


# BLASCO: READING THE FUTURE

THE ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE PLACES THEY'LL GO

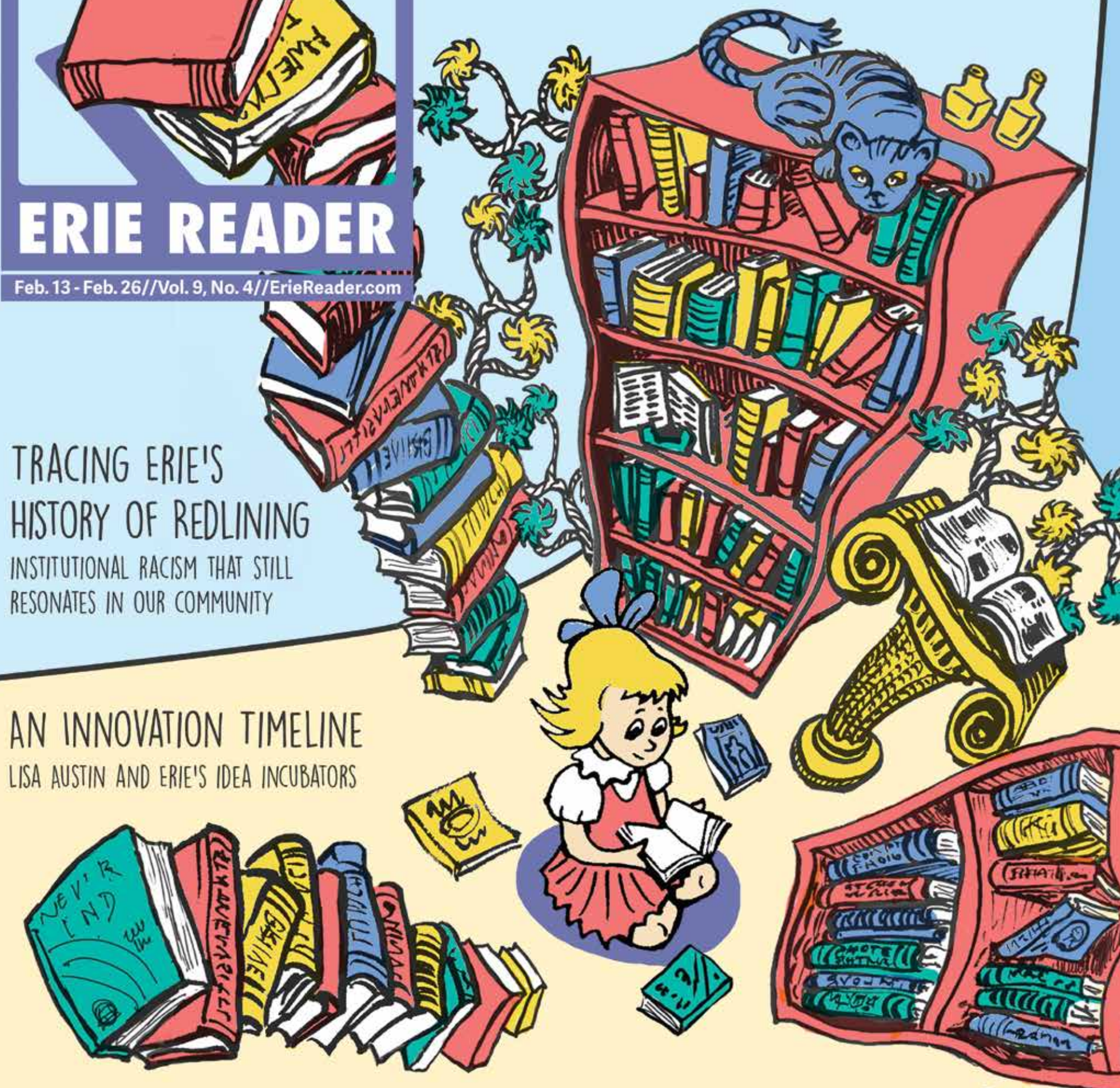


**ERIE READER**

Feb. 13 - Feb. 26 // Vol. 9, No. 4 // [ErieReader.com](http://ErieReader.com)

TRACING ERIE'S  
HISTORY OF REDLINING  
INSTITUTIONAL RACISM THAT STILL  
RESONATES IN OUR COMMUNITY

AN INNOVATION TIMELINE  
LISA AUSTIN AND ERIE'S IDEA INCUBATORS



BLACK MOON MISTRESS | 2019 OSCAR PICKS | FLIP CAFE | DRAMASHOP'S GLORIA | THE ERIE PLAYHOUSE'S EVITA

FREE



**HERE'S THE  
PLAN**

## Expect more from your Medicare plan

“When we were choosing our plan, one of the most important factors to me was access to the doctors that I wanted. UPMC *for Life* is a bargain for what they offer. It’s not just good doctors, it’s not just good hospitals, it’s all those extras you get.”

– Carmen, UPMC *for Life* member since 2013

Our members know that they can expect more from UPMC *for Life*. They have guaranteed in-network access to all the doctors and hospitals of UPMC. Plus, a large network of community providers, and extra benefits like:

- \$0 monthly plan premiums
- \$0 annual deductible
- \$0 preferred generic drugs
- Dental, vision, hearing, fitness, and travel coverage
- A free fitness membership at participating locations
- Personal customer service from a Health Care Concierge team
- Low PCP copays

**Toll-free: 1-866-786-6670 | TTY: 711**  
**seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
[www.upmchealthplan.com/medicare](http://www.upmchealthplan.com/medicare)

**UPMC HEALTH PLAN**  
**UPMC *for Life***

UPMC Health Plan Medicare Program

Other providers are available in our network. Plans may be available in certain counties. Please contact UPMC *for Life* to find out what plans are available in your area. UPMC *for Life* has a contract with Medicare to provide HMO, HMO SNP, and PPO plans. The HMO SNP plan has a contract with the PA State Medical Assistance program. Enrollment in UPMC *for Life* depends on contract renewal. UPMC *for Life* is a product of and operated by UPMC Health Plan Inc., UPMC Health Network Inc., UPMC Health Benefits Inc., and UPMC *for You* Inc.

UPMC Health Plan<sup>1</sup> complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

<sup>1</sup>UPMC Health Plan is the marketing name used to refer to the following companies, which are licensed to issue individual and group health insurance products or which provide third party administration services for group health plans: UPMC Health Network Inc., UPMC Health Options Inc., UPMC Health Coverage Inc., UPMC Health Plan Inc., UPMC Health Benefits Inc., UPMC *for You* Inc., and/or UPMC Benefit Management Services Inc.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-877-381-3765 (TTY: 711).

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-877-381-3765 (TTY: 711)。

Y0069\_191573\_M

**Editors-in-Chief:**

Brian Graham &amp; Adam Welsh

**Managing Editor:**

Nick Warren

**Copy Editor:**

Matt Swansinger

**Contributing Editors:**

Ben Speggen

Jim Wertz

**Contributors:**

Mary Birdsong

Charles Brown

Jonathan Burdick

Lisa Gensheimer

Miriam Lamey

Tommy Link

Aaron Mook

Kalli Oberlander

Dan Schank

Tommy Shannon

Ryan Smith

Jen Sorenson

Rebecca Styn

Cara Suppa

Forest Taylor

Bryan Toy

**Cover Illustration:**

Bryan Toy

**Cover Layout:**

Nick Warren

**Photographer:**

Jessica Hunter

**Intern:**

Hannah McDonald

1001 State St. Suite 1315  
Erie, Pa., 16501  
contact@eriereader.com

The Erie Reader is published every other week and distributed at over 350 high foot-traffic locations in Pennsylvania from North East to Girard to Edinboro. In addition to appearing in print, Erie Reader adds new content daily at ErieReader.com as well as social media sites. All rights reserved. All content © Flagship Multimedia, Inc, 1001 State St., Suite 1315, Erie, Pa, 16501. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission. The opinions of our columnists and contributors are their own and do not always reflect that of the editorial board or organization. Direct sales inquiries to 814.314.9364. For editorial inquiries, email contact@ErieReader.com.



# CONTENTS:

## February 13, 2019

### Tracing Erie's History of Redlining – 4

Institutional racism that still resonates in our community

### An Innovation Timeline – 10

The history of Erie's idea incubators with Lisa Austin

### Blasco: Reading the Future – 12



NICK WARREN

The Erie County Public Library and the places they'll go

### Spotlight on Erie – 16

All through my wild days, my mad existence

### Black Moon Rising – 27

Checking in with Black Moon Mistress, Erie's Best Up-and-Coming Band

### Flip for Flip Cafe – 28

A Breakfast Mecca in the heart of Edinboro

### On the Road to the Gold – 29

Thoughts and predictions about the Oscars

### Music Reviews – 30

Fidlar, Spielbergs, YNW Melly, and Better Oblivion Community Center

### Crossword Puzzle – 31

This week's latest stumper from David Levinson Wilk

## From the Editors

Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way

As the Erie Reader, we are, if nothing else, Erie-ites and readers. It's only fitting then, that we go to the place where those two things intersect in just about the most wonderful way, the Erie County Public Library. For the cover of this issue, we let our longest-running artist Bryan Toy do a little riff on the idea, and what he came up with was pure wonderment in the style of Theodor Seuss Geisel, known better around the places you'll go as Dr. Seuss (ed. note: be on the lookout for a Seuss-inspired "Just Toyin' Witcha," the first of its kind in glorious color in all these many years.). For millions of kids, his books served as the doorway to reading, from *The Cat in the Hat* to *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish Blue Fish*, to *Green Eggs and Ham*, and so many others. Along with his wildly imaginative illustrations and inventive vocabulary, he — along with so many other children's books authors — helped make reading fun and accessible. There are even events and organizations like the National Education Association's Read Across America, on March 2 to commemorate the author's birthday.

Places like Erie County's public libraries, and the Blasco Memorial Library in particular, are no strangers to this sort of outreach. Looking beyond the books that have driven their existence for so long, they're thinking ahead to a post-paper culture. Ben Speggen takes a look at some of the many goings on down by the bayfront. There's the multi-functional Idea Lab, where you can use a 3D printer or sew some pants, or things like the brand new Teen Space where the "young adult" section is thriving, creating a lush space for Erie's new readers.

The Idea Lab will also be the launch site of the of this year's Innovation Erie competition. Rebecca Styn talks to the event's founder, Lisa Austin (herself no stranger to these pages). Working to cultivate new concepts and increase our community's entrepreneurial output, Innovation Erie has been actively championing original product ideas since 2008.

Another one of Austin's longtime causes is the McBride Viaduct. While demolition has begun on the east side bridge, large pieces of it still remain. This bridge holds a great deal of meaning and importance for many in our city. In a 2018 op-ed for the Reader, Reverend Charles Mock went on to describe it as "a bridge over troubled waters," adding that "these troubled waters have to do with a history of redlining. Redlining is truly nothing to joke about. Redlining is an intentional decision made by those in control of money to not invest in certain areas of any given city."

It's that redlining that Jonathan Burdick chronicles in his latest piece. Starting with the misunderstood and often over-deified nature of Abraham Lincoln's times, he follows a route to the modern day. Past Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his damaging practices to the Erie Indemnity Company's 2008 suit of liability. The legacy redlining has left is absolutely still a problem in our community. It's the reality we live in, something to think about so that we don't deny things to some of our younger generations. Let's never limit the places they'll go.

# Tracing Erie's History of Redlining

Institutional racism that still resonates in our community



By: Jonathan Burdick

In well-known surveys ranking the greatest presidents, a common name tops nearly every list. The New York Times? Abraham Lincoln. C-SPAN? Abraham Lincoln. The very official sounding Presidents & Executive Politics Presidential Greatness Survey? Good ol' Honest Abe.

Lincoln hasn't always been this universally celebrated, of course. Considering his presidency and the Civil War are intertwined, that shouldn't be a surprise — but the reality is that even in the Northern Union states, views on Lincoln (during both his 1860 and 1864 campaigns) were sharply divided.

He won his 1864 reelection in an electoral landslide, but the popular vote was much closer than such modern adoration might suggest. During this campaign, Lincoln's opponent was George B. McClellan, an Army general who had been removed from his command by Lincoln two years prior. While McClellan was not opposed to the war like many anti-Lincoln Democrats (his nickname was "Young Napoleon" after all), he

was opposed to emancipation, even as Lincoln's public views began to change.

"I confess to a prejudice in favor of my own race," McClellan once wrote, following this thought with shockingly racist stereotypes and slurs.

Valid criticism of Lincoln's first term existed, but much of the anti-Lincoln fervor in northern states was fueled precisely by Lincoln's changing public views on slavery — first, by the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 and by the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in the Senate months earlier. Many Northerners simply agreed with McClellan's views on race and abolition.

The Erie Observer, the Pennsylvania city's Democratic anti-abolition newspaper at the time, had been publishing articles lambasting President Lincoln in the months leading up to the election.

"The President has sacrificed conscience, principle, everything to appease the Abolitionists and conciliate their support," the paper declared on Election Day. In issues following Lincoln's win, they predicted that his reelection would "end in disaster and probable

ruin." The editors expressed "sorrow for the delusion that has swept over the land."

In another editorial titled *The Duty of Democracy*, the paper stressed that his election was due to the "fanaticism" of abolitionists: "[This] destroyed, first, the liberties of the people North and South [and] second, the institution of negro slavery."

Absolute abolition hadn't passed in Pennsylvania until 1847, meaning for many Pennsylvanians, slavery was not merely an abstract Southern concept. Anti-abolition ideology was widespread throughout Pennsylvania, the evidence of which can be found in every Northern anti-abolition newspaper.

The Observer's following issues began relaying numerous tabloid-style stories, clearly meant to stoke racist fears over the abolition of slavery: a black soldier had arrested a white man in Kentucky for celebrating General McClellan. Black laborers in Baltimore were striking over their bosses hiring white women. Two black residents in Boston held a public forum on the question: "Who are the best friends of

the colored people of America, the Southern slaveholders or Northern Abolitionists?" The answer, the paper claimed they said, was the Southern slaveholder.

In another story, the Observer argued that a "mulatto girl" couldn't possibly provide reliable testimony in court. "She drinks, chews tobacco, smokes, dresses in men's clothing," the article stated. "She is shrewd and unscrupulous and vicious to the last degree."

Such racist fear-mongering was common among white Northern newspapers and citizens — including among those who wished to see slavery abolished. This long history of Northern resentment over the abolition of slavery helps contextualize how Northern cities progressed over the following century. As the United States entered the 20th century and southern Jim Crow laws increasingly denied black citizens of their constitutional rights, Northern cities, including Erie, were intentionally segregating as a matter of policy.

By the mid-20th century, the racist and xenophobic process of redlining was realigning

**Redlining is defined as "refusing a loan or insurance to someone because they live in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk." Those classified as "poor financial risks" were typically black families and immigrants.**

northern cities with neighborhoods just as segregated as those in the South.

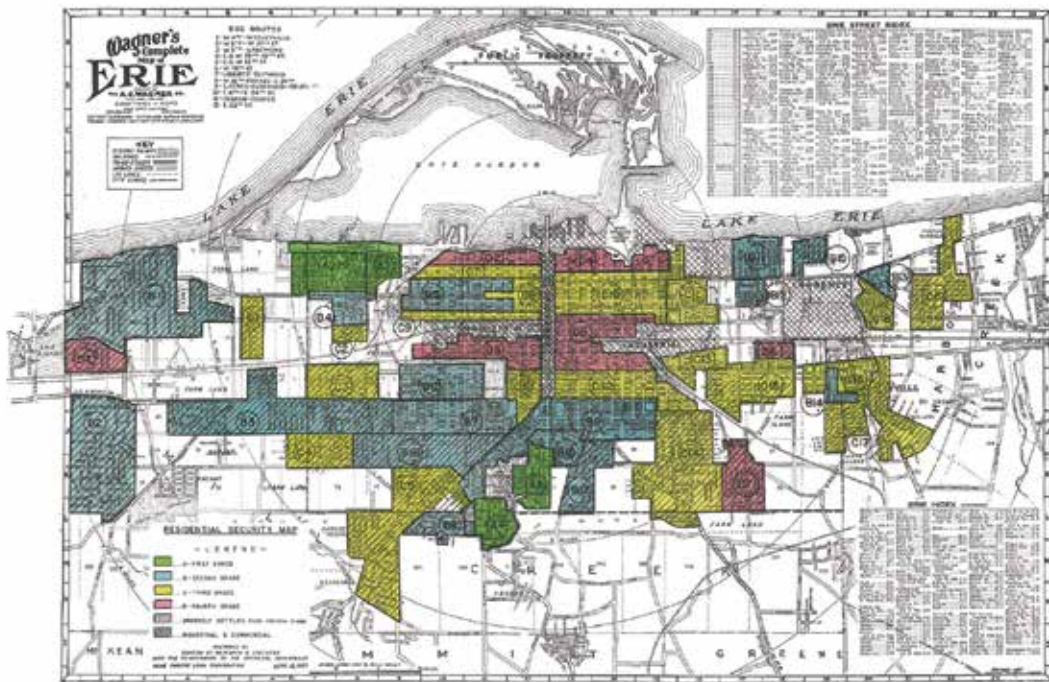
The dictionary definition of redlining is to "refuse a loan or insurance to someone because they live in an area deemed to be a poor financial risk." In practice, redlining policies were intentional in deciding what groups of people would be considered *poor financial risks*: black families and immigrants.

