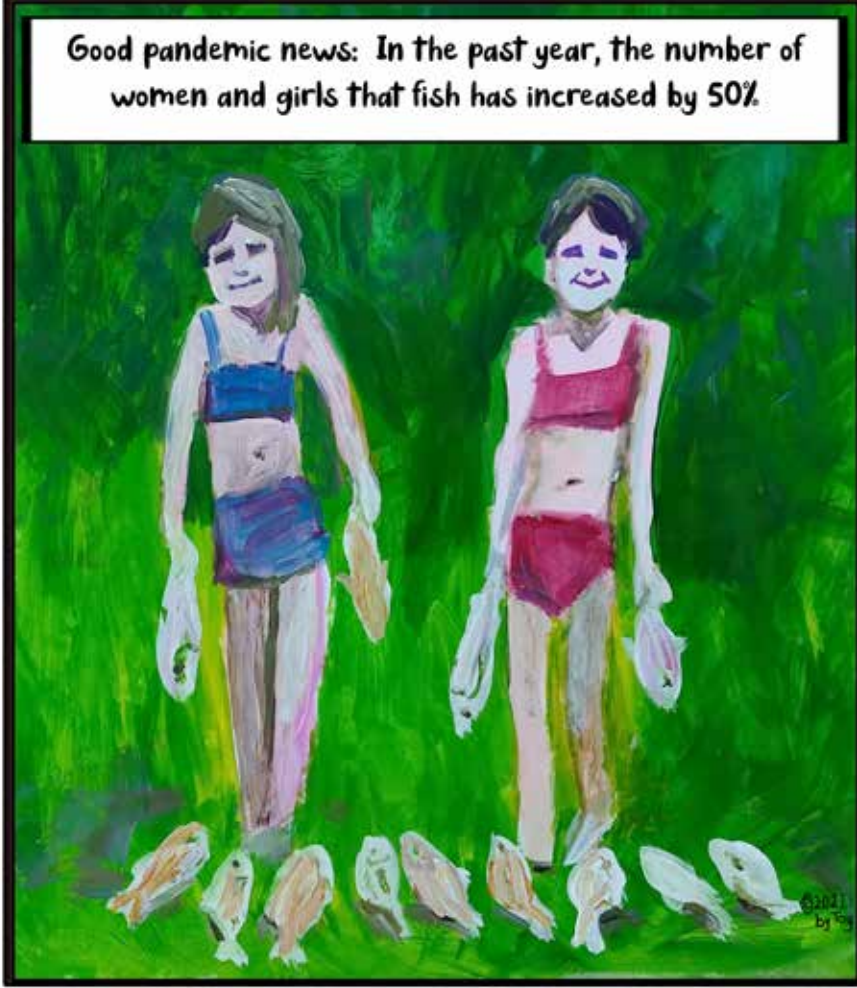
MACALL POLAY



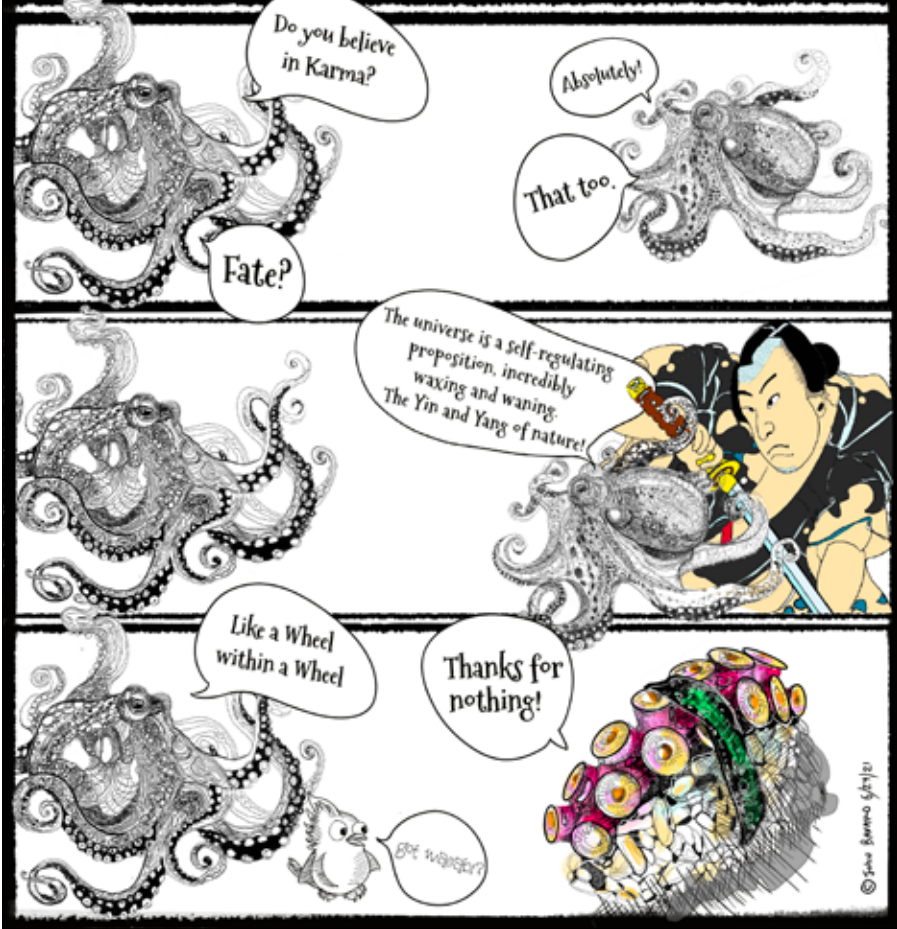
# POUR SOME LYRICS ON ME BY BRAD PATTULLO



