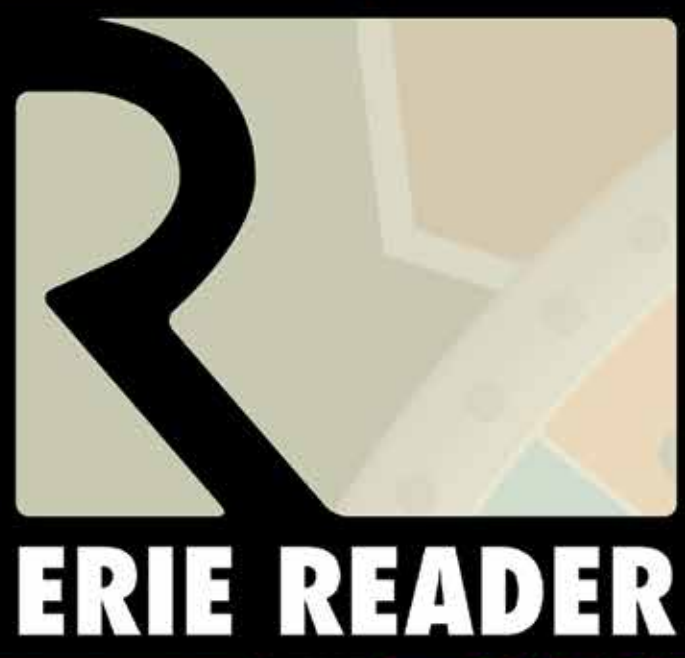
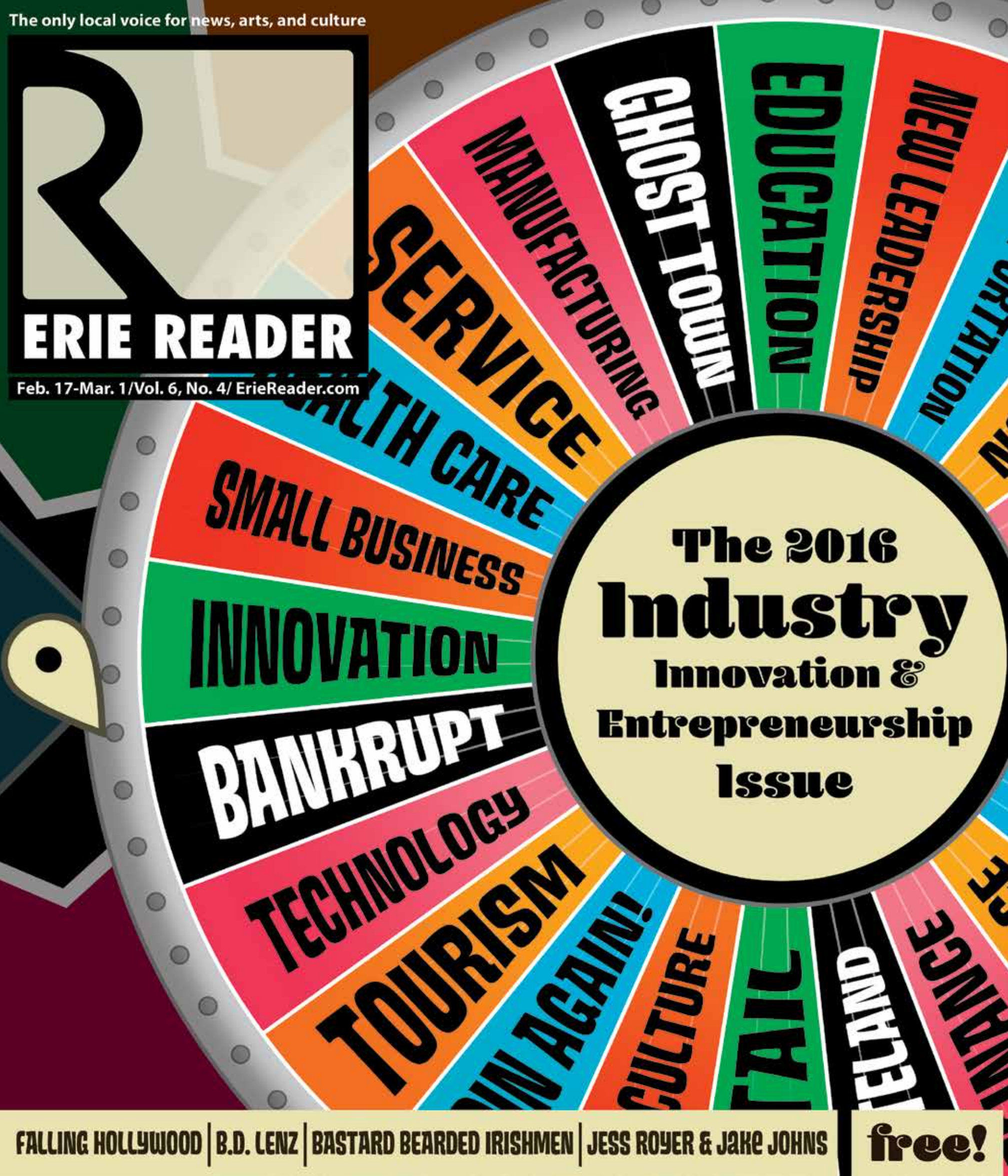


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**ERIE READER**


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The Erie Reader is the only local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and a dynamic resource for news and opinion, welcoming perspectives from all viewpoints. With a dedication to long-form journalism 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 inquiries to 814.314.9364 or contact@ErieReader.com.



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## From the Editors

From automation to the arts, there's a lot to be optimistic about in Erie today.

It's increasingly challenging to feel like an original in this hyper-shared, info-ready world. Used to be, if you had a great business idea, you'd ask around town to see if anyone else had thought of it yet. You might even check the yellow pages. If nothing came up? Great! You'd found your niche.

Today's searchable world makes originality a lot harder to come by. Now, if you have a great business idea, you might plug it into an Internet search and be immediately overwhelmed and deflated by the sheer volume of like-minders who already thought of the same damned thing.

Of course, that very online culture has also carved out countless new niches, and opened up lines of communication, mentorship, and commerce between folks with similar ideas all over the world.

In fact, that's what several of the companies featured by Ryan Smith in this Industry, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship issue – our second – are banking on.

Meanwhile, nominations are now open for our 40 Under 40 Class of 2016. If you know someone under 40 striving to make this community stand out in meaningful ways, nominate her or him via the link on our website.

In this issue, Brianna Lyle checks in with three 40 Under 40 Alums to see how their businesses have evolved since joining these honorable ranks. Their commitment to goals and vision, generosity of spirit, and honest self-awareness are inspiring to behold, and suggest a bright collective future for the Erie area.

Beyond that, even in the wake of local job news at the end of 2015, Jim Wertz examines reasons to be optimistic about the state of industry in Erie, reminding us of the need for diversity moving forward.

Speaking of diversity, Lisa Austin of Civitas highlights the measurably valuable role of the arts and arts organizations in the positive economic development of a city, noting that arts-related events foster the sort of social interaction and complex communication central to a city's vitality.

To that end, as usual, we spend plenty of space spotlighting those contributing generously to our arts life right now, including an art exhibit at Allegheny College and a review of *The Miserable Mrs. Head* at PACA, where members of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association are currently exhibiting in PACA's gallery, leading up to a fundraising auction on March 12.

It's a lot to take in. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

You could look at Erie as a town lacking some of the trappings of our larger, trendier cohorts. We certainly aren't flooded with the elements of gentrification.

Or, you could see our town as one where you can truly make a singular impact; where you can contribute quickly, directly, and in your own way. Clearly, that's what many of the folks we feature have chosen to do. And we're all the better for it.

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**NEWS & OPINION**

**Just a Thought**

Smart innovation makes thoughtful use of what we already have.



ROBERT COUSE-BAKER

By: **Katie Chriest**

It's late afternoon at the bus stop downtown. The slanty, diffuse winter light isn't warming the air, but glows across the faces of passersby. February surrounds us in tolerable cold. Coats are open at the collar. Cigarettes and phones are held between bare fingers. And those of us waiting for the bus shuffle around, in and out of the shelter, gazing eastward.

A man, 60 or so, ambles up. He relies heavily on his cane, and stops a few yards short of the shelter. His arrival is slow but in plenty of time. I think of my tendency to rush through life: a habitual pattern I revert to even when there's no hurry. I don't envy his impediment but admire his air of calm surrender. I may be misreading serenity on his face, but we learn from others what we need to in any moment, and his countenance whispers, *slow down*.

The dance of waiting plays out among the bus riders. We hurry tensely to the stop. Then our shoulders drop once we've made it. Then stillness settles as the pieces of our rushing selves fall together. Then impatient shuffling ensues, either on foot or through smart-phone feeds.

Even Unhurried Man starts to meander a bit. An empty snack size potato chip bag tornado-ing on the concrete catches his eye. It swirls under the bench, trapped where most of us can't reach it (not that anyone's tried). He wanders toward it, uses his cane to pull it closer, then leans over to pick it up. While down there, he sees a couple more discarded wrappers and grabs them, too. He fits what he can in

his non-cane hand, then makes his way to the trash-can for disposal.

Though I admire the man's use of waiting, I'd probably dismiss this unremarkable event if we weren't in the midst of planning this issue of the *Reader*. Instead, I think about the simple use of his cane – something already made, that he already owned – in an innovative way. No new infrastructure or resources required.

After boarding the bus, I spend the 20-minute ride home thinking about how much we've invented that simply isn't necessary. A quick Google search would probably reveal a pile of cane-like litter grabbers that could make this job easier and more efficient.

But they'd likely be made by companies who employ third world workers

---

We humans are smart. We can solve our perceived problems in breathtakingly ingenious ways. But just because we can invent and manufacture new stuff, it doesn't mean we always should.

---

in exploitative conditions. And of non-renewable plastics destined to add to the already horrendous quagmire in our landfills and oceans. And cheaply – in the spirit of planned obsolescence that builds breakdown (and thus, another purchase) into the construction of nearly everything.

We humans are smart. We can solve our perceived problems in breathtakingly ingenious ways. But just because we *can* invent and manufacture new stuff, it doesn't mean we always *should*.

In our modern state of earthly affairs, the wisest inventions will be repurposed. The smartest innovations will slow us down. And the best ways to use dwindling resources? *Not to*.

*Katie Chriest can be contacted at [katie@ErieReader.com](mailto:katie@ErieReader.com).*

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## Erie At Large

Fishing for free riders: unions after Friedrichs.



**Without fair share, the case for non-membership becomes more attractive to people who don't share the political leanings of their union or don't fully comprehend the benefits of union membership.**

By: Jim Wertz

Erie is a union town. Despite neo-conservative attempts to destroy unions over the past 50 years and neo-liberal attempts to dismantle unions with corporate-friendly regulatory practices and trade policies, the Erie region – for the most part – has remained union strong.

All told, there are 252 AFL-CIO affiliated unions representing more than 45,000 people in the 19 counties that comprise the Northwest Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation. Couple them with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) members and Teamsters, both of which disaffiliated with the AFL-CIO in 2005, and you've got something akin to a movement on your hands.

The success of the labor movement in northwest Pennsylvania is due in large part to the abundance of public sector unions that represent the region's teachers, law enforcement, and firefighters, as well as clerical and professional staffs in municipal and county governments and affiliated entities. But those public sector unions are of-

ten subject to heightened scrutiny by pundits and the general public because members are paid with tax dollars. This issue is at the heart of a recently argued Supreme Court case that may radically alter the shape and size of public sector unions across the nation and right here in NWPA.

In *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, the Court was asked to consider whether or not union fees, known as "fair share" or "agency" fees, violate the First Amendment. These are fees paid by employees who are covered by the collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the union and the employer even though that employee has chosen to opt out of union membership.

If you're not familiar with collective bargaining, it sounds overcomplicated. But it's not.

Rebecca Friedrichs was one of several public school teachers in California who chose not to join the California Teachers Association. Even though she and her colleagues didn't join the union, they were still required to pay a "fair share" fee, which amounts to a

percentage of full union dues based on how much time the union spends on matters related only to collective bargaining, but not to the union's political activities.

Fair share fees were implemented because the union is still required to represent non-member employees who would otherwise be covered by the collective bargaining agreement. In other words, if Friedrichs were fired without just cause, the union would still be required to defend her.

Fair share fees were the outcome of the Supreme Court's 1977 decision in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which established that unions had the right to collect fees related to their cost of doing business on behalf of members and non-members covered under the contract. The non-members are referred to as "fair share" employees or more commonly called "free riders" in union parlance because they reap the benefits of union membership without paying union dues.

In *Friedrichs*, the teachers' attorneys argued before the Court that union membership and collective bargaining on behalf of public employees are inherently political acts because they are tied to tax dollars collected as a matter of political policy. Therefore, non-members should not be required to pay a fee for union services.

Legislatures in 28 states have already banned agency fees.

Pennsylvania remains one of 22 states that still allows fair share payments. For now.

Public sector unions across Pa. are in the process of attempting to figure out what union membership in a post-*Friedrichs* world will look like. That's because in most cases, fair share payments amount to approximately 90 percent of full union dues. You have to be an ideologue or an asshole to opt out of full union membership when faced with those stakes.

But without fair share, the case for non-membership becomes more attractive to people who don't share the

political leanings of their union or don't fully comprehend the benefits of union membership.

Most analysts expect the Court to side with Rebecca Friedrichs. If they're correct, it could make for awkward meetings at the water cooler, at least for the first few months after Friedrichs as emboldened "free riders" test liberation from their public-sector unions and employers test the resilience of bargaining units with fractured memberships.

But I suspect those divisions won't last long.

It's a lesson I learned decades ago crabbing on a weather-beaten New Jersey boardwalk.

