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ism and a commitment to provoking thoughtful discussion, the Reader tells the stories of the people and places making and shaping Erie, while highlighting the events and issues influencing life in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Erie Reader is published every other week and distributed at over 250 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 social media sites. All rights reserved. All content © Flagship Multimedia, Inc, 1001 State St., Suite 901, 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



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#### From the Editors

#### Don't tab out just yet

There's an awful lot to keep tabs on these days. First, there are the individual concerns we have bookmarked - appointments to keep and deadlines to honor, bills to pay and accounts to balance, inventories to take and expiration dates to sift through (psst, the bottle of hoisin sauce that's been lurking in the deep recesses of your fridge since Y2K, right behind the pimento loaf from 2011) — and that's without mentioning the daily hurdle of dressing oneself cor-

Expand outward a bit to include the concerns of our close friends and families and dozens of more tabs pop open. Zoom out a little further to include your neighborhood, your city, your state, your country — the WORLD. If this was your web browser, it'd be audibly wheezing.

That the human mind has the capacity to follow so many threads simultaneously warrants the applause of other sentient beings. However, could we be blamed for closing just afew tabs in our respective consciousnesses, for taking a moment to declutter our mental desktops? To mute the unsolicited playback of embedded media irrelevant to our current situations? Don't we have enough to sort through?

When traveling the whiteout conditions of the Information Age, it may seem safest (and certainly less overwhelming) to stare straight ahead at what's immediately in front of us, ignoring whatever chaos may be happening in the periphery. Indeed, adopting an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality can be a godsend. But living by that mantra can also be a liability, often echoing with the laments of missed opportunity or, worse yet, the repercussions of willful negligence.

The holocaust perpetrated by the Khmer Rogue in the midto-late 1970s is one of history's most appalling examples millions of Cambodians were executed in one of the worst genocides of all time. After Hitler's earlier purge shocked humanity, how was this allowed to happen again? Why is it not discussed as widely and with the same open disgust that we bear towards the European tragedy? Matt Swanseger talks with Millcreek native and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Bill Heidt about the state of U.S.-Cambodian relations since those horrific events, and the steps the country has taken towards healing its reputation both in Southeast Asia and abroad.

Much closer to home is the spate of sex abuse allegations that have seeped to the surface this past year. These are not strangers in faraway lands — these are girlfriends, wives, mothers, sisters, nieces, and daughters whose suffering has been silenced. Fortunately, women who have long been victims of systemic subjugation are stepping forward to foster awareness. Local events such as the Women's March and Amityfest II represent a strong and concerted effort to rally for

Revisiting history, of course, does not necessarily have to be such an unpleasant experience. Jonathan Burdick reopens his tab on the Dickson Tavern, scrolling through the records to reveal a colorful past as one of Erie's premier watering holes with an impressive guest list. Like the oysters the Dickson once served by the boatload, our city is hiding plenty of pearls in plain sight. Beyond that, look no further than The Wildeyes, our Best of Erie Award winner for "Best Up-and-Coming Band in 2017." Fans of the Black Keys, Cage the Elephant, and Jack White are highly encouraged to seek them out by whatever means — this talented foursome warrants your undivided attention.

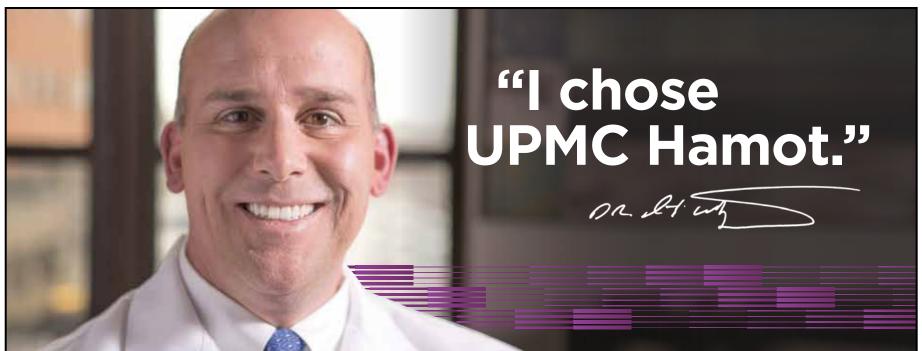
So clear your mind. Open a new window. Although there's plenty of bad out there, there is also so much good to discover.











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#### "We're Still Here"

#### Women reunite to march for dignity, rights, and respect



#### By: Alayna Gallagher

unday, January 21 marks the first anniversary of the largest single day protest in the history of the United States. Women from across the country awoke before the sun came up, positioned pussy hats atop their hard heads, made delightfully scathing protest signs, and united together. This anniversary date means one thing: It's time to do this again.

More than 500,000 women descended upon Washington D.C. and an estimated 3 million participated across the country one year ago. Nearly 3,000 women (and men) showed up in Erie. Battle cries for healthcare, workers' rights, women's rights, LGBTQIA rights, and anti-discrimination policies were loudly chanted in the nation's capital, in Erie, and all across the country. The newly sworn-in Trump administration had nothing on us now ... or did they?

I woke up at 2 a.m. on that comparatively mild winter day to catch a bus to DC with my mom, but before I knew it, having been swept up amidst the feelings of empowerment and

promise, I ended up back on a bus to Pennsylvania at 7 p.m. overly tired, but too energized to sleep. I was ready to follow the "10 Actions for the first 100 days" with the Women's March app I had just downloaded to my phone. "We can do this!" we repeated. Grassroots activism is our new path, I was sure. Maybe we fell asleep and became too comfortable during the Obama Administration but we sure as hell weren't sleeping now.

Local Republicans were emboldened by the Trump administration, and seemed to be coming for all of the gains made since 2009, including some of the progress made during the last Republican administration. We had no choice but to fight back. Women's reproductive rights, healthcare reforms, abolishing the Dreamers Act, removal of transgender troops from the military, more healthcare scares, another tax "reform" scam. It was all on the table and the outlook was grim.

None of us actually want to be outside Pat Toomey's office at 3 a.m. or crashing a Mike Kelly fundraiser at Molly Brannigan's during an Erie

On January 21, 2017, nearly half a million people participated in the Women's March on Washington, making it the largest single-day protest in our nation's history. Many women from Erie rallied to join the cause, including Alayna Gallagher (foreground).

snow and ice storm. This is emotionally and mentally draining and even physically tolling at times, but what choice do we have? We have to band together or die separated. This is why we marched, right?

The mission of the Women's March was to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change. As women, we need to stick together and live that mission.

The Women's March began as a women-led movement providing intersectional education on a diverse range of issues and creating entry points for new grassroots activists and organizers to engage in their local communities through training, outreach programs and events. Women's March remains committed to dismantling systems of oppression through nonviolent resistance and building inclusive structures guided by self-determination, dignity and respect.

Politics, women, change.

Now, take a look around you, Erieites. You don't see too many women in politics and we certainly don't see a whole lot of change, but we are definitely working on it! The progress is apparent. Our City Council went from having *one* female representative on council January 21, 2017 to now having *three* women sitting on council, Kathy Schaaf, Liz Allen, and Sonya Arrington, who will serve as council president in 2018.

This election cycle also saw Kathy Dahlkemper successfully defend her County Executive seat against the Trump-touting Art Oligeri.

And, dare I say most importantly (as the proud campaign manager), Erie elected Pennsylvania's first transgender candidate in the entire state of Pennsylvania when Tyler Titus won a seat on the Erie Public School Board. These wins may very well not have been possible without a catalyst such as Women's March.

For every elected official, there are

hundreds more working tirelessly for this women's movement. Without the hard work of women like Paige Bosnyak (field organizer of Planned Parenthood), Marty Nwachukwu and Kate Koehle of Erie County United, Cindy Purvis and myself of Keystone Progress, Molly Brechtel of the Service Employee's International Union (SEIU), and April Weis of the Official Women's March, this movement would not have the power and influence that it does.

This is exactly what the mission of Women's March is about — diverse groups of women bringing their communities together. So, listen up, Mike Kelly, Pat Toomey, Scott Wagner, the Erie Good Ol' Boys club ... and all you other old white men calling the shots around here. Let me be crystal clear here when I say: We are not wombs, we are women. We are still here. Yes, we are exhausted, bruised and bleeding. But we are stronger. We are smarter. And we are coming for you and your precious gerrymandered seats.

The mission of the Women's March was to harness the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change. As women, we need to stick together and live that mission.

Please unite with me again January 21st at 1 p.m. in Perry Square, and beyond. Our battle cries need to be louder than ever. We must work together to vote out the old and bring in the new. This is our moment to step up once again. Let us run for office, empower and mentor younger women, help Erie residents register to vote, drive them to the polls, and do whatever it takes to take our power back. The time is now.

Alayna Gallagher is a community activist and president of Keystone Progress. She can be reached at Gallagher.alayna@gmail.com

#### From Northwest Pennsylvania to Southeast Asia

A chat with Millcreek native and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Bill Heidt



By: Matt Swanseger

eparated by 12 time zones and over 8,700 miles, Erie and the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh are a world apart. During the Cold War era, however, they may as well have been in different universes.

The average American could not dream of the nightmare Cambodia had become by the late 1970s, as political instability and the ravages of the Second Indochina War (which encompassed the Vietnam War and the Cambodian Civil War) took a massive toll in terms of casualties, the country's economy, and the country's psyche. Between 1965 and 1973, the United States, in its effort to "contain" Communism in Southeast Asia (i.e., the driving purpose of the Vietnam War), aggressively bombed the Cambodian countryside where North Vietnamese forces were encamped. The level of collateral damage was shocking, and in part helped mobilize support for the Khmer Rogue (the "Red Khmers." with "Red" meaning "Communist" and "Khmer" being the name for the Cambodian ethnic group), a small guerrilla faction with dangerously radical ideologies.

After the overthrow of the enormously popular (at least among the lower classes) Prince Norodom Sihanouk in 1970, the right-wing (thus anti-Communist and U.S.-approved) Lon Nol assumed control of the central government. The newly minted Khmer Republic was weak and almost entirely dependent on foreign aid, and ultimately fell in 1975 with the capture of Phnom Penh. In the aftermath, the Khmer Rogue proceeded to slaughter some 1.7 million people during its campaign to reset Cambodia to "Year Zero," wherein a completely agrarian, ethnically pure society would exist. The Khmer Rogue was displaced by the invading forces of Vietnam in 1979; thereafter, the (also Communist) People's Republic of Kampuchea would attempt to rebuild the country, although infighting between various factions persisted throughout the 1980s.

