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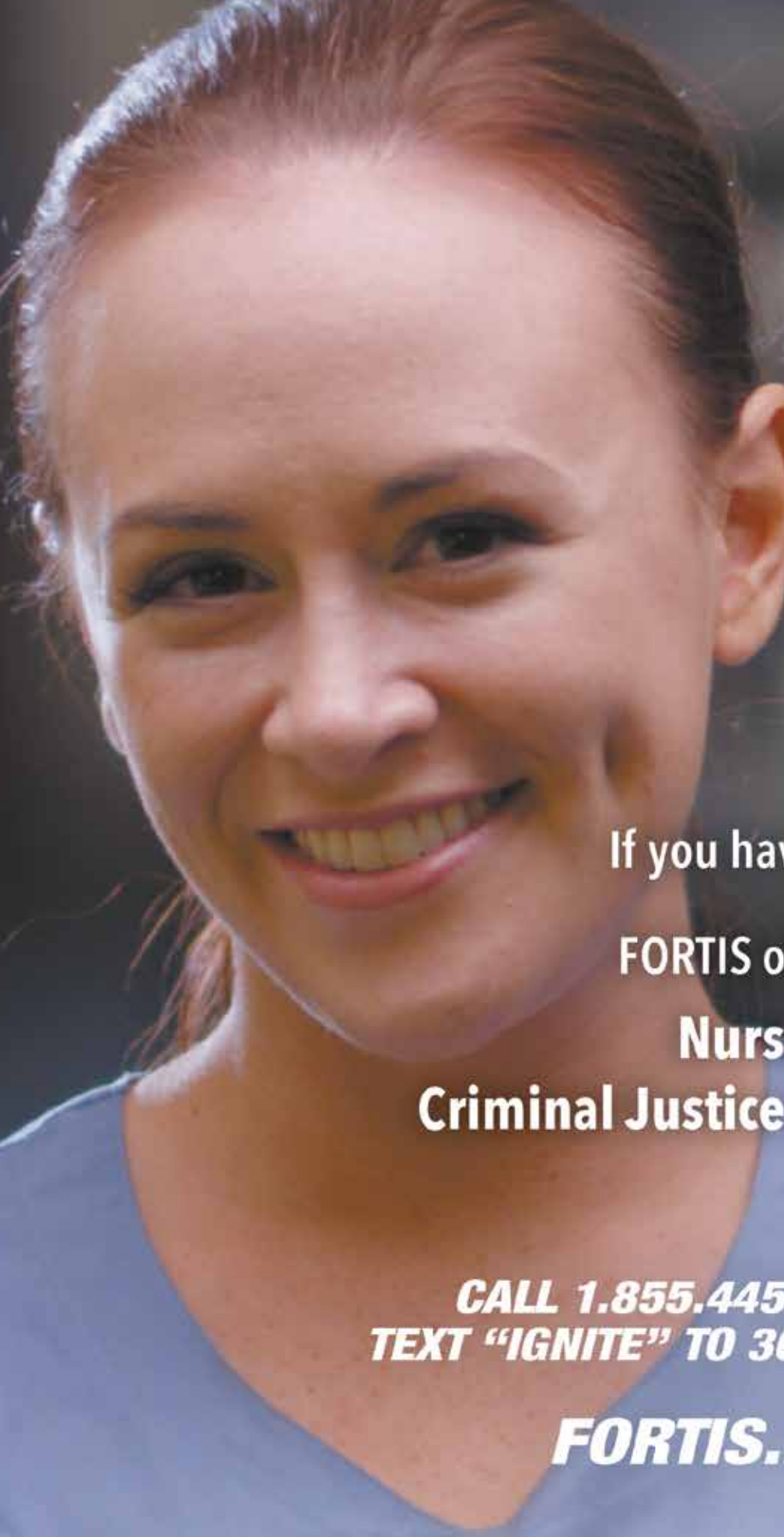
ERIE READER

Oct. 26 - Nov. 8/Vol. 6, No. 22/ErieReader.com



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The Erie Reader is the 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. 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 sales inquiries to 814.314.9364. For editorial inquiries, email contact@ErieReader.com.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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From the Editors

Keeping your head above water in this inharmonious flood

At least two things will happen during the course of this issue: Halloween and the presidential election. One of those things is getting a lot more attention, and it's not accompanied by trick or treaters. At long last, this tumultuous cacophony of Donald Trump versus Hillary Clinton is coming to a close. Trump's chances have grown increasingly dim since our last issue. While there's certainly a great deal of schadenfreude to be had watching the idea of a Trump presidency slip away, as the late Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over." Our next issue will arrive the morning after Election Day. In one way or another, the world will be different.

While there's no shortage of election coverage, there are plenty of other things happening to stimulate one's mind. The Jefferson Educational Society's eighth annual Global Summit offers something not only for political junkies, but also for anyone open to educating themselves. In this issue, Dan Schank details the entire schedule of speakers. From climate change to homeland security, some of the world's top minds will converge on our city in a two-week series beginning Monday, Nov. 7. With similar innovative spirit, while on a slightly smaller scale, TEDxErie is doing the same thing. Ten speakers with ties to the area are presenting their own captivating talks at the Warner Theatre. After the success of last year's inaugural franchise, these local leaders, many of whom have been featured in our pages before, are cooperating to build a home for fresh new ideas.

There are so many events in our city to keep you enlightened and entertained. Last week, our very own Jim Wertz delivered a talk at the JES outlining the history

and the future of our city schools. Erie School District Superintendent Jay Badams was there to offer his perspective, answering questions as well as posing his own. Afterwards, he chatted with state Senate candidate Dan Laughlin. A few days later, Erie Arts & Culture hosted their 2016 Fall for Arts and Culture Awards. There, they presented awards to Jude Shingle of Box of Light studios, Mark Tanenbaum of PACA, Grove City's George Junior Republic, artist Ron Bayuzick, and a lifetime achievement award to the Erie Playhouse.

From climate change, to homeland security, some of the world's top minds will converge on our city, while local leaders build a home for fresh new ideas.

Events like these are what fill our pages. Things are happening all the time. That's why we're here. "I must say there is magic in these moments," expressed Global Summit speaker Doris Kearns Goodwin at her 2008 TED talk. The Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian detailed her passion. "I shall always be grateful for this curious love of history, allowing me to spend a lifetime looking back into the past. Allowing me to learn from these large figures about the struggle for meaning for life. Allowing me to believe that the private people we have loved and lost in our families, and the public figures we have respected in our history, just as Abraham Lincoln wanted to believe, really can live on, so long as we pledge to tell and to retell the stories of their lives."

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NEWS & VIEWS

JRL RIP

Looking back on the life of an Erie sports icon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Ben Speggen

He's quite a character. That's what most folks would lead with when I told them that I'd regularly go on air with Jim LeCorchick to talk politics – something I'd been doing for the past three years with the *Erie Reader*. Although I'm sure I'll hear the former for years to come, it's with heartache that I'll never say the latter again, since James Richard LeCorchick went to meet his Maker on Thursday, Oct. 13.

His death was unexpected, a heart attack in the early hours of the morning when most of us were just then tossing off the sheets, or slugging down the first cup of coffee, or trying in some other way to get the day started. Jim had been at work an hour already. He had done it for years that way.

For many of us, that some-other-way-of-starting-the-day began by tuning into WJET radio. And whether you were a lifelong listener or only heard him once, you'd find there the love and hate of Jim LeCorchick: sports and politics.

"A walking encyclopedia of sports

knowledge," folks would say. But he never bragged about it. Never flaunted his talent for remembering even the most obscure stat from a game played decades ago (I swear he'd even have remembered the weather, down to a degree, for most games). Genuinely humble, if you ask me. And genuinely in love with sports and in awe of the athletes who played them.

"Pigs" is what he'd say, often and loudly, when talking politicians. He even recently apologized on air to pigs for associating them with politicians. Jokingly – I think – he would brag that he wasn't a regular voter – and at times couldn't remember what his party affiliation was. He knew how to rile up callers, firing up his audience to give a damn about the people making decisions that affect us all. A smart guy who knew how to work the mic – and his audience.

Erie knew James R. LeCorchick by many names. James R. JRL. Jim LeCorchick. Jimmy LeCorchick. Sometimes just Jimmy. At the *Erie Reader*, we knew him as "ER Sports," a column he began authoring in January 2014 and continued through 2015. Before that, we knew

him as the guy who invited the *Reader* editors and writers on air back in 2011 to talk politics, sports, and Erie – things we were all passionate about.

Although our political philosophies misaligned at various points and I'd often get into heated debates on air with him, we could always agree to disagree without being disagreeable. I admired his fire. I'd like to think he admired mine, too. And if things did get too heated, at least we could talk sports – and about how damn good some local pizza had gotten.

James R. wore many hats in Erie – editing the *Lake Shore Visitor*, working at the *Erie Times-News* and Mercyhurst University, jockeying behind the mic in the studio or on the road, rooting for Gannon University and Cathedral Prep, penning a column for an alt. weekly. But the hat he wore best was Erie.

We all knew Jim as an Erie guy – a guy who'd opine about the region's future, praise its sunsets, grumble about its

Cheerleaders who aren't afraid to be critical because they believe in the potential of what they love are few and far between. And now in Erie, we're one fewer.

winters, browbeat its local politicians and quickly offer his opinions, be seen at its plentiful free events, without reserve shell out a few dollars for the paid events, and always be willing to greet new friends with a smile – especially his faithful companion Gypsy, a border collie mix he adopted after the shelter brought her to the studio that became her second home.

I'll miss hearing Gypsy barking on air. I'll miss Jim's barking, too.

Cheerleaders who aren't afraid to be critical because they believe in the potential of what they love are few and far between. And now in Erie, we're one fewer.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bSpeggen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.



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Photo Credit: A local student tie-dyes at Erie Arts & Culture's booth during JUMP! Back to School Expo 2016



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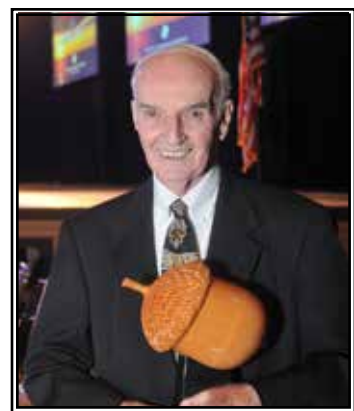


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Mr. Gornall peacefully passed away at the age of 92 in 2015, by remembering his favorite nonprofits in his estate plans, he gave over \$12,000 to the YMCA of Greater Erie, the Erie Philharmonic, United Way of Erie County, Hamot Health Foundation, Saint Vincent Health Foundation, Gannon University, Boy Scouts of America, Compass Reading Center, The Refuge, United Methodist House and Erie City Mission in 2016.

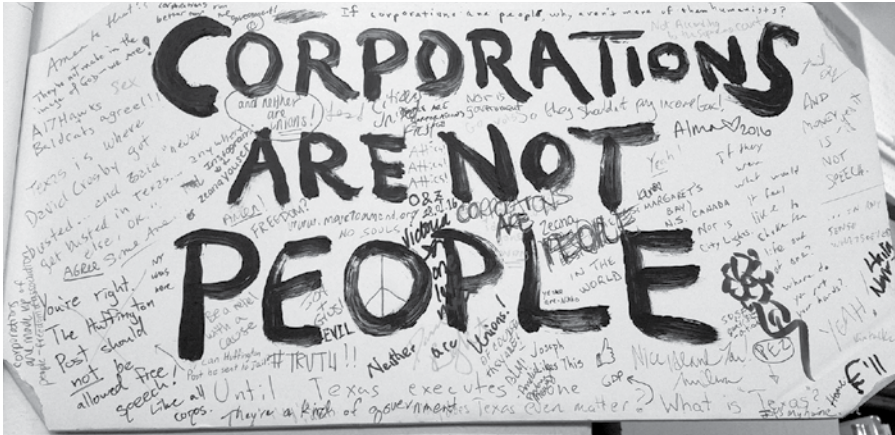
His generosity lives on due to his thoughtful, forward-thinking estate planning, which he coordinated through The Erie Community Foundation.

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M. Fletcher Gornall, Esq.
 March 25, 1923 - December 2, 2015

Just a Thought

'All across the nation, such a strange vibration ...'



By: Katie Christ

It's an October Tuesday night in San Francisco, three weeks before the election that has many of us pretty exhausted, regardless of where we fall on the blue-red spectrum.

I'm at the back of a standing-room-only crowd in City Lights Bookstore, which still thrives in North Beach where Lawrence Ferlinghetti cofounded it in 1953.

Public performances featuring everything from Beat bards to bare breasts were born in North Beach (though the writers who made this district famous couldn't even touch rent here today). But tonight's speaker is a different kind of writer: Ralph Nader. City Lights published Nader's new book, *Breaking Through Power: It's Easier Than We Think*.