**Fair share fees were implemented because the union is still required to represent non-member employees who would otherwise be covered by the collective bargaining agreement. In other words, if Friedrichs were fired without just cause, the union would still be required to defend her.**

My cousins and I had a cheap cage with a rope attached, a fish head inside, and a small net at the end of a pole. Every once in a while, you'd pull the cage off the bottom. If the cage was full and the crabs were hungry, there might be one or two hanging on the outside. We called them free riders. They always got caught first.

*Ding dong, Scalia's dead. The Supreme Court Justice who may have carried the critical vote in Friedrichs, Antonin Scalia, died just hours after I finished writing this column. His death means that if the eight surviving justices lock in a four-four split, the Friedrichs case will remain undecided by the Supreme Court, allowing unions in fair share states to collect agency fees from non-members. You can curse at or kibitz with Jim Wertz at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @jim\_wertz.*

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**NEWS & OPINION**

**Disunified Erie Reveals Deeper Community Problems**

The divisive conversation continues.



BRAD TRIVANA

By: Ben Spегgen

The news is not unique to Erie. As the crumbling of cities, towns, and boroughs under the pressures of rising crime becomes more pronounced, community leaders crave quick-fix solutions. Let's fix this yesterday becomes the clarion call of urgency, as blood flows in the streets. But those bearing the gravity of such community depression for decades can't help but wonder why the community wasn't more concerned yesterday, when the blood was flowing before, just not enough to sound the apparent alarm.

Waiting to take action begets reactive solutions. Disdain for reactive solutions so begets proactive solutions. Thus, we look to get creative.

But these creative, we-must-act-now-because-we've-noticed-the-startling-uptick-in-crime reactions can seem like a slap in the face to those who have been attempting to address the crime issue for decades. The common goal is to reduce crime and create the opportunity for all citizens to live in a safe climate, but not everyone seemed to care until yesterday's problem became today's reality.

This is Unified Erie's conversation, and this is the disunity that's boiled to the surface.

Why? First, it's easy to see Unified Erie as a white solution to a black problem. A quick glance at Unified Erie's advisory

group reveals a blatant lack of diversity. But the invitation – reiterated at recent public meetings – to take a seat at the table remains open. And leaders in the black community, like Marcus Atkinson, are vocal about the potential of Unified Erie to address Erie's violent crime problem.

Second, this can be seen as a turf war within a turf war. A big part of Unified Erie is the call-in method – the ultimatum of: accept our help through community resources presented to you, or return to a life of crime and suffer the consequences when caught. Those call-ins – at least based on the Kansas City model – take place at “neutral locations,” like churches. In a way, these places of worship are being hamstrung to participate in something they've already been participating in.

According to its website, “The White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships within the Domestic Policy Council works to form partnerships between the Federal Government and faith-based and neighborhood organizations to more effectively serve Americans in need.” President Barack Obama opined: “Instead of driving us apart, our varied beliefs can bring us together,” which is more hopeful than it is realistic.

Is faith-based intervention working against crime? Yes, but the process is not without its challenges. Indeed, many of us still have varied beliefs that act as the opposite [Cont. on page 39]





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## News of the Weird

From snow removal to art, getting away with the bare minimum.

By: **Chuck Shepherd**

### Intelligent Design

**W**ired.com's most recent "Absurd Creature" feature shows a toad devouring a larva of a much-smaller beetle, but the "absurdity" is that the larva is in charge and that the toad will soon be beetle food. The larva's Darwinian advantage is that, inside the toad, it bites the hapless "predator" with its hooked jaws and then secretes enzymes to begin decomposing the toad's tissue (making it edible) and provoking it to vomit the still-alive larva. [Wired.com, 1-29-2016]

### Great Achievements in Laziness

**A**n 80-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman were ticketed in separate incidents in Canada the week of Jan. 18 when police spotted them driving cars completely caked in snow except for a small portion of the windshield. The man, from Brussels, Ontario, was driving a car resembling a "pile of snow on the road." The Halifax, Nova Scotia, woman's car was, a police statement said, "a snow-

bank with four wheels." [Globe and Mail, 1-21-2016] [Associated Press via WMUR-TV (Manchester, N.H.), 1-21-2016]

### Great Art!

**F**ed up with the "pretense" of the art world, performer (and radio personality) Lisa Levy of Brooklyn, New York, sat on a toilet, naked and motionless, at the Christopher Stout Gallery in January to protest artists' "BS" by presenting herself in the "humblest" way she could imagine. Visitors were invited to sit on a facing toilet (clothed or not) and interact with her in any way except for touching. Levy told the Bushwick Daily website that too much "ego," "like a drug," "distorts your reality." [Bushwick Daily, 1-20-2016]

### Wait, What?

**I**n January, the U.S. Department of Justice's inspector general recommended closing down a program of the department's Drug Enforcement Administration that paid employees of other federal agencies (Amtrak and the beloved Transportation Security Administration) for

tips on suspicious passengers. (The program apparently ignored that federal employees have such a duty even without a bounty.) DEA was apparently interested in passengers traveling with large amounts of cash which DEA could potentially seize if it suspected the money came from illegal activity (and also, of course, then keep the money under federal forfeiture law). According to the inspector general, the tipping TSA agent was to be rewarded with a cut of any forfeited money. [USA Today, 1-7-2016]

**C**hiropractor William DeAngelo of Stratford, Connecticut, was charged with assault in January after an employee complained that she was ordered to lie down on a table and let DeAngelo apply electrical shocks to her back as punishment for being the office gossip, spreading rumors about colleagues. DeAngelo said he was reacting to complaints from patients and staff, but seemed to suggest in a statement to police that he was only "re-educating" the woman on how to use the electrical stimulator in the office's

practice (though she felt the need to report to a hospital afterward). [Connecticut Post, 1-29-2016]

### The Continuing Crisis

**B**ritain's North Yorkshire Police successfully applied to a judge in January for a "sexual risk order" against a man whose name was not disclosed publicly and whose alleged behavior was not revealed. Whoever he is and whatever he did, he is forbidden to enter into any sexual situation with anyone without providing at least 24 hours' notice to the police nor is he allowed to look at or possess any sexually oriented materials. According to the York Press, the order is temporary until May 19, at which time the magistrates may extend it. [York Press, 1-21-2016]

### Bright Ideas

**C**hristopher Lemek Jr. was arrested in Palmer, Massachusetts, in January and charged in a New Year's Eve hit-and-run accident that took a pedestrian's life. Lemek emerged as a suspect a few days after the collision when police, visiting his home, noticed fresh-

ly disturbed earth in his backyard. Eventually Lemek confessed to literally burying the evidence using a construction vehicle to crush his truck and an excavator to dig up his backyard and drop the truck into it. [The Republican (Springfield), 1-8-2016]

**N**o Need for a Prenup: The 20-year New York marriage of Gabriel Villa, now 90, and Cristina Carta Villa, now 59, apparently had its happy moments, but as Cristina found out when things went bad recently, Gabriel had attempted to protect himself shortly after the wedding by obtaining a Dominican Republic divorce and keeping it secret. Cristina found out only when she realized in a property accounting that her name was not on the deed to their Manhattan apartment. (She is challenging that divorce as improper even under Dominican law.) [New York Post, 1-24-2016]

### Suspicious Confirmed

**S**everal Connecticut state troopers involved in a DUI checkpoint in September were apparently caught

on video deliberating whether to make up charges against a (perhaps obnoxious) checkpoint monitor. Veteran protester Michael Picard, 27, posted the videos on his YouTube page in January, showing troopers (illegally) confiscating Picard's camera and suggesting among themselves various charges they could write up (at least some not warranted by evidence) to, as one trooper was heard imploring, "cover our asses." (The troopers returned the camera after deliberating, but seemed unaware that it had been running during the entire incident.) State police internal affairs officers are investigating. [Hartford Courant, 1-26-2016]

### Oops!

**P**rivate Parts: (1) A middle-aged woman reported to a firehouse in Padua, Italy, in January to ask for help opening a lock for which she had misplaced the key. It turned out that the lock was to the iron chastity belt she was wearing of her own free will, she said (because she had recently begun a romantic relationship- [Cont. on page 12]



Just Toyin' Witcha — By Bryan Toy

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS (DECISIONS)



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## NEWS & OPINION

ship that she wanted not to become too quickly sexual). (2) Firefighters in Osnabruck, Germany, told Berlin's The Local that in two separate incidents in December, men had come to their stations asking for help removing iron rings they had placed on their penises to help retain erections. (The Local, as a public service, quoted a prominent European sexual-aid manufacturer's recommendation to instead use silicone rings, which usually do not require professional removal.) [Daily Telegraph (London), 1-17-2016] [The Local (Berlin), 12-8-2015]

### Recurring Themes

Few matters in life are weirder than the Scottish love of haggis (sheep's liver, heart, tongue and fat, blended with oats and seasonings, boiled inside a sheep's stomach to achieve its enticing gray color!), and in January, in honor of the Scottish poet-icon Robert Burns, prominent

Peruvian chef Mitsuharu Tsumura joined Scotland's Paul Wedgwood to create haggis from, instead of sheep, guinea pig. Wedgwood said he was "proud" to raise haggis "to new gastronomic levels." [Daily Telegraph (London), 1-21-2016]

### Least Competent Criminals

Briton Jacqueline Patrick, 55, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in December for the 2013 murder of her husband, accomplished by spiking his wine with anti-freeze. To cover her crime, she handed over a note the husband had supposedly written, requesting that if tragedy struck him, he wished not to be resuscitated, preferring to die with "dignerty" (sic). Suspicious, police asked Patrick to spell "dignity," which, of course, came out "dignerty." (2) Kristina Green, 19, and Gary Withers, 38, both already on probation, were arrested in Encinitas, California, in December after an Ama-

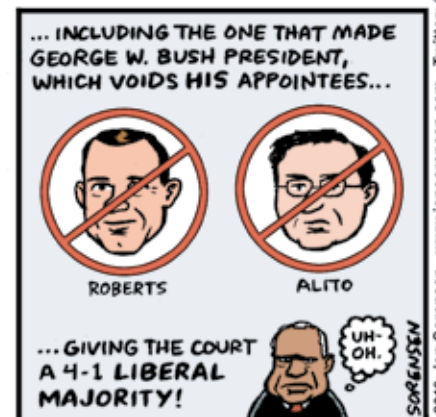
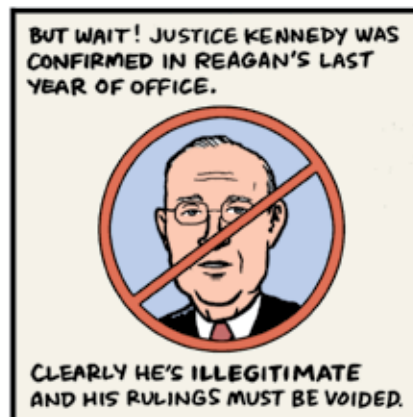
zon.com driver reported them following his delivery truck and scooping up packages as soon as he dropped them off. Inside the pair's car, officers found numerous parcels and mail addressed to others plus a "To Do" list that read, "steal mail and shoplift." [Reuters, 11-23-2015] [San Diego Union-Tribune, 12-15-2015]

### A News of the Weird Classic (December 2011)

In October (2011), the super-enthusiastic winners of a Kingston, Ontario, radio station contest claimed their prize: the chance to don gloves and dig for free Buffalo Bills' football tickets (value \$320), buried in buffalo manure in a wading pool. The show's host, Sarah Crosbie, reported the digging live (but, overcome by the smell, vomited on the air). More curious was a runner-up contestant, who continued to muck around for the second prize even though it was only tickets to a local zoo. [Yahoo Canada Sports, 10-21-2011]



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## The State of Erie Industry, 2016

Modest gains and growing pains.



By: Jim Wertz

**N**ews of loss. That's how we closed 2015.

The layoffs announced by GE Transportation are expected to near 1500 by the end of the first quarter of this year, depending on a number of variables including voluntary retirements, changes in the global economy, and technological advancements in the production of the Lawrence Park plant's primary product, locomotives.

But this cycle of boom and bust over the past 30-odd years has wreaked havoc on the collective regional psyche and placed GE Transportation in a light similar to a west Texas oil company or an Appalachian mining enterprise. In such cases, the promise of prosperity makes the tragedy of the bust worth enduring, whether it be fact or fiction.

As a region, we've become obsessed with the status of work at GE Transportation in no small part because it's been the region's largest employer for as long as most people can remember. The prospect of that changing is un-

settling at best. However, analysts and regional planners over the past two decades have embraced the notion of diversification, both within and among industries. This means that in addition to building portfolios different from traditional manufacturing, moving into advanced manufacturing sectors, industrial services, and management support, our traditional industries need to diversify their own portfolios in order to remain competitive within their respective sectors.

So the production model of a company like GE Transportation will move from traditional locomotives into technologically advanced locomotives like its Evolution line, as it's done for some time, as well as create other products and services like the locomotive "kits" that will be shipped to assembly plants in locales as different as Fort Worth, Texas and Bihar, India.

"In economic theory, diversification is always better than trying to stand behind a single industry or a few industries or old industries from the past," says Ken Louie, director of the

Economic Research Institute of Erie (ERIE) at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. "We need to continue to grow in diverse ways."

It's that type of diversification that keeps Louie feeling optimistic about Erie's economic future.

"We're still recovering from the recession, so we haven't gotten back all the jobs we've lost, but we've made some modest gains."

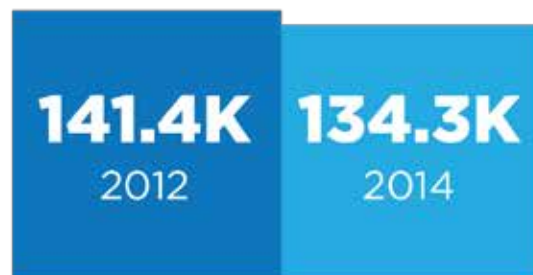
Unemployment has declined in the region during the past few years. As of mid-2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry estimated that unemployment in Erie County fell to 4.9 percent, just slightly higher than statewide unemployment estimated at 4.8 percent. The caveat to declining unemployment rates is our shrinking population. Since 2011, Erie County has lost just under 1 percent of its total population, many of whom were job makers, and as a result the region lost more than 5 percent of its total labor force. In short, fewer jobs and fewer job seekers equaled lower unemployment rates.

