

ERIE READER

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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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From the Editors

A Long Time Coming

This moment has been anticipated for a long time, and we don't mean Halloween. Erie's mayoral race has been at the forefront of our minds for years now. Ever since Joe Sinnott ran unopposed for his third and final term, Erie has looked ahead to this decision. Speculation ran rampant for years, as various people threw (and sometimes withdrew) their hats from the ring.

By the time of the May 16 primary election, there were nine candidates running. Depending on which ballot you had in the closed primary, voters either had two Republicans to choose from, or a whopping seven Democrats. While Erie's registered Democrats outnumber its Republicans by a roughly 3-to-2 margin, there was still an unfortunately low voter turnout at around a mere 26 percent. When the dust settled, the Republicans had John Persinger, the 35-year-old MacDonald, Illig, Jones, & Britton lawyer, while the Democrats voted in Joe Schember, the 66-year-old former city councilman and vice president at PNC Bank. While neither candidate was our first choice, they were far from our last. We've had the privilege of speaking with both candidates at length. Both men bring new ideas to the table. Each wants to open up City Hall and increase the public visibility of the mayor's office. Most interestingly, both ran remarkably clean campaigns, with nary a bit of mud slung throughout summer and into fall.

Yet, as nice as these candidates are, that isn't enough.

Erie has been at a crossroads for a while, and the time has come to take that proverbial turn. Both candidates want to make the right decisions, to push Erie into a better place. Simply having good intentions, however, counts for next to nothing. Erie needs an executive that is willing to take calculated risks and propel us through our shifting post-manufacturing economy.

Let's not make the mistake of believing the burden rests on their shoulders alone, however. The second-most watched race in our region is that of the Erie County Executive. In mid-October, we, along with the Jefferson Educational Society, presented debates for both offices. While the mayoral race was mostly mild and well-mannered, the debate between incumbent Kathy Dahlkemper and challenger Art Oligeri displayed a strange, captivating tension, the audience erupting in applause and even some vocalized partisan name-calling. The role of County Executive requires someone knowledgeable, experienced, and level-headed, and, as per every race, we hope voters will choose wisely.

There are a lot of faces to be considered. In addition to those mentioned above there's Erie City Council to consider. In this issue, hear from that race's top vote-getter, Liz Allen, on why she decided to run in the first place. In these pages you can also listen to Erie School Board candidate Tyler Titus on how he might just make history if elected.

There are other faces you can find outside of the ballot. The Jefferson Educational Society's ninth annual global summit is set to be underway. There you'll encounter 12 respected speakers over 16 days, each with their own fascinating point of view to share with you.

Hear what everyone has to say. Think about it. Form your own viewpoints and make a decision, a decision that will hopefully put our community in a better place for years to come.

Erie At Large

Vote your conscience



LIBBY ROSEQUIST

By Jim Wertz

Many have said that this year's mayoral election is the most important city election in a generation. After decades of managed decline, the effects of urban sprawl and deindustrialization have placed Erie at a crossroads. Down one path waits a potential prosperity born out of a millennial renaissance. Down the other are the vestiges of time gone by, changes never made, and chances never taken.

Amid this urgency, city voters have an actual choice to make. The Republican party has posted its first viable contender in decades and the streets are talking. Republican John Persinger's campaign is promoting itself as being locked in a horse race with Democrat Joe Schember, who, by historical precedent and voter registration, should be a shoo-in for the job.

The New York Post helped perpetuate the Persinger narrative a few weeks ago with a story that made the Republican out to be a candidate that Erie should be lucky to have. It was written by Salena Zeto, who has written for The Weekly Standard, is a board member of the Center for Media and Public Policy at the Heritage Foundation, and has worked for the campaigns of George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Rick Santorum, among others, according to her author bio on The Atlantic's website. Nevertheless, the stereotypically negative view of Erie that Zeto used to frame this election cycle might have

cost Persinger as many votes as it earned him.