Many still dismiss Nader as that guy who made Gore lose in 2000. We love a scapegoat. And as it's wont to be, the internet is flush with claims either condemning or defending Nader in this regard. They commonly lack nuance, reading more like the sound-byte-ready, unsupported, overly-simplified arguments trotted out in what passes for modern debate.

But the best of these analyses – from both angles – reveal often-ignored flaws in our faulty electoral system, which leave the ideals of democracy hanging by a thread.

Nader is here to remind us that we are that thread.

It's disheartening that Nader is perhaps best known in the context of Bush's convoluted win. Widely referred to as the father of the consumer protection movement, Nader has

devoted his life to what he's called "the prevention of cruelty to humans," according to Mark Green in *The Nation*. Nader famously described his mission as "nothing less than the qualitative reform of the industrial revolution."

Though he's 82 years old, Nader shows no sign of slowing down his efforts to wake Americans up – to the ways corporations strangle our democracy, and to the potential power We the People hold, no matter how disenfranchised we feel.

At City Lights, he reminds us that major reforms have come from the galvanizing efforts of regular people. He says he's spoken privately with senators and congresspeople, who admit to voting against their ideals just to "get lobbyists off their backs."

But, he assures us, those same leaders truly worry that the people – you and me and everyone we know – will wake up and become the ones "on their backs." He encourages us to organize, even at the neighborhood level, and to let leaders know we're watching.

"Changes for a better society often start with the power structures sensing a growing rumble from the people," Nader writes in *Breaking Through Power*. "What makes up this rumble are the rising sounds of people expressing themselves about how they and their families, co-workers, loved ones, friends, and communities are being abused or neglected. That is, they begin forging a sense of solidarity around mutual indignation against injustices no one should have to tolerate."

"The people of this country must learn to feel comfortable making demands, because by their own recog-

One of many signs throughout City Lights bearing cofounder Lawrence Ferlinghetti's signature calligraphy (and the added commentary of customers). Not pictured is one of Ferlinghetti's best known signs, which reads "Stash Your Sell Phone and Be Here Now."

KATIE CHRIST

niton, they need – and deserve – so much more for their families and their communities," Nader continues. "Most people have earned far more than they have actually received."

He adds, "Sure, many Americans feel powerless in the public arena; they can become cynical and withdraw. As Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker has said, 'The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.' If things were otherwise, I wouldn't be writing this small book to advocate that it is easier than people think to turn this country around."

I'll admit it: I've been inclined toward cynicism more than usual. I've uttered snarky sentiments and harbored despairing thoughts, and I've longed for the naive form of political enthusiasm and superficial patriotism I once embodied. It was a little uninformed, but it surely wasn't hopeless.

So what moved me most about hearing Nader was this: He surely has more reason to become jaded than most anyone I can imagine. He's widely credited with numerous reforms that have made consumer life in America infinitely more just. But so many of his ideals haven't materialized. So much of American democracy has been compromised. So many Americans have given up on the average citizen's ability to effect change.

But not Nader. And if this octogenarian gadfly hasn't folded to cynicism, why should we?

Elections get all of the attention, but it's what happens between them that counts.

And regardless of how this election goes – national, state, or local – we all need to keep watching. Our leaders must be examined and pressured and influenced and swayed; not by corporations, not by lobbyists, not by mainstream media, but by us.

Katie Christ can be contacted at katie@ErieReader.com.



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Considering the City

The Buki plan, the Viaduct, and Erie CPR



Adam Trott (foreground) and the Erie CPR team pulls up a year of trash and weeds on a soggy Saturday morning.

Viaduct as asset: Creating new jobs

Rather than paying out-of-towners \$2.3 million to demolish the bridge, it makes more sense to spend \$3 million to re-skin the bridge and allow it to continue in its present use as a safe route to school, work, and play. Fixing the bridge will create good temporary jobs, and an estimated 33 permanent private sector jobs.

Viaduct as asset: Protecting east-siders

Today, children, teens, and adults – some pushing strollers – will make 200 trips over the Viaduct. If the Viaduct is demolished, they will have to walk on a path along the Bayfront Highway as 22-ton semis and speeding traffic barrels by. They deserve better: it is logical to retain the safer environment of the Viaduct.

Viaduct myths: Insurance and maintenance costs

Pro-demolition “experts” repeat the falsehood that the city can’t afford to insure the Viaduct. However, there is no evidence that the city’s insurance costs will be reduced if the bridge is torn down. And without having to deal with the damage that cars and trucks do to structures, maintaining the Viaduct for pedestrians will be an affordable investment that makes sense.

Will you volunteer with Erie CPR?

Erie CPR volunteers share a vision of working with stakeholders, elected leaders, and non-profit and business organizations to save the Viaduct. This bold investment in an existing asset will be a part of the emergency response to revitalize Erie.

To succeed, more Erie CPR volunteers are needed for the

next six to 12 months. Can you devote a few hours a week to pick up trash and pull weeds? Could you take photos or hand out flyers? Are you skilled at social media, data entry, or websites? If so, email Adam Trott at atrott@ajtarch.com.

Meet Erie CPR on Oct. 29

Please bring your family and friends to the Viaduct Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the St. Nicholas Church parking lot at East 12th and East Avenue, just across from the Viaduct. At 6 p.m. members of Poets’ Hall will conduct a reading on the Viaduct; audience members are encouraged to bring a chair. For more details contact Terry Seth at terryseth.1015@gmail.com.

Urban Justice

During her visit to Erie, Dr. Mindy Thompson Fullilove explained that isolating neighborhoods spreads hopelessness and frays social ties. While our leaders claim that the less direct and narrow path along the Bayfront Highway is an adequate substitute for the spacious Viaduct, anyone who takes a walk on both routes will quickly see how wrong they are. It is time to act courageously and save this crucial city asset.

Charles Buki urged us to stop maintaining our “ineffective status quo.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once explained, “there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular; but one must take it because it is right.”

It is right to save the Viaduct. Will you help?

Rev. Anthony Harris, Pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church and Founding Board Chair of Erie CPR, can be reached at 453.4909. CIVITAS members also serve on the Erie CPR board.

By: Members of CIVITAS and Rev. Anthony Harris

Compelling revitalization plans have recently been created for the county, city, and neighborhoods of Erie. While these have gathered important data and impressive proposals, the urgent need to stop the planned demolition of the McBride Viaduct, a vital pedestrian and bike bridge at East Avenue, has been hinted at, rather than shouted. In his April 2016 transmittal letter published in the *Reader*, and in his recent presentation at the Jefferson Educational Society, Charles Buki outlined key strategies Erie should embrace.

Collaboration

Buki advised Erie to start “engaging citizens” and working together. Most residents agree that the city needs to be safer, with stronger schools and more jobs. But few recognize that the path to a brighter fu-

ture requires the ideas and energy of *all* stakeholders – not only those with power.

Last April, architect and urban planner Toni Griffin spoke at Shiloh Baptist Church about the need to work together to create a “just city” with amenities for everyone. Famed city planner Jane Jacobs once commented, “Cities have the capability of providing some-

The path to a brighter future requires the ideas and energy of all stakeholders - not only those with power.

thing for everyone” if “they are created by everybody.”

Thus, Erie CPR: Connect + Respect, was founded last spring with a mission to engage everyone – especially east-siders – and to invite them to help shape their community. Like

the lifesaving medical technique of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the Erie CPR name reflects the critical situation facing Erie that Buki has detailed.

Buki to Erie: Invest in assets

Buki tells us that we must leverage existing assets including our built environment, beautiful Bayfront, and entrepreneurial tradition. He adds that we must stop “mistaking cheap for frugal” and give up our tendency to avoid all risk.

Buki to Erie: Embrace the pedestrian scale

Buki’s encouragement to embrace and elevate the needs of pedestrians echoes the advice of many other experts who agree that connectivity and walkability are crucial to creating a thriving city. Former Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist wrote in a 2015 edition of the *Erie Times-News* urging retention of the Viaduct as a key walkway.

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News of the Weird

Be on the lookout for smiling Frenchmen and corn-shooting hermits.

By: Chuck Shepherd

Pot for Pets

As nine states next month ask voters to approve some form of legalization of marijuana, a "new customer base" for the product pets was highlighted in an October New York Times report. Dogs and cats are struck with maladies similar to those that humans report in cannabis success stories: seizures, inflammation, anxiety, arthritis and other pain and subsequent social withdrawals. The "high"-producing THC element cannot be used because it is notoriously toxic to dogs, but other elements in the drug seem to work well not only for dogs and cats but, by anecdotal evidence, pigs, horses and domesticated wild animals. [New York Times, 10-8-2016]

Compelling Explanations

In September, Charles Lawrence III, 60, was sentenced to eight years in prison for attempted sexual assault despite his claim that it was just bad eyesight that caused the problem. He had arrived at a house in Fairfield, Connecticut, to have sex with a male he had met online, but the event turned out to be a "To Catch a Predator" sting. Lawrence, an accountant, claimed that, in text messages with the "boy," he had seen "18" as his age, when, according to police evidence, the text read "13." (Bonus: Lawrence knew "Predator" newsman Chris Hansen socially and commuted daily on the train with him, according to Lawrence's lawyer.) [Connecticut Post, 9-2-2016]

A 23-year-old woman on a bus in Istanbul, Turkey, was attacked by Abdullah Cakiroglu, 35, in September because, as he told police, he had become "aroused" by her wearing shorts. (Initially, he was not arrested, but after a protest on social media, police came to get him though for "inciting" not assault.) He told police, "I lost myself" because the woman had "disregarded the values of our country," and "my spiritual side took over, and I kicked her in the face." [The Independent (London), 9-22-2016]

Government in Action

Kevin and Tammy Jones opened their guns-and-coffee store in an old bank building in Hamilton, Virginia, in August, but despite the controversies about the ease of gun acquisition in America, their Bullets and Beans shop has had a harder time pleasing government regulators over the coffee than over the firearms. Kevin told Washingtonian magazine that there were no problems in getting gun-shop and firearms-instruction permits from state and federal agencies, but several local-government roadblocks delayed the coffee-sales permit: the property being zoned for "retail" but not food or drinks; permission to open certain businesses near residences; and a coffee shop's need to have "parking." [Washingtonian, 9-28-2016]

Latest Religious Messages

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin declared Oct. 13 Oilfield Prayer Day to cap

a statewide initiative of mass wishing for improved performance of the state's energy industry, which has been in the doldrums recently with the worldwide drop in oil prices. Though the initiative's founders, and the associated Oil Patch Chaplains, were largely Baptist church leaders, the governor emphasized that all religions should be praying for a more prosperous industry. [The Oklahoman, 10-1-2016]

Cultural Diversity

In September, a court in Paris upheld France's government ban on people smiling for their passport and identity photos. One official had challenged the required straightforward pose ("neutral," "mouth closed"), lamenting that the French should be encouraged to smile to overcome the perpetual "national depression" that supposedly permeates the country's psyche. [The Guardian (London), 9-29-2016]

The baseball-like "pesapallo" might be Finland's national game, reported The New York Times in September, despite its differences from the American pastime. The ball is pitched to the batter but vertically, by a pitcher standing next to the batter and the batter runs the bases after hitting it, though not counterclockwise but zigzag style, to a base on the left, then one on the right, then back to the left. The game was invented in Finland in 1920 and has achieved minor notoriety, with teams from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Australia vying for a "world cup" that so far none has been able to wrest from Finland. (Reassuringly, however, "three strikes" is an out in Finland, too.) [New York Times, 9-27-2016]

New World Order

Too Much Time on Their Hands: In an October profile of tech develop-

er and startup savant Sam Altman, The New Yorker disclosed that "many people in Silicon Valley have become obsessed with the simulation hypothesis" that "what we experience as reality" is just some dark force's computer simulation (as in the movie "The Matrix"). "Two tech billionaires," the magazine reported, are "secretly engag(ing) scientists" to break us out of this alternative universe we might be trapped in. (One prominent member of the tech elite remarked at a Vox Media conference in June on how the "simulation hypothesis" seems to dominate all conversation whenever the elites gather.) [Business Insider, 10-3-2016] [The New Yorker, 10-10-2016]

Scientists from England's Bath University, publishing in a September issue of Nature Communications, report success in creating enduring live mice without use of a fertilized egg. The researchers showed it possible that a sperm cell can "trick" an egg into becoming a full-featured embryo without a "fertilization" process (in which distinct genomes from sperm and egg were thought to be required, at least in mammals). The scientists were thus able to "challenge nearly two centuries of conventional wisdom." [Science Daily, 9-13-2016]

Police Report

The War on Drugs: (1) In September, police in Thurmont, Maryland, announced the culmination of a two-month-long undercover drug operation at the Burger King with two arrests and a total seizure of 5 grams of marijuana and two morphine pills. (2) On Sept. 21, as part of a six-target raid using "military-type" helicopters by the Massachusetts State Police and the National Guard, drug warriors halted the criminal enterprise of Margaret Holcomb,