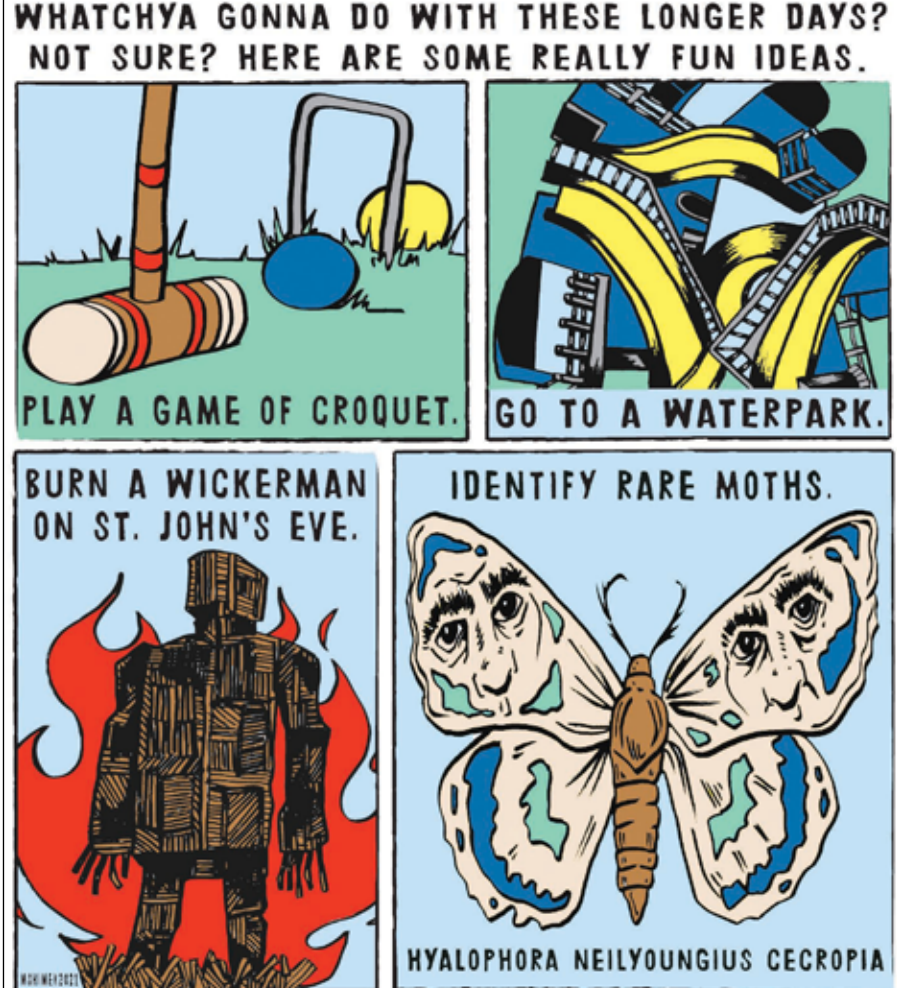
# JUST TOYIN' WITCHA — BY B. TOY



# Fish that Talk <sup>203</sup> in: Squids on the Block



# HERE COMES THE SUMMER

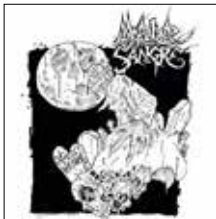


## ALBUM REVIEWS

**Mala Sangre**  
*Catholic Cemetery*  
 Self-released



Mala Sangre, a hardcore punk trio from Erie, return with their shortest and most intense release yet. Mala Sangre have been playing blisteringly fast punk since they released their debut album in 2010 and are one of those rare beasts that have stayed together and retained their original lineup. *Catholic Cemetery* is a testament to a band that knows how to play together, fast and tight. Mala Sangre is also known for having some of the area's best punk and metal performers lend a hand, and this album is no different. Guests include vocalists Morbid Rob (Maniacal Device) spewing truth on "Lawless Town" and "Experiment in Fear," Cameron Rivera (Massive Denial) on "No Scene" which deals with the struggles of an independent band, and JC Nickles on "Rude Awakening," a song that is reminiscent of early Descendents material. There is also some additional lead guitar work from Geoff Radiszewski (Requiem For Oblivion), Cameron Rivera, and Brian Gloskey, who also recorded and produced *Catholic Cemetery*. What can be said about Mala Sangre is the same thing that has been said about the Ramones and Motorhead — when you buy their records, you know what you are going to get and you are never disappointed.



**Lucy Dacus**  
*Home Video*  
 Matador



Lucy Dacus is a treasure, and her latest album, *Home Video* further solidifies that. Hailing from Richmond, Va., discerning fans will know her as one of the members of Boygenius, along with indie icons Phoebe Bridgers and Julien Baker. Sad Girl Rock fans can breathe easy and appropriately rejoice knowing that her third studio album is a true gift from above. Not unlike Baker, Dacus mines her personal past growing up in a Christian environment, reckoning with and reexamining her past