It's a bit of a shell game, but over time it's not all bad.

"Long term projections for local industry by the PA Department of Labor are not all that pessimistic," says Louie. "Between 2012-2022, they're projecting employment in all industries to grow by 6.7 percent. That means that overall, employment is going to modestly increase. Furthermore, PNC Bank is forecasting that employment in NWPA is going to grow by 1.7 percent in the next year. Again, these gains are modest, but they're headed in the right direction."

What's harder to comprehend is the changing nature of Erie's industrial profile. Manufacturing was the backbone of the Erie economy for so long that its decline unsettled the labor force as well as those industries that supported manufacturing. Sixty-eight percent of the jobs lost during the last recession were, in fact, lost from manufacturing. As traditional manufacturing declined, employment in health-care and various service sectors began to replace high-paying manufacturing jobs.

## Erie's Labor Force



↘ 5.02% Decline over 2 years

## Erie's Gross Metro Product



↗ 9.60% Increase over 2 years  
↗ 42% Increase over 12 years.

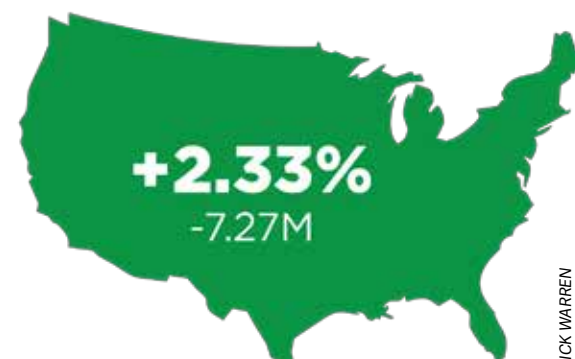
## Population Change, 2011-2014



Erie County



Pennsylvania



United States

NICK WARREN

For traditionalists, the bright spot coming out of the 2007-2010 recession was the fact that advanced industries – those focused on investing in research and development within their sectors, and those with significant shares of employees performing STEM knowledge jobs – continued to produce products and wages at rates well beyond traditional manufacturing. In Erie, the advanced workforce earns nearly \$69,000 per year on average. Outside of this sector, wages average just \$30,000 per year.

Among small metros in the U.S., Erie advanced industries employment falls within the top 25 percent.

And advanced industries jobs are expected to multiply in the next few years, although many of these will be in advanced services rather than advanced manufacturing. The most significant difference between these sectors is that advanced services – such as architecture, engineering, and consulting – tend to employ people with a bachelor's degree or higher, whereas 50 percent of the nation's advanced man-

ufacturing labor force, albeit a highly skilled workforce, have less than a bachelor's degree.

According to Pennsylvania Labor Industry forecasts, traditional manufacturing is expected to grow by less than 2 percent in the next few years. However, service industries are expected to see growth greater than 8 percent.

Advanced services will do even better. That's good news, because traditional service sectors like tourism and comparable industries like retail tend to offer wages well below those in manufacturing, generally, and advanced industries, in particular.

To that end, state analysts expect professional technical services to grow by more than 11 percent and management is expected to see greater than 43 percent growth. Louie says these estimates are historically consistent with ERIE analysis. **[Cont. on page 41]**

**Opposite and at left: these photos by Ed Bernik depict regional workers in a few of the diverse industries creating jobs in the area, where unemployment has actually declined during the past few years.**



ED BERNIK

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## Success After 40 Under 40

With nominations now open for the 2016 class, these three alumni continue to be great examples of local leadership.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Brianna Lyle

I checked in with Steven Krauza, owner of Krauza Family Chiropractic; Honey Stempka, CEO & founder of Undo Undone; and Scott Quezada, owner of SQuare Trade Design, three of Erie's 40 Under 40 alumni. Read the Q&A below to see what they've been up to: renaming businesses, eliminating carbon footprints, and showing people that they are capable of anything.

**Brianna Lyle:** How has your business evolved since you were on Erie's 40 Under 40 list?

**Steven Krauza:** The 40 Under 40 list introduced me to a new audience. I am reaching a new and different demographic now. Being featured in 40 Under 40 has been a great experience!

**Honey Stempka:** The business has been renamed and rebranded to Undo Undone (previously Sustainable Lifestyle Group) with a focus on revolutionizing the workplace through customized training, team building, and strategy experiences that help reengage and refocus employees ... We are expanding beyond the region working with new industries in other geographic areas. The rename and rebrand has

also involved a new website, new business cards, new social media sites, etc.

**Scott Quezada:** Since my induction, I've continued business as usual. Although, my client base is expanding and I'm projected to have my most profitable year.

**BL:** Erieites often complain about the lack of small and/or diverse businesses in the area, but there is opportunity to begin and foster business here. What are your thoughts on the state of small business in Erie?

**SK:** Small business is the future of the Erie community. The writing is on the wall in terms of large industries remaining in Erie. In order for this community to survive job cuts and companies moving to other states, we need to create our future. This is a great time for people to contemplate starting a small business.

**HS:** Interestingly, there are more small businesses in our community than "big" businesses. I think there is work that could be done making those small businesses visible in the community, taking their contribution seriously – particularly when it comes to women-owned businesses or those owned by underrepresented populations –

connecting them with one another for collaborative opportunities as well as connecting them with the big businesses in the region, to be a part of their supply chain, whether it is for a widget or a service.

**SQ:** Small business is a fundamental part of any society. Unfortunately, we as a whole live in an over-saturated global market. So for small business to thrive, we all need to make a conscious decision to support our young business owners.

**BL:** Any advice for someone looking to start a new business?

**SK:** Many new entrepreneurs envision a well-established, finely-tuned business in their head. As a result, many take on too much debt load ... which makes it difficult to keep their head above water in the early years.

I strongly recommend new business owners start lean, take on as little debt as possible, and then allow the business to evolve. As the awareness of the new business grows, customer base develops, and cash flow increases, then [you can] start upgrading in a disciplined manner. The well-established businesses new entrepreneurs envision at the start take time to develop.

**From left: Steven Krauza, Scott Quezada, and Honey Stempka are three 40 Under 40 Alumni whose businesses have grown and evolved since their induction. Though their work may seem initially dissimilar, all three seek to improve the wellness, success, and livability of our region.**

Today's business climate requires businesses of different and similar industries to collaborate instead of competing. An example of this is the local craft beer industry. These business owners don't necessarily compete against one another. They know if they work together, they will all benefit. In the health care industry, I collaborate with other wellness-minded businesses and individuals. If we work to build one another up, we all win. Symbiosis in business is a wonderful thing in today's economy.

**HS:** Start, don't sit on the idea waiting for it to be perfect. Perfection is an illusion. Get it out there and adjust as you get feedback from the market.

**SQ:** Do the prep work! Business plans are essential for starting any new business. Making yourself an expert in your profession translates to your patrons that they are spending their dollars wisely.

**BL:** How do you go from an idea to a business? Maybe you can help readers understand some of the process from initial idea to fruition.

**SK:** Business owners need to develop their “why:” why they want to be in business for themselves. The “why” must be their driving force and compass. There are a lot of less stressful ways to earn a living than owning your own business. The purpose [of the business] should be bigger than you, letting the passion of the “why” flow through the “what” of your business.

**HS:** It takes a lot of time, more time than you think, more time than people tell you it will take. I could say, “Do this, then this, then this,” etc.; but depending on the business and the person, the process would be different for everyone. It begins with vision, a vision so big it’s scary and from there establishing goals and an action plan to make it happen.

When I began, I didn’t have a big enough vision, I was playing it safe. I am currently working through the visioning process again and expanding on the vision exponentially, which will

expand the company exponentially in the future.

**SQ:** For me, it started with interest, experience, and continually feeling under-appreciated in my vocation while working for others, creating a catalyst for change. I realized that I needed independence in my work-space. From there, it’s still an uphill struggle with a plethora of daily responsibilities. Validation and inspiration will be all the rewards needed to continue your journey.

**BL:** Why do you do what you do?

**SK:** We are all capable of more than we give ourselves credit for. Many people live in fear ... fear of pain, fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of success, fear of being their true selves ... I believe in people; in showing them they are capable of anything they choose to do. They just need to believe in themselves.

**HS:** It all comes down to making a positive difference in people’s lives. Trying to be a kick-ass role model for my sons.

**SQ:** Taking things apart and putting them back together has been a

long-running fixation of mine. Now I get to disassemble people’s houses and create healthier, more efficient spaces in design and use.

**BL:** What’s your favorite book?

**SK:** *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle.

**HS:** There are many. I am developing a list of books that I read every year because the information within is so valuable to the way that I execute the day-to-day or to my mindset. One of those books is *The Big Leap* by Gay Hendricks. For the last three years, this is the first book that I read at the beginning of the year. Also on this list are *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey and *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill, so far.

**SQ:** Merriam-Webster Dictionary

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*Brianna Lyle can be contacted at bLyle@ErieReader.com.*

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## A Spotlight on Local Companies

These are just a handful of the innovative local companies that help to shape the Erie area's commercial/industrial landscape.

By: Ryan Smith

One is a website development company that's taken off throughout Erie – and well beyond – in recent years.

Another is a major player in the international energy industry, with a 175-year local history.

A major architectural development company.

A co-working space that makes room for new local start-ups to grow.

A veteran-owned automation business that employs dozens of skilled local workers.

Another company, also longstanding in Erie, is recognized as a world leader in magnetics technologies.

These are just a handful of the innovative local companies that help to shape the Erie area's commercial/industrial landscape. And, in this year's Industry, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Issue, you'll get to know each of them a little better.

### CMI Energy, LLC



Originally established as Presque Isle Foundry in 1840 – over a decade before the city of Erie was officially incorporated – the international company now known as CMI Energy has long been an industrial and economic powerhouse for the region, and around the globe.

In 1859, the company – then known as Erie City Iron Works – provided the engine used to drill the world's first oil well in Titusville.

In 1868, the company supplied Erie's water department a 264-foot standpipe – at the time, the tallest structure of its kind anywhere.

And by 1880, it was one of the largest boiler manufacturers in the U.S., securing itself an important and enduring role in the country's early industrial development. Some of its old records, in fact, are even archived at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Impressive. But the 176-year-old company – which later became and was known locally until 2004 as

Zurn Energy Division – is no relic.

With nearly 120 employees in Erie working with other engineering professionals around the world, CMI (now part of the nearly 200-year-old Belgium-based international corporation CMI Group) continues to develop technologies for a range of energy industry applications. That means engineering professionals in Erie are working on everything from combined-cycle power plants, solar-thermal power, and maritime energy to designs that address fluctuating energy demands and solutions for meeting ever-more-stringent emissions control standards.

In short, company officials say, CMI continues to create power technologies that truly have an impact around the world.

Beyond that, “we also foster progress by investing in Erie and its future, not only by providing professional career opportunities, but also by endowing student scholarships through Penn State University's Behrend College, and by promoting research and development in engineering and technology,” says CMI Chief Executive Officer Yvan Moosmann.

Past, present, and future, that's powerful work.

### Epic Web Studios



Behind every good website, there's a savvy developer – or a whole team of them.

In the Gem City, that team goes by the name Epic Web Studios, and it does everything from website design and development to social media, digital marketing, and search engine optimization.

Helping companies across the gamut develop a strong online presence, “we basically work our butts

---

“We basically work our butts off to make the businesses and industries here stand out as leaders in their fields,” says Epic Web co-founder/managing partner/problem-solver/spokesperson David Hunter.

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off to make the businesses and industries here stand out as leaders in their fields,” says Epic Web co-founder/managing partner/problem-solver/spokesperson

David Hunter.

That's a very vital service to have at-hand in the business world, especially as many sectors of commerce and industry become increasingly connected and truly worldwide.

“It's of utmost importance to keep Erie visible on the international stage,” says Hunter, and the Internet is “typically the first place [people] are going to go.”

Started in 2009 by Hunter and Shaun Rajewski (the brain behind 29 million-and-counting lines of code), Epic Web now has a full staff of developers, designers, and other young tech nerds providing good Internet looks to over 300 unique clients – many of whom, they point out, are nowhere near Erie.

Cool, Epic.

### Eriez Manufacturing Co.



Like many longstanding Erie-based companies, Eriez Manufacturing – now the “World Authority in Separation Technologies” – started out way back in the day as a means to solve a problem.

In its case, the day was the early 1940s; the problem was runaway bits of metal (“tramp iron,” they called it) in grain millers' equipment; and its solution (discovered by equipment seller and Eriez original founder, Orange Fowler Merwin) was magnetics.

According to the company's history, Merwin, acting on complaints from his customers, researched a then new, very strong magnetic alloy, and, in 1942, developed and first marketed a permanent magnetic separator. Grain millers readily purchased the new technology: They no longer had to deal with stuff like wires and bolts and nails in their grains, and a new Erie manufacturing company was born.

Fast-forward seven decades or so, and Eriez is going strong, manufacturing and marketing an array of equipment for magnetic separation, metal detection, and materials feeding, screening, conveying, and controlling.

Now going far beyond just meeting the needs of local mills, Eriez officials say the company provides

# What's Next

## IN LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In 1890, a young entrepreneur established the Edison General Electric Company after inventing the incandescent electric lamp. What came next changed our economy forever.



### WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

If you have an idea, Ignite Erie partners can help you get networked, get training, get funded, and get to market.