NICK WARREN

Before the Great Depression, short-term loans were how most people purchased homes. This made home ownership difficult or out-of-reach for many laboring Americans, regardless of race. When the housing market collapsed in the 1930s and one out of every ten homes faced foreclosure, Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal administration made the 30-year mortgage the new standard by guaranteeing them. This opened the possibility of home ownership for many.

But not everybody. When the Federal Housing Administration was established in 1934 to insure these mortgages, they did so by utilizing a surveyed mapping system with ranked neighborhoods. These maps were soon used by private lenders as well. These "Residential Security Maps," created by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, were designed "to graphically reflect the trend of desirability in neighborhoods from a residential view-point" and to identify neighborhoods with an "infiltration" of "undesirables."

Areas were designated by a number along with a security grade and color, which described the "quality" of the



This "Residential Security Map" of Erie from 1937 depicts redlining in action. Neighborhoods were color-coded according to the perceived "quality" of the neighborhood, with green neighborhoods being the most desirable and red neighborhoods characterized as wholly undesirable or even "hazardous."

residents. These were the "undesirables" and if many lived in a section, it was referred to as an "infiltration."

In Erie, the Frontier neighborhood was labeled as one of the city's best. In the accompanying documents, it is described as a "desirable restricted residential area of high-class homes" with "good transportation and schools." Residents were described as "executives" and "professional men." There were no foreign-born or black households. Between the 1930s and the 1950s, around 130 homes were built in Frontier, the construction of which would have been approved for

almost exclusively white families.

Contrast that with the designated area of D-4, from E. Front Street to Fourth Street in the area surrounding the Soldiers and Sailors Home. The tract is described as detrimentally affected by "smoke and noise from industry" with its households in mostly poor condition. Its inhabitants are categorized as being from the labor class with households of mostly Polish and Russian immigrants, as well as black families, of which there are a "heavy" amount that rely on relief.

Another neighborhood, labeled D-5, notes that there is an "infiltration of negro" and identifies their specific concentration "along railroad tracks and on 13th to 16th Streets." It also notes a high amount of Polish immigrants and some "low class Jewish on 17th and 18th Streets from French to Parade." Little Italy, with 60 per-

neighborhood. These security grades consisted of A ("Best" and green), B ("Still Desirable" and blue), C ("Definitely Declining" and yellow), and D ("Hazardous" and red).

Neighborhoods outlined in red ("redlined") or yellow were consistently denied loans in favor of almost exclusively white suburbs or affluent city neighborhoods.

In the accompanying documents for each neighborhood, the reports identify the inhabitants by the "type" of people who live there: the percentage of "foreign-born" and "negro"

## Attention Babies!!!



### Hard Time Feeding?

With the use of our laser we can quickly and comfortably release a tongue or lip tie on all ages.

Call us at 814-838-6354

kneibdentistry PC

3325 W 26th St • Erie, PA • www.kneibdentistry.com



### FIND FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND FITNESS

at the only place where community meets – the YMCA of Greater Erie!

- Class demos
- Giveaways
- Hobby groups
- Tours
- Refreshments

**\$0** join fee + **20%** Membership savings of + **Y GEAR** to get you started + **Only on COMMUNITY DAYS**

#### YMCA of Greater Erie Community Days

Sunday, Feb. 17	Thursday, Feb. 21	Friday, March 1	Saturday, March 2
1-4 p.m.	5:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Eastside Family Y 2101 Nagle Road Glenwood Park Y 3727 Cherry Street	Downtown Y 31 West 10th Street Erie	County Y 12285 YMCA Drive Edinboro	County Y 12285 YMCA Drive Edinboro

ymcaerie.org

NS FORM-B  
8-26-37

AREA DESCRIPTION

1. NAME OF CITY Erie, Penn. SECURITY GRADE D AREA NO. 5

2. DESCRIPTION OF TERRAIN. Level

3. FAVORABLE INFLUENCES. Central location - near employment - good schools and churches.

4. DETRIMENTAL INFLUENCES. Congested area - near railroad tracks.

5. INHABITANTS:  
 a. Type Labor; b. Estimated annual family income \$ 500 - 2500  
 c. Foreign-born Polish 40 %; d. Negro Yes 5 %;  
 (Nationality) (Yes or No)  
 e. Infiltration of Negro; f. Relief families Heavy  
 g. Population is increasing \_\_\_\_\_; decreasing \_\_\_\_\_; static. Yes

6. BUILDINGS:  
 a. Type or types Singles - duplexes; b. Type of construction Frame - some brick  
 c. Average age 15 to 50 years; d. Repair Poor to fair

7. HISTORY:

YEAR	SALE VALUES			RENTAL VALUES		
	RANGE	PREDOM- INATING	%	RANGE	PREDOM- INATING	%
1929 level	\$1500 - 8500	\$4000	100%	\$18 to 50	\$22	100%
'34-'36 low	1000 - 5000	2500	62%	12 to 35	15	70%
Sept '37 "current"	1000 - 5000	2500	62%	15 to 40	20	90%

Peak sale values occurred in \_\_\_\_\_ and were \_\_\_\_\_ % of the 1929 level.  
 Peak rental values occurred in \_\_\_\_\_ and were \_\_\_\_\_ % of the 1929 level.

8. OCCUPANCY: a. Land 90 %; b. Dwelling units 100 %; c. Home owners 55 %

9. SALES DEMAND: a. Poor; b. Singles up to \$300.; c. Activity is Poor

10. RENTAL DEMAND: a. Good; b. Anything; c. Activity is \_\_\_\_\_

11. NEW CONSTRUCTION: a. Types No; b. Amount last year \_\_\_\_\_

12. AVAILABILITY OF MORTGAGE FUNDS: a. Home purchase Limited; b. Home building \_\_\_\_\_

13. TREND OF DESIRABILITY NEXT 10-15 YEARS Downward

14. CLARIFYING REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Remarks concentrated on area near railroad tracks and on \_\_\_\_\_)

This document from the Home Owners' Loan Corporation describes the area between E. 13th and E. 16th along the railroad tracks, or neighborhood "D-5," as being "infiltrated" with "Negros" and "foreign-born Polish."

cent Italian immigrant families along with a small amount of black households, was also considered "hazardous" and one of the least desirable neighborhoods.

Three of the neighborhoods labeled "hazardous" provide no descriptions of the inhabitants and buildings with the only comments referring to them as areas "of bad character" and "poor reputation" with "shack type housing."

Sections labeled as the "best" and "still desirable" are often labeled as being neighborhoods of "good character," while universally having no immigrant or black households. This was not a coincidence.

In many of the more afflu-

ent white neighborhoods of Erie, deeds and neighborhood agreements had built-in clauses explicitly banning racial and specific immigrant groups from purchasing homes. Real estate agencies actively enforced such policies. Zoning laws were also similarly abused. These policies and procedures were deliberate in their exclusion and lack of accessibility for non-white residents and potential buyers.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968, which passed a week after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s murder, officially prohibited housing discrimination. While crucial, it did little to solve the problems already created by redlining. The law was designed to prevent discrimination, but it did not provide reparations or reverse the damage already done. Cities were already segregated and families within the redlined neighborhoods were often caught

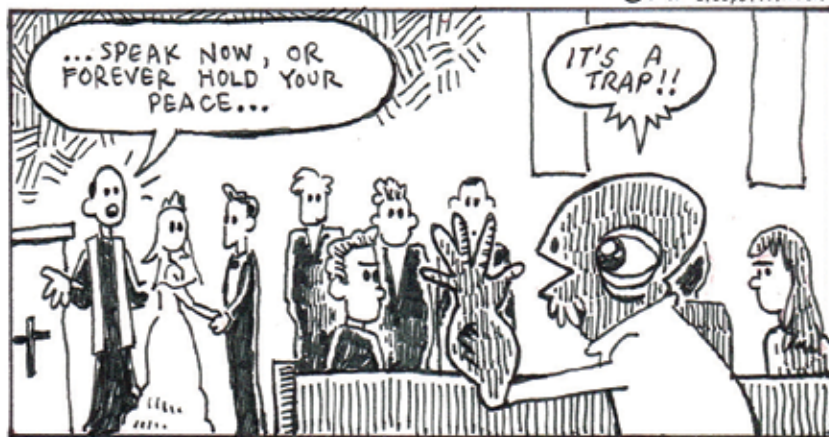
in institutionalized poverty traps. These policies generated a significant imbalance of generational wealth along racial lines — particularly as suburban homes increased in value while homes in redlined neighborhoods depreciated significantly.

Most housing experts today conclude that social engineering such as redlining requires equally responsive social engineering to fix. Despite this, the majority of white Americans oppose government policies designed to level out the unbalanced playing field, often arguing for policies that are "colorblind" or "race neutral" instead.

A 2014 study by sociologists from Princeton and Brigham Young found that white Americans have become increasingly disapproving of discriminatory policies — but that doesn't necessarily translate to action. "[W]hites no longer support

# INAPPROPRIATE ACKBAR

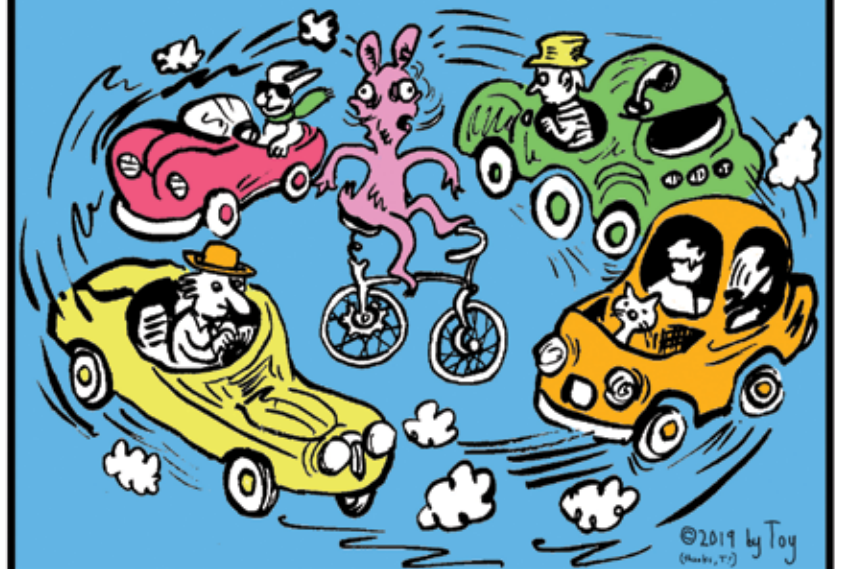
BY BRAD PATTULLO  
© 2019 bradpattullo.com



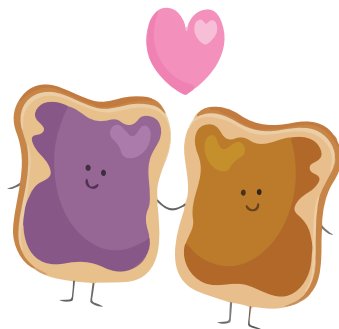
# JUST TOYIN' WITCHA — BY B. TOY

## A PennDOT Poem

We like roundabouts. We like them a lot.  
 Collapsing old bridges rate nary a thought.  
 We really don't care if you like to ride bikes,  
 or run with your feet, or like to take hikes.  
 We only care that traffic will flow.  
 Cars and trucks and motors that go!



**You found the  
Peanut Butter  
to your Jelly!**



**500 STAG-N-DRAG  
&  
1,000 50/50 TICKETS**

**ONLY \$80.00!**



Offer valid thru February 28, 2019

Tickets are printed in black ink only on your choice of 65# color cardstock. Numbering on tickets will be extra.



**814-833-9020**  
4318 W. Ridge Road  
Erie, PA 16506

"For All Your Small Business & Personal Printing Needs"  
www.presqueisleprinting.com @GoAskAlice08



**WE DREAM.  
WE STRUGGLE.  
WE RISE.**

**BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK AND STILL I RISE**

**Thursdays at 8pm  
February 14 & 21  
on WQLN-TV 54.1**

**AMERICAN MASTERS**

**CHARLEY PRIDE  
I'M JUST ME**

**February 22 at 9pm  
on WQLN-TV 54.1**

**Oregon Antiques**

Thank you for voting for us!

**20% Off Any Item**  
(Not valid with any other sales or discounted items)  
Expires 3/13/19

3436 West Lake Road • Erie  
814.836.0737  
facebook.com/OregonAntiques

**How long should your pet live?**  
Help your pet live a longer, healthier life.



**Nickel Plate Mills**

1932 Parade St, Erie, PA 16503  
www.nickelplatemills.net

Like us on facebook

**YOU DREAM IT,  
WE'LL BUILD IT**

**WILLOW CREEK**  
Reclaimed Barn Wood Furniture

111 Erie St. Edinboro, PA  
willowcreekbarnwood.com

**ABC's of BUILDING BETTER LIVES**

Mary Lynn Rote, LPC, CADC | Sarah McGill, LPC  
Charen Pasky, LCSW | Jillian Rhoades, LCSW  
Rhonda Ramirez, LPC | Rob Giannamore, LPC  
Ashley Gleason, LPC | Lorraine Covel, LPC

**Counseling Services**  
Individuals | Couples | Families | Depression  
Addictions | Anxiety | Trauma | Yoga Instruction

**(814) 825 - 2930**  
4320 Dexter Ave. Erie, PA 16504  
For more info on this business visit www.marylynnrote.com

**& U FRAME IT**  
the poster annex  
Erie's Most Unique Framing Gallery

**HANG WITH US!**

731 W 8th St (@Liberty) Erie, PA  
814-456-1313 www.ufipax.com

**SECOND HAND ROSE  
CONSIGNMENTS**

Hours  
Wed-Fri 11-5  
Sat 11-3

**We have gifts that will make your heart throb!**

**(814) 455-3061  
CALL US OR VISIT  
351 W 26TH ST. ERIE, PA**

LECOM HEALTH

# EXPERT IS IN SPEAKER SERIES

The Expert Is In series is **FREE** and open to the public. All programs are held at The LECOM Medical Fitness and Wellness Center located at 5401 Peach Street. **To reserve a spot, please call (814) 868-7800.**



## ASSESSING AND MODIFYING YOUR RISK OF CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 12:00 PM**

**Carmine D'Amico, DO**  
**Cardiology**

In observance of American Heart Month, Dr. D'Amico will discuss how to access and modify your risk of coronary artery disease (CAD). CAD is the build-up of plaque in your arteries that can restrict blood flow to the heart muscle and cause a heart attack. Risk factors for CAD include high LDL cholesterol, low HDL cholesterol, high blood pressure, family history, diabetes, smoking, being post-menopausal for women and being older than 45 for men. Living a healthy lifestyle that incorporates good nutrition, weight management and getting plenty of physical activity can play a big role in avoiding CAD.

Visit [LECOMHealth.com](http://LECOMHealth.com)

**KEEP HEATING & COOLING**

**FREE 10 YEAR Labor Warranty On Us!**  
Rheem heating & cooling units are so reliable we will now give 10 years on parts & labor on all new installations! Enjoy the new degree of comfort!

**CALL NOW!**  
FOR A FREE ESTIMATE  
(814) 459-8255  
[www.KeepHeating.com](http://www.KeepHeating.com)  
PA0005218

**Up to 98.7% Efficiency**

Prior sales excluded, yearly maintenance required




**FALBO'S HAIR CARE PLUS**

HOURS: TUES - SAT: 8AM-1PM  
SUN & MON: CLOSED



PHONE: 814.460.7438  
1313 W 38TH ST. ERIE, PA

**START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT**



**Monacella Massage AND KINESIOLOGY**

Monacella Massage Welcomes Carl to the Team!

Schedule an appointment Online at [MonacellaMassage.com](http://MonacellaMassage.com)  
Or Call (814) 838-3622  
In the Renaissance Centre  
1001 State St #1322 Erie, PA 16501

**CATHOLIC CHURCH ABUSE SURVIVORS**

**ACT NOW**  
TO LEARN YOUR OPTIONS



The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Diocese of Allentown, the Diocese of Harrisburg, and the Diocese of Scranton have each announced a "reparation" program to compensate survivors of child sexual abuse.

If you or someone you love was abused by Catholic clergy in Pennsylvania, please contact us to learn your options. We are lawyers for abuse survivors, not the Catholic Church.

**The time to learn your legal options is now.**

For more information, please visit  
<https://pennsylvaniasexabuselawyers.com>  
or contact us toll-free at **1-888-286-1686.**

All contact is strictly private and confidential.  
We are attorneys who represent abuse survivors, not the Catholic Church.