Full diplomatic relations between the United States and Cambodia were restored in 1993 following the establishment of the Royal Government of Cambodia (and United Nations-sponsored elections). Although serious challenges remain, Cambodia has come a long way in that timespan. So too has U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Bill Heidt, who suffered the jet lag kindly in speaking to the *Reader* of his experiences.

Matt Swanseger: Tell me about life growing up in Erie. What part of town did you live in, and did you have any idea that you'd ever be living and working on the direct opposite side of the globe?

Bill Heidt: I grew up in Millcreek. Our family home is very near J.S. Wilson; that school was built on my grandfather's land. My grandfather (also named) Bill Heidt was the township supervisor in Millcreek — a lot of the work he did helped it grow into the dynamic part of town it is now. It was through him I got interested in politics. That's why when I went to school, I thought about majoring in political science and ultimately ended up in international affairs. When I was little, I never had any idea. I remember when Saigon fell in 1975, which was kind of the symbolic end of the Vietnam War. I was about 14 at the

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Bill Heidt's interest in politics stems from his grandfather, who held the office of township supervisor in Millcreek.

time. I had no idea I would be living there [22 years later].

**MS:** So from college onward, take me through your passage into government. What was your "in?"

BH: I went to Penn State from McDowell, and majored in Foreign Services and International Politics. I enrolled in graduate school in Washington, D.C. at George Washington University. The way foreign service works is they give you a test, and if you pass the test and pass the interview, they put you on the list and potentially hire you. I first took the test in 1986, and passed second time. I was hired in 1987.

**MS:** What positions did you hold before you became ambassador?

BH: My first position came in fall of '87, [when I was] assigned Pozna, Poland, It was a small consulate in Western Poland, halfway between Warsaw and Berlin. I did visa work, interviewing applicants in Polish. I could still do a Polish interview today and knock it out of the park. [laughs] I was there at a very historic time, during the last year of the last Communist government. The Berlin Wall came down in October of '89. It was fascinating to witness the transition; [the United States] went from the bad guys to the good guys overnight.

Overall, I've had two assignments in three different countries: Poland (again in 2009-2012, as the Deputy Chief of Mission, an embassy's second-in-command), Indonesia twice (2000-2007), and Cambodia twice (97-99, since 2015). I've worked three different

times in D.C., and also in New York at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

**MS:** How did the skills and lessons gleaned from those positions parlay into ambassadorship? Had you even planned on becoming an ambassador?

BH: If you're a ball player, your goal is to make it to the majors; if you come into the foreign service, your ultimate goal is to become an ambassador. During the first half of my career, I couldn't even think of what I needed to do to make that happen. Only after I got back from Warsaw did I really start to understand the steps to become an ambassador. It's very competitive. Ambassadors [are chosen] by the D [Deputy Secretary of State] Committee at the State Department. You get your name nominated and try to impress that committee; they decide who gets what job. About two-thirds of the jobs are held by career foreign servicepeople; the other third are appointees.

**MS:** What does a typical day as an ambassador entail?

BH: I always start the day with a meeting. We're 11 hours ahead of Washington, so we'll check what came in overnight from D.C., and look at the press to address or respond to any stories [demarche = an official set of instructions of how to approach foreign policy issues]. Other than that, I spend a lot of time running around town to meetings, attending or giving speeches, and [conferring] with the government and other diplomats. We'll hold meetings with American businesses about how to penetrate Cambodia's market, to help them sell things in Cambodia and support U.S. exports in gen-

I also travel a fair amount, including to all 25 [Cambo-

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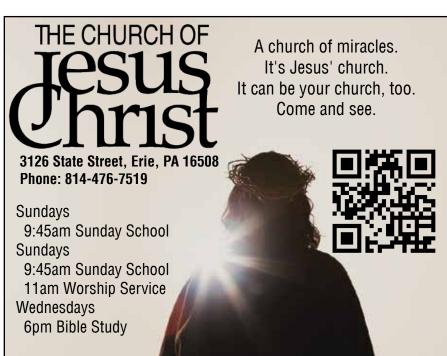
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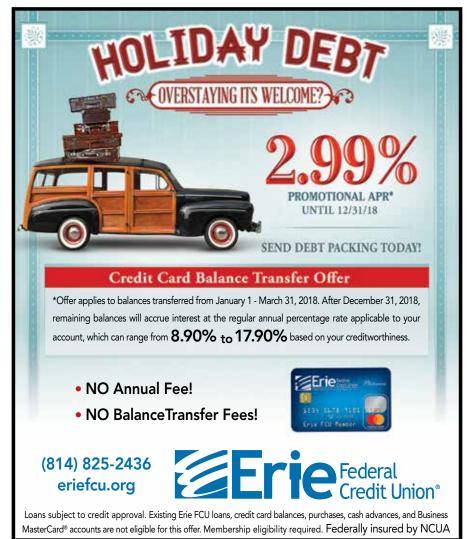




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#### **NEWS & VIEWS**



dian] provinces. During these visits, I'll talk to local officials, discuss development projects, talk to NGOs (non-government organizations), and try to get an idea of how life is in that part of country. I also spend a lot of time with youth outreach. There are a lot of young people in Cambodia — 65 percent of the population is under 35. It's all a part of public diplomacy. We're selling the U.S., our values, why it is important for the people who are going to be running their country to be friends with

Cambodia is much poorer than the U.S., but their economy has been growing at a 7 percent rate per year for a decade. You'll now see Rolls Royces and Bentleys on the street. There's a lot of new money and property development in Phnom Penh. Cambodia is home to a big garment industry that exports about \$3 billion a year — there are about 700 factories in the city. The other major industries are tourism and agriculture. Kids are in school now; basic health services are available at state-run clinics.

MS: Modern Cambodian history has been turbulent, to phrase it mildly. During the turmoil of the '60s and '70s, it seems as if little Cambodia was caught in between and suffered greatly as a result. From your perspective, do you get the sense that the Cambodians feel they are in charge of their own fate or are they still struggling to find

BH: Cambodia is a country that hasn't won a lot. In America we're used to winning. They're very proud when they do win; they want to win. They're very proud of their own country and the progress they're making. That said, they're still very dependent on China and outside assistance. It's plausible that if their political system becomes a little more democratic, they could have more of a stake in their own country. Cambodia is caught between two larger and more powerful countries. Thailand and Vietnam, and have had to worry about maintaining independence from their neighbors. Both of those countries are more developed. Cambodia feels a very strong, powerful drive to catch up to its neighbors.

MS: Some blame the US at least in part for the atrocities of the Khmer Rogue, and given the severity of those crimes, it's clear how resentments might linger. What has the U.S. done to address these narratives? Can they be rewritten?

BH: The strong spillover into Cambodia was very negative. The thing people talk about the most is the bombing, to try to cut off the Ho Chi Minh trail [a prominent Northern Vietnamese supply route] where Viet Cong forces were operating. It's unclear how many people were killed, but a lot of people bear resentment, particularly among the older generation and

The U.S. Embassy in Cambodia, completed in 2006, is a beautifully modern facility covering 6.2 acres in the heart of the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. It's state-of-theart water recycling systems are a tremendous asset during the rainy season when flooding is rampant.

the people in government. One way we've tried to find reconciliation is the \$6-7 million we've spent cleaning up UXO (unexplored ordinance of war) and landmines. We are quite popular among younger generation, most of whom admire America. Three-quarters of the country wasn't even alive during Vietnam War. It's much different if you experience it yourself directly. Our sense is even if some hold a grudge, we must continue our outreach to youth.

MS: In the more recent past, the U.S. has asked Cambodia to repay some \$500 million of war debt, and the Cambodians have used the Americans' involvement in the violence and destruction of that period to leverage their refusal. How do you navigate this challenge as a diplomat and what are the prospects of ever collecting these debts?

BH: We loaned Cambodia around \$270 million during their Civil War from 1972-74. all loans under PL480 Food for Peace, with no direct connection to the bombing. They link them to the bombing, but the only link was that it was taking place at the same time. They are the successor regime to the



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Khmer Republic; it is a valid debt. They don't want to pay it and haven't paid us in 50 years, so the best we can do is compromise — improve the terms so the U.S. can get some money back, but Cambodia would get some relief. Arrears is why it has racked up so much.

MS: Prime Minister Hun Sen has demonstrated some trust issues with the U.S. as of late, especially as a Cambodian election looms. Can you provide a kind of overview of the Cambodian political climate and the parties involved? What are you hoping for from the outcome of the election? Perhaps not in terms of a party you'd like to see win, but in the future relationally?

BH: The relationship right now is very difficult. The U.S. and other countries have objected to the deterioration of their political climate. The opposition leader was arrested for collusion, and implicated the U.S. in their charges. They also threatened at the court case to dissolve the opposition party — the opposition party won 44 percent of the vote; the government party won 51 percent. This was undermining the democracy completely, and created a great deal of tension. We don't take a position on who should win; the elections should represent the general will of Cambodian people. So there has been a strong pushback

to not dissolve the opposition and run a good credible election, scheduled for July 2018. It won't be credible if the opposition party is not [on the ballot]. Worldwide, the U.S. advocates for human rights and democracy. It helps them develop and reduces the level of conflict.

MS: You were appointed to your post during the Obama administration and now are overseen by the Trump administration. Without getting yourself in trouble, can you kind of outline the differences you've noticed policy-wise and/or priority-wise?

BH: Political appointees leave; in Southeast Asia, we are mostly career employees. I would say in general, with respect to Cambodia, Trump has taken a different approach to trade issues. Some of the trade agreements they've backed out of, such as the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership); they're talking about backing out of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement). It hasn't impacted Cambodia too much. The Trump administration hasn't appointed a lot of people that would normally be in State Departments — the under secretaries and so on. Lots of parts of buildings are running on temporary or acting employees, which is not good. [Replacing them] is a slow process, but I don't have any particular visibility into the



process. I don't know why they don't, but they don't.

MS: Do you think the structure and resources are in place for Cambodia to become a player in the global economy? What role or niche does it fill in Southeastern Asian relations and what does it have going for it that might recommend it as an international presence?

**BH:** Cambodia's foreign policy is really defined by its membership in ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. As one of the smaller countries in ASEAN, its policy has to take into account views of larger nations. It's a challenge that comes with lots of compromises.

**MS:** What knowledge and/ or wisdom from your appointment might you confer unto your successor?

**BH:** Ambassadors serve in 3 year rotations. President

Trump will announce within [the first quarter of 2018] who will follow me. I would tell him Cambodia is going through a lot of transitions right now. Even though they're doing things that aren't in line with our wishes, keep communications open, try to keep talking with the government. I don't really know what I'll do next. I might retire or might take another job in Washington. I have a 14 year-old son and he wants to go to high school in America. So I might find a job in the State Department to pursue, or something in the economic field.