A \$5 million initiative launched by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority in conjunction with Erie's most renowned business owners, educators, subject-matter experts, thinkers, and investors, Ignite Erie spurs inner-city small business development, fosters industry + university collaborations for business acceleration, and offers a broader spectrum of financing products for starting, growing, and reinventing small business. Visit [IgniteErie.org](http://IgniteErie.org) for more.

## GET FUNDED

We're investing in key growth areas, including minority-owned, inner-city, tourism, manufacturing, and tech-based businesses.



## GET TO MARKET

We specialize in equipping and networking leaders in all areas of business.





Doug Massey, Governor's Action Team

Carl Nicolia, BlueTree Allied Angels, Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors

Carmen Dawson, Adreamz

Katrina Smith, DevelopErie

Joel Secundy, Erie Management Group

Amy Bridger, Director, Research & Business Development, PSU Behrend

Jeff Parnell, Erie Technology Incubator at Gannon

Maggie Horne - Gannon SBDC

Brad Gleason, Mercyhurst, Tom Ridge School of Intelligence Studies and Information Science

Dr. W.L. Scheller, Dean of Engineering and Business, Gannon University

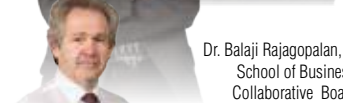
Ralph Ford, Interim Chancellor, PSU Behrend

Beth Zimmer, Innovation Collaborative



Mike Noble, President, Hero BX

Jonathan D'Silva, MacDonald Illig, Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Dr. Balaji Rajagopalan, PSU Dean of Black School of Business, Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Dr. Greg Dillon, PSU Behrend, Director of Applied Research



Dr. Nathan Ritchey, VP of Strategic Initiatives and Dean of Edinboro's College of Science and Health, Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Anna Franz, Emerge2040



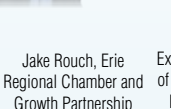
Bob Spaulding, Economic Development Director, Office of Senator Sean Wiley



Brian Scott, BlueTree Allied Angels & Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Kurt Hersch, Entrepreneurship Gannon



Jake Rouch, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership



Mary Rennie, Executive Director of the Erie County Public Library



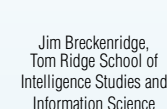
Peter Kuvshnikov, Edinboro University



Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive



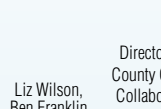
Dr. Scott Miller, Dean of School of Business Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences Edinboro University



Jim Breckenridge, Tom Ridge School of Intelligence Studies and Information Science



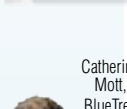
Rick Novotny, Erie County Redevelopment Authority



Liz Wilson, Ben Franklin



Gary Lee, Director of Administration, Erie County Government & Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Catherine Mott, BlueTree Allied Angels



# Partners with a Purpose

*Inspiring a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation*



**Innovation Collaborative**

**“Disrupting Erie,  
One Entrepreneur at a Time...”**



*Erie's Hero Award presented to H.O. Hirt and O.G. Crawford at the first annual Disrupt Erie Awards.*

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Dr. Ken Louie, Economic Research Institute of Erie, PSU Behrend



Amanda Sisssem, Erie Arts & Culture



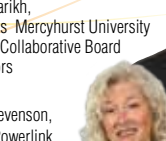
Steve Findlay, BlueTree Allied Angels



Dave Mosier, BlueTree Allied Angels and Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Dr. Rajeev Parikh, Dean, Walker School of Business - Mercyhurst University Vice Chairman, Innovation Collaborative Board of Directors



Linda Stevenson, Athena Powerlink



Bill Scholz, Innovation Collaborative



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hundreds of products to more than 80 industries. You'll find their magnetized machinery at work in industries that range, according to the Eriez website, "from food to pharmaceutical; coal mining to mineral beneficiation; pulp and paper to rubber and plastics; ceramics to aggregates; foundries to textile; recycling to primary metals; industrial minerals to stone, clay and glass; tobacco to chemical; packaging to industrial machinery; power generation to coal processing; fabrication to automotive; transportation to lifting and rigging; and many more."

Leave it to an Erie company to have the know-how to help other industries separate their wheat from their chaff.

**Great Lakes Automation Services, Inc.**



Ask company President Mark Fatica to explain in easy terms what Great Lakes Automation Services, Inc. does, and he'll tell you, basically, they work within the field of robotics.

That's because the term robotics "is a buzzword that everyone sort of understands," says Fatica, who launched GLASI – an officially-recognized Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) that currently employs upwards of 60 skilled people – in nearby McKean in 2002.

Like that wide-open field of science and technology, the applications of automation services are nearly endless in the modern industrial landscape, and GLASI's services are widely used in everything from automobiles to medical devices.

The business of GLASI may be to create precise, efficient automation systems for a range of high-tech industries, but the heart of its success, Fatica is quick to say, is the people behind the machines.

"The people in this area – skill-wise and [with solid] work ethics – are huge for us," he says. And "the thing that makes us succeed is our local vendors," and other companies that have a demand – and repeatedly return – for the services GLASI offers.

For GLASI and many other companies, forging and keeping those kinds of cooperative, long standing relationships on the local level is a big part of what success in industry is all about.

And there's something very human about that.

**Radius CoWork**



Erie's first-ever co-working space, Radius CoWork, taps into evolving business and cultural models for success, and states its purpose clearly: "Providing facilities and connections that empower creative professionals, freelancers, and start-ups to get work done."

Radius has been doing that since early 2015 after winning the Renaissance Centre's annual contest in which deserving start-ups go after a year's worth of free office space. Earning that accolade showed that Erie's business leaders saw the value of coworking – an emerging national trend toward open-access, collaborative workspaces – and the growing need for the availability of such space for other start-ups on the local level.

---

Spaces like Radius CoWork, becoming more common in cities across the country, facilitate innovation. They facilitate constructive risk-taking. They facilitate growth. And Erie needs as much of those as it can get.

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In short, spaces like Radius, becoming more common in cities across the country, facilitate innovation. They facilitate constructive risk-taking. They facilitate growth. And Erie needs as much of those as it can get.

"The critical role we seek to fill," says Radius co-founder Sean Fedorko, is to "provide the lowest-cost, lowest-friction, highest-value opportunity for somebody to get started" in business, whether that person's needs are for physical work space, computers and other resources, or opportunities for idea-sharing amongst peers.

That's good work, and it's becoming one of the ways that people with new ideas are getting a lot of things done.

"Now," Fedorko says, "Erie is able to accommodate a lot of really great work that may have otherwise starved."

**Weber Murphy Fox**

Whether it's working on restoring historic structures, building new sports and recreational facilities, or designing a \$150 million project to bring urban office, living, and retail to Erie's bayfront, Weber Murphy Fox can count its successes as many.

But jobs well done aren't counted in numbers of new ribbon-cutting ceremonies, according to com-



pany officials: At WMF, they say, success is measured "over time, as people use the facility and experience the spaces that are designed specifically for the individual."

With offices in Erie, Cleveland, and State College, the architectural design firm also focuses on construction management, land planning and development, and historic preservation. Using experience, keen professional insight and modern design concepts and approaches, WMF serves clients ranging from churches and hospitals to colleges and public schools, from corporations and manufacturers to senior-living centers and public spaces.

"We strive to understand our client's business so that our design solutions enhance the functionality of their built environments," says WMF Principal Dennis Wilkins. "We invest heavily in cutting-edge technology that affords our clients the ability to vi-

---

Using experience, keen professional insight and modern design concepts and approaches, WMF serves clients ranging from churches and hospitals to colleges and public schools, from corporations and manufacturers to senior-living centers and public spaces.

---

sualize design concepts, and better enables WMF to integrate our construction management services early in the design process, resulting in both time- and cost-savings for our clients."

The results of that investment of time and talent can be seen in plenty of buildings and spaces in and around Erie, and elsewhere.

Ryan Smith can be reached at [rsmith@eriereader.com](mailto:rsmith@eriereader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @ryanmsmithpens.

# Considering the City

## Arts & Culture Economy



By: Lisa Austin, Civitas

Attending arts and cultural events in Erie for the last 20 years, I have been transported by music, transfixed by dance, lost in film, overwhelmed by theater, shocked by poetry, enchanted by crafts, challenged by visual arts – and engaged in conversation with people of all ages, races, economic status, levels of education, political views, spiritual practices, physical abilities, and birthplaces. Arts revive and hone our humanity, contribute to social interactions, foster innovation, and attract and retain human capital to the region, thus enriching our economy. Arts organizations also measurably put dollars into the local economy. They can't out-source their workers and tend to buy supplies nearby (thus supporting other local jobs). Additionally, arts organizations attract visitors downtown to spend *their* dollars in Erie.

Published by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) details the contributions of our country's arts and culture sector to the gross

domestic product (GDP). The GDP is the estimated value of "all goods and services" produced in the U.S. According to the 2015 ACPSA report, U.S. arts and culture economies create jobs not only within the arts and cultural industry; but also in other sectors at a rate of 1.6 to 2. For example: Two theater jobs support the creation of 1.6 jobs in other industries.

In 2012, the most recent year for which data is available, U.S. GDP was \$16,163.2 billion. The ACPSA report reveals that the arts and culture sector's contribution to the GDP was \$698 billion. This exceeded the construction industry's portion (\$586.7 billion); as well as that of the agriculture, fishing, forestry, and hunting industry (\$195.3 billion). The ACPSA report lists specific arts and cultural industries in descending order of contribution to the GDP: 1) broadcasting, 2) motion picture, 3) publishing, 4) retail trade, 5) performing arts and independent artists, and 6) advertising.

For now, let's assume that Erie broadcasting, as it currently exists, has a limited audience base. Next, we can probably agree that a motion picture industry does not really exist in Erie (despite the potential to feature a variety

of settings – city to rural and forest to ocean – as utilized in *That Thing You Do* (1996) and *The Road* (2009). Nevertheless, individual filmmakers could, with support, make this industry a larger economic player.

Nationwide, advertising contributed over \$29 million to the GDP in 2012. While the impact here in Erie has not been defined, we can clearly boast sophisticated firms specializing in advertising animation, web, and graphic design, including Creative Core, Epic Web, MoreFrames, PAPA Advertising, and Werkbot Studios. These firms serve clients in Erie and nationwide, and some are looking to expand globally.

David Hunter, managing partner of the eight-year-old Epic Web Studio, reported that in addition to regional work, his firm attracts clients from big cities like Chicago and Boston. Due to Erie's lower cost of living, Hunter explained that Epic is able to "provide a higher tier of service at a lower cost than major agencies in big metropolitan areas." Hunter wants to help make Erie "a known spot for technology and digital marketing."

Mark Tanenbaum, artistic director at Performing Artists Collective Alliance, says PACA "pipelines all [earned] money

**Business leader and author Margaret Heffernan said that "for good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, and debate. Arts organizations are at the forefront of fostering these vital interactions."**

and spends it back out" in the community. His team has invested \$50,000 in remodeling the hundred-plus-year-old building at 1505 State Street. These funds were spent locally, hiring electricians and plumbers, and buying supplies and materials at Kraus Department Store, Frontier Lumber, or Gypsum Services. Local musicians are hired per event. Currently, PACA's gallery is filled with 75 artworks by independent artists (NPAA members) which will be featured during the March 11 Gallery Night and auctioned off on March 12 from 1-3 p.m. as a fundraiser for each artist, the NPAA scholarship, and PACA.

Meanwhile, visiting performers and PACA's 10,000-plus annual visitors enjoy dinner before performances and drinks afterwards downtown, further expanding this organization's economic impact.

Melinda Meyer, program director at Erie Arts & Culture, explained that her organization is participating in a national study on how the arts impact economies. Along with 300 other communities across the country, Erie Arts & Culture is working with Americans for the Arts, as they produce their fifth report on the arts and economic prosperity. Their last report, with figures from 2010, indicates that Erie County arts and culture organizations and audiences together spent over \$18 million, resulting in over \$700,000 received "in revenue to local government," and almost \$13 million "in household income paid to residents." In addition, the "non-admission" but "event-re-

lated expenditures" amounted to more than more than \$7.5 million being infused into the local economy. Clearly the arts are playing a significant role in Erie's economy.

A review of Elizabeth Currid-Halkett's "The Warhol Economy" on Amazon explains that the author believes NYC's economy is hugely dependent on "social life ... where creative people meet, network, and exchange ideas." Troublingly, Currid-Halkett's book reports that "urban policymakers ... have not only seriously underestimated the importance of the cultural economy, but they have failed to recognize that it depends on a vibrant creative social scene." Currid-Halkett noted the "importance of social milieus in the production of culture" and that this creative vitality attracts "high human capital from around the world."

While NYC is a world apart, Erie should take note of Currid-Halkett's point: A city's social scene informs and frames the cultural economy and these both impact the larger economy. Business leader and author Margaret Heffernan said that "for good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, and debate. Our region's arts organizations are at the forefront of fostering these vital interactions.

Supporting Erie's "arts and culture economy" is key to what Harvard economist Edward Glaeser describes as "the most successful economic development policy" for cities: "attract and retain smart people and then get out of their way."