The information in this Attorney Advertising is provided by Pellegrino "Pino" Certa of Accident & Injury Law Group, 221 Commercial Ave, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, and Pflau Cochran Vertelis Amala PLLC, 401 Columbia St, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98104 are responsible for the content on this website. Pellegrino Certa is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania. However, the lawyers from Pflau Cochran Vertelis Amala PLLC, including Michael Pflau, Jason Amala, and Vincent Nappo, are not licensed to practice in Pennsylvania. The two law firms have not formed a partnership, but are working together in accordance with applicable Pennsylvania law, court rules, and ethics requirements to represent abuse survivors throughout Pennsylvania. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Please contact us if you have any questions.



segregation and discrimination as matters of principle, though many continue to harbor negative racial stereotypes, display limited tolerance of racial mixing, and offer little support for any form of civil rights enforcement,” the study concludes.

As recently as 2008, redlining made regional headlines when Erie Indemnity Company (which owns Erie Insurance Company and Erie Insurance Company of New York) found itself the target of a Justice Department lawsuit. Investigations by the Fair Housing Council of Central New York led to allegations of discrimination and violations of the Fair Housing Act by independent insurance agents selling Erie plans in Upper New York.

“There are racially segregated housing patterns in communities in Upstate New York,” the Justice Department’s

complaint reads. “During the time period January 1, 1999 through at least June 30, 2004, Defendants selected agents and operated their insurance business in a manner that produced disparities in their market share and the types of homeowner’s policies they sold between neighborhoods ... The totality of Defendant’s policies and practices ... constitutes the redlining of predominantly and majority black neighborhoods in Upstate New York.”

The Justice Department alleged that their practices were “intended to deny and discourage ... an equal opportunity to residents of African American neighborhoods, on account of the racial composition of those neighborhoods” and that this was “intentional, willful, and taken in disregard for the rights of others.”

Even though this conduct was by independent insurance

agents, Erie Indemnity Company was deemed liable. The parties ultimately agreed to a settlement in 2008 with no admissions of guilt or further investigations by the Justice Department, but with certain stipulations: policies would be made available and marketed equally, a full-time Director of Diversity and Community outreach would be hired, insurance agents would receive new training, and \$225,000 in monetary damages would be paid to the Fair Housing Council of New York.

The recent Emerge 2040 report, commissioned by the city and county, also demonstrates the lingering effects of redlining on Erie. White flight from the city continues today, the report says, as “the typically higher median income among this race group is associated with a comparatively greater ability to afford living in high-

er-cost areas outside of the City.”

In its measures of racial and ethnic segregation, it concluded that black residents are “by far the most geographically segregated racial group within Erie County.” Analyzing census data from 1960 to today, the distribution of black residents throughout Erie County has a consistent correlation with the redlining maps.

“[O]vert factors, such as real estate practices, can limit the range of house opportunities for minorities,” the report states. “A lack of racial or ethnic integration in a community creates other problems, such as reinforcing prejudicial attitudes and behaviors [and] narrowing opportunities for interaction.”

Many problems facing cities such as Erie today are the result of a long legacy of racist ideologies and government policies

that have always plagued the United States. If there is skepticism in some communities that the government can (or has the will) to solve problems of its own creation, such skepticism isn’t without precedent. When recent buzzwords such as “opportunity zones” are met with cynicism and suspicion, there are reasons: *who exactly benefits and how can this process be trusted?*

This is a complex topic with even more complex and bold (and likely controversial) solutions needed — but it is a topic that deserves to be deeply explored, scrutinized, and discussed. It’s up to cities such as Erie to keep that discussion going.

*Jonathan Burdick runs the historical blog Rust & Dirt. Follow them on Twitter @RustDirt, and on Instagram @RustandDirt.*

**CITGO**  
**Triclean**  
 Gasoline

**TOP TIER**  
 Detergent Gasoline

Available at  
**COUNTRY FAIR**

To find a store nearest you and subscribe for email offers, visit [www.countryfairstores.com](http://www.countryfairstores.com)

# An Innovation Timeline

The history of Erie's idea incubators with Lisa Austin



By: Rebecca Styn

For many years, Erie had an almost unparalleled history in manufacturing. With the proper support and incentives, we could make almost anything. And even with the decline, last year traditional manufacturing still accounted for 22 percent of the local GDP, whereas statewide, those numbers hover around 12 percent. And although we continue to trend toward diversification in the manufacturing and technology industry, our economy now heavily relies on government, healthcare, and education.

Today though, there is a motivating awareness that entrepreneurship

plays a pivotal role in the future of Erie. This is exemplified through recent developments such as the Innovation District, Ignite Erie, Industry+University Business Acceleration Collaborative, the Idea Lab at the Erie County Public Library, and many others. Coupled with the existing actors, including: Ben Franklin Technology Products, CIVITAS, Innovation Collaborative, ECGRA, the Erie Community Foundation, and other major players — Erie embodies a recipe for future entrepreneurial success. But there is still much work to be done.

One of these initiatives in building this entrepreneurial ecosystem was es-

**Innovation Erie 2019, a series of competitions and workshops for local entrepreneurs, will be held throughout the spring at the Blasco Memorial Library. It is part of ongoing efforts to catalyze Erie's potential.**

tablished over a decade ago. The Innovation Erie product design competition was initiated in 2008 by CIVITAS, Edinboro University, Penn State Behrend, the Erie Art Museum, and other stakeholders to solicit submissions of original product ideas that could be manufactured or created in the Erie region, with the possibility of creating new small businesses. Innovation Erie was recently “adopted” by the Idea Fund, and the competition and workshops will be held throughout spring of 2019 at the Erie County Library.

One of Innovation Erie's co-founders is Lisa Austin, a professor of art and design at Edinboro university. Known for her efforts to save the McBride Viaduct and the Villa Chapel, Austin views preservation and these efforts as a part of a cohesive response to revitalizing Erie, to building the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem, and to fostering a sustainable economy. Working through the CIVITAS collaborative she co-founded in 2004, Austin has led the establishment of these organizations and others including Preservation Erie, All Aboard Erie, and ErieCPR. Austin embraces projects large and small (including a

2018 run for mayor) in an effort to continue to catalyze Erie's potential.

“After growing up in a military family always on the move, my husband and I fell in love with Erie, decided to stay and started paying attention the ways the city was functioning well — or poorly.” Over time, and through talking with others, it became clear to Austin that Erie couldn't keep relying on the traditional manufacturing giants like GE, to provide jobs. “While there are still a lot of industries physically functioning in Erie, most of what they produce are items through military contracts — or parts of things. All good stuff, but, the benefits of locally-held design patents to retain the profits here in Erie — and the value-added practice of design excellence — can both help strengthen Erie's identity as a proud ‘maker city.’”

In 2005, Austin went through the county's Erie Ambassador program and joined their economic development committee. “I noticed there was a lot of work done trying to get businesses to move to Erie — but not so much in the way of helping individuals and groups start businesses — or expand existing small businesses.” She started to look for opportunities to foster this development. “Through CIVITAS, I called together regional stakeholders to meet at the Plymouth Tavern to create a kind of mini think tank about how to improve Erie.” The group of scientists,

## NEWS & VIEWS

artists, manufacturers, engineers and designers came up with the name "SAM & ED."

While Austin was able to get a robust lineup of participants, SAM & ED didn't have funds or a clear direction. "Mike Yurkewicz, an engineer then on staff at Penn State's now-closed Plastics Technology Center, urged SAM & ED to focus on creating the competition. SAM & ED members Donna Douglass and Dave Bennett supported the idea and John Vanco immediately offered up use of the Erie Art Museum." Soon afterwards she tells me that Dr. Terry Smith, a dean at Edinboro, wrote a grant to fund the Innovation Erie competition and an incubator. Over the past decade, Innovation Erie has helped a dozen new products come to market.

As Innovation Erie continued, the region's complete absence of a product or industrial design program became apparent. "Few of the submissions revealed any understanding of the desires of consumers and the value-added potential of aesthetics, ergonomics, and manufacturability."

In response, Austin/CIVITAS and Penn State's Greg Dillon established the Made in Erie Design Lab to provide product design education to help catalyze not only the efforts for the competition but the community's manufacturing industry.

Over the years the response has been overwhelmingly positive. "We have had some wonderful submissions and some great products have resonated

with consumers in Erie and around the world." One of the most notable winners, Karen Rzepecki, described her design process as noticing a problem and trying to solve it. Her ReCAP Mason jar business, began when she won the 2011 Innovation Erie competition with a cap for Mason Jars that permitted her to mix salad dressing and serve from the same Mason Jar.

Austin believes that Erie's future success is still "ours to make."

*The Innovation Erie Competition will start taking submissions online beginning March 4, 2019. In between, individuals are invited to attend the Innovation Erie Design Lab on February 23 (and March 2) at the Blasco Library to meet the Chair of Innovation Erie, Gannon's Dr. Karinna Vernaza, and hear presentations by engineer-designer Devin Roberts, historian Judy Lynch, engineer Greg Dillon and others. The event is free and open to the public. The deadline for applications is March 22, 2019. For more information, go to: [www.ideafunderie.org](http://www.ideafunderie.org).*

*Rebecca Styn is the Executive Director of the Idea Fund Erie, a nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurial development and is the proprietor of Room 33 Speakeasy. She is also completing her Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Learning from Gannon University. Follow her on twitter at @rstyn*

# PANACHE

salon • spa



*You are cordially invited*

To an hour long  
**VACATION**  
on our **MASSAGE**  
tables.

**CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR MASSAGE.**

**814.838.3333**

**LAVERY BREWING COMPANY**

**THE GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL WINNER**

**OPEN EVERY DAY AT 11AM**  
**ENJOY OUR AWARD-WINNING BEER & ECLECTIC AMERICAN MENU**

VISIT OUR PUB AND BREWERY  
128 WEST 12th STREET, ERIE PA, 16501  
[WWW.LAVERYBREWING.COM](http://WWW.LAVERYBREWING.COM)

Pub Hours: Mon-Tues: 11 am-10 pm · Wed-Sat: 11 am-12 am · Sun: 11 am-4 pm

## Blasco: Reading the Future

The Erie County Public Library and the places they'll go



NICK WARREN

By: Ben Spegen

Card catalogs. Stacks and shelves of books. The ubiquitous, permeating “ssshhhhhh.”

Blessing bags. Voting machines. The chorus of creation humming from 3D printers, sewing stations, and vinyl cutters. Google.

In 2019, books still abound, and the notion of what libraries are — hubs of information — remains the same. But the ways in which they serve their communities is changing.

At the Erie County Public Library, Pennsylvania's third largest public library facility, that evolution is by design.

“It's always been about collections, but I think libraries are moving to be more about connections — how do we connect our citizens with each other, how do we connect them to resources, how do we have that public space for discourse,” says Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper.

In Phase 2 of its Strategic Plan, Erie's Library is finding ways to connect to an underserved population: Teens.

On Saturday, Feb. 9, the Blasco Library — the Public Library's flagship site, which has operated on Erie's Bayfront since 1996, continuing a legacy of service to the Erie community that began in 1897 — officially opened its Teen Space.

“What we found was that the demographic group we were reaching the least was teens,” Dahlkemper says. “The Teen Space will provide a place to

convene and come together as well as to utilize what we have: Our Idea Lab and our Media Lab and all of the other resources in the library.”

More on the Idea and Media labs — which were part of the Strategic Plan's first phase — later.

“Teens are often a forgotten segment in libraries, and it's the group that, in many ways, matters the most,” explains Erin Wincek, executive director of the Erie County Public Library. “If you lose them when they're teenagers, they often never come back again. Having a space like this really matters. While they had a space upstairs, it was out in the open but anyone could stumble in there. This space says: We really value you; we're going to invest in you.”

That investment comes by way of a \$100,000 donation from the Erie Regional Library Foundation with matching grant funds from Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Commonwealth Libraries to total a \$200,000 upgrade.

While each of the branch locations of the Erie County Public Library feature nooks and corners for teens to gather, the new Teen Space at the Blasco Library offers an area specifically dedicated to that age group — a space of their own with a sense of permanence. And that space is open to teens county-wide.

“We would have pop-up programming, but we had to use adult programming rooms,” notes teen service librarian Tammy Blount. “I'd load up a cart and take it into a room and it was

**Those stepping into today's Erie County Public Library aren't just entering a repository of information; they are entering a transportation hub toward new skills and opportunities they may have never known they had. According to Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, beyond the collections, its aim is to foster connections between the citizens and community it serves.**

temporary in a classroom setting. Now, this is so multipurpose...”

The *this* features a performance area, including a ramp to provide accessibility for all populations, easily rearrange-able furniture, and a laptop bar with a stunning view of the bay. Prior, the space played home to music and video collections, which are now upstairs.

Also prior, young adult nonfiction and fiction were interspersed within the library's larger collection. Now, teens can find material specific to them in a space specifically for them, including Monica Hesse's *The War Outside*, which the Teen Reading Lounge recently used and which inspired the group to assemble “Blessing Bags,” an effort that garnered statewide attention from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

A book club of sorts with an eye on social impact, the teen-led initiative took a key message of Hesse's work to heart and pondered how they could help their own community. That led to a call for donations to assemble “Blessing Bags,” containing anything from toiletries to clothing, such as socks, hats, and gloves, and more to be distributed to Erie's homeless population.

“We encourage the teens to be civic-minded when they're reading a story: How does it not only affect you but how does it affect your community?” Blount says. “They decided to take donations to put the bags together.”

The bags landed the group on the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's radar. And the article the organization's website landed the initiative on the Hesse's radar.

“The author of *The War Outside* tweeted out that ‘her heart was bursting,’” Blount adds with excitement.

With guidance and support from Blount, a Teen Advisory Board of roughly a dozen active teens shapes the programming at the library for their

age group and even had critical input on the design on their new space. The teens host various programs throughout the year, with a ramped-up increase during the summer when school schedules become less demanding. Of most popular note: Cos Prom and Nerf Wars.

Nerf Wars?

“It's just what it sounds like,” Jude Shingle, emerging technologies librarian, says, laughing, as we tour the Teen Space with Blount and Wincek before Saturday's grand opening.

“Out of the 500 Nerf pieces they used during the lock-in event for the teens, we only found about a dozen afterwards,” Blount says, sharing in the laugh.

And cos-prom?

“One of our biggest programs that teens are instrumental in is Comic Con,” Blount explains.

In short, Comic Con has become an annual event held in partnership between the library and GeekERIE dedicated to the appreciation of many things comics-related, including cosplay, dressing up as one's favorite comics character — a “vital piece of any Comic Con,” Erie Reader's own Managing Editor Nick Warren noted in a 2016 write-up on the event.

So: Comic Con plus Prom equals Cos Prom.

“We get thousands of people here,” Blount continues. “The Teen Advisory Board decided to do a Cos Prom the night before the Comic Con. They picked out all of the decorations, the DJ, and were involved in all of the aspects of what it takes to do something like that. And it could've been a complete flop, but we had 150 teens dressed up at a dance and they filled the whole front lobby. They put the lights up and volunteered the whole time.”

And this year, teens will be able to take advantage of the Performance Center, signing up for half-hour blocks to present and/or perform — all in a dedicated space of their own.

That space, like the Idea Lab, is walled off, access to which is gained by going through doors. And also like the Idea Lab, there's a fish-tank approach to the layout, with glass windows running from the ceiling to about three feet from the floor.

That, too, is by design: Get people walking by to stop and to look, to take note of the new exciting things happening at a library. That can now range from a curious pre-teen looking for where to hang out next in Blasco to someone looking for help sewing pants or an entrepreneur looking to launch a business.

"It's exciting — the energy built from creating the Idea Lab and the new people that that's brought into the Library," County Executive Dahlkemper says. "It's not just about the Idea Lab, as a space itself, but all of the courses that have been borne out that and the connections it builds."

"The cool thing is that people come in to convert a VHS of their wedding and end up stumbling upon a new skill that they never would've imagined — or just meeting someone," Wincek says.

"Just the other night, someone came in during our Monday Maker's Program, which is our open drawing program, to convert a VHS to DVD. While it was converting, she asked, 'can I stay during the program?' And we're like,

**The new Teen Space at the Blasco Memorial Library is the culmination of efforts to reach out to a previously underserved teen population. Here the Teen Advisory Board of roughly 12 active members shapes the upcoming programming for their demographic.**

"Yeah! Awesome!" adds library assistant Marcy Hall.

This intersectionality is intentional with the Idea Lab — a place, well, brimming with ideas.

"Relationships are formed," Shingle adds. "People who'd never otherwise meet each other meet each other."

Hall offers another example.

A guy walks into the library carrying a pair of pants. This is not the start of a corny joke; he tore them while shoveling snow. But rather than tossing them aside or away and investing in another pair, he heads to his local library and says, "I don't know how to do this, but I know you have sewing machines..."

And, indeed, the Idea Lab does have sewing machines. And it also has librarians who can help. But sometimes bumpability happens first.



NICK WARREN

"Wouldn't you know it, a lady walked in to convert a VHS to DVD and saw him bumbling around with the sewing machine and said, 'You know, I'm really good at that if you need help,'" Hall recounts. "She taught him how to sew, made him do all of the work, and they were here for two hours while her project finished, and then she was like 'Okay, I got to go; you're on your own

now." "He comes in all of the time and says 'I still have my pants!' And he'll show me them," Hall says with a smile. "It's really cool — seeing people help each other. It's the best part of having random people all day."