**MS**: Anything else to add before I let you go?

**BH:** From a human interest angle, I have run into people from Western Pa. from all over the world. People talk about brain drain, but Erie is a pretty international place. There are currently

Since becoming the U.S.
Ambassador to Cambodia in
2015, Bill Heidt has visited all 25
Cambodian provinces, working to
nurture and promote an attitude
of mutual respect between two
countries that have been at odds
in the past.

four people from Erie in the State Department, and Erie products can be found all over the world. In Asia you'll see locomotives from GE all over the place. I was always proud of that. At the Marine Ball (celebrating the Marine Corps birthday), the chocolate medallions they served were made at Romolo's. How cool is that?

Matt Swanseger can be contacted at mswanseger@ eriereader.com.

For more information on Cambodian-U.S. relations, visit state.gov



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#### The Dickson Tavern: Erie's Oldest Building

A pearl of history hidden in plain sight



By: Jonathan Burdick

hen I first read that the proprietors behind the popular local U Pick 6 pubs were developing a new bayfront restaurant with an oyster bar, my first thought was: it's about time.

After all, oysters are just as much Erie as a Smith's hot dog or pepperoni ball. Or they were, at least.

One can get fresh oysters in Erie if they know where to look, but they certainly aren't the first food that comes to mind when people consider Erie cuisine.

Historically though, oysters and other mollusks — both out of our freshwater and shipped in from the Atlantic — have been a staple of the Erie resident's diet. Laura C. Sterrett's The Erie Cook Book, published in 1881, included numerous oyster recipes: fried oysters, broiled oysters, raw oysters, roasted oysters, scalloped oysters, pickled oysters, oyster omelets, oyster soup, oyster stew, oyster salad, oysters on toast, chicken and oyster pie... and even whole turkeys stuffed with oysters.

Bubba would be thrilled.

Even into the early 20th century, hundreds of gallons of oysters were being distributed to grocers around Erie each month. The Fulton Market alone, operating at 703 State Street, would sell during a single season around 200 barrels of shelled oysters and over 10,000 gallons of shucked oysters. By then, most were being shipped into the city on ice from the Atlantic coast.

Kidder Wachter Architecture & Design is working on the bayfront design that could accommodate the new restaurant with its oyster bar. Interestingly, the architecture firm happens to operate its own headquarters in a building where oysters were once a popular offering during Erie's earliest years: the Dickson Tavern.

If one were to speed a DeLorean down French Street and travel back in time 200 years, they wouldn't be able to miss the Dickson Tavern. It was, in many ways, the social heartbeat of Erie in the decades following the War of 1812.

The tavern was known for its food — particularly its oysters. At the Dickson, patrons could enjoy their drinks and oysters — often with a side of horseradish and pickles — until midnight. Other offerings, as described by late local historian John Claridge, included "hot coffee, hot and cold meats ... tripe, tongue and pastry" as well as "ice cream, wedding cake and punch" for those special occasions.

Today, at a glance, the building doesn't seem all that remarkable. Yet, what was once the Dickson Tavern, and now operates as Kidder Wachter's offices, stands as the oldest surviving building in the city.

It sits unassumingly on the corner of East Second and French, resting inconspicuously in the shadows of UPMC Hamot. Other than

[top left] The former Dickson Tavern, located at 201 French Street, serves as the current headquarters of Kidder Wachter Architecture and Design. The building has been stood at that corner for two centuries. [bottom right] Original owner John Dickson sold the enormously popular tavern in 1829. Subsequent owners could not sustain its initial success as Erie's premier watering hole, and it was eventually converted into housing and then the Perry Memorial House Museum from 1963-2004.

seeming a bit out of place amid the parking garages and towering hospital buildings, it's easy to miss if you're not paying attention.

For over two centuries, though, the building has sat on that corner. Other buildings have come and gone. Many have been destroyed by neglect, acts of nature, or carelessness. Others were simply razed and replaced. There on that corner, however, the Dickson remained.

The tavern was named after owner John Dickson. He came to Erie from Baltimore sometime around 1808. According to John Miller's 1909 book on Erie County, Dickson had served in the British Royal Navy under Admiral Nelson, surviving the Battle of the Nile against Napoleon's French fleet in 1798. After arriving in Erie, he spent his first few years involved in trade and sailed the lakes. When the war began, he was captured, but was soon released. He traveled back to Erie, where he built and operated a log-style hotel on French Street.

As the war ended, Erie was still little more than a village with a population barely over 500. Still, it was growing. The war had put a spotlight on Erie. Major roads were being built, connecting it to Pitts-

burgh and Buffalo. Steamboats were coming and going daily. A weekly mail route had even been established.

It was just shy of the first anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie when Dickson purchased the corner plot where he'd have his tavern built. The plot was two blocks north of his log-style hotel and only one block north of the Duncan House, where Oliver Hazard Perry had made his headquarters during the war.

Dickson had the north side of the tavern erected the following year, built by future Erie iron mogul William Himrod — whose involvement, as an ardent abolitionist and future founder of Erie's Anti-Slavery Society, has led many to speculate that his design included secret passageways and hideouts for enslaved people on the run.

There had been numerous popular public houses in Erie before the Dickson Tavern. Lieutenant Colonel Seth Reed - known for his noteworthy service during the American Revolution — had built Erie's first public house in 1795, a log and stone building at the mouth of Mill Creek. He named it the Presque Isle Tavern. The following year, he built a second tavern for his son Rufus to run at the corner of Second and Parade. The



Duncan House had also been around since 1800.

Of the few taverns being operated in Erie at the time though, the Dickson Tavern stood out - and for more than its oysters. According to John Claridge, the tavern was "favored by virtue of its size, design, and location" near the busy French Street wharf. It was also one of the only taverns built in a modern federal-style, so it quickly became a central hub where locals could go to relax with a drink, hot food, and maybe even play a game of billiards.

Taverns during this period were generally frequented by working class men, but Dickson marketed his business as the Exchange Coffee House, targeting the merchant and business class in Erie. The tavern increasingly became a central gathering place for

meetings and banquets and there are even records of Roman Catholic mass and other services being held there.

In 1824, Dickson catered the first advertised outdoor banquet in Erie. It was to celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of the Independence. It was held on a nearby bridge over a ravine on Second Street, just west of the tavern. Dickson planned entertainment and a ball and served the food and drinks.

Another banquet was planned for the following summer on June 9, 1825. This event was attended by the famed French military genius of the American Revolution, Marquis de Lafayette. He, along with his son, had arrived in Erie with much fanfare and were set to reside at Daniel Dobbins's residence on Third and State. The banquet

was held on the same bridge as the previous year and some attendees later reflected that nearly every single person in Erie must have attended.

Taverns during this period were generally frequented by working class men, but Dickson marketed his business as the Exchange Coffee House, targeting the merchant and business class in Erie.

"The table," Laura G. Sanford wrote in *The History of Erie County*, "extended the length of the bridge, one hundred and seventy feet, in full view of the lake, and was covered by an awning of the sails of

the British vessels taken by Commodore Perry, and handsomely ornamented with flowers and evergreens."

The banquet concluded with a toast by Lafayette, in which he proclaimed: "Erie: a name that has great share in American glory, may this town ever enjoy a proportionate share in American prosperity and happiness."

In 1829, Dickson moved to Meadville. When he decided to pack up again two years later for Pittsburgh, he sold off the tavern. It passed through a few more hands before being sold to John Rodgers in 1841, who converted it into a home and added the south side of the building.

It served primarily as housing for the next eight decades. The city purchased it in 1924 to prevent its destruction and converted it into the Perry

Memorial House museum in 1963, which it operated as until 2004. In 2009, Kidder Wachter purchased it from the city and restored it, saving it from inevitable deterioration.

Like the Plymouth Tavern today, one could imagine 200 years ago getting off work for the day and telling a friend, "I'll meet you at the Dickson." Once there, drinks would be had. Billiards would be played. Conversation would inevitably turn to the war, the battle on the lake and how it changed everything for Erie.

And quite possibly, this conversation would take place over a dinner of fresh oysters...in true Erie style.

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





#### **Looking Forward**

The Wildeyes: Erie's Best Up-and-Coming Band



By Nick Warren

e're a really popular band that nobody whom," singer Brad Walker joked. That seemingly contradictory statement, in the case of Erie rock quartet The Wildeyes, might ring laughably true.

Between some recent accolades, resulting in a buzz about the band, they probably fall into the zone where most people would say, "I've heard of them but I haven't heard them." Other local bands fit this category, with their actual fans few but their potential fans many. What separates The Wildeyes from the pack is something ultimately quite simple: their music sounds so damn good.

The band formed in July 2016, and since then have been on a path that could take them far. They won both the Erie Reader's Best of Erie Award for Best Up-and-Coming Band, as well as the Rock Erie Music Award for Best New Band in 2017. Releasing their 5 song EP, Tell Me What You Know on November 10 of last year (available on iTunes, Spotify, and various online sources as well as physical copies sold by the band).

The EP was recorded at Raven Sound, and was later mixed and mastered at Mr. Small's with producer Larry Luther.

Within the first minute of the opening track, "Picture in a Frame," you know you're in for something special. Blending modern rock sounds with classic, gorgeous guitar tones and soaring vocal melodies, the band is perfect for fans of The Black Keys, Cage the Elephant, or any of Jack White's various projects.

One thing you're immediately struck by is the nearly perfect guitar tone that Nick Hayes, 31, is able to achieve, relying on his flamed maple top Gibson Les Paul. To get his sound just right, Hayes plays through a Fargen Olde 800, which sounds roughly like the highly sought-after Marshall "Plexi" sound that players like Jimi Hendrix, Angus Young, and Jimmy Page perfected in the 1970s. For the recording, he used a Gretsch 6150 amp — similar to a Supro combo amp (think Joe Perry, Joe Walsh, and again Jimmy Page) — to double some of the parts, thickening it up and making the sound bigger. "The beefier sound is the Plexi clone, and the rattier sound is the Gretsch," Hayes was quick

to explain.

You'll also be quick to notice the fantastic vocals from singer Brad Walker. Using doubled and harmonized parts in the recording, he crafts hooks that will stay with you all week long.

In regard to lyrical content, Walker, 32, is free to explore his own life, sometimes verging into darker territory. "I'm writing about lying, cheating, stealing, shooting, snorting, drinking," but overall, the energy of the band's music keeps it grounded. "They bring me up," Walker said. "It doesn't have to be dark, it can be a party!"