John Persinger appears to be the candidate of ideas for many in the electorate who are hungry for action and innovation after more than a decade of steady-as-she-goes stewardship from the Sinnott administration. He has promoted mobile apps that city residents could use to make and track complaints related to blight and city services, he's outlined changes his administration would make to the City of Erie website — a throwback to the days of dial-up — and he's been a zealous advocate for addressing the city's problem with blighted and abandoned homes, outlining a plan to raze 1,000 problematic properties in 1,000 days.

At the Jefferson Educational Society mayoral debate on October 17, Persinger had difficulty reconciling exactly how he would pay for his housing plan given that most of the sources he has identified to fund the project are currently allocated for other initiatives, including the city's neighborhood community centers, which are the last line of defense in some of Erie's most troubled sectors and central to the stability and revitalization of transitional neighborhoods as outlined in Erie's comprehensive plan.

But contradictions like these are common for even the brightest neophyte political candidates and we've witnessed both candidates — even the more seasoned 66-year old Democrat — make the same mistakes.

But these are the problems of the

Mayoral candidates John Persinger (left) and Joe Schember (right) pose after their debate held Tuesday, October 17 at the Jefferson Historical Society. To date, the political opponents have demonstrated a mutual respect towards each other, reflected in their clean campaigns.

campaign. It is difficult to say all things for all people with sincerity.

Of significantly greater concern is whether either candidate will take sincere action once he is sworn into office in January 2018. On this question, voters have reason to be concerned. John Persinger may be ideologically predisposed to disruption. Erie needs a disruption, but it doesn't need to cull destruction in the process. For progressive Democrats throughout the city, Persinger's pride in his Republican credentials are cause for concern because of what's happening on the national stage. One politically engaged Democrat summarized on Facebook the concern of many voters, particularly young voters and those in marginalized communities.

"You seem to have some good ideas for the city," he wrote. "But you are a Republican and the current face of the Republican Party is Donald Trump... Why should Erie — a city of women, a city of people of color, a city of LGBTQ people, a city of refugees and immigrants — vote for a Republican mayor in this era of Trump?"

The candidate's usual response to such a question is that he's "in this for Erie" and that he's not concerned with what's happening "out there." A better answer would have been that in a Democratic city where the Democratic candidate is elected by a minor plurality of votes in the May primary, running as a Republican ensured his invitation to the big dance in November.

Whatever the answer, Persinger's relative youth and idealism — conservative, libertarian, or otherwise — may simply not be enough to rally young voters to the poll. And that's exactly what he'll need to do to win on November 7.

In the mayoral primary in May, only nine — that's correct, nine — 18 year-olds voted. Voters under the age of 30 accounted for just 7 percent of voter turnout across parties. Moreover,

John Persinger will need to overcome the significant lead that Joe Schember can expect to begin with on November 7.

During the last municipal election cycle in 2013, more than 3,100 registered Democrats pushed the party button and voted straight ticket. Only 652 Republican super voters did the same. Voter turnout was 32 percent.

Just as John Persinger has not adequately dissociated himself from the party of Trump, Joe Schember has yet to articulate how his Democratic administration would be different from administrations past.

For Joe Schember, it is not the state of the national party with which he must wrestle. Rather, the legacy of local Democratic control is his cross to bear.

Just as John Persinger has not adequately dissociated himself from the party of Trump, Joe Schember has yet to articulate how his Democratic administration would be different from administrations past. The city is in desperate need of a change in the way it does business, yet the Democratic candidate for mayor is surrounded and supported by the very people who have administered no significant change in the 21st century.

When Persinger spoke fast and loose on October 17 about demolishing blighted properties, Schember replied that he, too, wants to address blight, but he will take on that issue as it is appropriate to do so. Exchanges like this ring a little too loudly of the current administration's deference to "core competencies," which is shorthand for doing nothing you don't have to do, even well after it should have been done.

Schember self-identifies as a fiscal conservative, which is fine as long as that instinct is counterbalanced by the leadership and creativity to do more with less. His candidacy has not,

NEWS & VIEWS

to date, demonstrated such complexity.