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NEWS & VIEWS

81, of Amherst, seizing the one and only marijuana plant in her yard that she had planned to harvest soon for relief of her arthritis and glaucoma. [Frederick News-Post, 9-28-2016] [Daily Hampshire Gazette, 9-30-2016]

Couldn't Stop Myself: (1) Joshua Hunt, 31, was arrested in October inside St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he had gone to check on his 9-month-old son, who was being treated for an injury. Police said that while in the ward, he snatched another visitor's purse and took a cellphone and credit cards. (2) Brittany Carulli, 25, was arrested in Harrison Township, New Jersey, in October, charged with stealing a medic's wallet from inside an ambulance. The medic had allowed Carulli in the ambulance to grieve over her boyfriend's body after he was struck and killed by a car. [KJRH-TV (Tulsa), 10-6-2016] [WPVI-TV (Philadelphia), 10-3-2016]

The Passing Parade

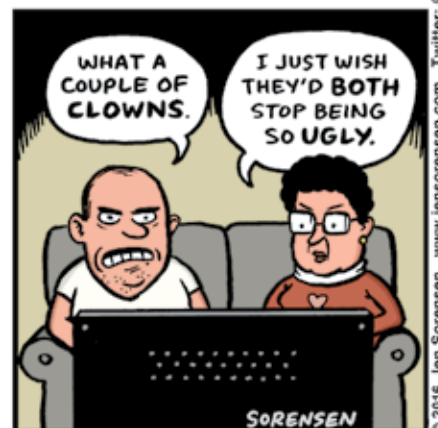
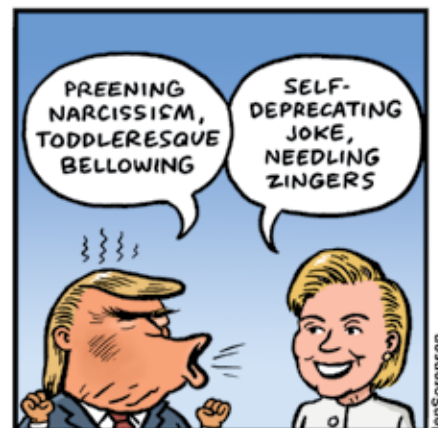
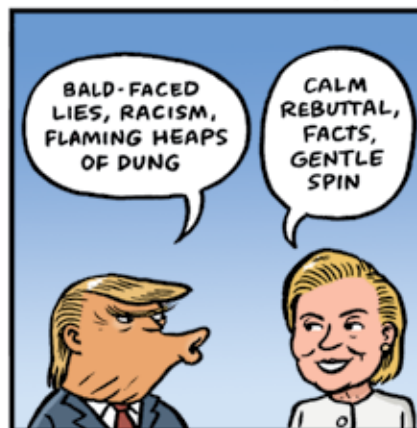
Jeffrey Osella, 50, was arrested in August in Westerly, Rhode Island, after allegedly firing corncocks at his neighbor's house, using a PVC "potato gun," as part of their long-running feud. When Osella answered the door, officers said he was shirtless, with corn kernels stuck to his chest. (2) On Oct. 1, Michael Daum, 55, began his year in residence as the town hermit of Solothurn,

Switzerland, having been chosen from among 22 self-entertaining applicants. The hermit will be required to maintain the town's isolated hermitage, but also, paradoxically, be called on at times to engage with arriving tourists. [Associated Press via Newark Star-Ledger, 9-2-2016] [The Local (Geneva), 9-27-2016]

A News of the Weird Classic (October 2012)

Eating Well on Death Row: (1) Condemned Ohio inmate Ronald Post, 53, asked a federal court in September (2012) to cancel his upcoming date with destiny on the ground that, after almost 30 years of prison food, he's too fat to execute. At 480 pounds, "vein access" and other issues would cause his lethal injection to be "torturous." (Update: He won the sentence-commutation, but he died in prison in 2013.) (2) British murderer-sadist Graham Fisher, 39, is locked up in a high security hospital in Berkshire, England, but he, too, has been eating well (at about 325 pounds). In August (2012), he was approved for gastric-band surgery paid for by Britain's National Health Service at an estimated cost, including a private room for post-op recovery, of the equivalent of about \$25,000. [Associated Press via Google News, 9-17-2012] [Daily Mail (London), 8-19-2012]

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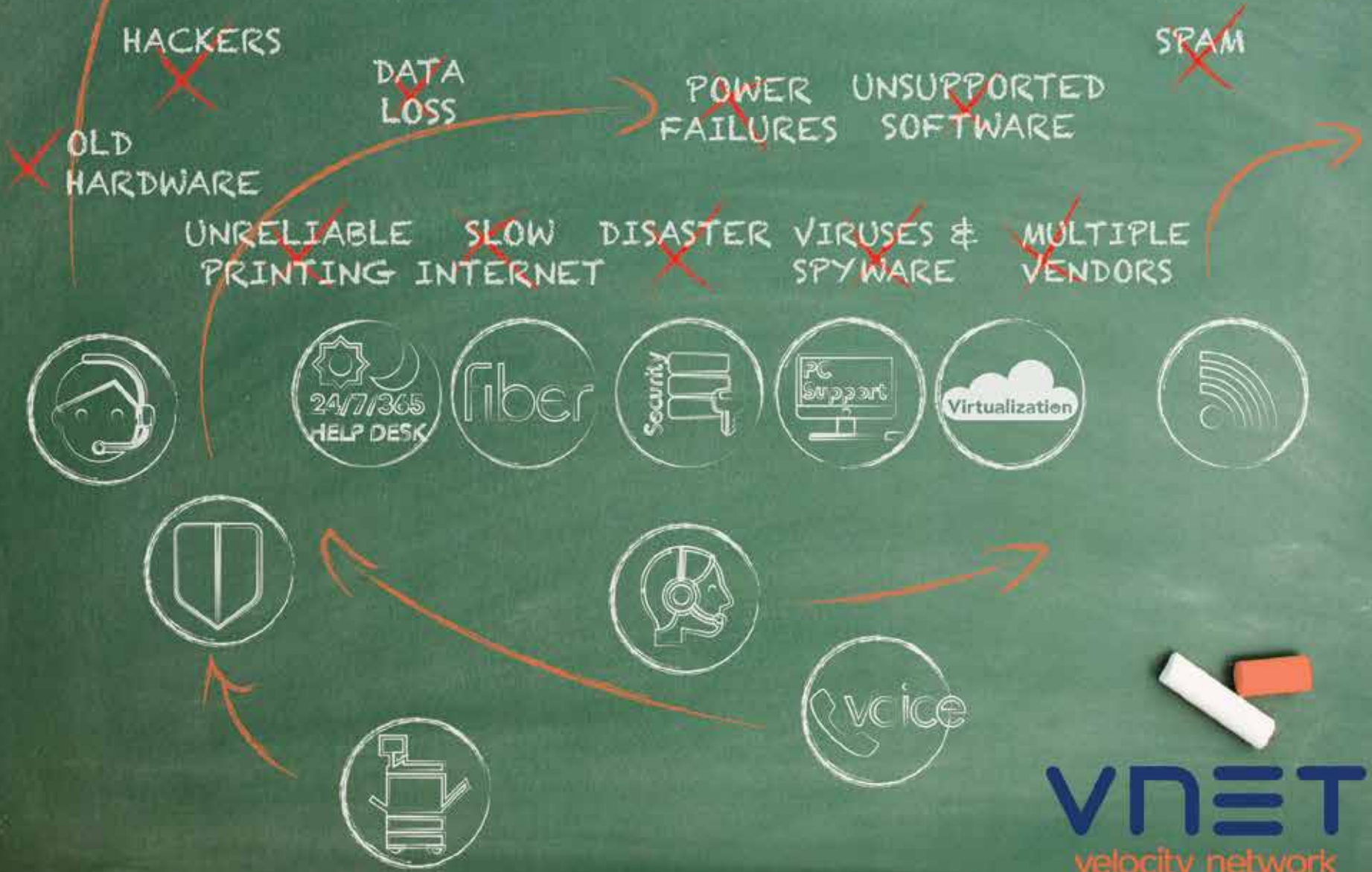


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The Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit VIII

Working to make sense of a crazy year

By: Dan Schank

A lot has happened since last year's Global Summit at the Jefferson Educational Society.

Locally, an Innovation District is in the works for our downtown. Our public school system came to the brink of collapse. A comprehensive plan has been drafted to encourage regional prosperity. And a *Brig Niagara*-sized Rubber Duckie reached our shores for a few days at the end of the summer.

Turn to the national stage and things get even weirder. Email servers, Miss America pageants, and reality television stars dominate the political landscape. Ideological allegiances are shifting rapidly – Glenn Beck is voting for Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump is cheerleading for Julian Assange. It's a confusing, frustrating, and exhilarating world.

Thankfully, the Jefferson Educational Society is here to help us make sense of it. For two weeks each year, some of the most innovative and influential minds in the country (and beyond) drop by Erie to share their ideas.

Worried about the election? Perhaps a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian can provide some perspective. Want to cultivate a prosperous Rust Belt economy? There's a former World Bank economist on his way to help us figure it out. Fearful of gang violence in your community? A religious leader from Boston has some hard-earned advice to share.

The eight events featured this year encompass a huge range of topics. To help you find the folks that interest you most, here's a guide to who they are, what they're known for, and what they have to offer.

Unnatural Selection: Does Wilderness Have a Place in the 21st Century?

– with investigative journalist M.R.

O'Connor



10.7 // 7:30 P.M. // JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

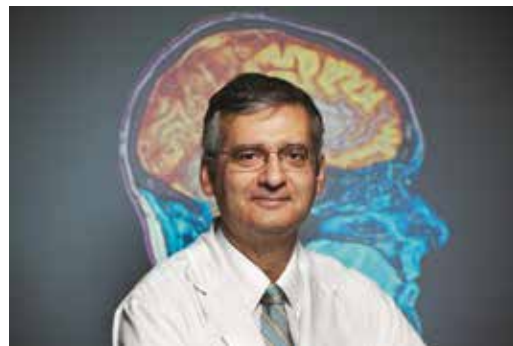
On radars because: O'Connor weighs in on an impressive array of contemporary topics, ranging from humanitarian aid in Haiti to Native

American radio stations in the Southwest, for publications like *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Time*, and NPR. In 2015, she published her first book, *Resurrection Science: Conservation, De-Extinction and the Precarious Future of Wild Things*, which "offers a critical toolkit to help readers understand the challenges of wildlife preservation," according to *The Christian Science Monitor*.

Worth seeing because: O'Connor asks surprising, illuminating questions about bioethics, climate change, and ecological conservation. How can stem cell research improve (and complicate) our efforts to preserve endangered species? Do we have the technological tools to bring back animals from extinction (and, if so, should we use them)? For that matter, are animals really "wild" in a world where their survival depends on human intervention?

Deep Brain Stimulation: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Depression, and the Switch to Turn Them Off

– with Dr. Andres Lozano, chair of neurosurgery at the University of Toronto



10.9 // 7:30 P.M. // JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

On radars because: Lozano's research allows scientists to "adjust the dials in the circuits of the brain," according to his popular 2013 TED talk. His method is known as deep brain stimulation, and it involves sending remote-controlled electronic currents through one's skull to relieve serious ailments. Through this stimulation, he can treat mood disorders (like depression), movement disorders (like Parkinson's disease), and cognitive disorders (like Alzheimer's).

Worth seeing because: Neuroscience isn't the friendliest topic for a science-phobic layperson like myself. But Lozano has a great knack for storytelling and metaphor. So expect a little "brain stimulation" of your own, with no electricity needed. Better still, his findings may have major ramifications for anyone suffering from degenerative conditions.

When Roads Diverge: Robert Frost and Belief in the Future

– with David Orr (poetry columnist for *The New York Book Review*), Lesley Lee Francis (poet and granddaughter of Frost), and Drs. Robert Hass and Donald Sheehy (both professors in the English and Philosophy departments at Edinboro University)



11.10 // 7:30 P.M. // JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

On radars because: In Erie, we are very fortunate to have two of the world's premiere Robert Frost experts nearby at Edinboro University. This year, the school has partnered with the Jefferson for a wide-ranging discussion of one of our nation's most beloved (and accessible) twentieth century poets. Plus, Frost's granddaughter will be on hand to discuss her experiences while touring the country with this towering literary figure toward the end of his life.

Worth seeing because: Frost's "The Road Not Taken" has a well-worn popularity in America that transcends any additional interest in poetry. And critic David Orr, who recently wrote an entire book about the poem, will add to the discussion. This will be an absolute must for local poetry fans – as well as a fantastic point of entry for folks who are new to the medium.