"I'm a recovering drug addict and alcoholic," Walker admitted. Which makes things exceedingly difficult when a vast majority of the venues the band plays in serve alcohol. "It's hard around the scene," Walker paused, reflecting. "But with these guys, I feel safe around them. I feel like I don't have to worry about that at all."

"When I got sober, it was really hard to do music without that crutch." Walker continued. "I felt totally naked, I didn't feel I was the same, but with these guys, I feel like they opened me up again." The band has also helped his stage presence, feeling more comfortable in

The Wildeyes include (from left to right) bassist Lyle Sallade, guitarist Nick Hayes, singer Brad Walker and drummer Ashley Laton. The band's danceable, blues-inflected blend garnered them the Best of Erie award for "Best Up-and-Coming Band."

the spotlight. "Like I used to just stand on the stage and sing, I was filled with anxiety; these guys have reenergized and re-sparked that in me!" exclaimed Walker.

Getting the band together happened relatively smoothly, with the current lineup remaining unchanged since its inception. Guitarist Nick Hayes, had been in a cover band, the Sleeping Dogs, with Walker years before. Bassist Lyle Sallade, a 19 year-old music student at Mercyhurst University, was related to Walker through marriage and comes from a musical family. He's an avid collector of musical instruments, noting that "out of the instruments that are owned by strictly me, I think it's like 45." Sallade laughed. "It's a problem alright."

Drummer Ashley Laton, 30, was found by the band through the online musician's classified ad service, BandMix.com. "You can interact with musicians all over," Laton explained. "I made a profile in college way back in the day, and kept it active for some reason. One day I got an email from Nick actually. It was in my junk mail." Laton laughed. Feeling a hint of trepidation, she said to herself "okay, maybe. I was kind of hesitant because I had no idea." She met the band at Raven, they sent her along a few tracks, and she blew it out of the park, playing exactly what the band wanted.

Writing songs came almost too easy, the group laughingly admitted. After their ill-fated cover band disbanded, Hayes and Walker met up thinking "let's get together and write some stuff." It clicked immediately. "We got together and wrote three songs right off the bat. And then we got together again and wrote three more," explained Hayes. With every member contributing the perfect parts for the band's overall sound, something clearly is working out for The Wildeyes.

"I think we're all so open. I think everybody checks their egos at the door," Walker detailed.

"We're all in different areas of life," explained Laton. Walker added that "we're not like other bands. I don't know if in our personal lives, we relate to each other a lot," he joked. "But when we come together to play music, it just works."

This stands in stark contrast to past bands he's been in. "You get frustrated. Let *me* do what I do, *you* do what you do." That sort of musical one-upmanship simply does not exist within The Wildeyes. "We check everything at the door, and it starts gurgling and bubbling and organically makes a song."

"We're all in different areas of life," explained Laton. Walker added that "we're not like other bands. I don't know if in our personal lives, we relate to each other a lot," he joked. "But when we come together to play music, it just works."

The band is looking ahead to the future. Not content to rest on their latest EP, they are planning a full length debut sometime this year. Within time, maybe, just maybe, they'll be a band that you know.

Nick Warren is a friend to musicians everywhere and can be reached at nick@eriereader.com

#### MUSIC

#### Write Into It

By: Charles Brown

The Wildeyes' take on one of their favorite compositions



Brad Walker (foreground) attributes the Wildeyes' success to a lack of egos and at-times-effortless songwriting chemistry.

**CB:** Would you say that within the process of writing that this was a therapeutic experience? The lyrics almost come across like a journal entry.

**BW:** It's all therapeutic. This is the only way we

know how to convey this inner dialogue. We feel in music.

**CB:** You mention "stones" that are in your head. Because it's figurative, what are you referring to in that line?

**BW:** The "stones" are these weighty, guilty, compounded feelings I'm carrying with me.

**CB:** Are you guys comfortable with approaching dark and personal themes such as this?

**BW:** We are comfortable with writing songs that let people know they aren't alone, but we also like to write songs that make people forget their problems and have fun.

**CB:** What would you say to those who are suffering from guilt and self-sabotage?

**BW:** To those who suffer from these "stones," I'd just like them to know that we all make mistakes. Love yourself.

"In My Head" by The Wildeyes can be found on Spotify Charles Brown can be contacted at charlesbrowncj@gmail.com

#### ROCK/POP/DANCE

"In My Head"

Statistically, I can be substantially incomplete/ Believe you me, I am a disease

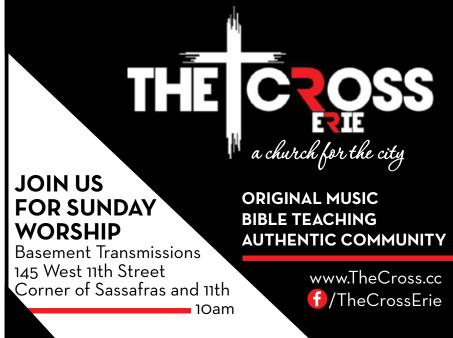
You wash your hands and you'll come clean/ But I'm the beast who gets no sleep/

Dancing around you seems impossible to do/ When the stones that's in my head tend to make it to our bed

Charles Brown: I am honored to interview one of the newest driving forces in town, the Wildeyes! Thank you so much for presenting your song "In My Head". It has such a groove that you can move to, but the lyrics are rather intense. What came about first? The instrumentation or the songwriting?

**Brad Walker (singer):** Thanks so much! The lyrics came first. I brought them to (guitarist) Nick (Hayes) and he came back with this smoky blues riff and it took off from there.













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#### **Spotlight on Erie**

January 17 - 30, 2018

#### Wednesday, Jan. 17th

#### Dinner and Dunkirk: The Film Grain Experience



verybody loves dinner and a mov $oldsymbol{L}$ ie. For friends, it's a classic way to spend a night out after a long workday, and for couples, it is the quintessential date night. If you're the kind of person who appreciates dinner and a movie as well as local arts, the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania's ongoing Film Grain series is for

On January 17th, the organization will be presenting Christopher Nolan's 2017 juggernaut Dunkirk alongside a buffet-style dinner courtesy of Ashley Sayre de Rivas. A World War II period piece, Dunkirk tells the story of Allied soldiers as they attempt to escape German capture by land, sea and air. Noted for its cinematography, score and minimalist dialogue, Dunkirk was shot on 65 mm film and made use of extensive practical effects to properly replicate the war during which it is set.

"Dunkirk is one of those films that represents the culmination of a filmmaker's work," says John C. Lyons, manager of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania. "It's Christopher Nolan at his most precise — a film that must be seen on a big screen."

All tickets for this event are \$12 and include dinner, with vegetarian options also being provided. The Film Grain series is being held at Bourbon Barrel and a select number of tickets will be available at the door, provided they don't sell out online. Accompanying the feature presentation is Adam Roffman's "The Collection," a 10-minute documentary about two friends who discover "an astonishing and

unique collection of movie memorabilia." — Aaron Mook

6 to 9 p.m. // 1213 State Street // \$12

#### Thursday, Jan. 18

#### 'Led'-ding by Example



'ost concert-goers who've seen M them say they present an experience like no other.

Well, (almost exactly) like none other — besides the mighty Led Zeppelin. Get The Led Out, a Philadelphia-based group of Zeppelin-minded musicians, has been doing just what its name suggests — and well — for around 15 years now, zestfully and expertly playing through the catalogue of one of history's most celebrated and inarguably phenomenal rock 'n roll bands.

GTLO says it approaches Zeppelin's song list not like a band grinding out their own version of a cover. but like a classical outfit would approach its work — with studied care and attention to detail, honesty, and intensity.

Like the world's best tribute acts are able to do (think Dark Star Orchestra, Grateful Dead fans), GTLO says it approaches Zeppelin's song list not like a band grinding out their own version of a cover, but like a classical outfit would approach its work — with studied care and attention to detail, honesty, and intensity.

Essentially, everything it takes to really bring the essence of Zeppelin's hallowed songbook to life.

Critically-acclaimed, and with over 70,000 fans on its Facebook page alone, GTLO seems to be doing Zep right, alright.

And Erie has its chance to see it go

down when GTLO performs at the Warner Theatre.

"Led Zeppelin are sort of the classical composers of the rock era." lead vocalist Paul Sinclair says in GTLO's bio. "I believe 100 years from now they will be looked at as the Bach or Beethoven of our time. As cliche as it sounds, their music is timeless." — Ryan Smith

7:30 p.m. // 811 State St. // erieevents.

#### Friday, Jan. 19th

#### 16 Locals Compete for **Erie's Best Rapper Title**



t's been referred to as "relatively un-Lderground," but with each new public event or showcase, Erie's hip-hop community grows larger. Now, on Friday, January 19th, Pro Motions (along with Shaun Buck Benjamin) will be hosting a competition to crown "Erie's Best Rapper." The event will be held at Basement Transmissions and feature local judges LCardio, Jon Box, DJ Primo, Zeek Diamond and Malito (Doc) Proto. Competitors stand to win not only a cash prize, but the opportunity to record their next mixtape with producer Nickiamadon.

There are 16 competitors in total, including (but not limited to) Lil Retro. Kidd Lano. D. Weez. Futura Green. HB Stacks, Robbie Raw, Z-Killa and Rook Thompson. Sound for the competition is being handled by DJ Nitro. The competition is an 18+ event with a BYOB option for those 21 and older with a valid I.D. Whether you're a hiphop head or simply someone wanting to show their appreciation for the local music scene, the "Erie's Best Rapper" competition at Basement Transmissions is a perfect chance to

immerse yourself in one of our city's fastest growing communities. — Aaron Mook

9 p.m. // 145 West 11th Street // \$7 // 18+

#### Wednesday, Jan. 24

#### Parenting, poverty, and poetry collide in The Florida Project



Cix-year-old Moonee is, by any ra-Itional estimation, a pretty bad kid. She spits on cars, curses out adults, panhandles for ice cream, and lights things on fire. Her mother Halley is the kind of unemployed, tattooed, chain-smoker you might find on the receiving end of a lecture from Dr. Phil. They live in a rundown motel a few miles outside of Disney World in Orlando, scraping by through a variety of semi-legal hustles. Their future is not bright.

But The Florida Project is neither a cautionary tale nor a tragedy. By telling the story through the eyes of a rebellious young child, director Sean Baker arrives at something remarkably empathetic. Moonee's mischief is as daring as it is disrespectful, and you can't help to root for her as she orchestrates her ill-advised schemes. What her mother lacks in maturity is made up with emotional intelligence, and her belligerence often masks a genuine desire to protect her daughter from the grinding realities of adulthood.