*Lisa Austin can be reached via email [Lisa@civitaserie.com](mailto:Lisa@civitaserie.com); or by scheduling a Friday morning meeting at the Civitas office in the Masonic Building.*



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# Spotlight on Erie

February 17 – March 1, 2016

**Thursday, Feb. 18**

## Jess Royer and Jake Johns Bring Soulful Storytelling Songs to Bobby's Place



Take a nice respite from the cold February weather, grab a drink, and warm yourself up to two of the best songwriters in the area. Jess Royer has been making a name for herself lately, playing numerous events large and small. While her voice has no trouble filling a room of any size, cozy venues like Bobby's Place provide an added intimacy. The virtue of such an intimacy might be debatable when it comes to full-band rock and roll, but for these two performers, it's undeniable. Both

Cozy venues like Bobby's Place provide an added intimacy. The virtue of such an intimacy might be debatable when it comes to full-band rock and roll, but for these two performers, it's undeniable.

artists are warm, introspective, and inviting. Nearly everyone who's heard Royer's voice has become mesmerized by it. Her alto is saturated and remarkable, undulating somewhere between Ella Fitzgerald and Cat Power. Royer recently recorded a full length album with Trevor Huster, which she'll be releasing shortly. She also has plans to pick up a few more musicians along the way, so keep tuned for that. The evening is part of a showcase series curated by Matt Texter. Excited about the team-up, Royer exclaimed that "I'm genuinely so happy to be playing with Jake. He just has this amazing spirit, and you can really hear it come out through his music. You'll love it." Johns mixes his soulful baritone voice with intelligent, creative storytelling. For a starting point, try picturing Matt

Berninger from the National covering Colin Hay. Acoustic guitar in hand, he keeps a steady pulse with a subtle foot tambourine. The light beat provides a backdrop as dynamics climb and cascade. Tones transition from woeful to humorous, with everything in between. You're sure to be easily won over by both artists. — Nick Warren

8 - 11 p.m. // Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St.  
// Free Admission

**Thursday, Feb. 18**

## Is *The Holy Mountain* the strangest movie ever made?



Do you enjoy weird movies? Well, if you do, Alejandro Jodorowsky's 1973 epic *The Holy Mountain* makes *Donnie Darko* look like *Jerry Maguire*.

Want to see a loin-clothed Jesus lookalike wake up from a nap surrounded by hundreds of mannequins designed in his image? How about a reenactment of the Spanish siege of Mexico, featuring a cast composed entirely of costumed frogs and lizards? The film also makes a pit stop on the planet Mars, where "the young generation makes arms for its marches and sit-ins," including "psychedelic shot-guns, grenade necklaces, rock-and-roll weapons" and so on. I've just described about ten minutes of screen time, by

Jodorowsky rose to the occasion by combining just about every ingredient in the hippie cookbook – acid meltdowns, new age mysticism, free jazz, science fiction, tarot, yoga, and a heavy dose of inexplicable nudity.

the way. It goes on and on like this.

Let's back up a bit. *The Holy Mountain* is Jodorowsky's follow-up to *El Topo*, a "psychedelic western" that, along with cult hits like *Night of the Living Dead* and *Pink Flamingos*, helped mobilize the "Midnight Movie" craze of the 70s and 80s. *El Topo* – which is pretty damn

weird in its own right – impressed John Lennon and George Harrison so much that they convinced their manager Allen Klein to produce the director's next feature. Jodorowsky rose to the occasion by combining just about every ingredient in the hippie cookbook – acid meltdowns, new age mysticism, free jazz, science fiction, tarot, yoga, and a heavy dose of inexplicable nudity.

So is *The Holy Mountain* a visionary epic or a dated curiosity? For my money, it's more of the former than the latter. There's something genuinely wild about Jodorowsky's ferocious ambitions, even as he wallows in pseudo-profundity. If you're a *Twin Peaks* fanatic, a Wiccan goddess, a hipster cinephile, or just an all-around stoner, this is one you won't want to miss. — Dan Schank

8:30 p.m. // Edinboro Film Series // 405  
Scotland Rd., Edinboro // facebook.com/  
events/934729586618872/

**Friday, Feb. 19**

## Bastard Bearded Irishmen Bring Good-timey Debauchery to Kings Rook Club



With a name like Bastard Bearded Irishmen, you'd think these guys would be wild. Raucous. Hairy. Maybe even a little ferocious.

And you'd be right on all counts.

The Pittsburgh-based band – mentioned in *Rolling Stone* in 2013 as a

The Pittsburgh-based band has been ripping it up with its original blend of folk, rock, punk, traditional, and contemporary Celtic stylings since 2008, sharing stages with the likes of Gogol Bordello and Dropkick Murphys.

"Band to Watch," among other accolades – has been ripping it up with its original blend of folk, rock, punk, tra-

ditional, and contemporary Celtic stylings since 2008, sharing stages with the likes of Gogol Bordello and Dropkick Murphys.

On Friday, Feb. 19, they bring their musical rampage back to the Kings Rook Club, setting up for what's sure to be an evening of good-timey debauchery.

With pre- and post-performances both upstairs and down, Erie's own honky-tonkin' string band the Bootlegger's Bible Club will open and close the show.

So long as you're 21-plus, sounds like that could be a really good time. — Ryan Smith

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

**Saturday, Feb. 20**

## Basement Transmissions' Punk Floor Show Embodies the Spirit of Punk Rock



This month's installment of Basement Transmissions' Punk Floor Show series doubles as the CD release show for Pittsburgh's The Scratch n' Sniffs' album *Scraping By*.

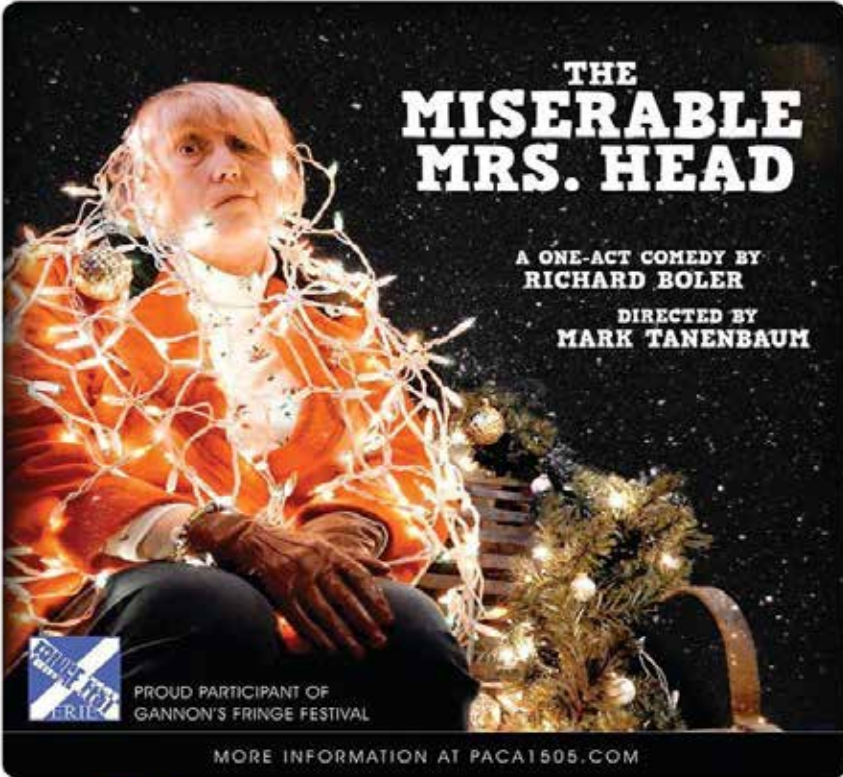
The Scratch n' Sniffs were clearly channeling bands like NOFX, Lagwagon, and Bad Religion while writing their energetic skate-punk album, taking just enough influence without ripping anything off. The old school vibes coming from *Scraping By* scoff at the notion that punk is dead.

Previous punk floor shows at BT showcased an array of styles in the broad spectrum of genres related to punk. But this time around, the show series is centered around punk in its rawest and purest form. BT veterans Dysmorphia and Genetically Engineered Super Humans (GESH) return to the stage – or floor, rather – as well

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- SAT 02/20 SMACKDAB [FREE]
- FRI 02/26 AFTER FUNK + HAWEA [FREE]
- SAT 02/27 FALLING HOLLYWOOD + TYLER SMILO [FREE]
- FRI 03/04 CHICKSTOCK: CLAIRE STUCZYNSKI + OPTIMISTIC APOCALYPSE + BRITCHES [FREE]
- SAT 03/05 SMILO & THE GHOST + JAKE JOHNS [FREE]
- FRI 03/11 FUNKTIONAL FLOW [FREE]
- SAT 03/12 UPTOWNE BUDDHA [FREE]
- FRI 03/18 START MAKING SENSE: TALKING HEADS TRIBUTE + HMFO: HALL & OATES TRIBUTE [DOWNSTAIRS]



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as the grungy Flipper-meets-Dinosaur Jr. stylings of *Out of It*.

The intimacy of playing on the floor instead of the stage is part of what made the old BT location on State Street so great, and the band and audience being on the same level perfectly embodies the spirit of punk rock. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$5 // facebook.com/events/527541344073082/

**Saturday, Feb. 20**

**The Erie Library Local Music Project Celebrates Regional Music Past, Present, Future – and Live**



A couple of hip Erie County Public Library employees started the Local Music Project in late 2015 as a vehicle to make Erie-made music — past

and present — publicly available for borrowing, and archived and preserved for posterity as part of the community's history.

As we've said before, that's an awesome idea — and one that's been heartily supported by the local music community.

And now, after months of music-gathering, Blasco Library staffers Jessica Makowski and Sarah Brown-Millspaw are pleased to announce the official unveiling of the Erie Library Local Music Project, coming, fittingly, during a "CD release party" slated for Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Blasco.

Along with an unveiling of the new local collection, there will plenty of live music — local, of course — with performances by Matty Boland, Optimistic Apocalypse, and Strangers and Liars, along with an open mic session, a musical petting zoo, and other music-themed happenings.

"We're really just trying to connect the library to the musicians, and [the musicians] to the public," Makowski said recently.

That's music to our ears. — Ryan Smith

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. // 160 East Front St. // facebook.com/ErieLibraryLocalMusicProject

**Wednesday, Feb. 24**

**Spike Lee's *Chi-Raq* Offers an Audacious, Ambitious Look at the World We Live in**



There's a lot going on in Spike Lee's messy, visionary 2015 film *Chi-Raq*.

It's inspired by *Lysistrata*, a classical Greek comedy by Aristophanes. Most of its dialogue rhymes. It's kind of a musical, though it won't call to mind *Grease* or *West Side Story*. You could probably call it a comedy, though there's nothing funny about the issues it deals with. At times, it's compelling and provocative. It's also, occasionally, annoying. But absolutely worth seeing.

The premise is completely absurd (though Lee doesn't expect us to take it too seriously). After a small child is killed by accidental gunfire in a gang shootout, the ladies of Chicago's trou-

bled south side decide to withhold sex from their men until the violence ceases. The protest spreads until sexual frustration has overwhelmed not only the film's gang-banging protagonists, but also the mayor, the president, and (eventually) the world.

As a parable about gender dynamics, *Chi-Raq* is pretty simplistic. Its men are all dogs, and its women are scantily-clad angels. But as its focus shifts toward the concentrated poverty, racism,

and violence that plagues our most vulnerable communities, it starts to pack a punch. Better still, it rarely crosses over into faux-serious, Oscar-bait territory. Spike Lee is true to his wild, weird vision.

Take, for example, the cast. It's an oil-and-water mix of bad decisions (Jennifer Hudson as a grieving mom), good

**MUSIC**

**Dave VanAmburg & Friends**

Feb. 18, 25 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Maxi's Restaurant, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

**Colony House Band**

Feb. 18, 25 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

**Faculty Recital Series**

Feb. 18 — 8 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

**Jess Royer & Jake Johns**

Feb. 18 — 8 to 11 p.m.  
Bobbys Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/events/924494054265410.

**Basement Transmissions Acoustic Showcase**

Feb. 19 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/basement.transmissions.

**The Highlife**

Feb. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

**Acoustic Jukebox**

Feb. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

**Friday Night Jazz**

Feb. 19, 26 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

**Chris Higbee**

Feb. 19, 20 — 8 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Erie Ale House Acoustics**

Feb. 19 — 9 p.m. to midnight  
Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/ErieAleHouse.

**Bastard Bearded Irishmen & Bootleggers Bible Club**

Feb. 19 — 10 p.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

**Flight**

Feb. 19 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

**Basement Transmissions Punk Floor Show**

Feb. 20 — 6 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/events/527541344073082.

**Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers**

Feb. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

**I-90s**

Feb. 20 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

**Highway 45**

Feb. 20 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

**Radio Age**

Feb. 20 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.  
South Erie Turners, 2663 Peach St. souterieturners.com.

**Smackdab**

Feb. 20 — 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

**Sunday Fireside Music Series**

Feb. 21, 28 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

**Piano Recital: Dr. Nicholas Phillips**

Feb. 21 — 3 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

**The Color Purple**

Feb. 22 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

**Salmon Frank**

Feb. 26 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

**Whitney Peyton's Break the Frame Tour**

Feb. 26 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/basement.transmissions.

**The Groove**

Feb. 26 — 8 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Tri-State Music Festival: Prism Concert**

Feb. 26 — 8 p.m.  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

**After Funk & Haewa**

Feb. 26 — 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

**Zillion**

Feb. 26 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

**Small Town Rollers**

Feb. 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

**Tri-State Music Festival: Honor Band Concert**

Feb. 27 — 2 p.m.  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

**This American Song**

Feb. 27 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

**Whiskey Road Rock Show**

Feb. 27 — 8 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

**Old School**

Feb. 27 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/

## CALENDAR

decisions (Samuel L. Jackson as our extremely loud Greek chorus), fun stunt casting (Dave Chappelle as the owner of a strip club), and completely inexplicable stunt casting (John Cusack as the energetic preacher of a mostly-black church). These decisions keep things fresh and unexpected – even when they don't particularly work.

The set design is also wildly innovative – each rival gang is filmed in its own, distinct color pattern. Almost all of its establishment shots involve graffiti, signage, and murals – making *Chi-Raq* feel like a cross between Jean Luc-Godard and an episode of *Empire*.