An Evening with Fred Barnes, executive editor and co-founder of *The Weekly Standard*

11.14 // 7:30 p.m. // THE MARY D'ANGELO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

On radars because: As I type this, it's hard to believe that the 2016 presidential election will *finally* be over when this event takes place. Accordingly, the Jefferson has invited two guests

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to make sense of the results. First up is Fred Barnes, one of our nation's most prominent neoconservative political commentators. In 1995, he partnered with William Kristol to found *The Weekly Standard*, a magazine that has stood for free markets, a strong military, and an interventionist foreign policy ever since. Barnes is a Trump supporter, but he's not in full unison with the outspoken real estate mogul on each issue. His strong defense of Bush's military philosophy and his affection for free markets often put him at odds with the isolationist, populist Republican nominee.

Worth seeing because: Trump's near-dominance over conservative media can oversimplify the nuances of the conservative movement. And that movement is currently at a precarious threshold. In the wake of Nov. 8, a period of deep reflection or urgent rejuvenation is bound to occur. And Barnes will offer a strong indication of what lies ahead.

An Evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning Author and Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin



11.15 // 7:30 P.M. // THE MARY D'ANGELO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

On radars because: If any American scholar deserves to be referred to as a "public intellectual," Dr. Doris Kearns Goodwin should be at the top of the list. A familiar face to viewers of *Meet the Press*, *Charlie Rose*, and *The Daily Show*, Goodwin has been helping Americans make sense of our presidents for four decades. Her 2005 bestseller, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, inspired a catchphrase as Obama established his cabinet, won a Pulitzer Prize, and compelled Steven

Spielberg to make a certain film about a certain president. Not bad for a 944-page presidential biography!

Worth seeing because: Goodwin's agreeable, level-headed approach to progressive politics can seem alarmingly out of sync with contemporary politics. She's a Clinton supporter, but not the sort that pumps out angry clickbait on partisan websites. She approaches debates with affection rather than malice. Expect a gracious and informative response to the 2016 verdict.

The RECAP Initiative: Reducing Youth and Gang Violence by 79 Percent in Boston – with Rev. Jeffrey Brown



11.16 // 7:30 P.M. // JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

On radars because: Rev. Brown's RECAP Initiative (Rebuilding Every Community Around Peace) played a crucial role in what would come to be known as the "Boston Miracle" – an unprecedented reduction of violent crime in one of the city's most vulnerable neighborhoods. According to Brown, it wasn't draconian police tactics that delivered the change. Instead, through an expanded definition of community and a dedication to active listening, he was able to reach out to gang members with surprising success.

Worth seeing because: According to Ferki Ferati, executive director and vice president at the Jefferson, "social justice is a big issue that we need to tackle in Erie." Accordingly, he's particularly excited about Brown's lecture, because his work can help us to "move beyond an 'us vs. them' mentality when dealing with issues like youth violence." There's been a lot of distrust between law enforcement and poor communities of color this year, locally as well as nationally. If these problems continue to escalate, it could create a crisis in leadership. Fortunately, Brown is a proven leader with practical ideas about cultivating peace.

The Smartest Places on Earth: Why Rust Belts are the Emerging Hotspots of Global Innovation – with Antoine van Agtmael



11.17 // 7:30 P.M. // JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

On radars because: According to van Agtmael, a former World Bank economist, many parts of the Rust Belt have begun to shed their rust. In Akron, for example, when a once-thriving rubber industry fell on hard times, the city adapted its existing infrastructure to respond to demands in the polymer industry. That infrastructure proved to be a market advantage. They didn't need to reinvent the wheel – they simply needed to retrofit it.

Worried about this election? Perhaps a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian can provide some perspective. Want to cultivate a prosperous Rust Belt economy? There's a former World Bank economist on his way to help us figure it out. Fearful of gang violence in your community? A religious leader from Boston has some hard-earned advice to share.

Worth seeing because: It could happen in Erie. In fact, van Agtmael recently began researching the Gem City. We've certainly got the space, and we also have the framework for an industrial economy. Better still, multiple local universities are ready to move forward, as demonstrated by Penn State Behrend's recently-unveiled Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center. Wouldn't it be nice to drive by an empty warehouse and see an opportunity rather than an eyesore? It could happen!

The Digital Forevermore: Are We Ready? – with the Honorable Tom Ridge, recipient of the 2016 Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award



11.18 // 7:30 pm // The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University

On radars because: Do we even need to bother? Tom Ridge is as "Erie" as Oliver Hazard Perry eating a pepperoni ball at an Otters Game. We named our airport, our environmental center, a program at Mercyhurst, and even a local horse race after him. He was a six-term congressman, our state's governor, and the first director of the Department of Homeland Security. You've probably heard of him.

Worth seeing because: Ridge will address the topic of cyber warfare – something that many of us underestimate. As someone who played a crucial role in our nation's response to the attacks on Sept. 11, Ridge knows a thing or two about national security. At the Jefferson, he'll discuss the ways that those dangers have taken on a digital dimension and how we can prepare for a challenging, tech-savvy future.

If you're in high school or college, you have additional incentive to attend this year's global summit. With prior registration (and proper I.D.), students can attend each event free of charge. The Jefferson made an effort to customize the content to local issues this year, so expect to come away with plenty of ideas that can be implemented in our community.

Dan Schank can be contacted at dschank@eriereader.com.

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Spotlight on Erie

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Wednesday, Oct. 26

The World is Ending! Head Into the Forest



Apocalyptic movies tend to be loud. Zombies. Vampires. Half-crazed survivalists. Marauding biker gangs. Not exactly introspective stuff.

Patricia Rozema's 2015 film *Into the Forest* seems to fit the mold at first. Two young women get stranded in a

If you're game for something thoughtful, freaky, and unexpected, this forest might be worthy of a visit.

spooky-but-picturesque home in the Pacific Northwest during a worldwide power outage. Tensions escalate and danger mounts.

But I wouldn't expect this one to erupt into a *Walking Dead*-style bloodbath. *Forest* is as much a character study as a genre entry. In fact, its primary focus is often on the intimacy between two sisters, played with great range by *Juno*'s Ellen Page and *Westworld*'s Evan Rachel Wood. The film's director, who has tried her hands at everything from Jane Austen to *Kit Kittredge*, takes a decidedly non-macho approach to worldwide destruction. This breathes needed energy into a potentially played-out premise.

If you're looking for *Fury Road Part Two*, you might want to sit this one out. But if you're game for something thoughtful, freaky, and unexpected, this forest might be worthy of a visit. – Dan Schank

7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html

Friday, Oct. 28

Dramashop Stages Tony-nominated *Hand to God*



“Demon puppet comes to life.” Offering up a five-word essence for Dramashop's latest production, director Zack Flock's synopsis teasingly hints about the multi-layered, darkly comic production.

Hand to God, a 2011 Broadway play, serves up secrets, repression, rage, and lust – all within the confines of a small Texas church and its new puppet ministry.

“Dramashop aims to produce provocative contemporary theatre that isn't being done in Erie, and *Hand to God* fits the bill,” says Flock. “It was nominated for the Tony for best play, so there's no question that it's a quality script. It's exactly the kind of work that we love to do. It's bold, it's creative, and it's something that audiences will really enjoy.”

Hand to God - as the old expression implies - is about the honesty that the play seeks to reveal about others and themselves.

Dramashop's website offers this synopsis: “After the death of his father, meek Jason finds an outlet for his anxiety at the Christian Puppet Ministry, in the devoutly religious, relatively quiet small town of Cypress, Texas. Jason's complicated relationships with the town pastor, the school bully, the girl next door, and – most especially – his mother are thrown into upheaval when Jason's puppet, Tyrone, takes on a shocking and dangerously irreverent personality all its own. *Hand to God* explores the startlingly fragile nature of faith, morality, and the ties that bind us.”

Hand to God – as the old expression implies – is about the honesty that the play seeks to reveal about others and

themselves.

“Theatre should move people and make them feel. Even a play that may seem crass and ‘fluffy’ on the surface should have something of substance underneath,” adds Flock. “I hope our audiences feel that way after they leave – that they just saw a play that made them think or feel or discover something about themselves.”

He concludes, “That's what I hope with all of our productions. And of course, with this one, I hope they have a few good laughs.” – Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Nov. 5 // Renaissance Centre, 2nd floor, 1001 State St. // \$12 online / \$15 at the door (\$5 with student ID) // dramashop.org

Saturday, Oct. 29

For Women Only Comes to the Bayfront Convention Center



Dubbed “an expo for today's woman,” *For Women Only* combines copious vendors, activities, and health information under the Bayfront Convention Center roof. Part girl's day/night out and part informational and promotional event, *For Women Only* features many widely-appealing elements. There will be ample culinary demonstrations and sampling opportunities, manicures and styling demos from Toni & Guy, a “fashion savvy seminar” by Valerie Weaver – who calls herself The Frugal Fashionista – and wine and coffee, of course. On the healthcare side, flu shots will be available, UPMC Hamot will offer health screenings, and Dr. Iadeluca of Iadeluca Chiropractic will offer screenings and tips on how to live a pain-free life. Saint Vincent will have its mobile unit onsite for examinations, preventative care, well-child checks, and more, across the entire weekend. For those who want to make a night out of *For Women Only*, there is a special Ladies Night Out event from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 29. Also on that evening at 7 p.m., Tammy Pescatelli, winner of Comedy Central's Standup Showdown,

will close out the night with her show *Finding Your Funny*. – Miriam Lamey

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30 // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // eriepromotions.com

Saturday, Oct. 29

The LEC and GNOSiS are in Halloween Spirits



Halloween is a unique time of the year when you don't have to be yourself. You can go door-to-door stuffing your pillowcase with sweets for two hours. From haunted houses to house parties, this holiday allows pandemonium as we dress up as characters from pop culture and seize the night. On Oct. 29, the incomparable Kings Rook Club will contribute to the festivities as they throw their annual Halloween bash with the LEC and GNOSiS. There's no way that this party will lag. The LEC brings high-voltage energy while GNOSiS hits you in the face with their fun, intricate jams. Taking over the downstairs complex, these bands are guaranteed to keep you dancing all night. The LEC has been a part of this gathering multiple times before, but are no strangers to the element of surprise. This unmatched collective continues to capture the crowd with some musical gems that you never expect. Blending hiphop, rock, funk, and pretty much whatever they want to embody, the LEC makes it a point to simply have fun. GNOSiS has always had a home at the Rook delivering a creative jam wave that's modest yet compelling. Their jazz and funk influenced sound will certainly carry the room, bringing a great balance to this concert. GNOSiS is destined to keep you in tune. Not only that, a little birdie told me that both the LEC and GNOSiS

CALENDAR

will have a treat for you throughout the night. I hope that your sweet tooth is in full effect at this monstrous masquerade. The after-party upstairs will keep you ghosts and ghouls going as Flora (ft Optimistic Apocalypse) takes the stage. – Charles Brown

10 p.m. to midnight // Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Salam Neighbor Sets Up Shop at a Syrian Refugee Camp



To provide an intimate glimpse of day-to-day life in a Syrian refugee camp, filmmakers Zach Ingrasci and Chris Temple did something perfectly obvious but strangely unexpected – they moved in.

Their 2016 documentary *Salam Neighbor* (which means “hello neighbor”) takes us to the deserts of Jordan,

where thousands of Syrians have resettled at a place called Za’atari. Since the UN had never allowed a film crew to settle down in a camp like this before, there were plenty of logistics to work out. But Temple and Ingrasci – whose previous film found them trying to survive on a dollar a day in Guatemala – soon learned to hang out, share tea, and play cards with their neighbors.

In an election year marked by plenty of chest-thumping about the potential dangers of displaced people, *Salam Neighbor* offers a timely breath of fresh air.

They decided to focus their efforts on five refugees whose lives were disrupted by the five-year conflict in their homeland – a 10-year-old boy suffering from PTSD, a grieving grandmother, a 30-something relief worker, a nurse, and an aspiring French teacher. As it shares their stories, the film also pulls back a bit to assess the scale of the crisis – approximately 1.4 million Syrians had fled to Jordan at the time it was filmed.

The Syrian civil war is a thorny and complicated affair, with plenty of competing regional adversaries. And the American media has done a pretty poor job of providing context, let alone a sense of the human scale of the

conflict. In an election year marked by plenty of chest-thumping about the potential dangers of displaced people, *Salam Neighbor* offers a timely breath of fresh air. – Dan Schank

7 p.m., with panel discussion moderated by the Reader’s Ben Spегgen to follow // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Give Your Ears a Workout With Turtle Island Quartet



Sometimes it’s boundlessly refreshing to attend a live performance with no idea what to expect. Of course, a little prior knowledge of the genre and style to which your ears will be treated is ideal. But when it comes to Turtle Island Quartet, less said about the music is perhaps better. This out-

fit’s approach to chamber music is like visiting a speakeasy: You know where it is, but not what will greet you upon entering. On Nov. 2, Turtle Island Quartet will play “A Love Supreme: Turtle Island Plays the Music of John Coltrane” at Edinboro University’s Louis C. Cole

This outfit’s approach to chamber music is like visiting a speakeasy: You know where it is, but not what will greet you upon entering.