The Florida Project is that rare film where almost every character is treated with care and generosity. I found myself rooting for misbehaving kids one minute, and the exasperated adults who have to scold them the

#### **CALENDAR**

next. Nearly everyone in the movie is dead broke, and each person finds a way to remain engaged with the world in spite of it. There's a current of optimism beneath the film's crusty surface that sets it apart from the usual Oscar-fodder about poverty. I wouldn't necessarily categorize it as a "feel-good" movie, but it definitely belongs in the "must-see" pile.

Move it to the top of the pile with a special screening at the Bourbon Barrel as part of the The Film Society of NWPA's ongoing "Film Grain" movie series. — Dan Schank

6 p.m. // 1213 State St. // \$12 (includes buffet dinner) // filmsocietynwpa.org/

#### Friday, Jan. 26

#### Jimmie 'J.J.' Walker Lights 'Dy-no-mite' Fuse at Jr's

The year was 1974. The show: Good Times. The plot followed an African-American family — a first for American TV sitcoms — consisting of a mom and dad and their three kids. Of those five characters, it was the eldest son, portrayed by Jimmie Walker, who would most delight audiences and whose catchphrase — "Dy-nomiiite!" — would work like jet fuel to propel the then-26-year-old's stand-up



career to a permanent spot among the comedic firmament. For his role as J.J. Evans, Walker received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series — not bad for a kid from the South Bronx.

After Good Times, Walker's career encompassed numerous television programs like The Love Boat, The George Lopez Show and Scrubs, pop-up appearances on late-night, and film roles in some beloved classic comedies, like Airplane!, but he has always retained

his fondness for the stand-up that launched his Hollywood career in the 1970s. Now, this living legend is coming to Jr's Last Laugh for four can't-miss performances, and audiences have two opportunities each night to catch his act.

Rather than resting on his laurels and enjoying a pleasant retirement, Walker continues to both write and deliver comedy, and his stand-up act will no doubt retain all the sharpness of a performer at the top of his game, despite playing that game for over five decades now. Hey, a stick of "dyno-mite" is just that — until someone with enough spark comes along and lights the fuse. — Cara Suppa

Friday and Saturday: 6:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. // 1402 State Street // \$20 // irslastlaugh.com

#### Saturday, Jan. 27

#### After Funk Returns to Kings Rook Club

Ready and certainly psyched for their first downstairs show, After Funk are heading back to the frozen tundra of Erie, Pa. But this isn't just a sit-back-and-let-the-music-wash-over-you kind of a gig. Not at all. Jaime Rosenberg, After Funk's drummer,



explains the band brings a "high energy, dynamic performance" that is sure to be contagious. So if you are looking for a way to dance away those winter blues, don't wait until After Funk is gone: Not only will the group play their share of original tunes, but they also like to mix things up, creating medleys with their own sound and weaving in more familiar covers as well. To get a sense of After Funk's vibe, Rosenberg suggests listeners check out "Elephant Walk," "Catching Sunrise," and "The Fugitives."

These Toronto natives are not just about playing some great tunes; they also love the collective consciousness and camaraderie that comes with be-

#### MUSIC

#### Get The Led Out: The American Led Zeppelin

Jan. 18 — 7:30 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

#### Alex Kates & Danny Shanahan

Jan. 19 — 7 to 10 p.m.

Lavery Brewing Company, 138
W. 12th St. facebook.com.

#### Erie's Best Rapper

Jan. 19 — 9 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145
W. 11th St. facebook.com.

#### Black Widow

Jan. 19 — 9 p.m. Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

#### **Loafer and Mallory Run**

Jan. 19 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

#### Litz

Jan. 19 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

#### **Hired Hitmen**

Jan. 20 — 9 p.m. Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

#### **Metal Militia**

Jan. 20 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

#### Personal Blend and Eli Flynn

Jan. 20 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

#### **Acoustic Ear Candy**

Jan. 21 — 1 to 4 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

#### **Music at Noon**

Jan. 22 — noon to 3:30 p.m. Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

#### Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

Jan. 23 — 7:30 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

#### Sharon Isbin Live from Studio O

Jan. 26 — noon to 1 p.m. WQLN Studios, 8425 Peach St. eriephil.org.

#### Radio Age

Jan. 26 — 9 p.m. Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

#### Scorpionyx

Jan. 26 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

#### Broke Boland, Jake the Hawk and Bootjack

Jan. 26 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

#### PA Line

Jan. 26 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

#### Amity Fest II featuring Handguns, Light Years and More

Jan. 27 — 2:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145
W. 11th St. facebook.com.

#### Scheherazade

Jan. 27 — 8 to 10 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

#### Whiskey Road

Jan. 27 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry
Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

#### **Hip Hop Hooray**

Jan. 27 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

#### After Funk

Jan. 27 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

#### SSAS Acoustics featuring Kayti Stadler

Jan. 28 — 1 to 4 p.m. Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. facebook.com.

#### DANCE

#### **Doo Wop Dance**

Jan. 26 — 5 to 9 p.m. LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

#### FOOD & DRINK

#### Winter Coat Drive

Jan. 21, 22, 23 Erie Brewing Co., 6008 Knowledge Parkway. facebook.com.

#### Mind, Body, Beer

Jan. 23 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

#### Cocktails & Color

Jan. 24 — 6 to 8 p.m. Voodoo Brewery, 215 Arch St. facebook.com.

#### Wood & Whiskey

Jan. 26 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

#### Chili Cook Off

Jan. 27 — noon to 5 p.m. Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

#### Sip N Paint

Jan. 27 — 5 to 7 p.m. Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main St. piwine.com.

#### Souper Bowl XX

Jan. 28 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. sarahreed.org.

#### FILM

#### Aircraft Carriers

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

#### **Prehistoric Planet**

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

#### Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

#### Dunkirk

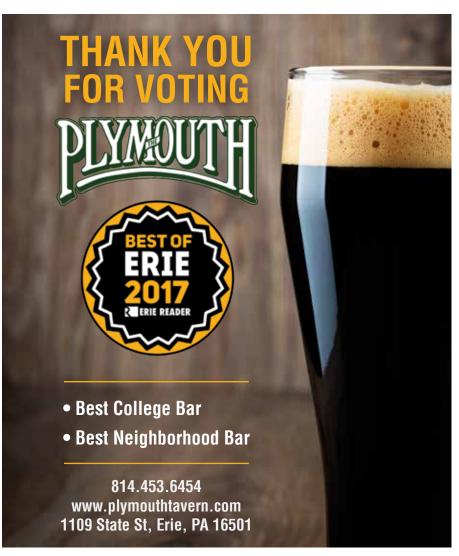
Jan. 17 — 6 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State
St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

#### Maniac (1934) And Short Meet Your Maker

Jan. 18 — 8 to 10 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

#### Fantastic Planet (1973)

Jan. 19 — 8 to 10 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W.

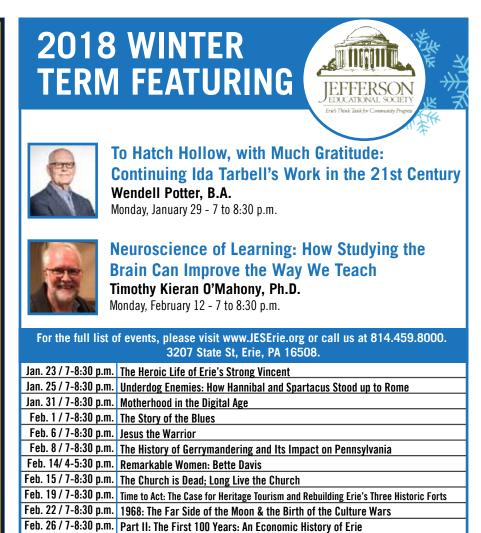






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Mon-Wed 4-6 p.m. Half off select appetizers with entree purchase (1 appetizer per entree)

Thurs Ladies Night is back! **20% off** special rolls AND hibachi entrees for ladies.



2767 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16505 (814) 833-0293 www.samuraisushierie.com







Feb. 28 / 7-8:30 p.m. People as Commodities: The Global Impact of Human Trafficking in Kenya and Beyond

Register Online at www.longschoolofdance.net



ing part of a band. Rosenberg explains that his "favorite thing about being in a band is being able to travel around with my best friends and play music to receptive audiences." He added that "we work really hard at this so its great to see it grow. I also love making new friends all over the place." Together with his bandmates, Rosenberg feels that he is really creating "something unique" and he loves watching the fan base and feeding off the audience's excitement and interest in the After Funk sound. So go ahead, be part of something neat and head to the Rook for some accessible, danceable entertainment — and maybe make a new friend or two. — Miriam Lamey

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook. com/kingsrookclub

#### Saturday, Jan. 27

#### **Grammy-winning Guitarist** to Perform at the Phil

**E**rie Philharmonic executive director Steve Weiser promises audience members will be impressed with the third show in the Phil's symphonic series.

After two decades away from the Erie Philharmonic, multiple Grammy-winning guitarist Sharon Isbin



will return to the Warner Theatre stage to perform Joaquin Rodrigo's Fantasía para un gentilhombre.

"She's probably one of the best guitarists of all time," Weiser said, calling Isbin the "Yo-Yo Ma of the guitar."

He says nothing short of a "perfect storm" and "luck" brought the world-renowned musician back to the Erie stage, adding to the already impressive lineup that seemed likely to sell out on its own merit.

Led by conductor Daniel Meyer, the

show begins with a performance of Benjamin Britten's Four Sea Interludes and after Isbin's performance, ends with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, where the Philharmonic's concertmaster Ken Johnston will play the virtuoso solo violin role.

When previously playing at the War-

"She's probably one of the best guitarists of all time," Weiser said, calling Isbin the "Yo-Yo Ma of the guitar."

ner Theatre, Isbin had performed another piece by Rodrigo, the first guitar concerto ever written, Concierto de Aranjuez.

"Playing Spanish music is close to my heart," Isbin said.

She explained that Rodrigo's Fantasia para un gentilhombre is a work he composed for the late Andrés Segovia, whom she studied with as a teenager. She'd later meet and befriend Rodrigo in Madrid, after he heard her perform in and win the Queen Sofia Competition with one of his songs.

More recently, Isbin has collaborated with the Argentinian-American opera star Isabel Leonard on the all-Spanish Alma Española. Its producer, David Frost, received a 2018 GRAMMY Award nomination for his work.