Both men say there needs to be a change of culture in City Hall. Years of nepotism and favoritism have left us with a city in which parking meters are still fed with change and parking fines are still paid by check. Consider it a metaphor for all of municipal government. Neither candidate has identified how change might come outside of blanket declarations of reorganization and the addition of few new layers to the bureaucracy.

Knowing how City Hall works is one thing. Knowing how to change it is more complex.

A recent CityLab article described how Seattle was able to increase bus ridership at the same time those services are in the decline in major metros across the United States. The method to increase ridership in Seattle can be generalized into three steps each of which are instructive for government of any size: 1) commitment, 2) clarity, and 3) strategic action.

Seattle committed to buses and bus-

ing as its priority. When it encountered a funding gap between its priorities and its financial realities, city officials explained in extensive detail what they needed to do to close the funding gap and the people of Seattle voted for additional taxation to close that gap. And when Seattle encountered transportation problems, it took strategic action to mitigate the root causes of those problems rather than spending money on triage that would be costly and recurring.

Erie has its comprehensive plan, the strategic actions that must be taken to direct us on a course toward prosperity and sustainability. But, Erie is short on commitment and clarity, and our next mayor — whoever that may be — has yet to make a decisive declaration for the future.

So vote your conscience. The mayor's race in 2021 might be the most important election in a generation.

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Unknown Challenges Experience

Can the Art of the Deal Trump a Proven Public Record



LIBBY ROSEQUIST

By: Ben Speggen

To better understand the Erie County Executive race is to understand what it is not: the City of Erie's mayoral race.

For various reasons, the citizens' spotlight of attention has shone more brightly on the mayoral race. Perhaps it's because the city's comprehensive plan — Erie Refocused — is younger than the county's — Emerge 2040 — which is actually a regional plan. Perhaps it's because the city is smaller and simply easier to focus on. Or perhaps it's because we subscribe to the notion that all development ripples outward from the region's core.

For certain, though, more attention has been paid to the mayoral race because it does not feature the one thing the county executive race does: An incumbent.

Since 2006, Erie residents have seen three county executives to its one mayor, and no matter the outcome on Tuesday, Nov. 7, City Hall will have a leader who hasn't been there before. Erie will have a new mayor, not because the last was pushed out by the ballot, but because of term limits.

There is, however, a 50/50 chance that none of the furniture on the fifth floor of the County Courthouse needs to be moved, as Republican Art Oligeri is challenging incumbent Democrat Kathy Dahlkemper.

Oligeri, 65, is running to ensure that in one way the trend continues. Dahlkemper, 59, is running to set a new trend: Become the first county

executive since Judy Lynch to hold the office for more than one term.

Lynch, a Democrat, took office in 1982 and held the post until 2002 when she was ousted by Republican Richard Schenker. Four years later, Democrat Mark DiVecchio took the helm. Another four years after that, Erie voters elected Democrat Barry Grossman. And in 2013, Dahlkemper bested Grossman in the Democratic Primaries and went on to defeat Republican challenger Don Tucci to become Erie's current county executive.

While both mayoral candidates will be judged on the new policy they're championing to bring to City Hall, Erie County voters will have Dahlkemper's record and continued vision to compare to Oligeri's untested opposition.

How did we get here?

Oligeri, who ran for County Executive in 2005 and lost during the primaries, took the early lead in this year's primaries and never quite lost it. However, Erie political newcomer Brenton Davis, 33, pulled within a couple hundred votes by the night's end, enough to force a recount. Oligeri, a small businessman, kept the narrow lead but gained Davis's support, as the contractor who ran a populist-style campaign, pledged his backing the Friday the vote count was settled.

Although Dahlkemper faced opposition in May's primary, she racked up more than twice the votes as her challenger, Joseph Curlett, a 68-year-old retired state employee.

Where are we going from here?

That's the question Erie voters now

The October 18 debate between Erie County Executive candidates Kathy Dahlkemper (Dem.) and Art Oligeri (Rep.) was at times contentious, with partisan tensions palpable among audience members.

have to ask themselves. And an answer therein can be determined by electing the known versus the unknown. And a quick visit to each candidate's website is a good start in weighing that.