Auditorium. It’ll be a night of musical mystery, or rather the chance to be taken away by a unique sound. And to dub this concert “unique” is an understatement. According to the official website, “Turtle Island continues its own tradition of employing the string quartet form to shed new light on the timeless joy and beauty contained in the greatest music of the American jazz masters.” Take a moment to listen to “Subconscious Lee”: the strings build the sound in concert, and then move in their separate circles; the heavy cello, leaping violin, and thumping bass come together in harmony, break apart in discord, and keep the song moving ever forward. – Miriam Lamey

7:30 p.m. // Louis C. Cole Auditorium, Edinboro University, 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro // 732.2000

MUSIC

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Maxi’s Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzserie.com

Gem City Jazz Ensemble

Oct. 26 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Springhill Retirement Center, 2323 Edinboro Rd. jazzserie.com

New Horizons Music Project: Strings and Folk

Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 10, 17 — 4 to 6 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

Rankin & Schell

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

Colony Pub Trio

Oct. 27 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. jazzserie.com

Vocal Jazz Concert

Oct. 27 — 7 to 9 p.m.
General Mclane High

School, 11761 Edinboro Rd. generalmclane.net

Dave VanAmburg

Oct. 28 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dickey’s Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St. jazzserie.com

Rick Magee & The Roadhouse Rockers

Oct. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

Shady Side

Oct. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com

Jon Sedelmyer

Oct. 28 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com

The Groove

Oct. 28 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com

These Two & Me

Oct. 28 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Peek’n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com

Hard Drive

Oct. 28 — 10 p.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

Qwister

Oct. 28 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Mayflower Hill

Oct. 29 — 1 p.m.
Edinboro VFD, 125 Meadville St. facebook.com/Mayflowerhill

Phil Papotnik, Dave VanAmburg and Frank Singer

Oct. 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.
814 Pub & Grille, 1325 State St. jazzserie.com

Rick Magee & the Roadhouse Rockers

Oct. 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com

Danny Elfman in Concert

Oct. 29 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org

Radio Age

Oct. 29 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com

The Groove

Oct. 29 — 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. grooveerie.com

The LEC, Gnosis, and Flora

Oct. 29 — 10 p.m. to midnight
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Kiss This

Oct. 29 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace

Jesse James Weston

Oct. 30 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. facebook.com/Arundel-Cellars-398619953537600

Turtle Island Quartet

Nov. 2 — 7:30 p.m.
Edinboro University Louis C. Cole Auditorium in Memorial Hall, 205 Meadville St. edinboro.edu

Floor Punk Show

Nov. 3 — 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Friday Night Jazz

Nov. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Anchor In at Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. jazzserie.com

Tropidelic, The LEC and SubSoil

Nov. 4 — 9 p.m. to midnight
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday Night Latin

Nov. 5 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Anchor In at Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. jazzserie.com

JD Blues, Jazz and Jam

Nov. 5 — 6 to 9 p.m.
814 Pub & Grille, 1325 State St. jazzserie.com

Yuval Ron Ensemble Public Performance: “The Mystical Music of the Middle East”

Nov. 5 — 8 to 9 p.m.
Allegheny College Shafer Auditorium, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu

Vibe & Direct

Nov. 5 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

An Afternoon of Winds: Gem City Brass Quintet and Erie Clarinet Choir

Nov. 6 — 3 to 4 p.m.
H.O. Hirt Auditorium Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org

Sing-alongs with Lori Burke

Nov. 7, 28 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org

Faculty Recital Series

Nov. 9 — 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu

DANCE

Doo-Wop Dances

Oct. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org

FOOD & DRINK

Haunted Halloween Party

Oct. 28 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Siebenbuerger Club, 2114 French St. hauntedhalloweenparty.weebly.com

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Thursday, Nov. 3

Adam Ray at Jr's Last Laugh



Most comedians frequent the universal-themes park for their material, but few were ever on a Universal Theme Parks payroll. Therein lies the difference for comedian Adam Ray.

After graduating from USC, Ray spent six years at Universal Theme Parks Hollywood as a tour guide and Marvel Comics character, Wolverine. Those experiences afforded Ray a unique vantage point for surveying humankind, as well as ample opportunity to interact with crowds and improvise. As such, Ray has a natural onstage presence and is playfully interactive with his audiences. While not quite as gruff

or sardonic as the X-Man he portrayed in his former day job, he nevertheless speaks with an off-the-cuff frankness about all the topics pertinent to a man in his early 30s: relationships & dating, health & fitness, drugs & alcohol, etc.

In addition to his standup, Ray co-hosts the TBS comedy game show *Separation Anxiety* and the podcast *About Last Night*. He also has appeared in movies *The Heat* (2013), *Spy* (2015), and the recent *Ghostbusters* reboot (2016) as the voice of Slimmer. He has parlayed his sketchwriting experience (over 30 million views on YouTube and Funny or Die) into a regular cast membership on the revived MADtv on the CW, often lampooning the overbearing "bro" types that are a staple of his native West Coast.

Erieites will have five Hollywood good looks at his act before he's gone, so see him while you can. Disappointment, too, is a universal theme. — Matt Swanseger

Nov. 3-5 // 7 p.m. Thursday, 6:45 or 9:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday // 1402 State St. // jrslastlaugh.net/upcoming-shows-jrslast-laugh // 461.0911 // Thursday \$12.50, Friday & Saturday \$15

Saturday, Nov. 5

Brews, Brats, and Bands at the Peak for the 'Wurst Party Ever'



Ever find yourself wishing you had a place to wear your lederhosen? On Nov. 5, Peek'n Peak will grant you that wish with the 4th annual Wurst Party Ever.

This Oktoberfest-themed gathering offers authentic German dishes, locally-crafted brews, and Buffalo's 27-piece Big German Band playing 19th century German music.

Attendees will receive tickets to swap for such foods as German potato salad, Bavarian pretzels, cheddar soup,

and brats and sauerkraut at stations throughout the main lodge. Wash down German dishes with free-flowing brews from more than 40 regional craft breweries and take part in the German keg-tapping ceremony.

Wash down German dishes with free-flowing brews from more than 40 regional craft breweries and take part in the German keg-tapping ceremony.

Following the Wurst Party Ever, Acoustic Jukebox will provide live music at the Wurst After-party Ever, from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Regency Pub. The after-party features a regular menu and no tickets necessary. To make it the Wurst Weekend Ever, an overnight package is available with optional late checkout and discounted tickets to the Wurst Brunch Ever the following morning. — Ti Sumner

5 to 9 p.m. // Peek'n Peak Main Lodge, 1405 Olde Road, Clymer, NY // 716.355.4141 // Tickets \$59 online and at door // pknpkfallfest.com

Harvest Celebration

Nov. 4 — noon to 5 p.m. & Nov. 5, 6 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Various Locations, lakeeriewinecountry.org.

Veg-Out, Happy Thanks-Living

Nov. 4 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. theerievegsociety.org.

Who Dunit?

Nov. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. facebook.com/belaire.clarion.

FILM

Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. & Nov. 1 through Mar. 3, 2017 — noon & 4 p.m.

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

D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

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

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

Robots Movie

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 1 p.m.

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

Journey to Space

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — 2 & 5 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental

Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Into the Forest

Oct. 26 — 7 p.m.

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

Night of the Living Dead (1968)

Oct. 28 — 8 to 11 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Hocus Pocus (1993)

Oct. 29 — 4 & 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

National Theatre Live: Frankenstein

Oct. 30 — 12:55 p.m.

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

The Monuments Men

Oct. 30 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.

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

Walking With Dinosaurs: Prehistoric Planet

Nov. 1 through Mar. 3, 2017 — 11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m.

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

Salam Neighbor

Nov. 2 — 7 p.m.

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

The Room

Nov. 3 — 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Edinboro University Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd. facebook.com/edinborofilmseries.

Christine

Nov. 9 — 7 p.m.

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

VISUAL ARTS

A Homecoming, Works on Paper by Marie Spaeder Haas

Ongoing through Nov. 3

Gannon University Center for Communication and the Arts, 700 Peach St. gannon.edu.

Alternative Visions

Ongoing through Nov. 6

Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

InnovationErie Competition 2016

Ongoing through Nov. 13

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

Neil Donovan & John Vahanian Wood and Mixed Media Sculpture

Ongoing through Nov. 15

Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

I Think I Found It Upside Down by Dietrich Wegner

Ongoing through Nov. 20

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

Dark Garden

Ongoing through Jan. 8, 2017

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

Jose Picayo Polaroids: A Retrospective

Ongoing through Jan. 8, 2017

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

Mood Swing Review: A solo exhibition by Ron Bayuzick

Ongoing through Feb. 11, 2017

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

Marking Place

Nov. 1 through Nov. 22 (Opening Reception and Artist's Lectures Nov. 1 — 7 to 9 p.m.)

Allegheny College Doane Hall of Art, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

Barry Underwood

Nov. 2 through Dec. 9

Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St. brucegallery.info.

THEATRE

Night of the Living Dead

Oct. 27, 28, 29 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 30 — 2:30 p.m.

Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

27th Annual Medieval Feast

Oct. 28, 29 & Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 13 — 2:30 p.m.

Riverside: The Inn at

Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

A Canterbury Feast

Oct. 28 & Nov. 4, 11, 18 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 12, 19 — 5:30 p.m. & Nov. 6, 13 — 2:30 p.m.

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Hand to God

Oct. 28, 29 & Nov. 4, 5 — 8 p.m.

2nd Floor Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

The Rocky Horror Show

Oct. 28, 29, 30 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 29 — midnight

PACA, 1505 State St. pacai505.com.

Legends of Broadway

Nov. 1, 2, 15, 16 — noon

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Nov. 3, 4, 5 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 5, 6 — 2 p.m.

Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

A Streetcar Named Desire

Nov. 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 13, 20 — 2 p.m.

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

Fools

Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 26 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 3 p.m.

All An Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

Rent

Nov. 9 — 7:30 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

COMMUNITY/VARIETY

Lake Erie Fishing History

Ongoing through Oct. 30 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Haunted Hayrides

Ongoing through Oct. 30

Sparrow Pond Family Campground, 11103 US-19 sparrowpond.com.

Sissons' Pumpkin Patch

Ongoing through Oct. 30

Sissons' Pumpkin Patch, 11244 Springfield Rd. sissonspumpkinpatch.com.

ZooBoo

Ongoing through Oct. 30

Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. eriezoo.org.

Harvest Fest

Ongoing through Oct. 31

Port Farms, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd. portfarms.com.

Pumpkin Town

Ongoing through Oct. 31

Mason Farms Country Market, 839 Peninsula Dr. masonfarms.net.

Preschool Nature Discovery Classes: Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf

Ongoing through Nov. 1 — 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

CALENDAR

The Music of Danny Elfman

Erie Philharmonic hosts a 'Dead Man's Party' at the Warner Theatre.



Danny Elfman's music parallels the spirit of All Hallow's Eve itself.

often dark and/or disturbing lyrical undercurrents. That is, his music parallels the spirit of All Hallow's Eve itself – lighthearted on the surface with some seriously sinister underpinnings.

Burton has likewise shown a penchant for the en-

dearably creepy over the years, as the chill of his Gothic settings are often undercut by a warming sense of humor. Scores to early Burton films *Beetlejuice* (1988), *Batman* (1989), *Edward Scissorhands* (1990), and *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993) helped to elevate Elfman to one of the most coveted composers in all of showbiz, to such a point he was forced to abandon Oingo Boingo in 1995. Since then, he has scored cult classics (*Mars Attacks!*) and blockbusters (*Spider-Man*) alike, demonstrating an uncanny ability to make many a fantasy hum to reality. Just ask the Simpsons or any other healthily yellow-skinned (not jaundiced) Springfield resident.

The time has come for Erie residents to receive the same treatment. So leave your body and soul at the door – or maybe your jacket in coat check – this should prove the best Dead Man's Party a living man could ever ask for. – Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. // 811 State St. // eriephil.secure.force.com/ticket // 455.1375 // \$35-\$56

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Danny Elfman is to Tim Burton as Igor is to Dr. Frankenstein – they complement one another perfectly, churning out successful experiments from their dark spire in the Hollywood Hills for 30 years. The science of pairing Elfman's whimsical, devious musical imagination with Burton's whimsical, devious directorial imagination has never really been that weird at all – it's just common sense. You don't need the sleuthing skills of Dick Tracy to fit those pieces together.