"I'm excited to return to the excellent Erie Philharmonic after all these years, to revisit the majestic Warner Theater and to perform with the outstanding Maestro Daniel Meyer," Isbin said. — Tracy Geibel

8 to 10 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$10 to \$52 // 455-1375 // eriephil.org/calendar

#### Saturday, Jan. 27

#### **Erie Punk Trio is Left For Dead**



aw, fast, and abrasive: Erie trio  $\mathbf{K}$ Mala Sangre have been perfecting their style of hardcore punk for years. The band consists of Carlos Rivera on guitar and vocals, with his cousin Eliezer Rivera on bass and backup vocals, and Mike Lozano on drums.

Lake Rd. facebook.com.

#### NT Live: Young Marx

Jan. 21 — 12:55 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

#### The Florida Project

Jan. 24 — 6 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

#### This Year's Scream Queen Premiere

Jan. 25 — 7 to 10 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com

#### **Florence Foster Jenkins**

Jan. 28 — 1:30 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

#### VISUAL ARTS

#### **Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott**

Ongoing through Jan. 28 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### Tattoosday

Ongoing through Jan. 28 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org

#### Annual Faculty, Staff, and Alumni Art Show

Ongoing through Feb. 8 Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. sites.psu.edu.

#### Mark Weber: Animals

Ongoing through Feb.11 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### **Watercolors on Paper**

Ongoing through Feb. 11 (Reception Jan. 18 — 5 to 7 p.m.)

Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

#### Daniel Burke: Callings

Ongoing through Apr. 8

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### Gary Spinosa: Divine Instinct

Jan. 20 through Jan. 6, 2019 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### **Rough Trade: Clay Bodies** and Queer Visions

Jan. 23 through Mar. 4 (Reception Jan. 23 — 7 to 9 p.m.) Doane Hall of Art at Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

#### Kids As Curators 2018

Jan. 28 through Mar. 18 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### THEATER

#### Stomp

Jan. 17— 7:30 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

#### Jesus Christ Superstar

Jan. 19, 20, 26, 27 — 7:30 p.m. & Jan. 21, 28 — 2 p.m.

The Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St. theacademytheatre.org.

#### **Petite Rouge**

Jan. 19, 20, 26, 27 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28 — 2 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

#### COMMUNITY

#### Great Lakes Shipwreck Exhibition

Ongoing through Apr. 13, 2018 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

#### Learn to 3D Print

Jan. 17 — 9 to 10:30 a.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

#### **DiscoverE - Flurries**

Jan. 17 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org

#### Read to a Therapy Dog

Jan. 17 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

#### 5 Ways to a Younger You

Jan. 17 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Millcreek Municipal Building, 2301 W. 12th St. lifeworkserie.org.

#### **Fiber Arts Meetup**

Jan. 17, 24, 31 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

#### Tots in Nature Class: My **Many Colored Day**

Jan. 18, 22, 25, 29 & Feb. – 9 to 10 a.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

#### **Preschool Nature** Discovery Class - All the Colors of the Rainbows

Jan. 18, 22, 25, 29 & Feb. 1-10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

#### **Aging Gracefully**

Jan. 18 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

#### **Yoga Class for Kids**

Jan. 18, 25 & Feb. 1, 8 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tumble 84, 4504 W. Ridge Rd. apluseventsforkids.com

#### Glow-in-the-Dark **Parachute Playtime**

Jan. 18 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

#### Ms. Pat

Jan. 18 — 7 p.m. & Jan. 19, 20 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m. Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Silent Peace Walk

Jan. 18 — 7 to 7:30 p.m. Erie County Prison, 1618 Ash St. eriebenedictines.org

#### Erie BayHawks vs. Canton

Jan. 19 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

#### **Coloring for Grown-Ups**

Jan. 20, 27—10 a.m. to noon Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

#### **Coloring for Grown-Ups**

Jan. 20, 27 — 10 a.m. to noon Iroquois Avenue Branch Library. 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

#### **Reading Buddies with** Petite Rouge

Jan. 20 — 10:30 a.m. to noon United Way of Erie County, 420 West 6th St. unitedwayerie.org.

#### **Cross Country Ski Clinics**

Jan. 20 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

#### **Bocce Winter Classic**

Jan. 20 — noon

The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com

#### **Feathered Beasts**

Jan. 20 — 1 to 2 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center,

301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org. Veteran Resources Fair



Now poised to release their second full length album, Mala Sangre will headline a CD release show at Scotty's Martini Lounge. Sharing the bill will be local hard rockers Maniacal Device, Revelation, Gelatin Skeleton, and Brotherhood of the Jam.

The new album is titled "Left For Dead" and perfectly captures the band's furious energy onstage. Their Latino background is something they embrace, even immediately with their name, meaning "bad blood," the band's lyrics transitioning quickly from English to Spanish. With a gritty, tight recording, the sound immediately takes you back to hardcore punk's glory

days decades ago. The album makes it a community affair too, with a total of nine guest musicians on the recording. Maniacal Device's "Morbid" Rob Burke lends his growl to three tracks, having been close with the band members for ages. JC Nickles adds his riotous voice to a track as well, as does Joe Gallagher. The song "Matador" even has a horn section thanks to members of Revelation and This American Song.

The album's 13 tracks flash past with lightning speed, clocking in at just under a half an hour. The frenetic guitar sound and unbridled energy is evident in every hard-picked distorted stroke. — Nick Warren

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 301 German St. // \$5 // facebook.com/Scottys.Martini

#### Sunday, Jan. 28

#### On The Ball Tournament Keeps Hoop Dreams Alive for All

Ball is life — or, at the very least, it can offer those with a disability a new lease on life. Since first being contested in the 1940s, wheelchair basketball (formerly known as "wheelchair netball"), has evolved into a popu-



lar recreational, intercollegiate, and Paralympic sport around the globe. The sport retains all the rules of standard basketball, with slight tweaks in regards to mobility— a competitor may not touch his or her wheels more than twice after dribbling or receiving the ball (or five times, if adhering to modified NBA guidelines). Otherwise, the game remains the same — find your spot on a roughly 90-by-50 foot court, take your shot, and hope to hear the mellifluous *swish* of the ball through a hoop suspended 10 feet above the playing field.

Nearby Edinboro University just so happens to feature some of the better players in the nation at the collegiate level. Together with local nonprofit Mission Empower, they will strive to inspire a new generation of differently-abled athletes with the second annual On The Ball tournament at Erie Insurance Arena. The marquee event will pit the Fighting Scots wheelchair basketball team against (able-bodied) Erie community members in a fullcourt, 5-on-5 matchup. Before the featured attraction, attendees can participate in a 3-on-3, half-court pick-up game to lend unique perspective to the impressive feats para-athletes are able to accomplish. A 50-50 raffle and gift basket giveaways will also be held.

Through it all, Mission Empower (which advocates for the education and inclusion of Erie youth of all ability levels) hopes to dissolve barriers, subvert misconceptions, foster community and build a basis for teamwork moving forward. Strip away all the labels and it's (still) nothing but net. — Matt Swanseger

11:45 a.m. // 809 French St. // \$12 (includes admission to the Erie BayHawks game versus the Lakeland Magic at 4 p.m.) // 825-0788

Jan. 20 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Fort LeBoeuf American Legion
Post #285, 120 W. 4th St. erie.ya.gov.

#### **Snowshoe Clinics**

Jan. 20 — 1:30 to 3 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

#### Master Builders

Jan. 20 — 2 to 3 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

#### Kid's Dino Time: Dinosaurs Escaped Extinction

Jan. 20 — 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

#### Family Nights at the Nature Center

Jan. 20 — 4 to 6 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

#### Splash After Dark

Jan. 20 — 7:30 p.m. to midnight Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

#### Cheer and Dance Championships

Jan. 21

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

#### Bridal Showcase & Expo

Jan. 21 — 11 a.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

#### Snowshoe Hike -Introductory Level

Jan. 21 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

#### Women's March Rally: Power to the Polls

Jan. 21 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Downtown Erie, facebook.com.

#### Gentle Yoga & Meditation: Level 1

Jan. 22, 29 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

#### **Family Storytime**

Jan. 22, 29 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

#### Little Leaves

Jan. 22, 27 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

#### **Presque Isle History Series**

Jan. 22, 29 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

#### Census Clues: Opening Doors to More

Jan. 23 — 10 a.m. to noon Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

#### **Great Books**

Jan. 23, 30 — 4 to 5:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

#### The Heroic Life of Erie's Strong Vincent

Jan. 23 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

#### Enrichment Series: Judaism Today

Jan. 24 — 7 p.m.

Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101
E. Lake Rd. eriebenedictines.org.

#### **Refreshing Salt Scrubs**

Jan. 25 — 2 to 3 p.m. Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

#### ScienceGo!

Jan. 25 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center,
301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

#### Underdog Enemies: How Hannibal and Spartacus Stood up to Rome

Jan. 25 — 7 to 8 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

#### Trivia Night

Jan. 26 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

#### Jimmy J.J. Walker

Jan. 26, 27 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m. Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

#### Erie Otters vs. Hamilton

Jan. 26 — 7 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

#### **Erie Kennel Club Dog Show**

Jan. 27, 28 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

#### **Parachute Playtime**

Jan. 27 — 10 to 11 a.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

#### Basics of Home Maple Tree Tapping

Jan. 27 — 10:30 a.m. to noon Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

#### Erie Otters vs. Sarnia

Jan. 27 — 7 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

#### Erie BayHawks vs. Lakeland

Jan. 28 — 4 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

To Hatch Hollow, with Much Gratitude: Continuing

#### Ida Tarbell's Work in the 21st Century

Jan. 29 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

#### Salute Your Health Cooking Demonstration

Jan. 30 — noon to 12:30 & 12:30 to 1 p.m. Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E. 38th St. erie.va.gov.