experiences. The themes may not be evident with a superficial listen, but as fans take her lyrics to heart, they'll find a beautiful, diary-like narrative. Her songwriting expertly employs specificities that transport the listener to Dacus' formative years. While *Home Video* may not immediately rise to the impressive heights of her 2018 album *Historian*, this album demands a listen from anyone even remotely interested in her work. The 26-year-old songwriter has crafted a loving, honest work here. Poppier tracks like "Brando" and "VBS" serve as accessible entry points, while the catharsis of the final track "Triple Dog Dare" and VHS-released "Thumbs" reel you in and confirm your faith in one of the best artists of her generation.



**Modest Mouse**  
*The Golden Casket*  
 Epic Records



It's hard to review a Modest Mouse album without referencing the time it's been since the last Modest Mouse album. New music from the Seattle-adjacent indie rock giants is a luxury, never a given. Even the band's weakest album, 2015's *Strangers to Ourselves*, was crafted around a number of diverse singles and high-energy guitar parts that would make former guitarist Johnny Marr blush. So, how does *The Golden Casket* — the band's newest psych-pop opus — stand up? Frontman Isaac Brock refers to it as the band's "sound effects record," and it's not hard to understand why. The album uses guitars sparingly and tastefully, such as on the college radio-ready "We Are Between" and the post-punk-esque "Japanese Trees." While longtime fans may struggle with the band's poppier moments this time around, it's balanced with the band's penchant for weirdness and trying new things. Brock's ear for melody is as good as ever ("F\*ck Your Acid Trip"), but most surprising are a number of sentimental moments about being a partner and a parent ("Wooden Soldiers"). If we never get another Modest Mouse album, it's comforting to know they still go through life like the rest of us — freaked out and occasionally bursting with joy.