Indeed, the Erie Philharmonic's tribute to Danny Elfman didn't appear on the schedule out of nowhere – this is Halloween, after all. Elfman was Samhain-in-the-membrane long before befriending Burton in the mid-80s, dating back to his days as the mastermind behind the New Wave collective Oingo Boingo. Elfman studied theater and orchestration in France during the '70s and drew extensively on those experiences as he crafted the band's unique sound – outwardly fun, multilayered pop songs with

asburywoods.org.

Tots in Nature Classes: Leaf Jumpers

Ongoing through Nov. 2 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. & 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

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

Wooden Nickel Corn Maze

Ongoing through Nov. 5 — 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wooden Nickel Corn Maze, 5970 Koman Rd. woodennickelbuffalo.com.

Tai Chi

Oct. 26, 28, 31 & Nov. 2, 4, 7, 9, 11,

14, 16, 18 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Health Chats

Oct. 26 & Nov. 30 & Dec. 28 — 10:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Zumba Gold

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — 12:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Bowling for Fun

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd. lifeworkserie.org.

Oriental Painting

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Dec. 7 — 5 to 7 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

College Financial Aid Event

Oct. 26 — 6 to 8 p.m.

H.O. Hirt Auditorium Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Haunted History Tours

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 28 — 7 & 9:30 p.m.

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Escape this fall to Edinboro PA

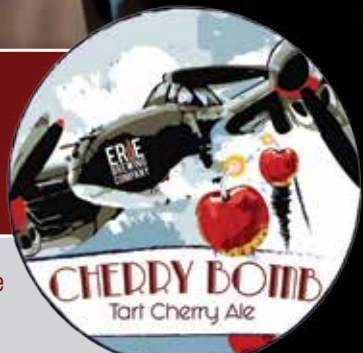
Take a scenic drive to Edinboro Pennsylvania this fall and enjoy all of the beautiful changing leaves.

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 Nov. 9th from 7 to 9 p.m.



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 Nov. 10 & 11
 From 5 to 8 PM



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Eerie Horror Film Festival Not Dead Yet

It's just living an alternative lifestyle.



The Saturday afternoon crowd peruses vendors at last year's Eerie Horror Film Festival.

NICK WARREN

SATURDAY, OCT. 29 AND SUNDAY, OCT. 30

It may not seem obvious from where you're sitting, but the next big thing in cinema is lurking just around the corner. So step away from that spacious island countertop and the panoramic sightlines of that open floor plan and step into the claustrophobic catacombs of the small-screen underground. At the 13th Annual Eerie Horror Film Festival, you can at least take discomfort in knowing you've given yourself a fright'ning chance.

Whether they've been practicing scare tactics for months or years, a chance is all amateur filmmakers and screenwriters can ask for. Many worthy projects are buried in obscurity, and gaining that first exposure can be like lifting the cover off of a sealed casket. Like the entrants, Horrorfest Crypt Keeper/Curator Greg Ropp and his diverse panel of judg-

es are forever out for fresh blood. And in his humble opinion, you should be, too.

"If anyone reading this only knows horror from what Hollywood tosses you in the form of sequels and remakes, you need to go to a film festival and see what you are missing, as I assure you nearly every film you will see blows the crapola from Hollywood out of the water," says Ropp. "Steven Spielberg began his career making horror films, as did Francis Ford Coppola and many more. Horror seems to get a bad rap all the time, yet it has always been profitable, always been popular, and has jumpstarted many careers."

That is in part because horror is the most "forgiving" genre out there. "A bad comedy or drama is inexcusable but even a bad horror film is fun," Ropp adds. In fact, Earth's "worst" horror movies are

often as hilarious as its best comedies (in that category, *Killbillies* and *Jockstrap Slaughterhouse* seem particularly promising).

Less forgiving, however, are the finances required to keep a film festival afloat. The scariest part about this year's event was the prospect of it being the last. Despite drawing fans and industry insiders from all over the world for the past 13 years, Horrorfest has existed with "very, very little help from sponsors or advertisers." Faced with a shrinking budget, Ropp was at a crossroads.

"Shall we throw all we have in and call it a day, or do we simply downsize and survive the storm in order to build a better beast next time? We chose the latter. And here we are."

"Here" this time around is Edinboro University, rather than the usual Warner Theatre. While this year's Horrorfest may lack the fanfare and convention atmosphere of previous iterations, it will certainly not lack for new and unique entries in the horror, suspense, and science fiction genres. Call it "downsized" or call it "more intimate," but don't call it dead. If there's one thing artists (or promoters) have learned over the years, it is how to survive on a budget. — Matt Swanseger

10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday // 219 Meadville St., Edinboro // facebook.com/EerieHorrorFest // \$3 per two-hour screening block, free to Edinboro students

Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

Cardio Fitness Class

Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 10, 17 — 9:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wise Words for Wellness: Questions for the Pharmacist

Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 10, 17 — 10:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Mystery and Fiction Book Sale

Oct. 27 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Oct. 28 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Oct. 29 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

LifeWorks Erie Open House

Oct. 27 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Word II

Oct. 27 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Erie Otters vs. Barrie

Oct. 27 — 7 p.m.

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

Kevin Downey Jr.

Oct. 27 — 7 p.m. Oct. 28, 29 — 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

Paint and Rock

Oct. 27 — 7:45 p.m.

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

Presque Isle After Dark: Myths and Legends

Oct. 28 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Perry Monument Parking lot in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Lake Erie Eagles

Oct. 28 & Nov. 9 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct.

29 — 1:30 p.m.

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

Robot Olympics Class: Grades 4 - 7

Oct. 29 — 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

TREC or Treat

Oct. 29 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

For Women Only Expo

Oct. 29 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Oct. 30 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Pumpkin Patch Hunt

Oct. 29 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Storytime Saturdays

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Photo Installation Moves Viewer to Khan Gravestone

Phil Buehler's immersive cyclorama transports Arlington to PACA.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The parents of deceased Muslim soldier Captain Humayun Khan's appeared at the DNC, and were derided by Donald Trump.

The Brooklyn photographer, who is considered the founder of "modern ruins" photography, has been taking photos of abandoned places for more than 40 years.

"Sometimes I feel like a time traveler visiting the past and returning with a piece of endangered history," Buehler writes on his website, modern-ruins.com.

He began as a senior in high school, when he rowed to Ellis Island to make a film with his friend. Since then, this graduate of Carnegie Mellon University has traveled around the world taking photos of abandoned places, saying he's inspired by this not-so-well-known verse of "This Land is Your Land": "As I went walking, I saw a sign there / And on the sign it said, 'No Trespassing.' / But on the other side, it didn't say nothing / That side was made for you and me."

Buehler has won multiple awards for his work, and his photographs have been exhib-

ited in art galleries and museums, including the MoMA and the Bronx Museum.

The cyclorama is brought to Erie as an Eyewash Exhibit. Founded 20 years ago in an apartment in Williamsburg, Brooklyn by Larry Walczak, Eyewash Projects is now covered by *The New York Times*,

The scene, which is created from 1,000 photos, honors the Gold Star Khan family.

The New Yorker, CNN, and NPR; and receives other national and international coverage, as well. In only three years, it became a "migratory gallery/project specializing in emerging and mid-career artists from Brooklyn and elsewhere and focusing on group theme shows and experimental exhibitions." — Tracy Geibel

Noon to 8 p.m. // 1505 State St. // paca1505.com or 434.0687 // larryeyewash@gmail.com or eyewashart.com/home

THURSDAY, OCT. 27 TO SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Imagine standing directly in front of Captain Humayun Khan's headstone. You see flowers, a teddy bear, and letters left for Khan's Gold Star parents, Khizr and Ghazala. When you look further, you'll

see a funeral procession with a horse-drawn carriage and a sea of headstones.

Renowned photographer Phil Buehler will debut his cyclorama, a walk-in photograph of Arlington National Cemetery, in Erie at the Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA)

from Thursday, Oct. 27 to Saturday, Oct. 29. The cyclorama is comparable to the one in Gettysburg. The scene, which is created from 1,000 photos, honors Gold Star families like the Khans, or those who have lost immediate family members during wartime.

Oct. 29 — 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. facebook.com/Erie.BN.

Intro to Computers and the Internet II

Oct. 29 & Nov. 15 — 9 am to noon & Dec. 15 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

The Ghosts of Erie County with Local Author Stephanie Wincik

Oct. 29 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

Enchant the Library: A Harry Potter Celebration

Oct. 29 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Digital Library Resources for Everyone

Oct. 29 — 2 to 3 p.m.

Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Viaduct Harvest Festival

Oct. 29 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Across the street from the Viaduct, E. 12th St. & E. Ave. facebook.com/Erie-CPR-Connect-Respect-1153373241373800.

Kooky Spooky Halloween Party

Oct. 29 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Experience Childrens Museum, 420 French St. eriechildrensmuseum.org.

Erie Otters vs. Saginaw

Oct. 29 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Halloween Party at Riverside

Oct. 29 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Riverside: The Inn at

Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

Erie Cemetery Walks: Mysterious Erie Cemetery Legends

Oct. 30 — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Erie Cemetery, 2116 Chestnut St. eriestesterday.org.

Mad Pumpkin Challenge

Oct. 30 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Monday Family Story Time

Oct. 31 & Nov. 14, 21 & Dec. 12 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Weight Lifting for Balance, Strength, and Posture

Oct. 31 & Nov. 7, 14 — 10:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Windows II

Nov. 1, 19 — 9 a.m. to noon
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Fit for Life Fitness Class

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wall of Heroes

Nov. 1 through Nov. 30 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Woven Batik Basket Weaving Class

Nov. 1 — 3 to 4:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Conference on Autism in Higher Education

Nov. 1, 2 — 6:30 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier mercyhurst.

Hunks

Nov. 1, 2 — 7 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

Federal Square Tour

Nov. 2 — 10 a.m.
Federal Square, 17 South Park Row lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Otters vs. Guelph

Nov. 2 — 11 a.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Author Visit: Rebecca Rokey

Nov. 2 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Children's Storytime Room Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Excel I

Nov. 3 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Room 212 Blasco Memorial

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

Stacked Snowmen

Nov. 3 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Voodoo Brewery, 215 Arch St. facebook.com/Voodoo-Brewery-305706522795288.

Racing the Globe One Marathon at a Time

Nov. 3 — 6:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Monthly Speaker Series

Nov. 3 — 7 to 9 p.m.
St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24th St. stjoesbol.org.

Adam Ray

Nov. 3 — 7 p.m. Nov. 4, 5 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

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The Evensong will also mark
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NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30 PM

**An Evening with Fred Barnes, Executive Editor
and Co-Founder of *The Weekly Standard***
Fred Barnes

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



NOVEMBER 15 AT 7:30 PM

**An Evening with Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and
Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin**
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:30 PM

**The RECAP Initiative: Reducing Youth
and Gang Violence by 79 percent
in Boston**
Rev. Jeffrey Brown, M.Ed., M. Div.



NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30 PM

**The Smartest Places on Earth: Why Rustbelts are the
Emerging Hotspots of Global Innovation**
Antoine van Agtmael, M.B.A., M.A.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM

The Digital Forevermore: Are We Ready?
Hon. Tom Ridge, J.D.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



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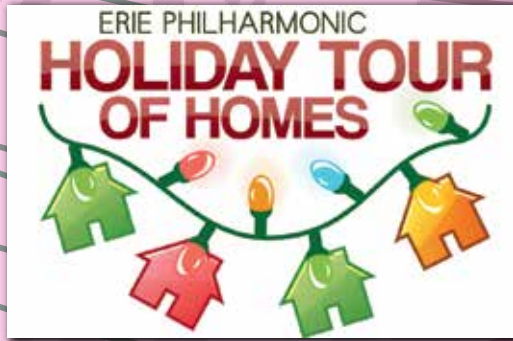


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PART 2: FALL
PART 3: REDEMPTION
PART 4: CELEBRATION

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A Streetcar Named Desire

At a venue named Erie Playhouse



FRIDAY, NOV. 4

Unlike lead protagonist Blanche DuBois, Tennessee Williams' 1947 play *A Streetcar Named Desire* has faded little with age. The original production was shown 855 times between its Broadway opening and its close in 1949, receiving the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1948 and standing ovations of up to half an hour along the way. This story of shocking, staggering decline still holds high esteem with critics and audiences, who regard it as one of theater's finest works of the 20th century.

The play and the subsequent Academy Award-winning 1951 film adaptation dealt with controversial topics such as sexual wantonness and impropriety, domestic violence, alcoholism, and mental illness. It was pivotal in opening the door to further dramatic treatment of these subjects, which had rarely been broached beforehand. Modern institutions such

as the Lifetime Movie Network can be partially credited to (or blamed on) the work of Williams, a pioneering force in non-feel-good scriptwriting.