I'm not going to lie to you – parts of this movie are pretty disastrous. But like much of Lee's best work, there's a sense that the director is thinking out loud, with a brazen lack of inhibition. He's certainly not worried about what some smart aleck at an alt-weekly thinks of him, and his confidence is contagious. *Chi-Raq* might not be the best film of 2015, but it's probably the one that best represents the uncertain zeitgeist we live in. — Dan Schank

Film at 7 p.m., panel discussion about violence to follow // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // [erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html](http://erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html)

### Friday, Feb. 26

#### Whitney Peyton's Break the Frame Tour Brings Hip-hop to Basement Transmissions



Basement Transmissions is known in Erie as a hub for varying types of music. Metal, punk, and indie are most commonly featured, but hip-hop hasn't yet received much recognition from the venue. That changes, however, on Feb. 26 when Whitney Peyton brings her Break the Frame tour to BT.

I will be the first to admit that my knowledge of hip-hop as a genre is substantially limited. But the music that Whitney Peyton brings to the turntable seems to be sincerer than

her mainstream counterparts. Her songs are driven more by the delivery of the lines throughout the entirety of the song, instead of resorting to a one-line hook and a bass drop that so many cookie-cutter party rap songs use to dominate the radio and night clubs. She even uses the line "I'll rock a different image 'til you're thrown off / I'm not shaking my ass but my words will knock your dome off" to separate herself from the typical tactics used by mainstream hip-hop.

But perhaps the most impressive rapper on the lineup goes by the moniker Yung Skola. This Erie native MC is only 11 years old, but his songs have a certain realism to them that one would expect from someone twice his age, making them all the more extraordinary. He shows a surprising amount of social awareness for his age, confronting police brutality and senseless violence in his song "No Justice, No Peace," and telling a moving tale of loss in "I Miss You."

Even from a very restricted understanding of hip-hop culture, I can tell that this show is not something to miss. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$8 advance, \$10 day of show // [facebook.com/events/763268537150403/](http://facebook.com/events/763268537150403/)

### Friday, Feb. 26

#### B.D. Lenz Delivers Virtuosity and Versatility at the Anchor In



It may sound like your daddy's music, but trust me – the Anchor In is (probably) way cooler than your parent's basement.

There will be no dirty laundry or litter boxes in sight for this installment of the Friday Night Jazz series, just the clean phrasings of two cats who really know how to pull some strings. New Jersey's B.D. Lenz will join Erie's own Frank Singer on guitar for three hours of laid back grooves in the cozy confines of the Oasis Pub's understorey. Both have been students of the instrument since their early teens, and

[sherlocksparkplace.com](http://sherlocksparkplace.com).

#### Fallen Union

Feb. 27 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. [pknpk.com](http://pknpk.com).

#### Next of Kin

Feb. 27 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

South Erie Turners, 2663 Peach St. [southerieturners.com](http://southerieturners.com).

#### Falling Hollywood & Tyler Smilo

Feb. 27 — 10 p.m.

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

#### U.S. Navy Band

Feb. 29 — 7 p.m.

McDowell High School, 3580 W. 38th St. [navyband.navy.mi](http://navyband.navy.mi).

#### Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage

Mar. 2 — 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### DANCE

#### Matters of the Heart

Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27 — 8 p.m.

Lake Erie Ballet, 1020 Holland St. [facebook.com/lakeerieballet](http://facebook.com/lakeerieballet).

#### Stardust Valentine's Dance

Feb. 20 — 7 to 11 p.m.

Stardust Ballroom Dance Club of Erie, 3902 W. 38th St. [facebook.com/Stardust-Ballroom-Dance-Club-of-Erie-597514403606573](http://facebook.com/Stardust-Ballroom-Dance-Club-of-Erie-597514403606573).

#### Master Class with Barbara Sandonato

Feb. 21 — 1 to 5 p.m.

Patterson School of Ballet, 2415 W. 26th St. [facebook.com/eriedance.consortium](http://facebook.com/eriedance.consortium).

### FOOD & DRINK

#### Voodoo Brewery Event at U Pick 6 Tap House

Feb. 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.

U Pick 6 Tap House, 33 State St. #110 [facebook.com/Voodoo-Brewery-305706522795288](http://facebook.com/Voodoo-Brewery-305706522795288).

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon

Feb. 19 — noon

Van Houten Dining Hall, 345 Scotland Rd. [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).

#### Sips, Suds & Songs

Feb. 19, 26 — 8 to 11 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. [cork1794.com](http://cork1794.com).

#### Brewers Cup

Feb. 20 — 5 to 8 p.m.

The Brewerier at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. [brewerier.com](http://brewerier.com).

#### Voodoo Brewery Event at U Pick 6 Beer Store

Feb. 24 — 7 to 9 p.m.

U Pick 6 Beer Store, 7520 Peach St. #101 [facebook.com/Voodoo-Brewery-305706522795288](http://facebook.com/Voodoo-Brewery-305706522795288).

#### Barstool Open

Feb. 27 — 7 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### FILM

#### Robots Movie

Ongoing through March

31 — 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula

[Dr.trempi.org](http://Dr.trempi.org).

#### D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

Ongoing through March 31 — noon & 4 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula [Dr.trempi.org](http://Dr.trempi.org).

#### Tiny Giants

Ongoing through March 31 — 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula [Dr.trempi.org](http://Dr.trempi.org).

#### Pretty in Pink 30th Anniversary

Feb. 17 — 2 & 7 p.m.

Cinemark Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### Children of Men (2006)

Feb. 17 — 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### The Holy Mountain

Feb. 18 — 8:30 p.m.

Edinboro University, 405 Scotland Rd. [facebook.com/edinborofilmseries](http://facebook.com/edinborofilmseries).

#### Women of Faith: An Amazing Joyful Journey

Feb. 18 — 7 p.m. & Feb. 20 — 12:55 p.m.

Cinemark's Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### Bolshoi Ballet - Lady of the Camellias

Feb. 20 — 12:55 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

#### Metropolis (1927)

Feb. 20 — 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### The Danish Girl

Feb. 21 — 2 p.m.

Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

#### The Maltese Falcon 75th Anniversary (1941)

Feb. 21, 24 — 2 & 7 p.m.

Cinemark Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### Chi-raq (2015)

Feb. 24 — 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Stairway to Heaven (1946)

Feb. 25 — 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### Liquid Sky (1982)

Feb. 26 — 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### Far From the Madding Crowd

Feb. 28 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

#### I'll See You in My Dreams

Feb. 28 — 2 p.m.

Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

#### An Evening with Neil Young Live Q&A

Feb. 29 — 8 p.m.

Cinemark Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

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Executive Director of International Investment in the Office of International Business Development for the Pennsylvania Department of Community Economic Development.  
**Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016**  
**Evaluating Pennsylvania's Role in the Global Marketplace**  
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**Roxanne Sukol, M.D.**  
Medical Director, Cleveland Clinic's Wellness Enterprise, Department of Preventative Medicine.  
**Monday, Feb. 29, 2016**  
**Preventing - and Reversing - the Growing Trend of Diabetes and Obesity**  
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it's evident in their fluid and articulate playing.

Lenz, a former math teacher, can count himself among the most coveted players in jazz today. His music has appeared on hundreds of TV shows, including *Breaking Bad* (AMC), *Catfish* (MTV), and *Anthony Bourdain's No Res-*

ervations (Travel Channel). He is noted for his versatility in addition to his virtuosity, swinging and slinking with the bluesy swagger of a Kenny Burrell on some recordings and soaring into the spacier, new-agey fusion of a Pat Metheny on others.

Singer, a regular at the Anchor, has collaborated with scores of talented musicians over the years and should be equal to the task as bossa nova, Latin, blues, hard bop, and fusion fill out the syllabus Friday night. — Matt Swanseger

6-9 p.m. // Anchor In // 3122 West Lake Rd. // 814-833-1212 for reservations // no cover

**Friday, Feb. 26**

**Dramashop Stages the Award-winning Dark Comedy, A Bright New Boise**

There's no place quite like the break room of a Hobby Lobby to explore a crisis of faith. There's nothing pretty about such a crisis, and certainly nothing pretty about a corporate behemoth recently caught on the wrong end of the church/state divide.

But "nothing is pretty about *A Bright New Boise*," quipped *The Washington*

Post, "a play that marches in the footsteps of Sam Shepard's acid comedies."

Dark comedy is the phrase that best comes to mind with Samuel D. Hunter's *Boise*, set to begin its run as part of Dramashop's Mainstage series. The play won the 2011 Obie Award for Playwriting, and Hunter was the recipient of a 2014 MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship.

So, back to the Hobby Lobby break room, and a group of lost souls. There's

Will, fleeing his rural hometown after a scandal at his Evangelical church, his teenage son whom he had given up for adoption, his son's adopted brother, a hapless young woman, and their manager. All are striving, in the play's notes, to "confront an unyielding world through the beige-tinted impossibility of modern faith." — Sara Toth

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 26 – March 12 // Dramashop, Renaissance Centre, 2nd Fl., 1001 State St. // Tickets \$12 // [dramashop.org](http://dramashop.org)

**Saturday, Feb. 27**

**Kings Rook Club Welcomes Falling Hollywood's Americana Shuffles and Garage Rock Singalongs**

It's been a while since Falling Hollywood have taken the stage here in Erie. Dust off those dancing shoes, because it's time for another fun night with the loveable quartet. If you don't know the band by now, you probably should. Their sound is full of Americana shuffles and garage rock singalongs (a guaranteed hit for fans of Spoon or Born Ruffians). The hometown favorites had a one-two punch with back-to-back albums in 2012 and



EMILY SMICKER

2013. Their debut album, *Set the Table* saw the boys with a folk-inspired flavor. Their follow-up, aptly titled *Heavy Weather* hit listeners with a slightly grittier edge, still packed with all the hooks you could ask for. They've all but given up trying to define themselves by subgenres. Summing up their musical evolution, guitarist Matt Flowers explained that "we're a rock and roll band, there's no bones about it at this point." Expect them to be previewing a solid bit of new material at this show, as they've been cooking up a new album this year. Their sound is chiseling itself into a harder form of rock. Bassist Bill Frackowiak described it as "adding texture to the music. It's new territory for

**Sicario (2015)**

Mar. 2 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Imagine Dragons: Smoke & Mirrors Concert**

Mar. 2 — 7:30 p.m.  
Cinemark Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

**VISUAL ARTS**

**National Juried Printmaking Invitational**

Ongoing through Feb. 26  
Bruce Gallery, 219 Meadville St. [brucegallery.info](http://brucegallery.info).

**Ryan Groner**

Ongoing through Mar. 1  
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. [glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).

**Juried Student Art Show**

Ongoing Mar. 13 — 9 a.m. (Reception Feb. 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.)  
Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

**Kids as Curators**

Ongoing through March 13  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**The Fluidity of Gender**

Ongoing through March 13  
Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. [sites.allegheny.edu](http://sites.allegheny.edu).

**Assembled Visions**

Ongoing through Mar. 26  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Plenty**

Ongoing through May 7  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Art of the Comic Book**

Ongoing through May. 22  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Dark Garden**

Ongoing through Jan 8, 2017  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**THEATRE**

**Nice Work If You Can Get It**

Feb. 17, 18, 19, 20 — 7:30 p.m. & Feb. 21 — 2 p.m.  
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

**Lazarus Laughed**

Feb. 17, 18, 19, 20 — 8 p.m. & Feb. 21 — 2 p.m.  
Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).

**Little Shop of Horrors**

Feb. 18 — 7:30 p.m.  
Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).

**The Miserable Mrs. Head**

Feb. 18, 19, 20 — 8 p.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. [facebook.com/paca1505](http://facebook.com/paca1505).

**Agatha Christie's Black Coffee**

Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27 & Mar. 4, 5 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. & Feb. 21, 28 & Mar. 6 — 3 to 5 p.m.  
All an Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).

**Six Sigma**

Feb. 22, 23 — 8 p.m.  
Palumbo Academic Center

2nd Floor Lounge, 824 Peach St. [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).

**"Dead & Breakfast," A Murder Mystery Event**

Feb. 26 — 6:30 to 10 p.m.  
Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. [eriewomansclub.com](http://eriewomansclub.com).

**Catch Me If You Can**

Feb. 26 & Mar. 4 — 7 p.m. & Feb. 27 & Mar. 5 — 5:30 p.m.  
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [canterburyfeast.com](http://canterburyfeast.com).

**A Bright New Boise**

Feb. 26, 27 & March 4, 5, 11, 12 — 8 p.m.  
2nd Fl. Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. [dramashop.org](http://dramashop.org).

**Mr. Burns: a post-electric play**

Feb. 25, 26, 27 — 8 p.m. & Feb. 28 — 2:30 p.m.  
Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. [allegheny.edu](http://allegheny.edu).

**COMMUNITY/VARIETY**

**Great Lakes Shipwreck Exhibition**

**Featuring Lake Erie's Maritime Heritage**

Ongoing through Apr. 25 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

**Ask an Expert Series**

Feb. 17 — 6 to 7 p.m. & Feb. 18 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Volunteer Meeting**

Feb. 17 — 7 to 8 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy. [theerievegssociety.org](http://theerievegssociety.org).

**Syria: Shifting Alliances and Instability in the Middle East**

Feb. 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Erie BayHawks vs. Maine**

Feb. 17 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

**Outside the Window: Beach in a Bag**

Feb. 18 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

**WMMA Lenten Worship Services and Luncheons**

Feb. 18, 25 & Mar. 3, 10, 17 — noon to 12:30 p.m.  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3642 W. 26th St. [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org).

**American Short Stories**

Feb. 18, 25 — 4 to 6 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**New Horizons Music Project Open House**

Feb. 18 — 4 to 6 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Tom Cotter**

Feb. 18 — 7 p.m. & Feb 19, 20 — 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.  
Jr.'s Last Laugh, 402 State St. [jrslastlaugh.net](http://jrslastlaugh.net).

us, but we're definitely excited for it."