**Tyler, the Creator**  
*CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST*  
 Columbia Records



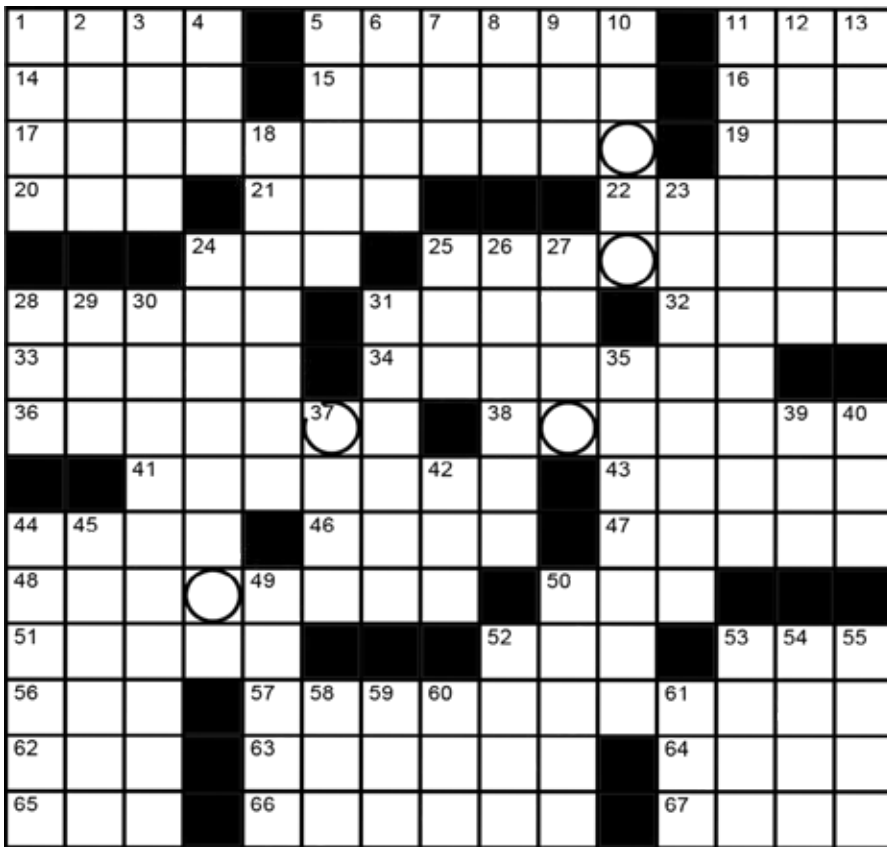
Once a hardcore superstar and now a Grammy-winning pop chameleon, Tyler the Creator has consistently released new music every two years since 2009. So while it was a pleasant surprise when Tyler announced *CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST*, the real surprise came when listeners heard the direction he took. After 2019's genre-bending *IGOR*, fans wondered if Tyler even wanted to rap again. I'm pleased to report that on *CMIFYGL*, Tyler doesn't just rap; he brings some of his best bars yet. *CMIFYGL* can be best described as an amalgamation of Tyler's career to date. Kaleidoscopic in scope, it feels like his *Life of Pablo*, a rap-heavy project with the occasional R&B or pop cut like "WUSY-ANAME," and mixtape-esque sequencing complete with DJ Drama drops, likening it to the Gangsta Grillz mixtapes of the late 2000s. The album bounces between jazzy instrumentals and bass-heavy bangers; in this sense, it's closest to 2014's divisive *CHERRY BOMB* with the clarity of the work that came after. On the album's centerpiece, "MANIFESTO," Tyler reunites with Odd Future member Domo Genesis to rap about his past aggressions, current platform, and place in the current socio-political climate. If that isn't growth, I don't know what is.



## TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



# CROSSWORD



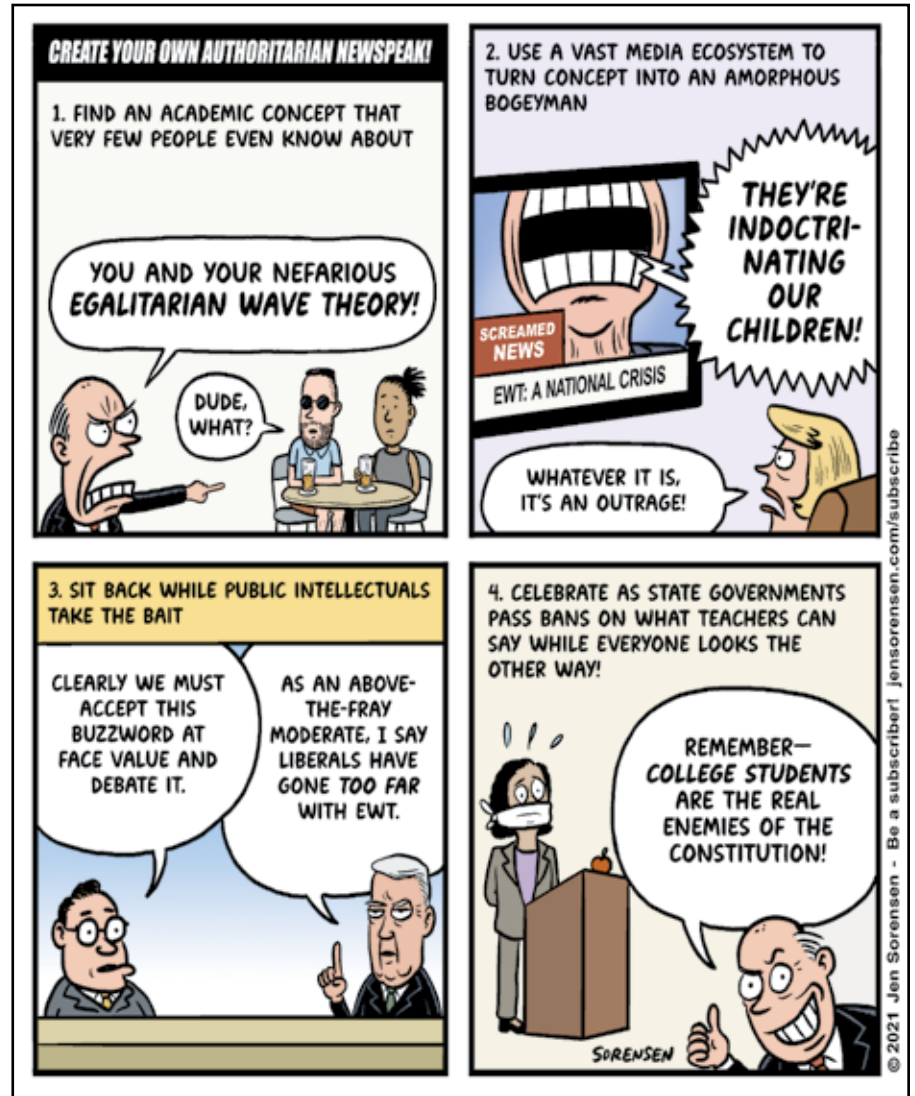
## Across

- 1. Nominee for the first two Nobel Prizes in Literature (1901-02), but never won
- 5. Popular cold and flu medicine
- 11. There is a "super" one every four yrs.
- 14. "Thirtysomething" actor Ken
- 15. Like some laughs and stews
- 16. Bookkeeper's mailing: Abbr.
- 17. Keats poem that opens "Season of mists and mel-low fruitfulness"
- 19. Artichoke heart?
- 20. "It's Raining \_\_\_\_"
- 21. Check bouncer's letters
- 22. Westernmost capital in mainland Africa
- 24. Meat in many an omelet
- 25. Word after funny or serious
- 28. Indian flatbreads
- 31. Leaf (through)
- 32. iPhone alternative, once
- 33. Israel's Barak and Olmert
- 34. Thingamajig
- 36. Like some accents
- 38. Tart pie filling
- 41. One who's morally flawed
- 43. Cordoned (off)