Aside from sewing machines, the Idea Lab, which opened in late 2017, features a vinyl cutter, a Cricut cutter (multipur-

Life is good.

Insured by NCUA  
Membership eligibility required

We gave back **\$600,000** to our members.  
#we♥ourmembers

Does your bank pay you back?  
It pays to Belong. Experience the difference!

**BEST OF ERIE 2018**  
ERIE READER

**Erie** Federal Credit Union®  
eriefcu.org  
(814) 825-2436

**It's Urgent.**  
It's also convenient.

**UPMC**  
**URGENT CARE**  
EPN and UPMC Hamot

No appointment needed.  
Open 9 am to 9 pm.  
7 days a week.

**URGENT CARE ERIE-SOUTH**  
Summit Towne Centre • 7200 Peach St • 814-860-3301

**URGENT CARE ERIE-WEST**  
Kmart Plaza • 2861 W. 26th St. • 814-835-6695

pose cutting device) , and more — just in the craft corner alone.

Since its launch, there's been a steady increase in traffic, from crafters to converters (the Idea Lab currently features the VHS to DVD converter and is exploring a floppy disc convert) to those frequenting the likely most recognizable part of an Idea Lab: 3D printers.

A row of four UltiMaker 3 units greet guests as they enter the Idea Lab.

A high-end consumer model capable of professional grade work, the machines can print two materials at once.

Popular amongst users now: Lithophanes, pictures printed in plastic with varying degrees of thickness so that when the image is played in front of light — like, say, a night light — the picture becomes stunningly clear.

"Once you make one for one family member," Shingle says, "the rest, well, they're going to want one, too."

Also on display next to a lithophane, sits one green leg of a Christmas tree stand.

"A woman came in because her Christmas tree stand broke," Shingle explains. "Rather than buy a new one for \$25, she printed a new part for two bucks — and she didn't even have to design it. Most of the designs for what people print here are online."

Patrons pay per gram of plastic (poly lactic acid, which comes in spools resembling wound spaghetti noodles are mostly made of Midwestern corn and are biodegradable) material used at the rate of 10 cents per gram.

"Not best to make your garden gnomes from," Hall jokingly advises about the biodegradability and the library's effort to be sustainable. But when kept out of direct light, PLA can be used to make tools, she notes.

Aside from the 3D printers, the Idea Lab features a professional-grade large format printer that you might mistake for a Casio keyboard capable of printing 36" x 72" posters at just 5 bucks a pop, laptops for general design work, computers for specific design work, computers with the entire Adobe Creative suite, audio-editing software, and more — all making it possible to launch or continue a business.

Patrons are able to reserve stations in two-hour increments but can continue working beyond two hours if no one is waiting behind them.

The same rules apply to the Media Lab, where there's a green screen, and a computer station with editing software. Shingle notes that at least two podcasts are being recorded per week, and Wincek adds that a patron who was able to launch his business out of the Idea Lab is now able to record segments for his YouTube channels there.

And performers are welcome, too. While Shingle hasn't seen an entire band squeeze into the space, Wincek has.

On the list of upcoming equipment for the Idea Lab: A laser cutter (which requires ventilation and is being explored in February), a vacuum forming machine to make molds, a soldering station, and basic woodworking tools.

"One of the things that when you're looking at Maker Spaces that drives me nuts is that anyone who runs a Maker Space cannot tell you what you need in your Maker Space," Shingle says. "It's so community-dependent."

So what populates the what's-coming-next list is determined by asking the users themselves, Shingle notes, adding that judging the attendance in the various classes they offer helps, too.

Growth at the Idea Lab is poised to continue, as is its relationship to the entrepreneurial and innovation economies at Erie, as the Blasco Library is one of the Beehive Innovation Spaces funded through the Ignite Erie initiative led by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

"As I saw these innovation spaces happening at our local universities, I knew we were on the right track with the Idea Lab," notes Dahlkemper, who says she's excited that the funders saw the value in the Blasco Idea Lab being a part of the Beehive network. "I've always said we're that earlier seed place that once people come in and start getting access to the resources and talking to our librarians — who have always been a resource for people — we can say 'you're ready to talk to one of the beehives at the universities.' That's the great thing about the library — it's the place that's so accessible to all."

And that accessibility can make Blasco an attractive test bed for new ideas not launched in the Idea Lab.

Dahlkemper notes that the County's Voting Machine Expo was held there as a means of introducing people to a new idea, as well as the new things happening at the library.

"There were a lot of people interested in coming down to see the machines and it's not a technical library function, but we got hundreds of people coming into the library — some of them for the first time, and now they see the other things that are there," she says.

"The library has become the 'town square.' We have to ask: How can we continue to be that space for the community?" she adds.

One quick — and big — answer: Google.

Grow with Google recently visited the Blasco Library on Friday, Feb. 1. Through a partnership with the American Library Association in 2019 to bring digital skills trainings to libraries across the U.S. to ensure that economic opportunity exists for all people, Grow with Google is traveling to 150 libraries over the next several months.

That tour launched in Pennsylvania, with GwG selecting three libraries across the Commonwealth to visit and host this training: York County Public Library's Martin Library, the main location of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Erie County Public Library's Blasco Memorial Library.

According to Wincek, Google picked Erie as their last stop on our tour of Pennsylvania "because the community, in particular our partners at the Erie Public Library, showed a real appetite for the free programs and workshops we offered."

"When Google called to discuss the opportunity, our team worked to make sure our space and their vision would be a success," she adds, "not only was the Blasco Library an absolutely beautiful venue for their event, the space is approachable, allowing us to reach people with the opportunity."

In the libraries, books and possibilities abound — from Blessing Bags to sewn pants to Google and beyond.

"In a library today, you stumble across a book, or stumble across a person, a thing, an interaction," Wincek says, "something that can change your course of life in a lot of ways."

*Ben Speggen can be contacted at [bSpeggen@ErieReader.com](mailto:bSpeggen@ErieReader.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.*



**Buy One Get One – Oil Change!**

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

Same vehicle. Must be used within 6 months.



**Shuttle Available 8am-5pm**

**12th & Liberty • Erie PA • 455-8071 • 8am-5pm**

[www.Rickweaver.com](http://www.Rickweaver.com)

# SAY "I DO" WITH DICKEY'S BARBECUE



## WE CATER

ANY EVENT. ANY SIZE. ANYTIME.

### APPETIZER SERVICE

FRUIT SALAD.....	\$1.25
VEGGIE TRAY.....	\$1.50
MEAT, CHEESE AND CRACKER PLATTER.....	\$2.00
CHEESE AND CRACKER PLATTER.....	\$1.75
PRETZEL NUGGET TRAYS.....	\$1.75
SAUSAGE PICKS.....	\$0.75
CREAMED SPINACH DIP WITH TORTILLA CHIPS.....	\$0.75
PINEAPPLE CHICKEN MINI-KEBAB.....	\$1.75

### FULL SERVICE BUFFET MENU \$13.95

Choice of 2 meats & 3 sides served by our expert staff. Includes buttery rolls, relish tray, barbecue sauce and paper-ware. Delivery, set-up, serve & cleanup

#### MEATS

PULLED PORK  
BEEF BRISKET  
CHICKEN BREAST  
TURKEY  
PORK RIBS\*  
POLISH KIELBASA SAUSAGE  
JALAPEÑO CHEDDAR KIELBASA

#### SIDES

BARBECUE BEANS  
CABBAGE SLAW  
POTATO SALAD  
CREAMED SPINACH  
GREENED BEANS  
MAC & CHEESE  
BAKED POTATO CASSEROLE

\*Additional \$1.00 charge per person

### BUFFET ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

FORMAL PLATE AND CUTLERY.....	\$1.00
GARDEN SALAD.....	\$1.50
CAESAR SALAD.....	\$1.25
CORN BREAD.....	\$0.75

CALL OUR CATERING EXPERTS TO  
BEGIN PLANNING YOUR PERFECT DAY!

**DICKEY'S**  
BARBECUE PIT  
est. 1941

dickeys.com

LEGIT. TEXAS. BARBECUE.™

ERIE 3716 LIBERTY ST • 814-868-4227

©2019 Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants, Inc. Pricing and participation may vary by location. \*Additional cost per person.



Sunday, February 24th  
10AM-1PM  
Bayfront Convention  
Center  
1 Sassafras Pier

#### TICKETS:

\$10 advanced,  
\$15 at the door

ages 12 and under free  
smcerie.org

Erie Federal Credit Union  
(3503 Peach ONLY)  
Mill Creek Coffee Co.  
(1222 Linden Ave. 16505)

Enjoy samples from various  
coffee shops and vote for  
YOUR favorite shop.

Basket Raffle \* Live Music  
Children's Activities \* More

Info: Facebook.com/  
StMartinCenter



Interested sponsors or  
vendors should contact

814-452-6113 x216 or

jkrukker@stmartincenter.org.

Proceeds benefit



- Criminal
- DUI
- Divorce
- Custody
- Personal Injury

Kenneth A. Bickel, Esq.  
Bickel Law Office 557  
West 8th Street  
Erie, PA 16502

• FREE CONSULTATIONS •



Clothing, Jewelry, Incense, Oils & More

# 25% OFF

1 earthshine item  
per coupon,  
consignment  
items excluded.

Expires 2/26/2019



Open 7 days a week  
Downtown Edinboro  
118 Meadville St.  
(814) 734-5858



Professional Development  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

## Office Space to Fit Your Needs



Renaissance Centre

1001 State Street  
Erie, PA



PARKSIDE COMMONS

847 North Main St.  
Meadville, PA



PALACE  
CENTRE

915 State St. Erie, PA

One company, three great office locations

For more information, contact Lisa Songer  
lsonger@pdainc.us • 814-451-1101

Share a Laugh with That Special Someone at Orny Adams' Valentine's Day Special



**Comedian Orny Adams, who has numerous stand-up specials and late night appearances to his credit, visits Jr.'s Last Laugh for one night only on Valentine's Day.**

focused on the creative process and life on the road for the pair of stand-up comedians. Since then, Adams has gained a steady audience that extends to Erie, delivering energetic sets that often point a finger at the world, as well as himself.

Adams' career has only blossomed over the past 15 plus years, landing one hour stand-up specials with Netflix, Comedy Central, and most recently, Showtime. In addition to his sets on late night shows with the likes of Conan O'Brien, Carson Daly, and Jay Leno, Adams can be recognized for his recurring role as Coach Bobby Finstock in MTV's recent *Teen Wolf* reboot series. With a star-studded list of credits and an act that's consistently evolved for nearly two decades, there has never been a better time to catch Orny Adams. — Aaron Mook

Sets at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. // 1402 State St. // \$20 // 21+ // jrslastlaugh.com

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

This Valentine's Day, Lexington, Massachusetts-based comic Orny Adams will be returning once again to Jr.'s Last Laugh for a special, "one night only" event. Adams first received national attention for his role in Jerry Seinfeld's 2002 documentary *Comedian*, which

Wearing Their Heart On Their Sleeve

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

The Box Streetwear, run by Jon Box, catered to the 814 with clothing and designs that stood for unity, defiance, and truth. Responsible for a series of shows that pushed many Erie emcees to the forefront over the past few years, the Box's messages went from a rare sighting to being spotted in every corner of the city. Aside from allowing its flag to wave proudly in the winds of Northwest Pennsylvania and making its mark as a prominent brand, the streetwear company had its hands in philanthropy by aiding the less fortunate on holidays with food and garments — with events like "Box of Love," and "Music Saves Lives."

A hiatus was recently taken and the cult following of the Box was left wondering what happened to the designers. Remaining true to its motive, the Box returns on Valentine's Day to celebrate a new line of gear and a new downtown location for customers. "Amor Supra Omnia," Latin for "love above all," is a release party that will be held at one of State Street's hottest clubs, Docksider. From 9 p.m. to midnight, music will be

spun by DJ Johnny B and DJ Diddles. The crowd will see new merch that won't be released until the spring and summer seasons, but will be available for purchase on this special night. Hip-hop hooray to the resurgence of the Box Street Couture. — Charles Brown

9 p.m. // Docksider, 1015 State Street // 21+ // facebook.com/The-Box-Street-Couture



MUSIC

**Dave VanAmburg & Friends**

Feb. 13, 22, 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

**Katherine Soroka**

Feb. 13 — 8 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall at Mercyhurst Univ., 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

**Open Mic**

Feb. 13, 20, 27 — 10 p.m.  
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

**Dillon Shidemantle**

Feb. 14 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

**MVP**

Feb. 14, 21 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

**Jonathan Nolan**

Feb. 14 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Finger-pick style classical guitarist accompanies Southern bistro food with mix of jazz.  
Pineapple Eddie, 1402 W. 10th St. facebook.com

**The High Life**

Feb. 14 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428

skunkandgoattavern.com.

**Sybarite5**

Feb. 15 — noon  
Reed Union Building at Penn St. Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

**Rick Magee Acoustics**

Feb. 15 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Intro to Banjo (Free)**

Feb. 15 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
World of Music, 1355 W. 26th St. worldofmusicerie.com.

**Bootleggers Bible Club**

Feb. 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

**Geek Army**

Feb. 15 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

**Jeremy Jaeger**

Feb. 15 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Abjection Ritual + Messerall Yamma Duo**

Feb. 15 — 7 to 11 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

**Steve Trohoske Trio**

Feb. 15 — 8 to 11 p.m.

Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

**Paper Matches, Claudia Rose, Aria & The Voiceless**

Feb. 15 — 10 p.m.  
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

**Kaleidoscope Sky**

Feb. 15 — 11 p.m.  
Inspired by reggae and roots rock, jam band from Salamanca, New York is a colorful display of multi-instrumental artistry.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

**Paul Hunter**

Feb. 16 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**The Heliotropes**

Feb. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Erie-based experimental jazz band creates original soundscapes to complement Southern-style dishes.  
Pineapple Eddie, 1402 W. 10th St. facebook.com.

**Hear No Evil**

Feb. 16 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

**Go for Broke**

Feb. 16 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon &

Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Jay Baumgartner and the Northwestern GnS Club**

Feb. 16 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
The Little Church on the Hill, 10410 High St., Albion, Pa. 16401 sites.google.com.

**Brooke Surgener and Students**

Feb. 16 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
Local singer-songwriter spends the night performing alongside her students at cocktail and coffee cafe.  
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach St. facebook.com.

**Darlene Love**

Feb. 16 — 7:30 p.m.  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

**The Drifter Kings**

Feb. 16 — 8 to 11 p.m.  
Playing both originals and personal arrangements on classics, jazz band from Ohio comes to Erie after EP debut late last year.  
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

**Maniacal Device, Mala Sangre, Fog Giant, BOTJ**

Feb. 16 — 9:30 p.m.  
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

**Jeff Fetterman Band**

Feb. 16 — 10 p.m.  
High-energy blues-rock rumbles from music-loving trio for show in their hometown.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

**Pat & Abby Doyle**

Feb. 17 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

**Wind Ensemble**

Feb. 17 — 4 p.m.  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

**Showtune Singer's Night**

Feb. 19 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

**Percussion Ensemble**

Feb. 19 — 7:30 p.m.  
Cole Auditorium at Edinboro Univ., 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA 16412 eriephil.org.

**Matty B & 57 Pickup**

Feb. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

**Whiskey for 3**

Feb. 22 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Intro to Mandolin (Free)**

Feb. 22 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
World of Music, 1355 W. 26th St. worldofmusicerie.com.

**Charles Brown Experience, Conflicted 2 Music Video Premiere**

Feb. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
New music video by Erie hip-hop artist premieres following night of other local music video screenings.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

**BluesBeaters**

Feb. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach St. bullfrogbarerie.com.

**Small Town Revolution**

Feb. 22 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

**Matt Gavula**

Feb. 22 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Rodger Montgomery**

Feb. 22 — 9:30 p.m.  
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

**Dirty Blanket**

Feb. 22 — 10 p.m.  
Five-piece Finger Lakes-based bluegrass band make their way to Erie for four-hour show.



MAINSTAGE SPONSOR **LECOM** HEALTH

# EVITA



February 15-16, 21-24,  
27-March 3

[www.erieplayhouse.org](http://www.erieplayhouse.org)

814-454-2852 x 0



AT WORLD OF MUSIC  
**TURN YOUR INSTRUMENTS INTO INSTANT CASH OR STORE CREDIT**

**WE BUY**

We buy, sell, consign, trade, and repair all types of instruments

**WORLD OF MUSIC**  
 1355 W. 25th St. Erie, PA 16508  
 (814) 459-2585 • [worldofmusicerie.com](http://worldofmusicerie.com)

[facebook.com/worldofmusicerie](https://facebook.com/worldofmusicerie)  
[instagram.com/worldofmusicerie](https://instagram.com/worldofmusicerie)

**WORLD OF MUSIC**  
 EST. 1954 • ERIE, PA

**HAPPi927**  
 ERIE'S BEST RADIO STATION

**El-Canelo**  
 RESTAURANT - BAR - CANTINA

**AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD**  
(Not affiliated with any other Mexican restaurant in Erie, PA)

2709 West 12th St.  
 (814) 835-2290

Margaritas **\$3.99**  
 Mon-Tue

**\$4 Off**  
 with \$30 Purchase

**BEST OF ERIE 2018**  
 BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN ERIE

**IRONSTONE MEADERY**

Ironstone Meadery produces and sells the golden elixirs: Mead and Honey Wine.