#### DiscoverE - Feathers

Jan. 31 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

#### **Harlem Globetrotters**

Jan. 31 — 7 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

#### Motherhood in the Digital Age

Jan. 31 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

#### **Gardening Workshops**

Jan. 31 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

#### **Moonlight Snowshoe Hike**

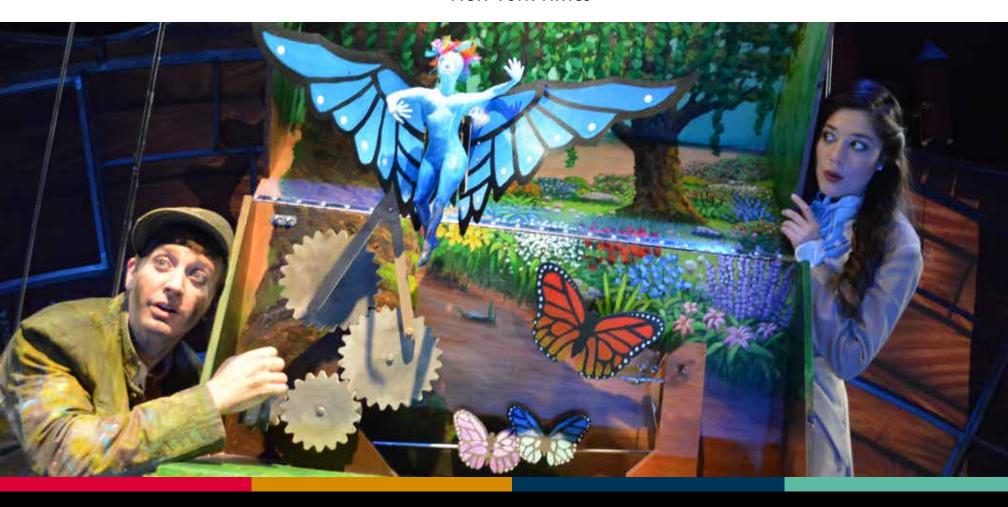
Jan. 31 — 7 to 9 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

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"Sure-fire inspired fun"

- New York Times



A grimy engine room of a steamship becomes an enchanted theatrical playground where *Beauty and the Beast* comes to life with song, drama, puppetry, shadow theatre and a multitude of special effects.

Recommended for ages 4 and older.

Saturday, Feb. 3 • 2 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



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January 22, 1973

Commemorating 45 Years of safeguarding women's reproductive choices.



Northwest Pennsylvania National Organization for Women

🕜 www. facebook.com/NWPAnow nwpanow@yahoo.com

Northwest Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union www.aclunwpa.tripod.com

> Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates www.plannedparenthoodpa.org

> The Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation www.uuerie.org

> > **Keystone Progress** www.joinkeystoneprogress.org

American Association of University Women Erie Branch

League of Women Voters, Erie County, PA www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-Erie-County-PA-693947254074130









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#### CALENDAR

#### Postmodern Jukebox Puts Generations on Shuffle

Jazz and swing ensemble outfits newer songs in much older clothes



Postmodern Jukebox, helmed by pianist and arranger Scott Bradlee (center), will be putting their uniquely retro spin on the popular songs of today at Mercyhurst's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.

That's right — 14 releases; PMJ uploads a new cover weekly, so they add up fast. Recent examples include Gnarls Barkley's "Crazy" as a 1950s torch song, Bruno Mars' "That's What I Like"

in the style of the Rat Pack, and Taylor Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do" repurposed as a James Bond opening sequence theme. Even if you detest Top 40 radio, you'll be astonished how well these songs hold up after being re-contextualized.

Mercyhurst's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center will become the swingin'est speakeasy (minus the bathtub gin) in the 48 contiguous states when they invite the wildly inventive ensemble to the stage as a late addition to the MIAC (Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture) 2017-18 season. By the time you read this, most (if not all) of the tickets will be as good as gone. but those interested can call the MIAC box office to check for any last-second availability. Even if you've only got \$20 in your pocket, you're well on your way to a show that, by most accounts, is freaking awesome. — Matt Swanseger

7:30 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St. // \$30

#### **TUESDAY, JAN. 23**

acklemore and Ryan Lewis' debut hit single "Thrift Shop" dropped in 2012, an ode to the musty and antiquated that flew in the face of the "so fresh and so clean-clean" of hip hop convention. It proved the ideal breakthrough for musician, pianist, and arranger Scott Bradlee, whose Postmodern Jukebox (PMJ) project had already been taking your grandpa's style(s) for years prior. Together with a rotating cast of collaborators, Bradlee dresses popular songs of today in musical fashions handed down from the golden age of jazz and swing. Imagine listening to your favorite hit radio station in the Victrola era and you'll have a good idea.

Since that stride piano-laden (1920s-inspired) cover of "Thrift Shop" launched PMJ's YouTube channel in 2013, the group's uploads have garnered over 750 million views and won over 3 million subscribers (and counting). They have performed on Good Morning America, been featured on NPR Music and NBC News, and ascended the iTunes Charts with all 14 of their releases since 2014.









#### **Activists Unite for Amity Fest II**

Music festival raises funding, hopes for sexual assault victims



ETERNAL BOY

#### **SATURDAY, JAN. 27**

t's an unfortunate truth that most of us know someone who has been a victim of sexual assault. This past year has seen the issue come disturbingly into focus in the public eye, with victims coming forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against many beloved musicians, actors, and other entertainers, leaving many people feeling uncertain whether they can feel safe in places that once brought them solace.

Enter Amity Fest II, an all-day music

festival hosted by Amity Threads, featuring 18 local, regional, and national bands, with all proceeds going to A Voice for the Innocent (AVFTI) — a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and empowering victims of sexual abuse. By partnering with AVFTI, Amity Fest hopes to help raise awareness for the cause and create a safer community in the music scene.

"I found out about AVFTI through volunteering with nonprofits for the Warped Tour throughout the years," says Amity Threads founder Braden Docherty. "I had eventually started following them on social media and strongly support their cause. Supporting those affected by sexual assault is such a huge piece of allowing survivors to grow and rebuild. AVFTI does such a wonderful job empowering those who reach out to them — it's truly inspiring. Through that, with all that had happened with Harvey Weinstein and the music scene, it only seemed right to support AVFTI and those they help."

Headlining the fest is the Harrisburg-based pop-punk band Handguns. After a four-year stint of playing and writing music without any founding members, Handguns is making their first appearance at the new Basement Transmissions with their classic lineup from their first two EPs, reuniting with guitarist Jake Langley, bassist Nate Bobb, and drummer Marco Florey (coincidentally, Langley and Bobb's final show before leaving the band in October 2012 was at the old Basement Transmissions on State Street.)

"It's important as a human being to be cognizant of other people's safety and security regardless of the current state of the world at this time," Langley said about the cause. "I have always believed in the furtherance of these kinds of causes."

On returning to Erie, Langley commented, "I'm always excited to play anywhere, especially a place with personal history. Though the building itself isn't the same, I'm stoked."

The first 200 patrons through the door will receive a free re-release of Handguns' debut EP, Anywhere But Home.

In addition to the bands, a number of local businesses are rallying behind the cause. Voodoo Brewery, Game Over Tattoo, Bay City Tattoo, the Erie Art Museum, the Erie Otters, and World of Music are all donating raffle items, and Ben Red of Game Over Tattoo is doing special tattoos for the fest to help raise money for AVFTI.

Cleveland band Light Years will be sharing the bill, as well as The Weekend Classic, Eternal Boy, Belmont, Sink the Ship, and Riviera.

Amity Fest, true to its definition, is all about bringing the community together, striving towards a common good, and fighting for what we know is right. — Tommy Shannon

2 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$15 advance, \$20 doors // pre-sale tickets and bundles at amitythreads. bandcamp.com/merch



26 | Erie Reader | ErieReader.com January 17, 2018

Big Names and Big Issues in The Post

#### $\star\star\star$

et's be honest, with the people involved in this film, it's hard for it to fail. Featuring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks as leads, while being directed by Steven Spielberg? It's difficult to think of a more respected lineup. But does its pedigree deliver on its promise? For the most part, the answer is yes.

Based on true events in 1971, the film deals directly with the Pentagon Papers, and their publication in the New York Times and



the Washington Post. The film opens with military analyst Daniel Ellsberg releasing the documents to the New York Times. The news hits and it hits quickly, sending shockwaves around the country, and in particular to those among the fourth estate. Detailing a history of government involvement in Vietnam from President Truman to President Nixon, the papers made it clear that the United States was knowingly fighting a losing battle overseas while military casualties continued to climb.

Meryl Streep plays Katharine Graham, who served as publisher, president and chair-person of the board for the Washington Post. We see her try to reconcile her personal relationships with the Washington elite, including members of the government like former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara (played by Bruce Greenwood).



Tom Hanks plays Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, who is intent on keeping up with and outdoing his peers at the New York Times. This is a stellar cast, and it's great to see Bob Odenkirk and David Cross of *Mr. Show with Bob and David* come together again, even in serious roles.

The film deals with media censorship, and the conflicting role of a women in power,

two things that seem extremely pertinent today. In the tradition of other "newsroom" movies, such as *Spotlight*, or this film's veritable sequel, *All The President's Men*, the pace is fast and the lines and the characters never relent, despite its relatively subdued nature. — Nick Warren

Directed by: Steven Spielberg // Written by: Liz Hannah, Josh Singer // Starring: Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Sarah Paulson, Bob Odenkirk, Tracy Letts, Bradley Whitford, Bruce Greenwood, Matthew Rhys, Jesse Plemons // 116 minutes Molly's Game: A Fast-Paced Slow Hand



n his directorial debut, Aaron Sorkin finds himself going into the game with a metaphorical pair of pocket kings. Rivaled only by Charlie Kaufman in regard to his fame as a screenwriter, Sorkin carries with him the heavy-hitting acclaim of his resume. With films like A Few Good Men, The Social Network, and Moneyball under



his belt, you barely need to mention television credits as showrunner of *The Newsroom, Sports Night*, and *The West Wing*. Not for nothing, but Sorkin fans know precisely what to expect when they see his name in the credits: fast-talking and plenty of it. His status as a celebrity writer made it easy to secure the strong cast and source material for the film — in fact, Molly Bloom, the real-life titular character actually approached Sorkin after the rights to her story were secured, since she herself was a self-proclaimed fan.

The movie begins strong, with the first few minutes tracking Bloom's early career as a competitive skier. As she takes steps to qualify for the Olympics, the intro's climax made the audience audibly gasp. In fact, taken as a standalone section, the intro might even be stronger than the rest of the film (similar to the heartbreaking unevenness of *Up!*), in a style reminiscent of Adam McKay's *The Big Short*.

But that's just the deal. The game starts as Molly Bloom — played by the wonderful Jessica Chastain — finds herself drawn into the world of high-stakes poker. Through her new boss (Jeremy Strong at his douchiest), she is introduced to different card players, most importantly, the horrendously miscast Michael Cera as "Mister X." Essentially playing himself, he's intended to be a composite of Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire (admittedly the most Cera-like), and Ben Affleck, all of whom played in games organized by Bloom.