Opening up the night will be local folk-master, Tyler Smilo. He's excited to be teaming up with the band again, noting that "I'm so glad to be a part of Falling Hollywood's first show back after hiatus. They were one of the first bands to give me an opening slot when I moved to Erie and I love their sound." Smilo is one of the area's finest

Falling Hollywood has all but given up trying to define themselves by subgenres. "We're a rock and roll band, there's no bones about it at this point."

songwriters. His voice is effortlessly emotive as he weaves rich tales drawn from his life. He also has a new album in the works, entitled *Burn the Rivers*. He'll be taking the stage solo that eve-

ning, while the next week will see the debut of his full band, Smilo and the Ghost. The show will take place on the upstairs stage. No cover will be needed to see two of the best local acts around. — Nick Warren

10 p.m. - 2 a.m. // King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // Free Admission with Member ID

**Saturday, Feb. 27**

**Super Plurtendo at PACA is a Nintendo Lover's Dreamworld**

Are your social skills gathering more dust than your long-neglected bins of 16-bit cartridges? Do not blow off your chance to forge new connections (and reform old ones) at the "Super Plurtendo" theme party, hosted by Azure Underground. No worries of regional lockout here – the PLUR ("Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect") quality seal



means the event is North American, Japanese, and PAL-compatible. No adaptors required, just an open mind – or a couple beers (BYOB storage will be provided; content not rated by the ESRB – or PLCB).

More intrepid adventurers can show off their Mode-7 dance floor scaling capabilities to four hours of continuously-mixed house and electro music,

courtesy of Soundwave and The Paladin.

Still doesn't light your fire flower? Perhaps a little cosplay will spark your interest. A Super Nintendo-themed costume contest will be held, granted there are enough willing participants (you know you've got that Hyliaiously *caliente* green tunic hanging in your closet, now you just need the Courage to wear it. Not to Triforce your hand or anything...).

Gamers of a certain age have rescued princesses, ancient relics, star systems, hopes and dreams, and even potassium-rich banana hordes from the clutches of evil. Rescue yourself from the winter doldrums and peel back the years at PACA before it's too late (facilities max out at 200 lives). — Matt Swanseger

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. // PACA // 1505 State St. // [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

**Shakespeare's 400-Year Afterlife: Reinventions and Adaptations for Our Times**

Feb. 18 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Community Equity through Social Impact Investing**

Feb. 19 — 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Technology Classes with Gannon OT Students**

Feb. 19, 26 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Oasis Program Open House**

Feb. 19 — 1:30 p.m.  
Ridge Library, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

**Animation Free Play**

Feb. 19, 26 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Box of Light Studios, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

**Wintertime at the Maritme**

Feb. 19 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. [flagshipniagara.org](http://flagshipniagara.org).

**Poetry Scene and**

**Infinity Gems**

Feb. 19 — 6:30 p.m.  
Poets' Hall, 16 W. 10th St. [facebook.com/PoetsHall](http://facebook.com/PoetsHall).

**Scratch: Video Game Arcade**

Feb. 20 — 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
Box of Light Studios, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

**Robotics Mission Model Class**

Feb. 20 — 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
Box of Light Studios, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

**Machu Picchu in Peru**

Feb. 20 — 10 a.m.  
McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St. [mccordlibrary.org](http://mccordlibrary.org).

**Art Studio: Ice Painting**

Feb. 20 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Experience Children's Museum, 420 French St. [eriechildrensmuseum.org](http://eriechildrensmuseum.org).

**Erie Library Local Music Project CD Release Party**

Feb. 20 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

**Presque Isle Snow Day**

Feb. 20 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

**Winter Fairy Gathering**

Feb. 20 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

**Chinese New Year Luncheon & Mahjong Class**

Feb. 20 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. [eriewomansclub.com](http://eriewomansclub.com).

**LEGO Machines Class**

Feb. 20 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Box of Light Studios, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

**LEGO Animation 2 Class**

Feb. 20 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Box of Light Studios, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

**Movie Making 1 Class**

Feb. 20 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
Box of Light Studios, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

**Joe Root's Frostbite Open**

Feb. 21 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Beach 1-Runners Club Pavilion, 301 Peninsula Dr. [discoverpi.com](http://discoverpi.com).

**Zem Zem Shriners Daytona 500 Party Fundraiser**

Feb. 21 — noon.  
Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. [zemzem.us](http://zemzem.us).

**Basement Transmissions Stitch n Bitch**

Feb. 21 — 3 to 6 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com/basement.transmissions](http://facebook.com/basement.transmissions).

**Erie Otters vs. Kitchener**

Feb. 21 — 5 to 7:30 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

**The Vibrant Life Series**

Feb. 22 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Weight Lifting for Balance**

Feb. 22 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Piano Masterclass: Dr. Nicholas Phillips**

Feb. 22 — 4:30 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

**Islam in the United States**

Feb. 22 — 7 to 8 p.m.  
Benedictine Sisters of Erie, 6101 E. Lake Rd. [eriebenedictines.org](http://eriebenedictines.org).

**Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes**

Feb. 22 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

[asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

**Medications Consultations**

Feb. 23 — 9 to 10:30 a.m. & Feb. 25 — 9 to 11 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org)

**Wise Words for Wellness**

Feb. 23 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Fun and Fit**

Feb. 23 — 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. & Feb. 25 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Great Books: Happiness and Discontent**

Feb. 23 & Mar. 1, 8 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Great Books: Counterparts**

Feb. 23 & Mar. 1, 8 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Gentle Yoga, Karla Bretz**

Feb. 23 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Mother Daughter Book Club**

Feb. 23 — 6 p.m.  
Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St. [wernerbooks.com](http://wernerbooks.com).

**Mind, Body, Beer and Yoga**

Feb. 23 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. [eriealeworks.com](http://eriealeworks.com).

**County Council Meeting**

Feb. 23 — 7 p.m.  
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. [eriecountypa.gov](http://eriecountypa.gov).

**The Tale of the Steamer the Erie: Lake Erie Calamity**

Feb. 23 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Planetarium Show: What's Up?**

Feb. 23 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Cooper Science Center, 230 Scotland Rd. [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).

**Eboo Patel Keynote Speech at Gannon University**

Feb. 23 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Hammermill Center, 109 University Square [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).

**Monthly Book Club**

Feb. 24 — 11 a.m.  
Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St. [wernerbooks.com](http://wernerbooks.com).

Five & 20 expanded their distillery in 2015 into a combination distillery/brewery. With this expansion, they have become a unique location, NY state's first winery, distillery and brewery under one roof. Following the model of their wineries and distillery, they're again working with local farmers to utilize local agricultural products in their beers. Prepared with local ingredients, brewed in small batches, and purposefully unfiltered to preserve flavor, you'll see that Five & 20 Brewing craft beers are on par with the quality you've come to know from the Mazza and Five & 20 names.

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# free coffee

♥  
Fridays

## COUNTRY FAIR

ANY SIZE • ALL DAY FRIDAYS THRU MARCH



## CALENDAR

### The Dark Side of the Internet: Cyberterrorism and Cybercrime

Feb. 24 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Creativity Matters

Feb. 24 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Evening Fireside Talk - Ancient Animals

Feb. 24 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Rotary Pavilion, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### Savory Simple Soups with Terri Chandler

Feb. 25 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### New Horizons Music Project

Feb. 25 — 4 to 6 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Evaluating

### Pennsylvania's Role in the Global Marketplace

Feb. 25 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### University Spotlight Series

Feb. 26 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Winter Stroll in the Park

Feb. 26 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Presque Isle Lighthouse Parking Area, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### Steve Hytner

Feb. 26, 27 — 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.  
Jr.'s Last Laugh, 402 State St. [jrslastlaugh.net](http://jrslastlaugh.net).

### Erie Otters vs. North Bay

Feb. 26 — 7 to 9:30 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### Friday Night Writes Presents Cookee's

### Birthday Bash

Feb. 26 — 7:30 p.m.  
Poets' Hall, 16 W. 10th St. [facebook.com/PoetsHall](http://facebook.com/PoetsHall).

### The Most Influential Family in North East

Feb. 27 — 10 a.m.  
McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St. [mccordlibrary.org](http://mccordlibrary.org).

### Wildlife Tracking Basics

Feb. 27 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### Sports Raffle

Feb. 27 — noon to 5 p.m.  
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### So You Want to be a Sushi Chef?

Feb. 27 — 1 to 2 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Winter Dog Walk

Feb. 27 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Vista 3 Parking Area across from Stull Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### Erie Otters vs. Saginaw

Feb. 27 — 7 to 9:30 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### Super Plurto

Feb. 27 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. [facebook.com/events/1690910117818506](http://facebook.com/events/1690910117818506).

### Backyard Birdfeeder Basics

Feb. 28 — 2 to 3 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### Erie BayHawks vs. Toronto

Feb. 28 — 2 to 5 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### One Night in Hollywood

Feb. 28 — 8 p.m.  
Sheraton Erie Bayfront

Hotel, 55 W. Bay Dr. [filmsocietyynwpa.org](http://filmsocietyynwpa.org).

### SafeNet's Scrabble Tournament

Feb. 29 — 5 p.m.  
Ambassador Hotel and Conference Center, 7794 Peach St. [safeneterie.org](http://safeneterie.org).

### Dinner Along the Italian Coast

Feb. 29 — 5:30 to 9 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Preventing - and Reversing - the Growing Trend of Diabetes and Obesity

Feb. 29 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Lou Tullio: A Real Erie Guy

Mar. 1 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### The Evolution of Terrorism: Understanding the

### Lone Wolf Phenomena

Mar. 1 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Hunks

Mar. 2 — 7 p.m.  
Jr.'s Last Laugh, 402 State St. [jrslastlaugh.net](http://jrslastlaugh.net).

# Save the Date 3.13.2016



**Zem Zem Shrine Club**  
**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Noon - 4pm**



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a one day event for girls 11-18

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## A Review of Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein

Drafting a superhero “born” during World War II to her cause, a New York artist explores male/female roles and expectations.



According to a Doane Hall of Art official, Heather Brand, three of the pieces can be worn by appointment, and were worn during the reception (which may explain why there is a mirror in the gallery).

“Body-Swapping at Flomenhaft Gallery” (2009) is a performance-piece video presented during *Fluidity*. In it, an audience member wears “Arrow” while communing with a professional dancer who wears a similar Stein creation, albeit sporting a body stocking underneath (for either the sake of modesty or chafing, it’s not evident).

According to a gallery official, Heather Brand, three of the pieces can be worn by appointment, and were worn during the reception (which may explain why there is a mirror in the gallery).

Linda Stein’s sculpture in *The Fluidity of Gender* “explores the continuum between masculinity and femininity, while inspiring the compassion, empathy, and bravery it takes to become an upstander rather than a bystander.”

*Fluidity* is part of Have Art Will Travel, a nonprofit founded by Stein in 1972. “With exhibits, lectures, and performances, HAWT addresses issues of racism, sexism, ableism, classism and homophobia,” explains an on-site brochure.

Yet beyond the bulky Wonder Woman empowering aegis wear, leather sculptures, and egalitarian manifestos, it seems ironic that while Stein touts fairness for all genders, her totemic creations appear to be for – dare I say? – the fairer sex.

*The Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein continues through March 13 // Doane Hall of Art, Allegheny College, Meadville // 332.4365; allegheny.edu/artgalleries.*

By: Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

Presently at Allegheny College’s Doane Hall of Art, Linda Stein’s sculpture in *The Fluidity of Gender* “explores the continuum between masculinity and femininity, while inspiring the compassion, empathy, and bravery it takes to become an upstander rather than a bystander,” according to a press release.

Entering the gallery, several life-size black torsos are immediately apparent. Perched on individual pedestals, these slightly-differing, skin-tight-leather-clad composite creations resemble law enforcement figures in imposing futuristic riot gear; each torso bedecked with found small metal bric-a-brac meant to resemble badges, name tags and fruit salad adorning its chest. (Devoid of these, the sculptures – also zig-zagged with zippers and the occasional cod-piece – take on a distinctly S&M bent.)

With this series, Stein’s ideas become visually evident when it’s finally discerned that these daunting, macho torsos are anatomically female.

Out goes the adage “clothes make the man?”

“With my androgynous forms I invite viewers to seek out diversity in unpredictable ways, to ‘try on’ new personal avatars and self definitions,” states Stein in an on-site brochure, “knowing that every new experience changes the brain’s structure and inspires each of us toward a more authentic self.”

Along the same theme, but on a larger scale, several black leather patchwork creations are mounted to the walls. Portions of shoes with their laces, an alligator purse, and a sliver of a Ben Hogan golf bag compete with belts, buckles, snaps, and lengthy horizontal zippers that seem to challenge the viewer to look away from these high-mounted, ominous, wraith-like shapes and their latent asexual message.

“Justice for All 698” (2010) serves as a transition piece within *Fluidity*. Identical in size and shape to the other wall-mounted works, “Justice” bursts forth as a bright eye-candy cornucopia that’s emblazoned with scenes and in-

dividual images of the comic book feminist icon: Wonder Woman.

With a black and white shadow printing of Wonder Woman in all her 1940s glory affixed to the wall next to it, this “body” is concocted of paper, wood, and archival inks. Its “skin” is a collaged surface featuring the feminist prototype as she battles not only crime and supervillains; but also the “glass ceiling” and gender constriction, contemporary topics, and text supplied by the artist.

“Think you can make fun of and scare these men because they’re gay, you’re wrong!” says the Amazon princess while manhandling a bully.

Continuing the Wonder Woman iconography, *Fluidity* presents several “wearable sculptures” showing her many escapades.

“Arrow Knight 670” (2009) is composed of wood, metal, leather, paper, and Velcro straps to fasten the front and back midsection, while leaving the left bosom on display. The derriere is exposed save for a row of leather strips.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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**ARTS & CULTURE**

**Delightfully Thoughtful, ‘The Miserable Mrs. Head’ Shines at PACA**

Playwright Richard Boler debuts a new one-act comedy in Erie.



At left: Camille Jones, Cheryl Horton-Jong, and Betsy Butoryak star in *The Miserable Mrs. Head*, along with John Stockhausen (not pictured).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Ben Speggen

Communication breakdown. Sadness. Isolation.