**A Berry Bloody Valentine!**  
With Give a Crepe, La Crepe Erie 5pm-9

Saturday, February 16th

**10% OFF Bottles of Our Bloody Berry\***  
\*EXCLUDES EVERYTHING ELSE!



Hours:  
Sunday-Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 4pm-9pm  
Friday: 4pm-9pm  
Saturday: 1pm-9pm

9333 TATE RD ROOM 205, ERIE, PA 16509  
www.ironstonemeadery.com  
814-616-0086

**PLYMOUTH**  
PAVILION & RESTAURANT

REGISTER FOR THE  
**21st Annual BARSTOOL OPEN**

Saturday March 2nd 2019 WIN A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE

Benefits **meca**  
www.mecaerie.org

1109 State St  
Erie, PA 16501  
814-453-6454




*the*  
**CO-OP**  
CAFE & BAKERY

check out our new menu

PACA'S 2019 THEATRICAL SEASON

**The Proletariat**  
By Ernest Hemmings




ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PACA1505.COM

**PA CA**

Fri. & Sat. March 8 -23

TICKETS \$15 BYOB w/ ID

**PERFORMING ARTISTS COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE**  
1505 STATE ST 2ND FLR, ERIE, PA (814)434-0687




Inside **WHOLE FOODS CO-OP**

1341 West 26th Street  
814-456-0282  
web: wfcerie.coop

Erie Playhouse's *Evita* Brings Beloved Icon to Erie



RICK KLEIN

**Brandon Vogt (as Che) and Kate Amatuzzo Thiem (as Eva Peron) star in the Erie Playhouse production of *Evita*.**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 15**

Young, powerful, passionate, hopeful — these are words that easily described Eva Peron, Argentina's most beloved female icon. Peron, also known as Evita, grew up poor and knew the struggles that the poorest communities faced, especially the women.

Richard Davis, director of *Evita* at the Erie Playhouse, explains that Eva "did amazing things for Argentina. She created hospitals ... she was very much about helping the poor." Even while Eva was dying of cancer, "she didn't let that stop her. She was working 15-16 hours a

day to help people," says Davis.

Kate Amatuzzo Thiem, who is playing the iconic role of Eva Peron, offers her perspective. "Eva Peron is an intriguing figure. She was such an ambitious woman, but at the same time, there were questionable actions involved," says Amatuzzo Thiem.

To highlight these questionable actions, audiences may find themselves sympathizing with the show's antagonist, Che. Che, played by Brandon Vogt, is "the every man. He brings the other point to the table that maybe Eva is not as good as what people thought. He's the narrating voice," states Davis.

not as good as what people thought. He's the narrating voice," states Davis.

Besides the complexity of Eva's character, another intriguing aspect of this musical is that the show is completely sung. Everything is expressed in song, and while there may be a few spoken lines here and there, expect to hear lots of incredible singing.

Patrick Thiem plays Juan Peron, Argentina's President and Eva's husband. He had no trouble finding a spark between his character and Eva's — the two actors are married.

Thiem clarifies that he "has always wanted to perform together with Kate, and when seeing this show, knew this was that opportunity."

What really struck Thiem about his character was that Juan Peron clearly "learned the power of a powerful woman. It can go a long way. When he ruled a second time he understood the power women possess and what they can accomplish."

Evita's legacy still holds true to this day. Thiem expressed how he's "surprised that not more has been done with this story. People in Argentina will weep if you bring up Evita's name to this day."

Eva's powerful history allows actor Kate Amatuzzo Thiem to challenge herself, which is the greatest reward of playing such an interesting and complex character. She enlightens, "no matter what the truth is, as an actor you have to bring the truth to the screen. Everything she does, she believes in 100 percent. And I have to play and approach her character that way."

Whether you see Evita as a beloved saint or a questionable icon, or perhaps you know very little about her life and the impact she's had on Argentina, this musical is a must see. Davis encourages you to "decide for yourself how you feel about her." — Kalli Oberlander

*Feb. 15 through Mar. 3 // Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. Erie, PA // Opening weekend, all seats, \$13.45, other dates \$13.45 to \$20.25 // Box Office, 814.454.2852 and for full dates and times go to [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org)*

*Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**SASS Acoustics**  
Feb. 23 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
*Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [pr-esqueisledowns.com](http://pr-esqueisledowns.com).*

**Rock Scars**  
Feb. 23 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
*BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Jazz Ensemble**  
Feb. 23 — 7 p.m.  
*Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu).*

**Geeks Unplugged**  
Feb. 23 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
*Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [pr-esqueisledowns.com](http://pr-esqueisledowns.com).*

**Cruisin'**  
Feb. 23 — 9:30 p.m.  
*Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [pr-esqueisledowns.com](http://pr-esqueisledowns.com).*

**Big City Hangover, Willie Cotter Band**  
Feb. 23 — 10 p.m.  
*Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Personal Blend**  
Feb. 23 — 10 p.m.  
*Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Celebration of Music:**

**Black History Month**  
Feb. 25 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
*Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).*

**Ukulele Workshop**  
Feb. 26 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
*Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**DANCE**

**Line Dancing for Parties**  
Feb. 15 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
*LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [LifeWorksErie.org](http://LifeWorksErie.org).*

**'80s Dance Party**  
Feb. 16 — 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
*Rainbow Gardens, 220 Waldameer Park Rd. [visiterie.com](http://visiterie.com).*

**Valentine's Dance**  
Feb. 23 — 6 p.m.  
*St. John's Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Super Somar Palooza**  
Feb. 23 — 7 p.m.  
SoMar Dance Works celebrates their 20th year, taking to the Mary D'Angelo stage for a creative, witty, and explosive exploration of dance.  
*Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu).*

**FOOD & DRINK**

**Dinner Under the Stars**  
Feb. 13, 14, 15, 16 — 6 p.m.  
You and your guest can enjoy a four-course meal, drinks, coffee, dessert and an astronomical show for Valentine's Day at Yahn Planetarium.  
*Yahn Planetarium at Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. [behrend.psu.edu](http://behrend.psu.edu).*

**Crafts and Cocktails**  
Feb. 13 — 6:30 p.m.  
*Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300 [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Give a Crepe. La CrepErie Lunch**  
Feb. 14 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Whether you prefer them sweet or savory, Erie Art Museum will have the crepes of your liking, Thursday-Saturday each week thanks to collaboration with local creperie.  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Love at First Bite**  
Feb. 14, 15, 16 — 4 to 7 p.m.  
*Room 33, 1033 State St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Valentine's Day Cast Iron Cooking**  
Feb. 14 — 6 p.m.

*Rotary Pavilion at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. [trecpi.org](http://trecpi.org).*

**Valentine's Day Bar Crawl**  
Feb. 15 — 9 p.m.  
*Molly Brannigan's, 506 State St. [hippohmobile.com](http://hippohmobile.com).*

**Cocktails and Clay**  
Feb. 16 — 2 to 4:30 p.m. or 4:30 to 7 p.m.  
*Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. Fl. 3 [erieclayspace.com](http://erieclayspace.com).*

**Brewer's Cup Home Brew Festival**  
Feb. 16 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
*The Brewererie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. [brewererie.com](http://brewererie.com).*

**Murder Mystery Dinner: Matrimonial Mayhem**  
Feb. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
*Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. [environmenterie.org](http://environmenterie.org).*

**3rd Annual Chili Face Off**  
Feb. 17 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
As a reward for helping find the best chili in the city, enjoy tastings, live music and raffles at Union Station. Proceeds benefit the Community Shelter Services.  
*Concourse at Union Station, 121 W. 14th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Yoga & Cocktails with Kelly**  
Feb. 17, 24 — 4:30 p.m.  
*Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**Mind, Body, Beer**  
Feb. 19 — 7:30 p.m.  
*Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. [eriealeworks.com](http://eriealeworks.com).*

**Take the Pressure Off**  
Feb. 21 — 6 p.m.  
*Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. [wfcerie.coop](http://wfcerie.coop).*

**2019 Annual Legislative Luncheon**  
Feb. 22 — noon  
*The Sight Center of NWPA, 2545 W. 26th St. 814-452-0020*

**Wine on the Lake**  
Feb. 23 — 1 to 4 p.m. or 6 to 9 p.m.  
*Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier [wineonthelake.com](http://wineonthelake.com).*

**Erie's Best Coffee**  
Feb. 24 — 10 a.m.  
*Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier [stmartincenter.org](http://stmartincenter.org).*

**Coffee and Clay: Mug Making Workshop**  
Feb. 26 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
*Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. Fl. 3 [erieclayspace.com](http://erieclayspace.com).*

**MOVIES**

**Ralph Breaks the Internet**  
Feb. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17  
*Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd., Edinboro, PA*

*16444 events.edinboro.edu.*

**First Man**  
Feb. 13 — 6 p.m.  
*Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. [filmsocietynwpa.org](http://filmsocietynwpa.org).*

**Nekromantik (1987)**  
Feb. 15 — 8 p.m.  
1987 German horror film tells the story of a street sweeper and his wife who bring a corpse into the bedroom. Wink wink.  
*Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**The Twonky (1953)**  
Feb. 21 — 8 p.m.  
*Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).*

**A Star is Born**  
Feb. 20 — 6 p.m.  
*Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. [filmsocietynwpa.org](http://filmsocietynwpa.org).*

**Anime Afternoons: Howl's Moving Castle**  
Feb. 23 — 3 to 5 p.m.  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

**Backyard Wilderness**  
Ongoing — 10 a.m., 1 p.m., & 4 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](http://biggreenscreen.com).*

**Amazon Adventure**  
Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental*

Challenge Your Sense of Humor with *Gloria* at Dramashop

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

In this day and age, it takes a special kind of script — and a director with a vision — to leave audiences laughing during a show that involves workplace violence as a plot point. Thankfully, for Erie arts enthusiasts, director Jessica Flock plans to do just that with her take on Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist, *Gloria*, starting at Dramashop later this week.

"*Gloria* interested me primarily because, in its first act, it seems like a rote, but interesting, office dramedy," says Flock. "Then, without giving away the twist, it takes a sharp turn into a very different show. The script is well-suited for a stage reading because the text is strong and captivating, even without staging and extensive costumes."

*Gloria* takes place in Manhattan, where a group of up-and-coming writers are growing increasingly disillusioned with their office jobs. When an argument over an opportunistic feature gets interrupted by an unfathomable act of violence, the survivors are left to cope with their traumatic experience — and argue over who gets to tell the story.

"I think a massive part of the show is centered on the still-relevant 24-hour

news cycle and our culture's obsession with constantly retreading tragedies, making heroes of villains, and insistently looking for new material to absorb about these events," says Flock. "I'd like audience members to leave the show with plenty to talk about, and perhaps debate, on their way home.

Originally opening Off-Broadway at the Manhattan-based Vineyard Theater in 2015, *Gloria* was met with glowing reviews, which referred to the show as "whip-smart satire" and Jacobs-Jenkins himself as "thoughtful and provocative." It also received multiple nominations in the 2016 Lucille Lortel Awards, Drama League Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and Outer Critics Circle. Now, Flock is bringing the production to Erie's own Dramashop with an all-star cast, including Zachery Hoffman, Monica Harden, Megan Hamm, Pamela Perron, Matthew Symmons, and JJ Hodges. When it comes to must-see shows within Erie's theater community, there's never been a production quite like *Gloria*. — Aaron Mook

*Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 15 - 23, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 1001 State Street, Suite 210 // admission by donation // dramashop.org*

Taste the Next Big Thing at The Brewer's Cup



dividual small-batch brewers — and even more individual beers — "as a consumer, you're going to have beer that you never had before and you might never have again. And you might get to meet the guy who's going to start the next Lavery Brewing or the next [Erie] Ale Works," Brewer

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

Starting out (and this was over a decade ago), the annual Brewer's Cup at The Brewererie at Union Station was conceived as a nice little opportunity for local, small-scale beer-makers to possibly hobnob, maybe share stories and ideas, and definitely drink some beer together.

But 12 years in, the Brewer's Cup has become a local staple event for beer-makers and beer-drinkers alike, and an annual showcase of some truly, definitively unique and, beyond that, very worthwhile brews.

Featuring dozens upon dozens of in-

owner Chris Sirianni stated.

Indeed, brewmasters from what have become area favorites like Lavery Brewing Co., Erie Ale Works, Meadville's TimberCreek Tap & Table, Millcreek Brewing Company, and others including the Brewererie, have all showcased early work at the Brewer's Cup before launching commercially.

It's safe to say that if you love local beer, you'll want to be there to see what's happening here next. — Ryan Smith

*5 to 8 p.m. // 123 West 14th St. // Tickets: \$25 // 21+ // More info: Call 454-2200*

*Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.*

**Earthflight**

Ongoing — noon & 3 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.*

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Paint Your Pet**

Feb. 10 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
*Cocktails & Colors, 5624 Peach St. cocktailsandcolorerie.com.*

**Valentine's Date Night: Tandem Throwing**

Feb. 14 — 7 to 9:30 p.m.  
*Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. Fl. 3 erieclayspace.com.*

**Sophomore Review**

Ongoing through Feb. 15  
*Cummings Art Gallery at Mercyhurst, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.*

**Power Animals Pastel Drawing & Shield Making**

Feb. 16 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
*AWE, 915 State St. Ste. LL1 facebook.com.*

**Healing HeARTS**

Ongoing through Feb. 17  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**President's Day**

Feb. 18 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**Shapes & Shadows: Intro to Charcoal Drawing**

Feb. 21 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. facebook.com.*

**Paint & Rock**

Feb. 21 — 8 p.m.  
*Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.*

**Art Talk: The Language of Flowers**

Feb. 22 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Communicating without words, art, flora, and fauna convey messages of major importance.  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**Erie Open Figure Session Invitational**

Feb. 22 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
A study on the drawing of live human form in its various positions is brought to life by local artists at Artlore Studio. Food, drinks, and music will accompany.  
*Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.*

**Patricia S. Yahn '50 Juried Art Show**

Opening Feb. 25, through Mar. 26  
*Cummings Art Gallery at Mercyhurst, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.*

**Lynn Fizel "Making Marks"**

Ongoing through Feb. 26  
*Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.*

**Fran Noonan**

Ongoing through Feb. 27  
*Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.*

**Kids as Curators**

Ongoing through Mar. 3  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**Donna Nicholas: The Space Between**

Ongoing through Mar. 10  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**Challenging Borders**

Ongoing through Mar. 15  
*Allegheny Art Gallery, 520 N. Main St. Meadville, PA 16335 sites.allegheny.edu.*

**Tyanna Buie: Recollections**

Ongoing through Apr. 1  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**James McMurray: Faces and Paces**

Ongoing through June 10  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**Bill Brady**

Ongoing through Aug. 2019  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**Brian Pardini**

Ongoing through Aug. 2019  
*Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

**THEATER**

**Endgame**

Feb. 13, 14, 15, 16 — 8 p.m. & Feb. 17 — 2 p.m.  
*Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.*

**The Musical Comedy of Murders 1940**

Feb. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 — 7:30 p.m. & Feb. 17, 24 — 2:30 p.m.  
*Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16412 facebook.com.*

**Murder is a Game**

Feb. 15 — 7 p.m. & Feb. 16, 23 — 5:30 p.m.  
*Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.*

**Towards Zero**

Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23 — 7:30 p.m. & Feb. 17, 24 — 3 p.m.  
*All An Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.*

**Evita**

Feb. 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27 — 7:30 p.m. & Feb. 24 — 2 p.m.  
*Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.*

**Gloria**

Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23 — 8 p.m.  
*Dramashop, 1001 State St. Ste. 210 dramashop.org.*

**Auditions for The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber**

Feb. 18, 19 — 6 p.m.  
*Erie Playhouse Rehearsal Hall, 1158 E. 12th St. erieplayhouse.org.*

**PAW Patrol Live**

Feb. 19 — 6 p.m. & Feb. 20 — 10 a.m. or 6 p.m.  
*Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. pawpatrollive.com.*

**Jersey Boys**

Feb. 23 — 8 p.m. & Feb. 24 — 1 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.  
*Warner Theatre, 811 State St. nacentertainment.com.*

**COMEDY**

**Orny Adams**

Feb. 14 — 6 or 8 p.m.

*Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.*

**Reno Collier**

Feb. 15, 16 — 6:45 or 9:30 p.m.  
Seasoned comedian and current co-host of Sirius Satellite Radio show *Chewing the Fat* does clean show.  
*Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.*

**Rodney Laney**

Feb. 21 — 7 p.m. & Feb. 22, 23 — 6:45 or 9:30 p.m.  
*Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.*

**SPORTS**

**Erie BayHawks vs. Maine Red Claws**

Feb. 13 — 7 p.m.  
*Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. league.nba.com.*

**Big Bear Tournaments: Lincoln Memorial**

Feb. 15, 16, 17, 18  
*ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. big-bear-tournaments.com.*

**Western PA Hardwater Series**

Feb. 16, 17  
*Presque Isle State Park, 1 Pen-*

Celebrate the day of *Love* with us!