Streetcar begins when the ironically-named Blanche ("white," with the implication of being pure and clean), dispossessed of her family fortune and fleeing a sordid past, seeks the French Quarter with her (also ironically-named) younger sister Stella ("star," with the suggestion of being bright) and Stella's (unironically Polish) husband, Stanley Kowalski, in their cramped New Orleans hovel. Blanche's delusions and hollow gentility quickly wear on the brutish Stanley, who takes out his frustrations on both women. Stanley essentially ruins the fragile Blanche when he uses her checkered past (student-teacher affairs, prostitution, etc.) to drive a wedge between her and his poker buddy Mitch, for whom she develops a romantic interest.

In short: Shizz gets crazy. And not in a good way.

The Erie Playhouse production will feature Amanda Hurd as Blanche, with Brendan Daugherty (Stanley), Ellise Chase (Stella), and Michael Burns (Mitch). The play is artfully staged and rich in symbolism, with tension so thick you could cut it with a broken beer bottle. In the real world, Stella (or Blanche) doesn't always get her groove back. Art imitates life in this case. – Matt Swanseger

13 W. 10th St. // Throughout November (see Playhouse website for dates and times) // erieplayhouse.org/shows/2016-17/a-streetcar-named-desire // 454.4852 for orders of 8 or more tickets // \$24.90 adults, \$17.90 discounted rear balcony, \$16.40 students

Maps: Grades 2 - 4

Nov. 4 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog

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

Edinboro University Fall Open House

Nov. 5 — 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Edinboro University McComb Fieldhouse, 455 Scotland St. edinboro.edu.

Circuit Breakers 1 Class: Grades 2 - 4

Nov. 5 — 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Robotics 2 Sensor Data Class: Grades 4 - 7

Nov. 5 — 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Publisher

Nov. 5 — 9 a.m. to noon
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Community Craft Show

Nov. 5 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Realife Assembly, 3902 W.

38th St. facebook.com/events/1562756094032406.

PA Biodiversity Teacher Workshop

Nov. 5 — 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Flagship City Creative Writing and Poetry Conference

Nov. 5 — 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. iwwg.wildapricot.org.

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TEDxErie

Don't Give up the Ship



EPIC WEBSTUDIOS

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

By: Ella Julian

As the 2016 election looms, taking over the media and – let's face it – almost every other thought in our minds, we can turn our attention to something else for a while: Erie's second annual TEDx conference.

TEDx talks open up the floor not only to the residents of our fair city, but to anyone, anywhere with an idea worth sharing. Last year's TEDx attracted speakers from across the country, and at least half of the inspiring talks this year are being presented by talented people from outside of the region.

This year's event has been opened to the general public. On Nov. 5 at the Warner Theatre, all Erie residents will have the opportunity to participate in important dialogue and connect as a community.

"TEDx is a really beautiful platform," says Erik Lehmann of The Game Changer Movement, a TEDx speaker. "It's excit-

ing to be a part of a community who look at the world differently. There's so much opportunity to come together and make this world whatever we want it to be – and it's time."

Without constraining the type of talks given, this year's theme, "Don't Give up the Ship," ties a ribbon beautifully around the ideas in our local and national community – allowing us all to interpret for ourselves.

For Erie native and TEDx speaker Heather Cole, the ship is Erie itself. "It's weathered many storms and battles, but it still stands. It hasn't sunk, as there are many hands of the community invested in Erie that keep it floating. It is our responsibility to continue to carry this ship and to bring more hands up with us to keep Erie growing. Not giving up the ship is not giving up on Erie."

Sean Fedorko, founding member of Erie's first co-working space, Radius Co-Work, interprets it as a personal challenge: "Sailing is hard – getting where you want to go, navigating rough waters

– and not giving up that ship means staying on your course until you get to your destination ... the endurance to see it through. Don't give up on the things you want to do."

We all have a ship we're keeping afloat. Whether it's internal or external, it's a good bet that when all hands are on deck, we're going to have a better chance of keeping our heads above water. Lehmann relates it to our current presidential election predicament, saying, "People need to understand, if we don't come together, it's not going to matter who's at the helm – the ship is going down."

What can we expect from these talks? I got the chance to sit down with a few of the speakers and find out some spoilers.

Fedorko says that he has "gained a tremendous perspective, and learned a lot about the changes in people's lifestyles – especially for my generation and what that implies for how we seek, how we create, and how we compete for jobs." Fedorko will be "talking more about the work style and workplace changes that have occurred in the last decade as we shift from an employee to an entrepreneurial, technology, and freelance-driven economy."

In her role as a lecturer of digital arts at Penn State Behrend, Cole explains that she'll be building on her experience in digital media, arts, and technology for her talk. "I use TED talks often as a resource for my students and my own work. I love the principles of the TED and TEDx community and how they encourage us to grow the public commons of information. I'll talk about the relation

of my thematic art work to growing up in Erie as a student of little means, as well as the A.R. tech behind the project."

Lehmann's mission in The Game Changer Movement, online at gamechanger-movement.com, is to harness the energy and passion that young people have for video games and channel it into more globally-minded learning opportunities. "We first started The Game Changer Movement to rid the world of violent vid-

"It is our responsibility to continue to carry this ship and bring more hands up with us to keep Erie growing."

eo games, but 'just say no' isn't enough. Telling kids 'no' to violent games but not giving them something else to do is an incomplete mission. We're working on redirecting billions of hours spent on violent video games, literally billions of hours we can shift into action: time that could be spent on climate change and poverty. The most addictive thing about video games isn't the violence, its the sense of community that's experienced in the gaming world."

You can learn more about TEDxErie and all of the speakers at TEDxErie.com, and stay current on their social media pages for updates.

12:30 to 6 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$10 General admission; \$30 VIP // TEDxErie.com

Ella Julian can be contacted at EJulian@erie reader.com.

James DeHaven

Nov. 5 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Scratch Jr. Programming Class: Grades 2 - 4

Nov. 5 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Minecraft Modding Entities Class: Grades 5 - 9

Nov. 5 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Holiday Tour of Homes

Nov. 5 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Nov. 6 — noon to 4 p.m.

Various Locations, eriephil.org.

TEDx Erie

Nov. 5 — 12:30 to 6 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. tedxerie.com.

Idea Share

Nov. 5 & Dec. 3 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Peninsula Room Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Introduction to Reiki

Nov. 5 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Wurst Party Ever

Nov. 5 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Erie Otters vs. Kitchener

Nov. 5 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Tinker the T-Rex Comes to the TREC

Nov. 7 through Feb 24, 2017 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

County Council Meeting

Nov. 7 — 7 p.m.
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriecountypa.gov.

Unnatural Selection: Does Wilderness Have a Place in the 21st Century?

Nov. 7 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Intro to Computers and the Internet I

Nov. 8 & Dec. 8 — 9 a.m. to noon
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Erie Otters vs. Owen Sound

Nov. 8 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Cloud Basics

Nov. 9 — 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

LifeWorks Antiques Roadshow

Nov. 9 — 6:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Local History: Wilbur Henry Adams

Nov. 9 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Room 219 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Cultural Series: Exploring Hybrid Forms

Nov. 9 — 7 p.m.
Alex Theatre at Mercyhurst North East campus, 16 W. Division St. northeast. mercyhurst.edu.

Talkin' Turkey

Nov. 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Deep Brain Stimulation: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Depression, and the Switch to Turn Them Off

Nov. 9 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

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**Admission to Global Summit events for all Erie County students is free of charge with proof of enrollment and attendance; advance registration is required.

THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL SUMMIT SPEAKER LINE-UP



NOVEMBER 7, 2016 AT 7:30 PM

Unnatural Selection: Does Wilderness Have a Place in the 21st Century?
M.R. O'Connor, M.S.



NOVEMBER 9 AT 7:30 PM

Deep Brain Stimulation: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Depression, and the Switch to Turn Them Off
Andres Lozano, M.D.



NOVEMBER 10 AT 7:30 PM

When Roads Diverge: Robert Frost and Belief in the Future+

David Orr, J.D., Lesley Lee Francis, Ph.D., Robert Hass, Ph.D., Don Sheehy, Ph.D.

*In partnership with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania



NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30 PM

An Evening with Fred Barnes, Executive Editor and Co-Founder of The Weekly Standard
Fred Barnes

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



NOVEMBER 15 AT 7:30 PM

An Evening with Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin
Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ph.D.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:30 PM

The RECAP Initiative: Reducing Youth and Gang Violence by 79 percent in Boston
Rev. Jeffrey Brown, M.Ed., M. Div.



NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30 PM

The Smartest Places on Earth: Why Rustbelts are the Emerging Hotspots of Global Innovation
Antoine van Agtmael, M.B.A., M.A.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM

The Digital Forevermore: Are We Ready?
Hon. Tom Ridge, J.D.

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



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The Dillinger Escape Plan

Dissociation
Party Smasher



The Dillinger Escape Plan have had a long and largely relevant lifespan in the world of modern metal. Coming in with their trademark dissonant, buzzsaw guitar work, "Limerent Death" starts the album off strong. "Symptom of a Terminal Illness" delves into a more orchestral, chilling tone reminiscent of later Faith No More, a sound continued on tracks like "Manufacturing Discontent." Sounds shimmer like broken glass, the tremulous shudder bursting in like beaten television static. Singer Greg Puciato delivers swelling fits of anger and unparalleled energetic bombasts. *Dissociation* finds the band's penning their swan song album, an effort just as brutal and brilliant as ever, a sneering frenetic exploration with educated gravitas. Anyone who has been lucky enough to see The Dillinger Escape Plan live in their almost twenty year history knows that they're a flame-throwing spectacle to behold. The band's chaotic fury combined with calculated instrumental virtuosity places them at the pinnacle of the genre. Guitarist Ben Weinman described it to *Noisey* explaining that "in some ways we wanted to pull a *Seinfeld* and go out while we're still on top, you know what I mean?" - Nick Warren



Kishi Bashi

Sonderlust
Joyful Noise Recordings



Sonderlust, the latest by multi-instrumentalist and former Of Montreal collaborator Kishi Bashi, is as unique and curious as its title suggests. Each song is carefully crafted and surprising, from key and tempo changes in "Hey Big Star," or the ambiguous lyrics of "Can't Let Go, Juno." The album explores love, loss, unity, longing and trying to make sense of life comes to a magically soul-touching apex via brilliant instrumentation. Yet despite all the topical weight - relationships cracking, for example - Kishi Bashi playfully samples genre: disco-era "Say Yeah" features sweeping falsetto vocals, and sparkling, chirpy album opener, "m'lover" overrides lyrics that ponder longing and want. "Ode to My Next Life" hurtles through space, video games and a dance-inspired beat over which Kishi Bashi's vocals swell and soar and ponder a better (or different?) existence. Sonderlust takes listeners on a magnificent sonic journey through fanciful and utterly stunning songwriting and music, and is for lovers, fighters, dreamers and anyone who believes in the power of human emotion. - Miriam Lamey



Jamie Lidell

Building a Beginning
Jajulin Records



If the circle of life could be pressed to vinyl and spun on a record player, *Building a Beginning* would be the result. Jamie Lidell's seventh LP signals a renewal of purpose for the versatile English singer on three fronts: personal (recent fatherhood), professional (this is his first album on his own label after years with Warp Records), and musical. Stylistically, the album most resembles the throwback soul of his earliest efforts, but noticeably more focused. On past projects, Lidell's love of gadgetry and tinkering could at times detract from his greatest asset: his voice, which is undoubtedly the driving force behind this set (listen to "Believe In Me" if you don't believe me). Gospel ("I Like To Make You Smile," "Motionless") and Motown soul (the bouncy "Julian" funks like the Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder's fingerprints are all over the slinking, jazzy lead single "Walk Right Back") provide the framework here, and it certainly seems Lidell has built a strong new foundation. - Matt Swanseger



One If By Land

Nobody Wants to Leave
Self-Released



Over the years, Fred Oakman has proved to be one of the most consistently fantastic, emotionally open songwriters in our region. A Meadville native, Oakman fronted the progressive pop-punk band the Twirpentines. Doing the same with Signal Home, he found himself joined by Troy Messerall on guitar and Paul Dean on bass. Now, along with drummer Jim Stone, the quartet has recorded their first full length as One If By Land. The sound is still punk rock, mined from No Idea records bands and Punknews.org followers. They're a band that shares a strong history, and they're not afraid to examine it. Growing up has long been a theme for Oakman, and *Nobody Wants to Leave* draws upon the a similar biting sentimentality. It's safe to say that anyone who grew up on PA punk shows will be emotionally affected by the chorus of "Reasoner." Raw, driving, and introspective, the album is a cathartic resolution, strong from front to back. The album rises and falls, ending epically with "Living Rooms and Basements." Recorded by Messerall in his home studio, the sound is thick and balanced, powerful and sensitive. - Nick Warren





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Five Manhattans, Five Erie Establishments

No drink is an island in this shot-for-shot comparison.