The film provides interesting vignettes centered around certain players, like a drunk, lovelorn Chris O'Dowd, a hilarious Brian d'Arcy James as a terrible poker player, and a chilling performance by Bill Camp as a skilled player on "tilt." Idris Elba steals his scenes as Chastain's lawyer, while Kevin Costner's distracting presence as her demanding father draws from the film. As the FBI comes into play, the fun of the poker setting falls away into low-stakes courtroom discussion, as the latter portion of film makes viewers wish they had folded early. — Nick Warren

Written and Directed by: Aaron Sorkin // Starring: Jessica Chastain, Idris Elba, Kevin Costner, Michael Cera, Jeremy Strong // 140 minutes

Nick Warren can be reached at nwarren@eriereader.com



JANUARY 19-21, 26-28, 2018
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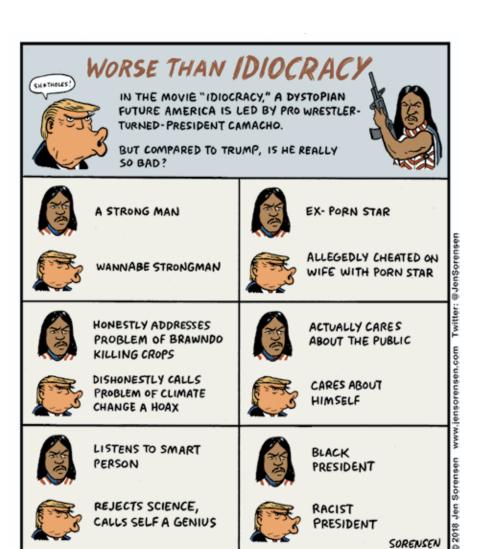




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Answers to last issue's puzzle

S	Е	М			В	Μ	Ρ	С		W	Α	L	L	Е
Ε	Т	Α		М	Е	D	Е	Α		Α	<b>V</b>	Α	_	Г
Т	Н	_	S	_	S	C	Ν	Ν		R		М	Ε	S
Т	Ε	М	Р	Т	S		Р	0	Р	Т	Α	В		
Ε	L	S	Е			С	Α	Р	Е	S		R	D	S
			С	Α	R	0	L	Υ	Ν		D	0		Т
Α	Р	R		R	U	G	S		D	0	Ν	Α	Т	Ε
R	Α		S	_	Ν	S		Р	Α	R	Α	S	K	-
В		G	М	Α	С		L	Α	Ν	Е		Т	Α	G
U	G	Н	S		0	Р	Ε	Ν	Τ	0	Р			
S	Ε	Т		Ш	L	Α	Т	Ε			0	S	Н	Α
		W	Е	Z	D	Υ	S		С	Ν	0	Т	Е	S
F	L		R	Т		0	Ν	L	Υ	O	Η		L	D
E	Е	Ν		Е		L	0	Т	Т	Α		Е	L	0
Е	Α	G	Е	R		Α	Т	S	Е	Α		S	0	1

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											CR	OSS	SWC	DRD
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16					
17					18				19					
20				21				22						
23				24				25				26	27	28
			29				30				31			
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37					38					39				
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43				44					45					
46				47				48				49	50	51
			52				53				54			
55	56	57					58				59			
60							61				62			
63							64				65			

#### Across

1. Burl who won an Oscar for "The Big Country" 5. Immigrant's course, for short

8. Its chief exec, Rick Wagoner, was ousted by the U.S. government in 2009 14. Knight club

15. Moo goo

16. Less stuffy

17. Lamar who married a

Kardashian 18. It may be obtained

before leaving coll. 19. Singer with the 1994 hit

"Bump n' Grind" 20. 1970 Jose Feliciano

classic that includes "Merry Christmas" in the lyrics ... in case your Spanish is rusty 23. Movie release day,

often: Abbr. 24. Extended stretch

25. It may be obtained

before going to coll.

26. Prime meridian std. 29. Batting fig.

30. 2003 Justin Timberlake hit that includes "girl" in

the lyrics ... in case your Spanish is rusty

32. Wolfgang Puck's flagship restaurant 35. Bud

36. Open a smidge 37. 1999 Ricky Martin hit that includes "crazy life" in the lyrics ... in case your

Spanish is rusty

40. It could be fishy

41. Working without 42. Needs a bath badly

43. 1999 Enrique Iglesias hit that includes "we dance" in the lyrics ... in case your

Spanish is rusty

45. The "L" of L.A. 46. Hip-hop's \_\_ tha Kyd

47. Speed: Abbr.

48. Many a fed. holiday

49. Defib expert

52. 1991 Color Me Badd hit that includes "my love" in the lyrics ... in case your Spanish is rusty

55. Vowel sound in "puzzle"

58. Get older \_\_ Scotia

60. Airport landing area 61. "In case it's of interest

62. Spun records 63. Set sail

\_\_ Arbor, Michigan 65. "Your majesty"

#### Down

1. "Gotta run!"

2. Kenobi's trainee

3. Reason for a food recall 4. Big rig

5. Traditional beverage

6. Glad alternative

7. Schreiber who won a Tony for "Glengarry Glen Ross"

8. Tended the flowers 9. Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, with "The"

10. Street

11. "Texas tea"

12. Cousin, e.g.: Abbr.

13. "I don't mean to 21. Warren with the 1978

platinum album "Excitable Boy"

22. "Yeah, that makes sense"

26. Boy toy?

27. Measure (up)

28. Lipinski and Reid

29. 2008 Katy Perry hit "I

Kissed 30. Reliever's stat

31. Wheezy chest sounds

32. Pigs

future

33. March 14, to math lovers

34. Sidestep

35. Shoe designer Blahnik 38. Politician with a limited

39. Rice-

44. First movie to gross more than \$2 billion (2009)

45. Dish eaten with chopsticks

48. Kelly who went from Fox

News to NBC News in 2017 49. Nontext part of a text

50. Helper with a relocation 51. Fantasy league deal

la Douce" (1963 film)

53. Tennis' Nadal, to friends 54. No ifs, or buts 55. Abbr. in an office

address 56. Nonkosher entree 57. Sphere







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#### **MUSIC REVIEWS**

#### Umphrey's McGee

It's Not Us Nothing Too Fancy Music



The band's 11th studio album in 20 years, It's Not Us provides fans with a slew of new material to feast



on. As any "Umph" fan knows though, it's not about the studio albums. The sextet from Chicago (by way of Notre Dame, Indiana) has earned a reputation as one of the world's great live bands. Umph fans will also be quick to point out the key differences between the band and the likes of Phish and the Grateful Dead. The band's sound is far more based on progressive rock and metal than jazz or folk. Tracks like "Remind Me," with its double bass and harmonized leads, will make that abundantly clear. The album isn't content to rest in any one spot however, as the next song, "You & You Alone" comes in with delicate chorused guitar chimes and emotive vocals from Brendan Bayliss. There's also the funky "Speak Up" featuring the ultra-cool tenor saxophone of jazz musician Joshua Redman. It's the last minute in the song "Forks" though, that shows listeners what's really magical about the band. The searing, perfectly articulated leads of guitarist Jake Cinninger are explosive, triumphant and exhilarating. — Nick Warren

**Typhoon**Offerings
Roll Call Records



Offerings is an ambitious record that delivers on its intention. The Salem, Oregon band's fourth record, Of-



ferings finds the band raising the stakes, with more even more orchestration and cinematic world-building. Paired with the indie rock slur of vocalist Kyle Morton, the band's understated instrumental prowess shines in a balance between a more traditional emo sound (reminiscent of bands like Bright Eyes or Brand New) and experimental postrock soundscaping (similar to Sigur Ros or Godspeed You! Black Emperor). The 11-member band isn't afraid of melody either, with hummable tunes lying deep within eight-and-a-half minute tracks like "Empiricist." Each track of the 14 song album — clocking in at 68 minutes - has its own mildly pretentious, intentionally one-worded title. The tones drift in static as emotions rise and fall, both passionate and measured. Will Typhoon be the next Arcade Fire? Or is that ship in for dangerous waters? Epic, sweeping indie rock is alive and well in bands like Manchester Orchestra, and Typhoon seem to present a more creative, sincere approach to such a sound, so expect the band to find an even greater footing. — Nick Warren

Francis and the Lights

Just For Us KTTF Records



The "surprise album" is often a move reserved for hip-hop artists, which makes it all the more fitting for the second album



from Kanye West and Chance the Rapper collaborator Francis and the Lights. A future-pop aficionado, Francis has even more in common with peers like Bon Iver and The 1975 as he bends the vocal distortion of the former around the throwback bleeps and bloops of the latter to create a sound both nostalgic and inventive. His sophomore album, Just For Us, doubles down on the unique songwriting that made his name relevant in 2016. Over a short and sweet 26 minutes, Francis marries bouncy piano ballads ("Morning," "Back in Time") with noisy synth experiments ("Just For Us," "Scream So Loud") that wouldn't sound out of place on a new fun. album. Really, the most baffling choice here was to drop the album on December 29, officially placing it in endof-the-year-list limbo. But perhaps it's a sign of maturity that Francis is more concerned with doing exactly what he wants than how it's perceived by publications. With motives as honest as his songwriting, Francis has managed to release a warm and welcoming sophomore album that's already beckoning for repeat plays in warmer weather. — Aaron Mook

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard

Gumboot Soup Flightless HQ



They actually did it. With just days left in the year, King Gizzard, the prolific Wizards, released Gumboot Soup, thereby ful-



filling their promise to release five albums over the span of 2017. And while Gumboot Soup also represents what one might expect the last of five albums crafted in less than 12 months to sound like — a bit mismatched, to say the least - it's still a daring collection of psych-rock tracks that clearly represent the band's ambitions. Gumboot Soup's biggest weakness is that it simply feels like a collection of B-sides and loose ends following four stronger, more cohesive projects. Single "Greenhouse Heat Death" utilizes the microtonal tuning used infamously on Flying Microtonal Banana, while "Muddy Water" brings back the woodwind instruments that marked Polygondwanaland. But new sonic experiments manage to pull the weight here, from the unexpected pop sheen of opener "Beginner's Luck" to the sludgy doom riff of "The Great Chain of Being." It's unlikely that Gumboot Soup will be the 2017 album to stand the test of time when it comes to King Gizzard's eclectic catalog, but it's an impressive achievement and a strong indication of the band's talents nonetheless. - Aaron Mook

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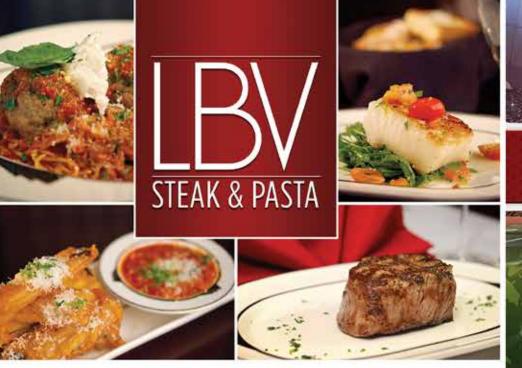
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