— THE —  
**SKUNK & GOAT**  
TAVERN

*the Cork* 1794.

ERIE —  — PENN

**MOLLY BRANNIGAN'S**

A MODERN IRISH PUB

Treat that **special** someone to a night out!

Visit our websites to make reservations.

Valentine's Day Specials at each restaurant. Visit our Facebook pages for more info.

 Red Letter HOSPITALITY

ERIE'S THINK TANK FOR COMMUNITY PROGRESS

**JEFFERSON**  
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY  
Winter Term Programming  
at the Jefferson  
Continues through March 13



Event in partnership with



Wed, Feb 13  
7-8:30pm

"William Penn,  
John Marshall

and Robert H. Jackson—  
Significant Contributions to  
America's Democracy"

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice  
Max Baer, J.D.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 • 7-8:30pm  
"Shedding a Light on  
Erie's Black History"  
Johnny Johnson, M. Ed.

Thursday, Feb. 21 • 7-8:30pm  
"Erie: The Worst City in America  
for African-Americans, 2017–Lies,  
Damn Lies, and Statistics"  
Margaret Smith, Ph. D.

Mon, Feb 25  
7-8:30pm  
"Salem, Witch  
Hunts, and  
Women: A Look  
at the History  
of Class and  
Gender"



New York Times Best Selling Author  
Katherine Howe

Find us on  and follow us on  for more information.

Check out the full Winter Term lineup: visit [www.JESErie.org](http://www.JESErie.org),  
stop by 3207 State Street, or give us a call at 814.459.8000.

Valentine's Weekend  
*Getaway*  
February 16, 2019



THE AVALON

*Includes...*

- Overnight Accommodations  
with a Sweat Treat
- \$25 Dinner Voucher
- 2 Drink Tickets per Room
- Admission to Comedy Show  
& Dance Party with  
DJ D Royal

**\$129.99**  
per couple!

**OFF** CONSTANTLY COMEDY PRESENTS:  
**LET LOVE WIN OR DIE, WHATEVER**  
HOSTED BY ANTHONY MORELLI  
LOCAL COMICS: DAN BRADY, WILL AYERS  
FROM CLEVELAND OHIO  
OUT OF TOWNERS: BRETT THOMAS, KATY MOYNIHAN, BRYAN STERNIK  
A COMEDY BENEFIT FOR JACK R. AYERS  
**SATURDAY @ 16th**  
8:00PM START  
AT BOLERO IN THE AVALON HOTEL  
16 W. 10th ST. ERIE, PA.  
\$10 AT DOOR / \$15 FOR COUPLES  
\$8 (IF YOU MESSAGE  ON FACEBOOK)  
AFTER PARTY INCLUDED WITH TOWNSHIP PURCHASE  
"UNQUANTIFIED BEER" AT THE AVALON HOTEL  
ADDITIONAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE THROUGH EARLY RESERVATION

16 West 10th Street, Erie • 814-459-2220

PROMOTE MANUFACTURING IN GREATER ERIE THROUGH LOCALLY HELD DESIGN PATENTS

# INNOVATION ERIE 2019

**IE PRODUCT DESIGN LABS**  
 FEBRUARY 23 & MARCH 2  
 ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY | 160 EAST FRONT ST.  
**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**IE PRODUCT DESIGN COMPETITION**  
 SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED ONLINE:  
 MARCH 4-22, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING TIMES, SUBMISSION & COMPETITION DETAILS, GO TO:  
**IDEAFUNDERIE.ORG**

# LIVE NEWS

## 7 DAYS A WEEK

---

# WEEKEND MORNING NEWS

SAT - SUN | 8AM - 9AM

**sunrise**  
 MON - FRI | 5AM - 7AM

# ERIE NEWS NOW

COVERAGE YOU CAN COUNT ON

MON - FRI | 5-5:30PM | 6PM  
 7PM | 10PM | 11PM

**ErieNewsNow.com**

COVERAGE YOU CAN COUNT ON

## APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**TANDEM TOWNHOUSES**  
[www.tandemtownhouses.com](http://www.tandemtownhouses.com)

- Half-off first month's rent
- Beautiful country setting
- Fairview, PA
- Laundry facilities on-site
- 24-Hour emergency maintenance
- 2 bedroom & 1 bath
- No pets permitted
- Off-street parking
- Rent is \$690 plus gas & electric
- Best value in Fairview!

**CALL US TODAY: 814.474.5778**

Erie City Mission Looks to Give Homelessness the Hook



MIKE CONWAY

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

Those who have ever experienced (or are currently experiencing) homelessness know how difficult it can be to

pick yourself up off the mat. Since 1911, the Erie City Mission has worked diligently to give those feeling down for the count a puncher's chance. With ministries serving men, women, and youth,

Community leaders take on former boxing greats in the Erie City Mission's annual Knockout Homelessness fundraiser at the Bayfront Convention Center. In this 2011 bout, Iron Empire's RJ Messenger squared off against "John Boy" Bizzarro.

the resilient non-profit fights daily for the city's less fortunate.

Once a year, community leaders put their gloves on (literally) to join the fray at the ECM's Knockout Homelessness Fundraiser. To help those struggling to find their way back into the societal arena, these brave men go toe-to-toe in the ring against bona fide boxers to raise both money and awareness for the Erie City Mission's campaign.

"This event has been a major success since its beginnings in 2008 ... Over the last 11 years, Knockout Homelessness has raised well over \$500,000 for the Erie City Mission's Men's Emergency Shelter," says Autumn Schubert, development associate with the City Mission.

Round 12 of the event is headlined by Erie Mayor Joe Schember going up against local boxing legend Lou Bizzarro, Sr. in what is being billed as "the greatest rematch of all-time." Joining them on the

card are Elevate Church lead pastor Colby Atkins, who attempt to bring the holy rain down on the junior Lou Bizzarro, and Level Red Boxing Vice President Matt Pri-bonic, who will test his fitness and business acumen against another veteran in "John Boy" Bizzarro.

Preceding the fisticuffs will be a full dinner, and a live auction and raffle are also in the deck (as your town's favorite faces avoid getting decked). If perchance you missed the deadline for ticket sales, you are encouraged to donate through the "KOH Celebrity Boxing Crowdfunding Campaign" by texting the name Joe, Colby, or Matt and the dollar amount you would like to pledge to 71777. Additionally, you can make donations through the ECM Facebook page or eriecitymission.org. — Matt Swanseger

Doors 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:15 p.m. (exhibitions to follow) // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // General admission: \$40 per ticket or \$350 table of ten; Gold (ringside seating, sponsor signage, and dinner): \$100 per ticket or \$800 table of ten // eriecitymission.org

insula Dr. wpahardwater.com.

**EBC Rail Bender Rail Jam**

Feb. 16 — noon to 4 p.m.  
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY  
14736 pknpk.com.

**Erie Otters vs. Niagara IceDogs**

Feb. 16 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

**EPIC Volleyball Tournament**

Feb. 17, 23, 24  
ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. ovr.org.

**Erie Otters vs. London Knights**

Feb. 17 — 4 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

**Knock Out Homelessness Boxing Match**

Feb. 19 — 6 p.m.  
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier  
814-452-4421 ext. 234

**Erie BayHawks vs. Canton Charge**

Feb. 22 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

**Erie BayHawks vs. Capital City Go-Go**

Feb. 23 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

**Erie Otters vs. Guelph Storm**

Feb. 27 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

COMMUNITY

**Teacher Workshop: Pennsylvania Songbirds**

Feb. 13 — 6 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

**Interpretive Snowshoe Walk**

Feb. 13 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

**The Stars Are Ours**

Feb. 13 — 7 p.m.  
Cooper Science Center, 230 Scotland Rd., Edinboro, PA 16444 edinboro.edu.

**William Penn, John Marshall, and Robert H. Jackson**

Feb. 13 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Athena Speaks: On Law**

Feb. 14 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
As a follow-up to previous Athena event, U.S. District Judge Susan Paradise Baxter and local female attorneys discuss 2nd wave feminism in the context of U.S. law.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Fairytale Friday**

Feb. 15 — 10 to 11 a.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary-pa.libcal.com.

**Great Backyard Bird Count**

Feb. 16 — 9 a.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

**February Speaker Series: Jim McQuiston**

Feb. 16 — 10 to 11 a.m.  
McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 mccordlibrary.org.

**Block Party**

Feb. 16 — 10 a.m. to noon  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary-pa.libcal.com.

**Edinboro Branch Library Open House**

Feb. 16 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Edinboro Branch Library, 413

W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary-pa.libcal.com.

**Cross Country Ski Clinics**

Feb. 16 — 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

**Super Science Saturday**

Feb. 16 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

**L'Arche Erie Outdoor Adventures Raffle**

Feb. 16 — 1 to 5 p.m.  
Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. larcheriee.org.

**Snowshoe Clinics**

Feb. 16 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

**Blasco Writers' Group**

Feb. 16 — 2:30 to 4 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary-pa.libcal.com.

**Erie Makerspace Retrocade Game Night**

Feb. 16 — 7 p.m. to midnight  
All-night video game fun for all ages graces new Makerspace location on Erie's west side.

Erie Makerspace, 3837 W. 20th St. facebook.com.

**Game Night**

Feb. 19 — 5:30 to 7 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary-pa.libcal.com.

**Presque Isle After Dark**

Feb. 19 — 6 p.m.  
Sunset Point at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

**Intellectual Property: Ask Me Anything**

Feb. 19 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary-pa.libcal.com.

**Theology Pub & Cafe**

Feb. 19, 26 — 7 p.m.  
Topsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. facebook.com.

**Poetry Slam**

Feb. 19 — 7 p.m.  
Reed Union Building at Penn St. Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

**Winter Adventure Hike**

Feb. 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Brown's Farm Barn, 5574 Sterrettania Rd., Fairview, PA 16415 registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

**Shedding a Light on**

**Erie's Black History**

Feb. 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Showcasing the role of the Lawrence family on Erie's musical history in the 20th century, Johnny Johnson, M.Ed., centers his presentation on archived photos of the family. The presentation will also look into Ada Lawrence and her journey to becoming the first black teacher in the city in decades.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Packing Party Work Day for Operation Christmas Child**

Feb. 20 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd., McKean, PA 16426 samaritanspurse.org.

**February Fiction Book Club**

Feb. 20 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 localebookclubs.com.

**What Is Compassion Fatigue?**

Feb. 20 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Millcreek Municipal Building, 3608 W. 26th St. LifeWorksErie.org.

**Fiber Arts Meetup**

Feb. 20 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library,

Summery Blend Warms the Rook



AARON WINTERS

**SATURDAY, FEB. 23**

If you dig big bands and good-time party vibes, you may want to head to the King's Rook to sample some of what Personal Blend and their friends are serving up at their late-February show in the Gem City.

It's the Rochester, N.Y.-based septet's welcome-back to the Rook, where they'll be joined by openers and other Rochester-area regulars Eli Flynn and Adrien D'Angelo. The Blend's seven members are sure to be ready to throw down more of their very danceable, heavily reggae-infused rock, which they've been blasting out at appearances throughout

New York and around the region, as well as tour-stops in the Midwest since the releases of their LP *Skin Deep* in summer 2016 and a subsequent EP, *Ride*, in late 2017.

Bass-face/live-audio specialist/"-funk-fiend" D'Angelo and Flynn — a youthful pop/soul/R&B player — are sure to warm things up well for them (and everyone else, too), setting the tone for a most summer-like little scene on a late-winter Saturday night. — Ryan Smith

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // 21+ // [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](https://facebook.com/kingsrookclub)

The Soul and Tenor of Things with Cruisin'



**FRIDAY, FEB. 23**

The Ohio-based quintet Cruisin' is bringing their passion for music and jazzy personality to Presque Isle Downs for a free show.

Sharing a name with the well-known film maker, Ron Howard has been heading the band (sometimes referred to as Ron Howard and Cruisin') since the mid '80s—a tenor in terms of his vocal range and choice of saxophone. Drummer Ike Wiley, guitarist Doug Cowell, keyboardist Bill Terry, and bassist Bob Figoli fill out the band. Together they traverse a range of genres in their performances; from '70s pop and classic rock to R&B

and '80s dance hits. All men collaborate on vocals and a shared love of Motown — a genre whose roots show through in most of Cruisin's work — bringing classics from past decades to venues within a five-state radius in and around their home state.

The Erie show, taking place at Churchill's Bourbon & Brew Bar & Grille inside the casino, is a one-night stop for the band before they return to their home base of Port Clinton, Ohio. — Hannah McDonald

9:30 p.m. // Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy // 21+ // Free // [thebandcruisin.com](http://thebandcruisin.com)

160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Read to a Therapy Dog**

Feb. 21 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. & Feb. 26 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Multiple library locations [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Battle of the Barristers**

Feb. 21 — 4 p.m. Sing karaoke, play for auction prizes, and pick (and tip) your favorite bartender to earn them bragging rights. Money raised by the auction is for the Erie County Historical Society. Room 33, 1033 State St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**Spinechillers: Creepy Dolls**

Feb. 21 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Family STEM Night**

Feb. 21 — 6 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).

**Wine Bottle Craft Night**

Feb. 21 — 6 p.m. Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [piwine.com](http://piwine.com).

**Photography for Beginners: Manual Settings**

Feb. 21 — 6 to 7 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Black History Month Soiree**

Feb. 21 — 7 p.m. Reed Union Building at Penn St. Behrend, 4701 College Dr. [behrend.psu.edu](http://behrend.psu.edu).

**Erie: The Worst City in America for African-Americans 2017?**

Feb. 21 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. In efforts to closely examine the 2017 Wall Street Journal report, presenters compare Erie to other regional cities with similar racial disparities and industrial declines. The presentation, led by Dr. Margaret Smith, will include general discussion and an essay diving into the dynamics of institutional racism and the role it plays in African-American lives. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Active Apples**

Feb. 22, 23 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org).

**Part 107 Commercial Drone Class**

Feb. 23 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. North Coast Flight School, 1605 Asbury Rd. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**February Speaker Series: Matt Dennison**

Feb. 23 — 10 to 11 a.m. McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [mccordlibrary.org](http://mccordlibrary.org).

**Story Shenanigans: Beach Bash**

Feb. 23 — 10 to 11 a.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Lincoln Community Center Library Open House**

Feb. 23 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Iroquois Marching Band Bingo**

Feb. 24 — noon to 4 p.m. Polish Falcons Club, 431 E. 3rd St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**Wildlife at PI: Trail Camera**

Feb. 24 — 2 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).

**PACA Playwright Program and Showcase**

Feb. 24 — 3 to 5 p.m. Further your storytelling and screenplay techniques from master playwrights in 10-week program. PACA, 1505 State St. Fl. 2 [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com).

**Couples Winter Yoga**

Feb. 24 — 4 p.m. Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. [wferie.coop](http://wferie.coop).

**Black History Presentation**

Feb. 24 — 6 p.m. Grace Calvary Full Gospel Baptist Church, 2624 German St. 814-897-1203

**SafeNet's 5th Annual Scrabble Tournament**

Feb. 25 — 5 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier [safeneterie.org](http://safeneterie.org).

**Master Builders**

Feb. 25 — 6 to 7 p.m. Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. Ste. 280 [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Monday Makers: Open Drawing Sessions**

Feb. 25 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library,

160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Hands All Around Erie Quilt Guild**

Feb. 25 — 6:30 p.m. Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**Salem, Witch Hunts, and Women**

Feb. 25 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Lecture explores the history of witches and the lasting effects on how we think of gender and class. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Master Builders: Block Party**

Feb. 26 — 4 to 6 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**What Is Junior Jeopardy?**

Feb. 26 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. Ste. 280 [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Slime Series: Fluffy Slime**

Feb. 26 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**MBA Information Session**

Feb. 26 — 6 p.m. Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. [behrend.psu.edu](http://behrend.psu.edu).

**Book Club Discussion: Nine Perfect Strangers**

Feb. 26 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. [erielibrary-pa.libcal.com](http://erielibrary-pa.libcal.com).

**Laser Extravaganza**

Feb. 26 — 6:30 or 7 p.m. Cooper Science Center, 230 Scotland Rd., Edinboro, PA 16444 [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).

**Examining and Debating the Origins of WWII**

Feb. 26 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**The Rise and Decline of the Chautauqua Movement**

Feb. 27 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Fireside Talk: Mini Beasts**

Feb. 27 — 7 p.m. Rotary Pavilion at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).



Winning on the Bayfront at Wine on the Lake



The annual event, which provides a nice break from both the dreary, typically freezing days of February and the long wait until the WineFest (i.e., the North East Wine Country Harvest Festival) in September, has grown to epic proportions, with 34 wineries, over 30 different vendors, live music, shuttle service from Warren, Pa. and an exclusive VIP tasting room, plus a “wine check,” where you can leave your purchased bottles in safe hands until you’re ready to leave. To maximize attendance, Wine on the Lake will hold its customary two sessions, one in the after-

noon and one in the evening. The ticket price includes the souvenir glass and wine samples, plus access to shopping and live entertainment.