At KathyDahlkemper.com, visitors will find a fleshed out "Issues" page divided into 'Record' and 'Vision.' There, the Dahlkemper camp features four sections: Jobs and Economy; Safe, Healthy, and Vibrant County; Collaboration; and Good Governance.

Under Jobs and Economy fall five bullet points for "Record" and four for "Vision." For Safe, Healthy, and Vibrant County: 10 and three. For Collaboration, seven and five. And for Good Governance: Seven and one.

There's plenty to see and consider there, but the short of it is that Dahlkemper has had successes as well as challenges while in office. And depending on your political persuasion, some of those successes can be seen as challenges and vice versa.

Take, for instance, the community college issue. If you believe that Erie County — the largest area not served by a community college in Pennsylvania — will benefit by having additional educational resources available to its residents, then that's a success. If you think we won't and that we're fine as-is and that the addition of a community will be detrimental to the county, then it's a challenge.

Nevertheless, she has a record of accomplishments, and it's public for us all to see and judge.

At ArtForErie.com, visitors will find three key sections: About Art, Responsible Spending, and Lower Taxes. Of note on the former, Oligeri leans heavily on having never lived in a different zip code than the one he was born and raised in. Of note on the second and the latter, Oligeri presents his vision as the opposite of Dahlkemper and her record. That is, what she is, he's not. And what he is, she's not.

What's lacking — and has been further illustrated during public forums and debates — are specifics on policy

Oligeri might plan to pursue and actions he would take as county executive. This shouldn't come as a surprise, though, since challengers in political races often benefit by keeping their messages simpler: Don't like what's happened? I'm your person. Want change from what you've had? That's me, too.

What is of significant note, though, is what impact the 2016 Presidential Election will have on voters and how they cast their ballots in this election. If mid-term principles can be applied here, one might assume the pendulum will swing not closer to but farther from the party that just won. That is, the county having just turned red would be inclined to purple the hue if not go more noticeable out of the red and into the blue.

But, Trump.

Given the impact the non-traditional Trump movement's had on the parties, on voters, on the election process, on essentially everything, it's hard to determine whether this trend will hold, especially since Oligeri aligns himself somewhat with Trump.

During the debate I co-moderated at the Jefferson Educational Society with Pat Cuneo, Oligeri praised Trump's business approach to politics. Like Trump did on the campaign trail — and still does in office — Oligeri exudes a confidence in being a solutions provider without offering specifics on how solutions will be provided. In an enthusiastic but hyperbolic declaration, Oligeri told the audience he can do the impossible.

Between now and Tuesday, Nov. 7, additional debates and forums will be held, ads will saturate the airwaves, and citizens will get their first look at campaign finance reports.

In regards to the latter, out-of-county money was injected into local elections in 2016. Whether it's present again — how much and where from — remains to be seen but will be telling as to whether Erieites are the only ones who care about the outcome of this election.