Although not typically topics that first come to mind when thinking of comedy, they’re at the heart of what Erie playwright Richard Boler explores in *The Miserable Mrs. Head*, a one-act play that debuted at PACA Thursday, Feb. 11 and continues its run Thursday, Feb. 18 through Saturday, Feb. 20. And like Boler’s past work – *Spooks: The Haunting of the Skowronski Sisters* and *The Bad Haircut: A Disconnected Comedy* – *Mrs. Head* leaves an indelible impression. Its examination of the human condition and barbed commentary on contemporary culture unfold at a bus stop on Christmas Eve, featuring three women, one drifter, a few flashbacks, and two very important phone calls.

Poking at pop culture can be a writer’s nightmare. A reference that’s funny and pointed today may be passé tomorrow. Popular tastes can be fickle; and such unpredictability can leave a writer looking out-of-touch, old, or hackneyed if the script relies too heavily on the jokes of now rather than the pervasive themes time refuses to forget.

Boler, a master of satire and keen societal observer, uses the former to augment the latter, resulting in a play that will be as good decades from now as it is today. This always has been – and always will be – no country for old folks, where the young command the pace

of now, only to one day be outpaced by generations that follow. More importantly, we’re always changing the ways we communicate: missing messages, mixing messages, and breaking or making connections.

Director Mark Tanenbaum superbly works a tight cast into a small space (one setting for nearly all of the play), creating plenty of room for Boler’s words to stretch out. This sparse setting brings the dialogue and character interaction front and center.

Betsy Butoryak shines as the titular

Undeniably, *The Miserable Mrs. Head* delights in the misery of our loneliness in a crowded world, banking many laughs along the way. But it’s heartfelt, thought-provoking, and soul-stirring – through both pain and hilarity.

character. Loud, obtuse, and acutely unaware of personal space, Butoryak’s Mrs. Head runs the emotional gamut at a sprinter’s pace for most of the play, looking for something to fill the void in life and give deeper meaning to the world around her.

Balancing such bombast, Cheryl Horton-Jong approaches Mrs. Witherspoon, who’s awaiting the same bus as

Mrs. Head, with subtle nuance, her micro-reactions relieving tension through laughter and creating it through awkward discomfort – sometimes in the same line. If the story is Mrs. Head’s, Horton-Jong’s Mrs. Witherspoon is the sage – sometimes frustrated – spiritual guide, advancing the plot with power and command of the entire stage.

Camille Jones, as the Young Woman (in an old[er] woman’s play), enters mid-story, adding depth to the overall performance. Jones thrills in one of the play’s best scenes, which features the outstandingly versatile John Stockhausen, who plays a drifter, a store clerk, a New Age boss, and more.

As the New Age employer, Stockhausen interviews Jones – who believes her having taught the dulcimer to Central American children during a working retreat reveals her uniqueness. Instead of being one out of many, the younger interviewee, Stockhausen notes, is one of many. Everyone boasts such exceptionalism, Stockhausen’s 21st century boss scoffs, as he offers her a job without definition – or defined hours – that begins as a three-month-long unpaid internship followed by three months at MW – otherwise known as minimum wage, as Jones’s deflated young woman notes.

Undeniably, *The Miserable Mrs. Head* delights in the misery of our loneliness in a crowded world, banking many laughs along the way. But it is heartfelt, thought-provoking, and soul-stirring – through both pain and hilarity. An emotional rollercoaster, Boler’s new work is most daring because it isn’t afraid to laugh at communication breakdown, sadness, and isolation. If we’re laughing, at least we’re not ignoring; and if we’re not ignoring, then we’re connecting in this strange world filled with strange people.

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**Junior Boys**Big Black Coat  
City Slang Records

Machines have driven both the pop and indie circuits for so long that it's easy to forget the human element behind all the circuit-bending. The Junior Boys' fifth album is a welcome reminder of the depths synthesized music can reach – without necessarily blowing out your subwoofers. Through their reliance on vintage equipment and slightly under-polished production, the Canadian duo convincingly revives the sounds of electronica's past without forgoing their sense of self. Synth-pop, Detroit techno, Chicago house, minimalism, and IDM are all referenced here – but binding it all together are the unassuming vocals of the brilliantly-bearded Jeremy Greenspan, which hold up even after extensive clipping and processing (the exquisitely-layered "Over It"). Other highlights include the acid-washed, New Order-inflected cover of Bobby Caldwell's "What You Won't Do For Love," the bitter-sweet (vaguely Todd Rundgren-ish) aside "Baby Don't Hurt Me," and the ominous drone of title track. From start to finish, *Big Black Coat* consistently delivers opportunities to get nostalgic about the future. – Matt Swanseger

**Money**Suicide Songs  
Bella Union

With a title like *Suicide Songs*, you might expect this album to sound less, well, hopeful. Awash with epic movements and cavernous instrumentation, Money's sophomore release captures a melancholy beauty. Lyrically, the tracks have the biting, self-aware hopelessness of Morrissey. Religious themes are interwoven with the somber tone of singer Jamie Lee. The honesty resides with a narrator who has nothing to lose. All emotions and thoughts are released, both navel-gazing and grandiose. While the intent of some of the subject matter may be up for debate, the band displays a unified theme. Acoustic strumming mixes with horn sections and soft, legato string accompaniment. Imagine The Verve if they were fronted by a sedated Joe Strummer. The sound feels distant, as if a listener in the next room were hearing the band play to an empty concert hall. The sound is relaxing. Notes rise and fall in short parades, always returning safely to their tonic home. We find the band's sound more expansive and brighter than their debut, *The Shadow of Heaven*, making Money all the more rich. – Nick Warren

**Black Tusk**Pillars of Ash  
Relapse Records

Black Tusk rips it apart with *Pillars of Ash*. That certain swampy, hot part of Georgia seems to be a fertile breeding ground for fantastic bands who create music that feels like this. Black Tusk is part of the holy triumvirate of Savannah's metal bands, along with Kylesea and Baroness. Sadly though, like Baroness, the band has been marred by tragedy. In November of 2014, bassist and vocalist Jonathan Athon passed away after a motorcycle accident. Damaged, yet resolute, the band persevered. With Athon's bass and vocal parts already recorded prior to his death, the band began building *Pillars of Ash*. The record doesn't let up, keeping its tempo fast and steady. The guitars grind along, an amalgam of punk chugs and doom riffs. Andrew Fidler's piercing shouts cut through the mix alongside Athon's gruff growls. Jamie May's drums are as intricate and pummeling as ever. The band blends the urgency and anger of early 2000s hardcore with the ethos and groove of stoner metal. The result is refreshing for fans of either, and the results are powerful and potent. – Nick Warren

**Diiv**Is the Is Are  
Captured Tracks

Diiv's first record was amazing. *Oshin* hit fans at just the right time, and it was exactly what a lot of people needed. I've since seen the band a few times, and kept a close eye out for their follow-up album. Almost four years later, we get *Is the Is Are*. With so much riding on an album like that, did the band pull it off? So far, the answer is a cautious "pretty much?" This record sounds great, but it won't be the watershed that *Oshin* was. The hypnotic, reverb-heavy hooks are everywhere. Beach Fossils' alum Zachary Cole Smith's vocals are lackadaisical, soft, and ghostly. Smith's longtime girlfriend, songwriter/model/actress Sky Ferreira, makes a notable appearance as well on "Blue Boredom." The couple is the very model of underground hipster royalty. Smith has recently been using his Cobain-esque look to model for Saint Laurent. The couple even endured a drug arrest in 2013, adding to their collective mystique. Does the mini-celebrity-status hinder the band's sound, though? Not really. The album is brighter than before, and longer. There are 17 shoegazey tracks here to feast on. – Nick Warren

**[Cont. from page 8]** of unity.

Third, it's perceived as a white privilege versus black oppression problem. Bishop Dwane Brock, a vocal oppositionist against Unified Erie, paints it as such. But the example he uses reveals a bigger problem that he isn't leveraging or explaining clearly in this narrower conversation.

Katrina House (who's black), is going to jail for stealing what amounts to chump change compared to David Earls' (who's white) embezzling of \$170,000. Earls is not going to jail. The example of injustice is apt here, but it's bigger than Erie County Attorney Jack Daneri and Assistant U.S. Attorney Marshall Piccinini.

House is going to jail because she was charged with aggravated identity theft – a charge that carries a mandatory minimum sentence. Earl pleaded guilty to a third-degree felony, which doesn't. It's apples and oranges, but it's still fruit, and in this case, the basket holding them together is rotten.

To get a sense of what mandatory minimum sentences have done to the justice system and how it's crushed minorities and the impoverished, read Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Then read Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*.

It should come as no shock that having a criminal record

makes it damn difficult to get a job. Why? Because most employers have the right to ask. And therefore the right to judge someone twice for their crime.

It doesn't take a sociology expert to recognize that when the job market doesn't exist because the economy's tanked – or worse, the market keeps you locked out because you've been in the tank – desperation sets in. We're in essence creating a world of Jean Valjeans, and stealing bread can be child's play in the 21st century.

Unified Erie is rooted in good intentions. It's aimed at fixing a problem, and it's studying a model in KC (albeit one with 1,268 violent crimes per 100,000

residents compared to Erie's less than a third of that) in an attempt to make Erie safer and better.

But more than anything, Erie's disunity problem needs an economic- and educationally-based solution. That is, Erie's disunity is more a financial destitution problem. Take it from someone who grew up in a single-earner household who knows the stresses created by having to make the choice of whether to pay an electric bill or get groceries.

While violent crime rose in 2015, Erie's poverty rate has remained consistently higher than the state and national average. The largest demographic living in poverty? Those un-

der the age of 18. Entering the adult world already in poverty doesn't initially paint a bright picture of the world, trust me; but education and employment changed that worldview for me. And I like to think I'm not an anomaly.

So if we want a quick-fix solution to Erie's rise in crime, we need to focus less on creating a list of at-risk people to whom we'll talk about stealing bread, and fighting over how we'll talk to them. Instead, we ought to be working together to open up some bakeries.

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## Geeked Out

Amazon introduces their free-to-use engine called Lumberyard.



By: John Lindvay

If you are an avid gamer, you might know that video games run on an engine. As with cars, there are various engine manufacturers. Currently the more ubiquitous ones are Unreal and Unity. Amazon – yes, *that* Amazon where you can buy anything and have it delivered on the same day – just announced that they are getting into the game development industry in full force with their own free-to-use engine called Lumberyard.

Lumberyard is a cross platform 3D

engine that boasts a bevy of features including integration with Amazon's Cloud services as well as special Twitch.tv integration. But this news is interesting beyond the fact that Amazon, which has been slowly creeping into the game industry via publishing and selling games, is now in it whole hog.

The promoted feature that Amazon is hoping sets them apart is the integration into their cloud-based computing services, which could be used for simple things like storing game saves; but also for more advanced things like leveraging numerous computations to

help run the massive multiplayer game servers.

This sounds great, but it's hardly anything *new* or *revolutionary*. I think that the Twitch integration is what they are hoping will be their big win.

Twitch Plays is a new phenomenon. I wrote about the first ever Twitch Plays when they put up *Pokemon* and beat the game. Since then, there have been countless Twitch Plays streams hosting various games of complexity. Sure it's novel, but the really interesting Twitch integrated games are things like Choice Chamber, where a player runs through a platforming game (think Mario, while users in chat vote which obstacles or special rules the active player has to obey). From there, more developers are trying to find interesting ways to integrate Twitch into their games, but it's no easy task to find a design that sates both the player and the audience. We have yet to see the breakout success that makes this feature the big winner Amazon likely wants it to be. But I do

think it's just a matter of time.

Unreal and Unity are the two main 3D game engines. Unity is considered one of the major driving factors in the rise of indie game development for its ease of development tools and its free access for hobbyists.

Unreal has been around much longer, and it's the engine that drove many of the big successes on consoles for the past few generations. Like *Gears of War*? Unreal. *Bioshock*? Unreal. *Batman*? Unreal. You get the picture. However, due to Unity's fast-spreading adoption rate across new developers, Unreal switched their model to compete with Unity, with a free version for developers.

Unity also has its fair share of super hits. *Cities: Skylines*? Unity. *Hearthstone*? Unity. *Kerbal Space Program*? Also Unity. Part of the reason is that, traditionally, game companies would invest extensive resources into developing their own proprietary engine for their games. But with the rise of better



tools made by Unity, Unreal, and now potentially Lumberyard, developers can spend less time making tools and more time designing games.

What makes these engines special is the ease with which anyone can pick them up and start making a game. Typically, you would need to understand programming and some low level computer science. Now, these engines take care of most of that.

I've written before about game jams where people make games rapidly, sometimes with no prior experience,

and walk out with a completed game. These tools make it happen.

So will Amazon come in there and make waves? Most of the developers I've asked have responded with, "Let's wait and see," which seems fair. But aside from the Twitch integration, it feels like Lumberyard doesn't do anything that Unreal and Unity haven't already been doing.

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**[Cont. from page 15]** "I see that our economy needs to diversify so that the growth areas like architectural consulting and architectural services, in addition to new sectors like computer systems and computer design, which are expected to grow by more than 40 percent, can continue to create new jobs," says Louie.

Wages in these categories tend to be well above the regional median household income of just over \$45,000.

This contributes, to some extent, to anticipated growth of Erie's Gross Metro Product (GMP), a measurement for metropolitan areas to compare relative economic performance. It's analogous to the Gross Domestic

Product (GDP) used to compare the economic performance of nations.

Between 2011-2013, Erie's GMP grew by more than 10 percent, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which publishes nationwide data on America's metropolitan regions. Erie's GMP is expected to grow more than 1 percent more in 2016.

"The region is growing," Louie says, "and I think the fact that it's growing rather than contracting is reason for optimism."

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## Goods-Producing Jobs



NICK WARREN

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