Among the 34 wineries present, which includes local favorites like 6 Mile Cellars, Mazza Vineyards, and Yori Wine Cellars, there are six new participants: Bear Creek Wines, Bushy Run Winery, Copper Fox Winery, Naylor Wine Cellars, Renegade Winery, and Scheid Family Wines. Vendors on hand will proffer goods and services, but perhaps best of all to go with your wine will be chocolate, from Buckeye Chocolates, a family-owned company out of Ohio named after the beloved chocolate-and-peanut-butter confection; and from Finney’s Chocolate Shoppe, a local favorite out of Cambridge Springs with their peanut butter cups, fudge, and bacon bark (chocolate-covered bacon heaven).

Maybe you know someone who has an extra VIP ticket — Wine on the Lake’s passport to early and exclusive tasting at the event — because they are already sold out for both sessions; general admission tickets are, however, still available but tend to evaporate the closer it gets to the date. — Cara Suppa

**SATURDAY, FEB. 23**

The phrase “wine on the lake” might have a few different connotations to different people, but come February, it only means one thing: the biggest, vino-iest takeover Erie’s bayfront has ever seen.

First session: 1 to 4 p.m.; Second session: 6 to 9 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // General Admission: \$35 (see website for full ticket pricing options) // wineonthelake.com

Among the 34 wineries present, which includes local favorites like 6 Mile Cellars, Mazza Vineyards, and Yori

More Than Waking Up: Erie’s Best Coffee



Decaf, Best Flavored, Traveler’s Choice (for shops outside of the City of Erie), and the titular Erie’s Best Coffee. There will be a judge’s choice award, as this year’s judges consist of: Jennifer Dennehy, David Brennan, Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, Sen. Dan Laughlin, Sam Catania, and Dr. Chuck Joy. In an effort to cut down on paper waste, this year they will be offering commemorative coffee mugs for \$5 each — though samples will still be limited to three ounce portions. Some of the coffee vendors in addition to Mill Creek

Coffee include: Brew Ha ha, Coffee in the Park, Cambridge Springs’ Mugs & Muggles, Premium Coffee & Water Co., Meadville’s Tarot Bean Roasting Co. and Java Tree Café, The Topsy Bean, and the SorcERIE Food Truck, among others. There will be children’s activities, raffle baskets, and music courtesy of The Rooftop Project Band. — Nick Warren

**SUNDAY, FEB. 24**

Some Sundays are great for coffee, but there’s one Sunday in Erie that’s great for a lot of coffee. The fourth annual Erie’s Best Coffee will let java-friendly guests sample a wide variety of coffees from around our community. This year sees the event in a new and larger location at the Bayfront Convention Center. The well-caffinated contest is put on by the St. Martin Center as a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization, in partnership with Mill Creek Coffee Company. Awards will be presented for Best

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // \$10 advance, \$15 at the door, kids 12 and under free // stmartincenter.org

Celebration of Music in Honor of Black History Month



The Breeze Band will perform as part of a celebration of Black History Month at the Blasco Memorial Library’s Hirt Auditorium.

**MONDAY, FEB. 25**

Coinciding with Black History Month, Maurice Troop — head of Erie’s The Breeze Band — has organized an event celebrating music and those who make it in the community.

“I chose the honorees based on the work they have done as a local performer in various bands or projects they have been a part of,” Troop said. “Also (I) picked them based on the fact they have been performing on the local scene for decades.”

Honorees include vocalist Roy Hollis of The Groove, guitarist Kenny Hollis of The Breeze Band, gospel singer Arman-

da Tyes, Dennis Henderson of Legend Band, and the late Barnetta Deboe who performed with One World Tribe and The Breeze Band. Performances of various genres and dance will accompany the awards in the Hirt Auditorium at the Blasco Public Library.

“The lineup for the event is very diverse,” Troop said. “We are hoping that a diverse crowd of people will come out to the event and enjoy an evening together. Hopefully this will provide an opportunity for greater unity in our community.”

Proceeds benefit Shriners Children’s Hospital and Odessa’s Place. — Hannah McDonald

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. // Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. // Donation at door // All Ages

East Middle School Launches Theater Program with Original Production



**The Rebirth of a Fallen Race: The Fall - The Journey - The Rise of the African American People** features contributions from 55 East Middle School students as they launch their theater program.

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

On the last evening of February, students from East Middle School will take the stage to celebrate Black History Month with the school's first theatrical performance.

The show is titled *The Rebirth of a Fallen Race: The Fall - The Journey - The Rise of the African American People*, and a total of 55 students are involved in various facets of the production. Students are working with staff members Ashley Szkoda and Rachel Pierce on creating stage decorations and props. Community Schools Director Jamilia Gates (an Erie Reader 40 Under 40 alum) is supervising students as they learn African dancing and ballet. Music teacher Aaron Taylor and Minister of Music at Shiloh Baptist Church Elder LaMont C. Josey

are working closely with students on the music.

The onstage performances will be directed by Kimberly Overton, an East Middle School teacher who also wrote the production. She's not new to such an endeavor — she's written numerous productions for her former church over the past 18 years — but this is the first show that she has written for the stage outside of church.

It certainly doesn't hurt that Overton has plenty of stage experience herself.

"I began in theater at the advice of my close friend, Carla Hughes," she says. In 2011, the Erie Playhouse was casting for the musical *The Color Purple* and her friend suggested that she audition. "Once I got over my nerves, I auditioned and landed the role of a church lady."

The three church ladies are challenging

roles in *The Color Purple*, but also some of the most memorable. The part even landed her and her co-stars on the cover of Erie Reader — and she has continued acting at the Erie Playhouse ever since.

It was while Overton was co-teaching an eighth grade social studies class with Abby Nelson that the idea for writing *Rebirth of a Fallen Race* was born. During the course, they covered the slave trade, the Middle Passage, and the early years of chattel slavery in America — yet, it always seemed as though integral parts of the historical experience were being left out of the textbooks.

"One thing [that the curriculum] does not mention is what was life like for Africans before all of this," she notes. Nelson, along with her other colleagues and community members — which also includes Bishop Dwayne Brock — were

eager to help. "[We wanted] to create a production that depicts the whole history of the African-American people ... [and makes] African-American history come alive and spark an awareness in students that they may want to know more, be more, and do better."

She structured the acts of *Rebirth* chronologically, merging music, dance, and theatrics to tell a more complete story of the African-American historical experience: life before, during, and after the grueling journeys aboard slave ships, the realities of American slavery and the Civil War, the subsequent emancipation and Reconstruction, the inspiring Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, followed by the rise of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and the Black Panthers within the Civil Rights Movement. The show will even include the modern-day election of President Barack Obama.

"I wanted to create a stage performance that would bring to life the fall, the journey, and rise of a nation of people who had and have more to offer than oppression and hardships," Overton adds. "I want to awaken something in young students studying information from textbooks that there's more to African-American history than the lines they read across a page."

As the end of February approaches, East Middle School students have been hard at work. It is a show that is certain to inspire. — Jonathan Burdick

6 p.m. // East Middle School, 1001 Atkins St. // \$5 adults, \$2 students // facebook.com/eastmiddleschoolwarriors

## Black Moon Rising

Checking in with Black Moon Mistress, Erie's Best Up-and-Coming Band



**Black Moon Mistress, voted Erie's Best Up-and-Coming Band in the 2018 Best of Erie awards, is fronted by Roxann Hudock (center) and features (back row, from left to right) Matt Till (former member), David Steele (bass), Tony Lusiano (guitar), and Zach Hudock (drums).**

**By: Aaron Mook**

Listening to Black Moon Mistress, it doesn't take long to understand why they've taken Erie's music scene by storm. Voted Best Up-and-Coming Band in this publication's very own Best of Erie awards, the same energy that the band's frontwoman Roxann Hudock exudes on stage comes through in our conversation about the band's up-and-coming plans, which includes having babies before returning with a full-length follow-up to last year's *Shadow Reign* EP. With their first singles available to stream and download, new music and shows on the way, and with the band on the cusp of greatness, there's never been a better time to get to know Black Moon Mistress and their unique hybrid of stoner metal and good old fashioned rock 'n' roll.

**Erie Reader:** Congratulations on being

named Best Up-and-Coming Band in our Best of Erie awards! How long have you been performing together?

**Tony Lusiano (guitarist):** Black Moon Mistress has been a band since 2017, but besides Roxann, the rest of us have been in bands together for years.

**ER:** Black Moon Mistress released a pair of studio singles last year. Do you have any plans for a follow-up release this year?

**TL:** We just released the *Shadow Reign* EP last month. We are now writing new material for a full length release [tentatively] in the fall.

**ER:** What is it like to write and perform music with your significant other?

**David Steele (bassist):** I didn't know you knew Tony and I were married.

**Roxann Hudock (vocalist):** [Laughs] But seriously, I enjoy creating music with Zach! Plus, it's a unique way for us to spend a little extra time together do-

ing something we both love.

**ER:** Your music has been described as stoner rock and doom metal as well as rock 'n' roll, plain and simple. What artists have inspired Black Moon Mistress' songwriting?

**TL:** We all have various influences: Type O Negative for David, Black Mountain for me, Stevie Nicks and Grace Slick for Roxann, and Black Sabbath for Zach.

**ER:** What does it mean to be a part of the Erie music scene to you?

**RH:** There are a lot of great, diverse bands in this town. It's great to play shows with our friends in other local bands, and a bonus when we can play a show with someone different occasionally.

**ER:** Do you have any favorite local artists?

**TL:** Mala Sangre for David, This American Song for Roxann, Shattered Utopia for Zach, and I guess we have to mention

Maniacal Device because we don't want to hear it from Morbid Rob.

**ER:** How about venues?

**RH:** The local music venue situation is somewhat disheartening. We are honored to have been able to play the Sherlock's stage through many incarnations of our musical ventures and as Black Moon Mistress. We also got to play a couple of shows at Bobby's Place before it met its demise as a venue. We've played some great shows at the Kings Rook Club, Basement Transmissions, and Scotty's, with many more to come.

**ER:** Your current promo photo is unique. As a band, do you try to correspond your image with your music?

**TL:** Roxann requires that we can't wear white t-shirts on stage.

**RH:** [Laughs] Although I have said that in the past, in my brain it's all a cohesive image, the lyrics, the overall sound, how we perform, and the imagery.

**ER:** What are Black Moon Mistress' goals for 2019?

**RH:** To have babies and rock Northwest Pennsylvania.

**ER:** If you could share a bill with any artist, living or dead, who would they be?

**Zach Hudock (drummer):** Roky Erickson and Black Sabbath.

**RH:** Coven.

**DS:** Crowbar and Fu Manchu.

**ER:** Thank you so much for chatting with us. Is there anything you'd like to add?

**RH:** Thanks to everyone who voted for us. Also, we'd like to give a shout-out to Matt Till, who recently left the band. Much love to our brother. We're taking some time off from shows to have the aforementioned babies, but we will be back in the summer to play shows with some new rockin' songs.

*Shadow Reign EP available at davidsteeletattoos.com and 76tattoo.com. Tracks by Black Moon Mistress are available on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music, and at blackmoonmistress.bandcamp.com. You can follow the band on Instagram and Facebook @blackmoonmistress*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Flip for Flip Cafe

A Breakfast Mecca in the heart of Edinboro



**"EAT" is the operative word at Edinboro's Flip Cafe, where no one's chicken about giving you your fill.**

students of the university) will remember as *the* place to curb a hangover. The dining area occupies what was originally a bank — and subsequently a Mexican restaurant (Jack Rabbit Flats), vegetarian restaurant (The Singing Bowl), and hairdresser (in no particular order) — and is bright, cozy, and eclectic. Or shall we say ... *eclucktic*? The back room pays a colorful homage to the chicken, issuer of wake-up calls and purveyor of breakfast's most irreplaceable protein.

Here, the egg comes first. If you favor a savory breakfast, omettin' you know that Flip is absolutely everything it's cracked up to be. Omelets are — as at most establishments — fully customizable, but if you're not inspired, that's more than okay, because the chef specialties are all great ideas that may have never occurred to you otherwise. There are Tex Mex selections (a jalapeño omelet with guacamole, cheddar jack, ranchero sauce, and salsa; one with chorizo, salsa, and sour cream), Mediterranean creations (you can get the ingredients of a gyro or a Caprese salad enfolded into your eggs!), and a few surer bets for the meat sweats (the Reuben, pulled pork, and beef tenderloin varieties), in the best possible sense. I would be remiss if I did not also mention the SMASHes, something like godly breakfast casseroles where eggs, meat, cheese, potatoes, and various fixings converge like PA 99 and US 6N.

If the sweetness *will* be concerned with you, you're in for a treat. Actually, several. A cooler full of homemade cookies, cakes and pies tantalizes the eyes the moment you step through the door. If that doesn't seduce you, or you'd rather be a little more discreet about eating dessert for breakfast, you might begin with swapping out toast for Flips with your meal. It's a sneaky move perpetrated by roughly half of Becker's customers, who have been steadily gobbling up the cinnamon-sugar dredged morsels of fried dough since their introduction. Wait, that sounds awfully familiar, doesn't it? *How is a Flip different than a donut hole, exactly?*

"I don't know that it is," admits Becker with a laugh. "But it's kind of nice to have that option."

describe sumptuous feasts of sour-dough pancakes, biscuits, fried pork and potatoes, donuts, oatmeal, beans, prunes, all washed down with strong tea or coffee (pie or sweet rolls would make an appearance if they were lucky). A good cook was considered a key cog of a logging operation — after all, no one wanted to be accused of "belly robbing" (i.e., depriving workers of the nutritional wherewithal for their hard labor).

It's doubtful anyone would level such a grievous charge upon Flip Cafe founder Julie Becker and her cadre of creative cooks, because they dish it out to delicious effect. Although these days calories typically aren't being funneled into clearing acres of timber or planting acres of crops, that doesn't mean breakfast still isn't the most important meal of the day. It's all about potential, both of the fare itself and your theoretical productivity thereafter (because food comas are a thing). "Breakfast is my favorite. It's easy, fast, and you can be super creative," says Becker, a graduate of the Pennsylvania School of Culinary Arts and a veteran of the restaurant business for over 30 years.

Becker set up shop at 103 Meadville St. along Edinboro's main thoroughfare in September 2011, serving up breakfast and lunch and offering a hipper alternative to the nearby Perkins franchise location, which pre-'90s kids (especially

By: Matt Swanseger

Clearing a place for what is now Edinboro was a massive undertaking. Clearing a plate at Edinboro's Flip Cafe may also require a mammoth effort, but it's far less likely to *break* your back and very likely to *bring* you back.

Prior to the 19th century, Edinboro was known as Conneauttee, or "Valley of the Living Snowflake" among the Native American tribes that inhabited the region, including the Eriez, Iroquois, and Cornplanter. While the natives surely meant "snowflake" in a more ethereal context, the area was liberally wooded and fairly inaccessible, so navigating it *did* demand a certain sensitivity. In short, just the sort of thing you'd address with an axe — and after that, shovels and ploughs. The venturesome William Culbertson got the party started in 1801 when he built a gristmill near the outlet of Conneauttee (Edinboro) Lake — and all that flour would be needed, too, because it turns out building a community from scratch takes a lot of energy.

Accounts from 1800s logging camps reveal that these people *packed* it in, sometimes to the tune of 4,000 to 6,000 calories a day, according to the estimate of blogger and historian Rob Burg. Documenters of the shantyboy (i.e. lumberjack) experience in Northern Michigan

And there are no shortage of those throughout the menu, starting with the pancakes, which can be made with buttermilk, whole wheat, or (in true pioneer fashion) cornmeal batters and stuffed with an assortment of fillings for a small upcharge. French Toast fanatics will find not only the standard white bread variety, but bakery items (e.g., cinnamon rolls, peanut butter rolls, Red Velvet cake roll) sliced up and given the same treatment, adding another layer of decadence. And that's just the standard menu; on any given day the specials board will have something new to salivate over that just might eventually become a fan favorite. The cream puff and Calling Elvis (peanut butter-banana) pancakes, bacon French toast, the SMASHes, and even the eponymous Flips began as well-founded experiments.

"We're a pretty tight-knit group. There are six of us [cooks]. Everybody has their own thing, their different backgrounds, their likes and dislikes. We put whatever we like up there. It makes it a lot more interesting for us and our customers," explains Becker.

For example, Becker's bailiwick is breakfast, but there are a couple of guys in the kitchen that really love to do lunch (served from 11 a.m. to close) — and good thing, too, because during the week it makes up a larger percentage of the business, especially since delivery service was added six months ago. Flip offers a veritable smörgåsbord of scratch-made soups and sandwiches, along with hearty homestyle favorites like beef stroganoff, Mac n' cheese, and pierogies. Edinboro may seem like a hike for many folks, but take a moment to gawk at Flip's Instagram page and you might just feel a strong migratory impulse.

In the former Valley of the Living Snowflake, be prepared to melt for Flip.