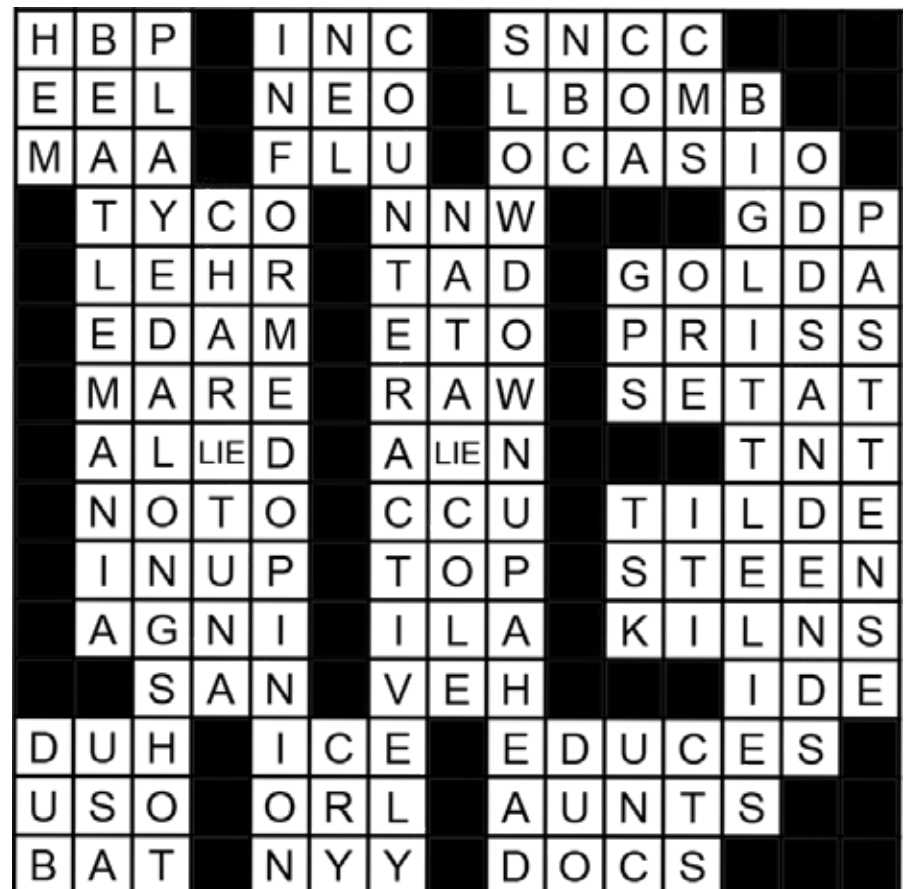
- 44. Twin of Jacob in the Bible
- 46. Cousin of -trix
- 47. Blissful areas
- 48. Monopoly deed figure
- 50. More than unfriendly
- 51. Finalize, as a deal
- 52. Celebrity chef Garten
- 53. Overly
- 56. Howard's end?
- 57. Classic hymn ... or what the five circled letters represent
- 62. Caesar's end?
- 63. Ornamental light fixture
- 64. High fever for Caesar?
- 65. Avg.
- 66. "Yes, honey"
- 67. Usually fuzzy tabloid pics

## Down

- 1. \_\_\_\_ fatigue
- 2. Ye \_\_\_\_ Shoppe
- 3. Real estate claim
- 4. Red or black insect
- 5. Deep divide
- 6. "Why do the French have only one egg for breakfast? Because one egg is an \_\_\_\_" (old joke)
- 7. Rebellion leader Turner
- 8. 1989 play about Capote
- 9. You can bank on it
- 10. Singer Lauper
- 11. Rain on one's parade?
- 12. Anxiety
- 13. To the greatest extent
- 18. The O in "Jackie O"
- 23. Biological immunity agent
- 24. Places to lie low
- 25. "Harrumph!"
- 26. Lorre's "Casablanca" role
- 27. MacFarlane or Meyers
- 28. WNBA official
- 29. "What have we here?!"
- 30. Recovery
- 31. Dominating, in gamer lingo
- 35. "No prob!"
- 37. Greek earth goddess
- 39. "Star Wars" character Kylo \_\_\_\_
- 40. What directors sit on: Abbr.
- 42. Pittsburgh-to-Buffalo dir.
- 44. Award show hosts
- 45. Went for in an auction
- 49. Painter's base
- 50. Prefix with galactic and spatial
- 52. Speakers of Quechua
- 53. Cry after a hectic week
- 54. Only state with a non-rectangular flag
- 55. Singer Redding
- 58. "Bleah!"
- 59. El Al hub city
- 60. Chemical ending
- 61. Post-op locale



## Answers to last puzzle



**BUD  
LIGHT**  
**SELTZER**  
Retro  
Summer

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