GRAEME MACLEAN

By: Miriam Lamey

Call me “old fashioned,” (yes, pun intended) but when the temperatures start to drop, there are better beverages than pumpkin spice lattes – too expensive – or “fall inspired” cocktails. You see, this kind of fruitier, pumpkin-like, spicy and sweet beverage does not do anything to warm up the old bones. But bourbon does. So do classic cocktails. So with this preference in mind, I decided that an exploration of Erie’s Manhattan-crafting was to occur. After careful research and discussion, I selected the following five establishments for sampling this drink of the greats.

28 North Gastropub: most delicious

A classy, understated joint,

28 North makes its Manhattan in the same vein, using Buffalo Trace and whisky barrel-aged bitters for a mouthwatering twist. A special vermouth, Carpano Antica, elevates the drink to superbly tasty proportions – and what could have been

When the temperatures start to drop, there are better beverages than pumpkin spice lattes.

just a simple night out downtown. Stop in here to make the evening more special, and pair your Manhattan with the risot-

to bites to be transported right to Italy.

The Swan Tavern: most well-made in the best atmosphere

It’s hard to go to The Swan Tavern and not feel the need to order a classic cocktail: The bar has the feel of a speakeasy, the look of a New York City establishment, and a friendly, good-natured local crowd. Don’t be shy about dressing up a little, either; the decor and vibe almost demand it. And don’t be afraid to demand a Manhattan. Bartender Marielle’s specialty drink and favorite to make just happens to be the Manhattan, something abundantly clear after the first sip of her creation. Made with Buffalo Trace bourbon, the drink was strong, solid, and

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FOOD & DRINK

unwavering, with the perfect flavor balance. Such great cocktail-crafting and company require great bar snacks: The port cheese and pretzels were delightful on the side.

Bourbon Barrel: most mediocre

In a place called Bourbon Barrel, one would expect high-caliber, top-level Manhattan-making. Yet in keeping with the challenge, this Manhattan only went slightly more posh than usual, and employed Buffalo Trace with the usual suspects. Though I asked the bartender to *not make it particularly vermou-th-y, the drink essentially had to be sent back: it was super sweet. The bartender kindly adjusted the beverage, but the mechanical bull in the corner and lack of finesse made the drink and experience a disappointment. Edibles were satisfactory, despite the lack of ginger in the ginger chicken nachos; however, the establishment redeemed itself with the "educational" bourbon sampler.

Breakwater: most ridiculous

Take glass. (Small.) Too-carefully measured Maker's Mark. (Attentiveness is good, nervousness is not.) Chuck in cherry. Maybe add bitters. Pour over ice. Serve. That was it. No ceremony, and not even a proper cocktail. Breakwater presented a homemade drink that even those not skilled in bartending could have concocted. It became pretty clear, pretty quickly to come here for the beer and the fish and chips. Don't bother with the booze.

The Colony: most strong

Hoo boy! Be sure to stop at The Colony for Manhattans on a Sunday night – and only Sunday night (apparently): These drinks pack a punch and plenty of Maker's Mark. The no-frills presentation and large glasses are ideal for a traditional Manhattan ... with an extra cherry or two. These Manhattans get the job done, and as an added bonus, The Colony has a massive fireplace for cozy, chillier evenings. On the odd warm fall evening, the patio is a great place to sit, sip, and enjoy the sunset. Need a bite to eat? Skip straight to the burger: it's outstanding.

Miriam Lamey can be contacted at Miriam@eriereader.com.



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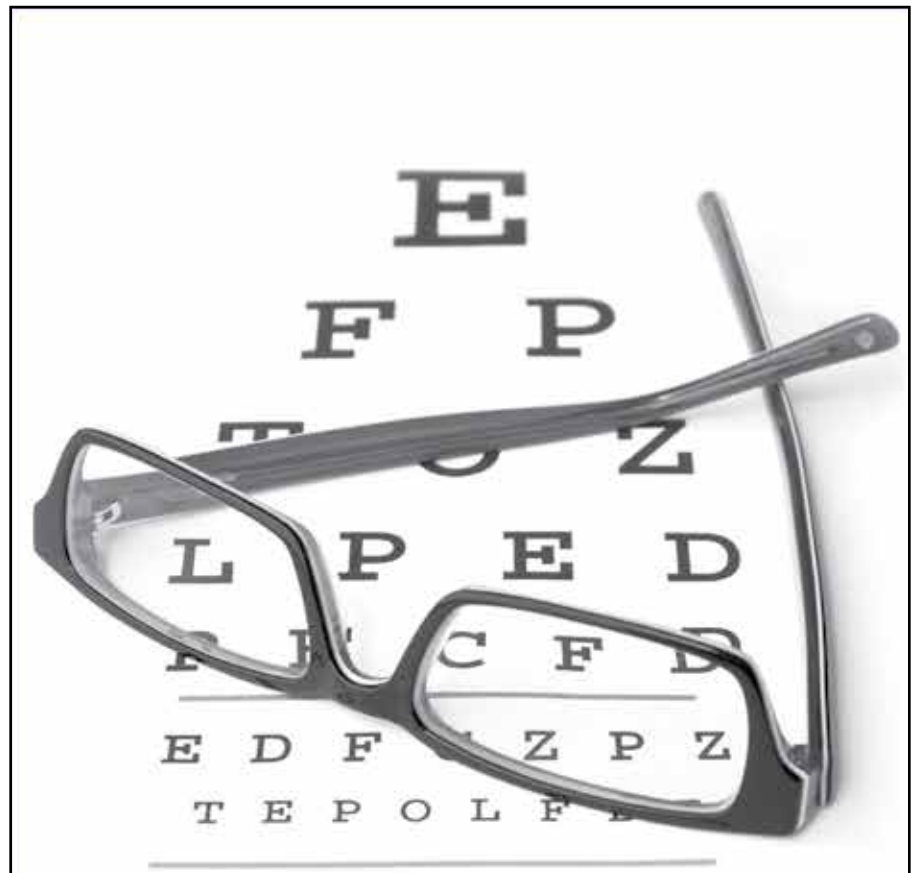
A cartoon illustration of Bill Murray with white hair, wearing a blue suit and tie, pointing upwards with both hands.

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Erie Faces Erie

Todd Scalise

artist

Ed Bernik

photographer

"I'm the lens through which people see."

EB: As I came up the elevator to the 11th floor of the Renaissance Building, I noticed your door said "Higherglyphics Visual Public Relations." Tell me a little bit about what that means.

TS: Visual Public Relations are community-based art projects. They combine manufacturing, project management, and installation. My company produces projects that help create a sense of brand and place-making for the communities we serve, like academic communities, neighborhoods, or nonprofit communities. We create art projects that get a lot of buzz because they are art and not marketing.

EB: Is it possible to combine your personal art and commercial work?

TS: Absolutely! I don't see any division between my commercial work and what would be considered my exhibited fine art. It's all pretty much the same approach, same process, same originator. The difference is that I'm collaborating with a client when I do my commercial work. My so-called "fine art" or exhibited work is really the subliminal expression of my subconscious. With no client yet to receive it, it comes out extremely abstract and pure and usually with very little concrete narrative. Commercial work by nature demands an explanation and narrative and instruction to the viewer. But I see it as all the

same type of creative process. In fact, I often combine the two. For example, I will be expressing a sort of subliminal drive when I make these abstract paintings. But when the paintings are done, I go into a very commercial format to get the work into the world. I create brochures, media, and press for it so people can understand it. That's a very commercialized expression of the original creativity.

EB: You have been all over the country and all over the world. Is there a new awakening in our region? Do you think the time is right for the work that you're doing?

TS: My profession is transient. It makes sense for a creative person to continually be moving. In fact, stagnation kind of kills creativity. Regarding this region's potential, I have been to other places that are coming up much faster. So is Erie changing? Sure, everywhere is always changing. Is there a new renewal and rebirth in Erie? Absolutely! There are a lot of young entrepreneurs and people starting businesses here. But can Erie sustain that change and grow? I think that's the predominant question in the arts right now with the schools and city government. Can it change fast enough? That's the universal question about this region, not just Erie. I see the same thing going on in Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. The Rust Belt is not moving as fast as places like Asheville, North Carolina, Louisville, which I just visited, or Santa Fe, where I moved from most recently.

EB: We see these pockets of change, but I think it's a matter of whether enough people in a region will latch on and embrace change. Do you think that's possible here given the politics and mindset?

TS: I think if Erie or this region wants to embrace change it has to assume the culture of change. I don't see that: people interested in changing. In Louisville, people want change. They embrace their past but they like new things. They have this aesthetic and cultural value that permeates everything. It could be someone who is a shop owner, someone who works in a



factory, and someone who is an artist: they're all embracing the changing process. I think one role of an artist is to create the visual change, so people start thinking about change. Look at our downtown: It doesn't change its appearance. That's a great job for artists. We have Erie Arts and Culture. We have Erie Art Museum. Why don't we have a team of artists combing through these streets and changing them? It's happening little by little but not in any concerted group effort. My sense is that creativity is supported by business structure. I show up every day at 9 a.m. and leave every day at 5 p.m. because that structure enables creative change. It's the way the world works.

EB: Where are some of the places we can see the work you do?

TS: Our largest project is in the new Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center at Penn State Behrend. The second place I would say just in terms of scale would be an 8,200-square-foot façade mural on Mercyhurst Preparatory School. The third would be a 1,200-square-foot annex stairwell project at Erie Art Museum. That was our launch project, and I did it on a

laptop in my bedroom.

EB: Where else might we find your work?

TS: Before I came back to Erie, I designed the Dennis Hopper Lifetime Achievement Award. I was able to hang out with him at the 2009 Albuquerque Film Festival. That's actually one of the first visual public relations projects that I did. I also have a piece in Metz, France: a mural that was painted for one of the inauguration parties for the Centre Pompidou-Metz. Before that, I was an exhibiting artist so I have paintings around.

"I think one role of the artist is to create the visual change, so people start thinking about change."

EB: Where do you see Higherglyphics in five years?

TS: I am getting more into the collaborative format of what I can do for communities. In other words, Higherglyphics could go into a community on a consulting and art direction basis. It wouldn't be so much about my

work at that point but I would be art directing and using my management tools, things I have learned, and PR stuff, to show how to release information about the community. But I would be solely working with local community artists. Something like that has not been attempted on a large scale. You see musicians doing this all the time: working with each other, producing each others' albums. But it happens rarely to art, especially in public or community art.

So I think there is a huge niche I could fill in this country for communities that are up-and-coming and want to talk about themselves. They need community art. They already have artists locally but the communities don't know how to put these projects together. This is where I think we're going in five or 10 years and maybe sooner.

EB: What's one statement that describes your mission?

TS: I have a mantra: "I'm the lens through which people see." It's the thing that gets me into this office every day.

Todd Scalise:
higherglyphics.com

Ed Bernik:
bernikphotography.com

A portrait of Sean Wiley, a man with short brown hair and a light blue button-down shirt, smiling slightly. He is wearing a watch on his left wrist. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

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LARGEST GAS TAX INCREASE? LUXURY HOTELS?
GETTING RICH ON THE TAXPAYER'S DIME?

#KNOWTHEFACTS2016

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GET IN YOUR GAME!

GAME DAY SPECIALS



Join us on Sundays at The Brew Brothers to watch Football on the Big Screen

\$.50 - Wings
\$1 - 12oz Bud Light Draft
\$1 - Jumbo Smith's Hot Dog
\$2 - Pulled Pork Sandwich with French Fries

Different Food and Drink specials every Sunday
 Find our specials on the Web and Facebook

Giveaways from Sports Obsession each week!



LBV
 STEAK & PASTA



SAME GREAT STEAKS, AMAZING ITALIAN DISHES AND PRICES THAT YOU ARE SURE TO LOVE!

ENTREES RANGE FROM \$12 - \$22

CALL 814-866-8359 FOR RESERVATIONS!

TUESDAY - THURSDAY
 5pm - 9pm

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
 5pm - 10pm



\$40,000

BLACK FRIDAY
 GIVEAWAY

Fridays in November
 4pm-10pm

Five Winners Every Hour!
Cash Prizes up to \$1500!

- One Free Entry every Friday you play in November.
- One Bonus Entry for every 20 tier points you earn that day.
- Tier Entry Multiplier on Wednesdays

(Players can only win one time per night.)

\$80,000
SHOPPING
 Spree GIVEAWAY

Just in time for the holidays! Saturdays in November
 4pm-10pm

Five Winners Every Hour!
 Win Gift Cards from local retailers ranging from \$250 to \$3,000!

- One Free Entry every Saturday you play in November.
- One Bonus Entry for every 20 tier points you earn that day.
- Tier Entry Multiplier on Thursdays

(Players can only win one time per night.)

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ELDORADO RESORTS

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

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