*Since it's well after 1852, Flip Cafe is accessible via paved (not plank) road at 103 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16412 and open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and was one of the three finalists for Best Breakfast in the 2018 Best of Erie awards.*

*Matt Swanseger is glad we're past the days of building gristmills to make friends. He can be reached at [mwsanseger@eriereader.com](mailto:mwsanseger@eriereader.com)*

## On the Road to the Gold

Thoughts and predictions about the Oscars



Director Alfonso Cuarón (left) and star Yalitza Aparicio on the set of *Roma*. This year could potentially see a second Best Director award for the filmmaker and the third overall Academy Award for Netflix, after dual documentary nods in 2017.

CARLOS SOMONTE/NETFLIX

By: Forest Taylor

It's that time of the year again; on February 24th, artists and film technicians will all compete for the chance to win a gold statue of a little bald man. In other words, it's Oscar season, and this one has been one of the strangest in recent memory. From *not* having a host, to rumors of not televising some of the "lesser" awards to shortening the runtime, to an announcement — and immediate retraction — of a new "Best Popular Film" category, this season has already had a fair share of controversy. The nominations have left us with plenty to talk about as well. With critical darlings (*Roma*, *The Favourite*, *BlackKkklansman*), more polarizing picks (*Green Book*, *Vice*), one film that hit with audiences but not critics (*Bohemian Rhapsody*), and two that hit with both (*Black Panther*, *A Star is Born*), the nominees this year are definitely a diverse lot. The question is which one will be the big winner?

Every expert seems overly confident that *Roma* has it in the bag to win Best Picture, but I have my doubts. I would certainly love to see it win (it is the best film nominated by far), but it has some factors going against it. First, if it wins, it will be the only non-English speaking film to ever win the award. That could scare some voters away. Second, it is

a Netflix release and the Academy still has some bias against the streaming service. *Roma* is a strong contender but with these factors, *BlackKkklansman* or *Green Book* could steal the award out from under it. Despite being very different films, they both deal with a subject the Academy loves to reward and they're both more conventional stories than *Roma's* more episodic storyline. *Roma* is still the one to beat though.

*Roma's* director, Alfonso Cuarón has a much better shot at winning Best Director. His work on the film was second-to-none and it could easily be his second win in just five years (the first for 2013's *Gravity*, besting Steve McQueen). The only competition I see in this one is from Spike Lee, who the Academy may choose to honor for his impressive body of work, and who — although given an Academy Honorary Award in 2015 — has yet to win a single Oscar. Plus, it would be the first time a black director has ever won the award... let that sink in for a moment.

The Best Actor race is what's expected of the Academy: who can do the best impression of a famous person. It almost makes me want to vote for the only portrayal of a fictional character (Bradley Cooper from *A Star is Born*) out of spite. In my heart though, I know this is between Christian Bale and Rami Malek. I wasn't particularly impressed

with either performance, but they mimicked the real people well enough, so the Academy will love them.

Best Actress is Glenn Close's to lose (which she won't) for her role in *The Wife*, but in this case, all the nominees are worthy. I'm personally satisfied that Olivia Colman is getting so much love for her demented portrayal of Queen Anne in *The Favourite*, and I would love to see her be the dark horse winner. The seven-times-nominated Close will get her due instead.

The Best Supporting Actor nominees are all worthy (except for Sam Rockwell's SNL-style impersonation of George W. Bush), but it really comes down to either Mahershala Ali in *Green Book* or Richard E. Grant in *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* I'd be happy with either winning.

Best Supporting Actress is the biggest toss-up. All performances are good and all have significant momentum. In the end, I think it will go to Regina King's emotionally devastating performance in *If Beale Street Could Talk*. However, don't count out Amy Adams' performance as Lynne Cheney in *Vice* as a legit contender.

Best Original Screenplay is between *The Favourite* (excellent) and *Green Book* (basic) and it could go either way at this point. I'd love to see Paul Schrader's magnificent *First Reformed* get it, but I know that's an uphill battle.

Best Adapted Screenplay comes down to *BlackKkklansman* and *If Beale Street Could Talk*. It would be great if Barry Jenkins won his second Oscar for his amazing *Beale Street*, but at this point, Lee's film is pretty much unstoppable.

### Forest's Oscar Winners Predictions

**Best Picture:** *Roma*

**Best Director:** Alfonso Cuarón — *Roma*

**Best Actor:** Christian Bale — *Vice*

**Best Actress:** Glenn Close — *The Wife*

**Best Supporting Actor:** Mahershala Ali — *Green Book*

**Best Supporting Actress:** Regina King — *If Beale Street Could Talk*

**Best Original Screenplay:** *The Favourite*

**Best Adapted Screenplay:**

*BlackKkklansman*



Walk-Ins  
Welcome

Hours:  
Tues-Fri 9-5  
Sat 9-3

1020 State St. • Erie, PA  
814-454-2288

## Erie Reader Online Ads Work

No sales pitch.  
Ads start immediately.  
Cancel anytime.

[advertising.eriereader.com](http://advertising.eriereader.com)



## Get a new lease on renters insurance.

Did you know your landlord's insurance only covers the building? I'm here to help protect your stuff.

LET'S TALK TODAY.



Cam El-Farouki, Agent  
3319 W 26th Street  
Erie, PA 16506  
Bus: 814-833-6663  
[www.teamerie.com](http://www.teamerie.com)



State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL  
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL  
1708133 State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

## MUSIC REVIEWS

### FIDLAR

*Almost Free*  
Mom + Pop Music



For the uninitiated, FIDLAR's third LP is a baffling experience. But with context? It is, to put it bluntly, grating at best. On their first two full-length projects, however, the band happily delivered carefree party anthems to Wavves' easygoing fanbase. And while elements of that band still reside on *Almost Free* (see: the unexpectedly solid closing track, "Good Times Are Over"), the album does less to showcase the band's attempts at growth as it does their inability to take a single, focused step in any direction whatsoever. To be clear, experimentation is one thing. When a critically acclaimed band like M83 experimented on 2016's polarizing *Junk*, they did something different with the precision and skill utilized on their past records. But when FIDLAR tries it here, the results include the sound effect-laden Beastie Boys impersonation, "Get Off My Rock," and the Gary Glitter-esque stadium jock jam "Flake." But nothing compares to "Too Real," a vocally horrendous stab at nu-metal that succeeds only at spouting murky, edgelord political statements. In the words of frontman Zac Carper, "Was that too real?" — Aaron Mook



### Spielbergs

*This is Not the End*  
By The Time It Gets Dark



This debut record is pure joy in the form of fuzzy, anthemic rock. It's a subdued joy, of course, but an infectious one. Hearing the addicting chorus of the second track, "Distant Star," it's hard not to smile ever-so-slightly. Imagine a more subtle Japandroids, or a more caffeinated Yuck and you might be accidentally envisioning Spielbergs. On "Familiar" the album shifts to a lower gear, utilizing a soothing repetitive music box sound, leading into the thunderous drums of "You All Look Like Giants," and the pop punk riffs of "Bad Friend." Then there's the strangely heartfelt ballad of the somehow unironically-titled "McDonald's (Please Don't Fuck up My Order)," coming in at a beefy seven-and-a-half minutes. "4AM," a look back played with fervent intensity and bursting with hooks, shares a similar lyrical theme with the album's closer "Forevermore" (that penchant for nostalgia perhaps being the biggest, albeit strained parallel with the iconic director), a medium-paced track that levels out the tracks' overall pacing wonderfully. It's a remarkably solid album, and an incredibly strong debut from the Norwegian trio. — Nick Warren



### YNW Melly

*We All Shine*  
Self-Released



Let's get this part out of the way; most people who are hearing Jamell Maurice Demons — better known as YNW Melly — for the first time are doing so because of *We All Shine's* Kanye West-assisted single, "Mixed Personalities." As an unsigned artist (note that *We All Shine*, technically an EP, was "self-released") this is an outrageous pull — nearly unheard of, really. But fortunately for listeners, Melly works with the kind of unmistakable, pop-leaning croon that often carries some of Young Thug's best work. In that sense, *We All Shine's* greatest flaw also happens to be what makes it so charming; while the 16 track EP is in desperate need of an editor, Melly puts in the work, and it's endearing to hear him challenge himself as an artist. Assisted by classic R&B instrumentals and guitar beats, he occasionally veers into a Lil Wayne-esque flow that proves he may have a way to go before finding his voice, but is impressive nonetheless. And while even the standouts start to blur together after a while, it's easy to see why a song like "Mixed Personalities" (or the hilarious "F\*ck PNC") have genuine crossover potential. — Aaron Mook



### Better Oblivion Community Center

*Better Oblivion Community Center*  
Dead Oceans

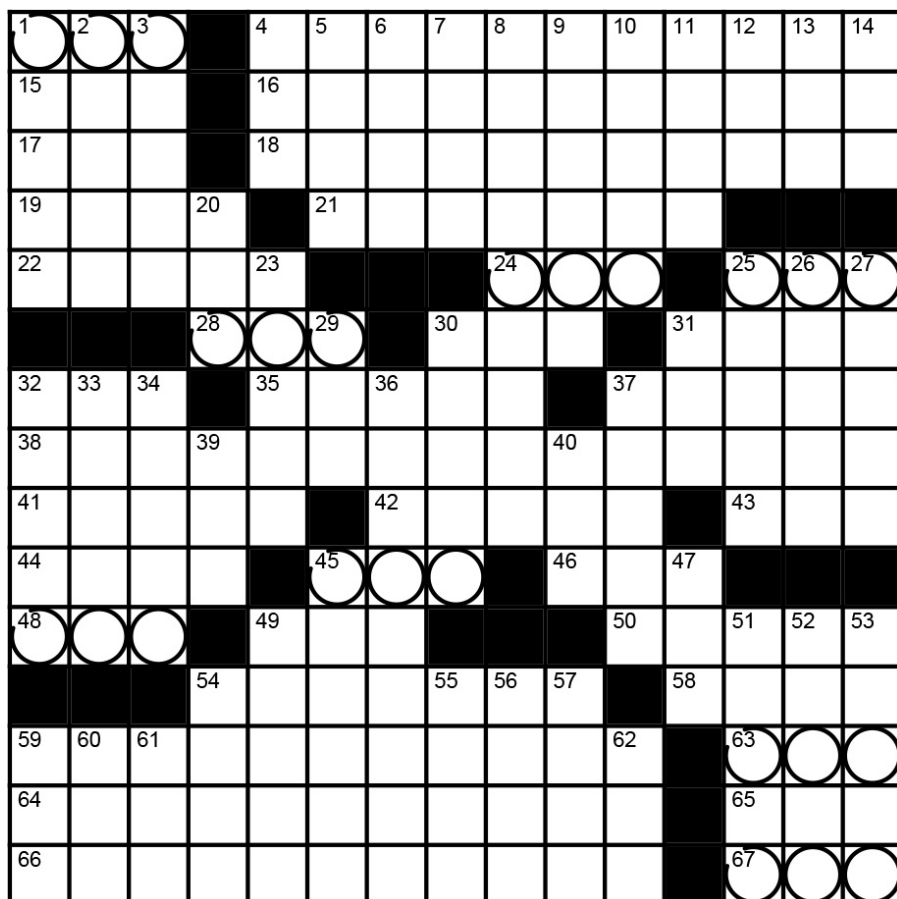


After lightly dancing around each other for the past few years, Conor Oberst and Phoebe Bridgers have teamed up, and it's beautiful. Bridgers opened up for Oberst — known to many as the man behind Bright Eyes, Desaparecidos, and numerous other projects — in 2017. Shortly thereafter, she released her astounding debut album *Stranger in the Alps*. One of the most memorable moments came with "Would You Rather," a duet between Bridgers and Oberst, laying the groundwork for this album. Even for close followers of the artists, this album came as a surprise, following their unheralded performance of "Dylan Thomas" on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. The blend of their voices is artful and almost perplexingly perfect. Neither artist overpowers the other, and the sound is a median of their alt-country and indie rock sounds. Despite both singers having a reputation for deep melancholy, that doesn't cancel out other feelings. There are the synth-heavy choruses to "Exception to the Rule," and the fuzzy '90s-esque alt-rock of "My City" just to name a few — but don't worry, there's still room to wallow. — Nick Warren



## TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK





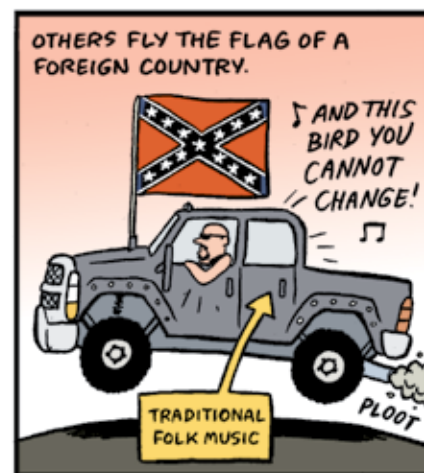
**Across**

- 1. Beer belly
- 4. Picnic side dishes
- 15. Ear: Prefix
- 16. Like a propaganda war
- 17. Nickname for a cowboy
- 18. With self-assurance
- 19. Activist Brockovich
- 21. Getting a sense for
- 22. Rapper with the double-platinum album "The Pinkprint"
- 24. Home made of mud and thatch
- 25. Big success
- 28. Squirreled away
- 30. Lip
- 31. A pop
- 32. Sternward
- 35. Mandel of "America's Got Talent"
- 37. Cosmetician Lauder
- 38. These will help transform a 1-Across into 67-Across (a transformation evidenced by this puzzle's word ladder)
- 41. Prodded with a finger
- 42. \_\_\_-de-boeuf (oval windows)
- 43. Enzyme suffix
- 44. Rep on the street
- 45. Earthquake relief, e.g.
- 46. Ice cream container
- 48. Interject
- 49. Twombly and Young
- 50. Wipe the board clean

- 54. 1971 R&B collection "\_\_\_ Greatest Hits"
- 58. Locale of both the 2018 and 2020 Olympics
- 59. Colorful tops often worn with a lei
- 63. What free apps often come with
- 64. Socialite whose great-grandfather was married to Zsa Zsa Gabor
- 65. Laura Bush \_\_\_ Welch
- 66. "How cheap!"
- 67. "Six-pack"

**Down**

- 1. Capturer's triumphant words
- 2. Wombs
- 3. Cause of a bee sting's sting
- 4. Instagram upload, for short
- 5. "My Life as \_\_\_" (1985 film)
- 6. Director Dominic of "Gone in 60 Seconds"
- 7. Stir-fry staple
- 8. "Divine Comedy" poet Dante \_\_\_
- 9. The "Na" in NaCl
- 10. James Bond, e.g.
- 11. Suffix with duck
- 12. Make a scene?
- 13. The Mavericks, on scoreboards
- 14. Devious
- 20. "I'll pass"
- 23. Word from the Arabic for "struggle"
- 25. Kind of yoga
- 26. Some slushy drinks
- 27. "\_\_\_ Boots Are Made for Walkin'" (1966 Nancy Sinatra hit)
- 29. Rx writer
- 30. Made grain-sized
- 31. Key above "~"
- 32. Pet welfare org.
- 33. Mil. base until 1994
- 34. Took a hit, in a way
- 36. Question to a crank caller
- 37. Follow as a result
- 39. \_\_\_ school
- 40. Final: Abbr.
- 45. Muhammad's favorite wife
- 47. "Push-up" garment
- 49. Uncouth
- 51. Yoga posture
- 52. Lesser-played part of a 45
- 53. Lightens
- 54. "We want \_\_\_!" (baseball fans' cry)
- 55. Sword handle
- 56. Musica o danza
- 57. Ancient Greek colonnade
- 59. Prone (to)
- 60. "Well, \_\_\_-di-dah!"
- 61. "... \_\_\_ lack thereof"
- 62. Show with many notable alums



**Answers to last puzzle**



# \$50 FOR 50+

**Tuesdays in February  
11am - 3pm**

**\$50 Free Play Winner every 15 Minutes!**

**Exclusive Hot Seat promotion  
for our 50+ Guests.**

Must be actively playing to qualify.



## *Cruisin'*

Saturday, February 23  
9:30pm

**FREE ADMISSION**



## 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thursday, February 28, 2019

- 10am**  
T-shirts Giveaway to 1,200 Guests at the Promotions Area
- 11am**  
FREE Smith's Hot Dog, Chips, and a Coca-Cola to the first 1,200 players at the INCafe
- 1pm**  
FREE Cupcake to the first 1,200 players at the INCafe

12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Giveaway

**Thursday,  
February 28, 2019  
11am-2pm**

**12 Winners Every 30 Minutes!  
Free Play & Cash Prizes  
up to \$1,200!**

INTRODUCING THE NEW PLAYERS CLUB  
AT PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO

## GET YOUR NEW PLAYERS CLUB CARD!



**Faster way to earn points! 4 Tier Levels.**  
New Club Members have a chance to win up to \$1,000 Free Play!

Visit [www.presqueisledowns.com](http://www.presqueisledowns.com) for complete details

I-90 Exit 27, Erie PA  
[presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com)  
1.866.ERIE.FUN



presque isle  
downs & casino

If You or Someone You Know  
Has a Gambling Problem,  
Help is Available.  
Call 1-800-GAMBLER.