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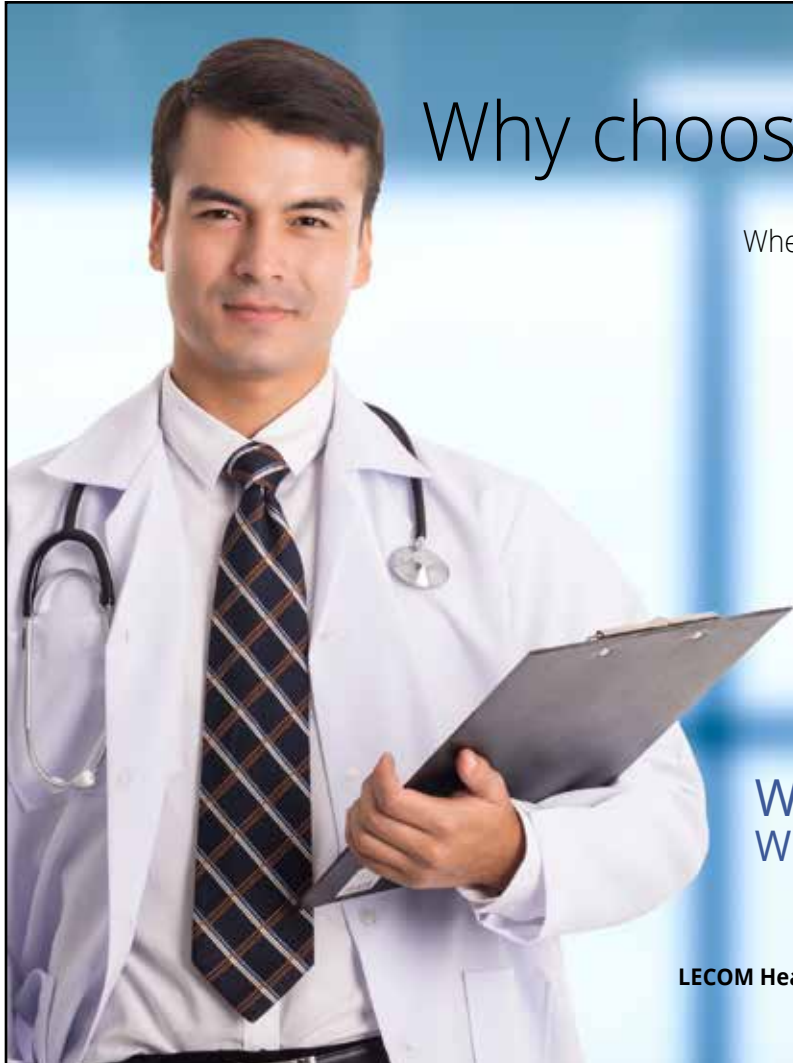
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From Columnist to Candidate

Why I am throwing my (pink) hat into the ring



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Liz Allen

A baseball cap, a pink hat, a cogent quote on a paper scrap. Those are some factors that influenced me to change careers, from lifelong local journalist to neophyte political candidate.

But making a run for Erie City Council in the Nov. 7 General Election is actually my second new midlife career.

Last Nov. 15, I met four friends at Panera Bread to commiserate about the shocking election of Donald J. Trump as president.

Except for one friend who came into our orbit in college, these girls and I (we never call ourselves “women”) have hung out together since our days at St. Andrew’s grade school. We are a middle-of-the-road bunch. We don’t splurge when we eat out. One friend usually only orders a cup of hot water, then shares her stash of peanut M & Ms.

We’ve been stay-at-home moms, working women and parental caregivers; three of us are now grandmothers. We attend weekly Mass. We rarely talked politics. Then Trump became the Republican presidential nominee, and when even our most conservative friend said she would not vote for him, I used that minuscule voting sample to conclude that Trump couldn’t win.

Of course, I was wrong, and one week after the election, I was at Panera, scarfing down the bootleg M & M’s to ease the pain. Then I had to scoot, so I could join a capacity crowd to hear

Doris Kearns Goodwin speak as part of the Jefferson Society’s Global World Summit. Erie native Steve Scully, executive producer of C-SPAN, served as moderator.

After Kearns’ lecture that night, fans lined up in the lobby of the Mercyhurst University D’Angelo Center to have books autographed. They clutched copies of *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* or *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt*.

I held *Wait Till Next Year*, Goodwin’s memoir about the joys and heartache of being a Brooklyn Dodgers’ fan. I could identify. Like Goodwin, I grew up in a great family, with a devoted father who taught me to love baseball — the Erie Sailors and then the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Because the line for autographs was so long, Ferki Ferati, now president of the Jefferson Society, asked us to jot our requested inscriptions on index cards.

I handed Goodwin my card: “To Liz. Retired journalist, now baseball usher.” She laughed, and I got a few seconds to tell her my Brooklyn Dodgers story.

When I wrote my autobiography for a seventh-grade assignment, my dad suggested I open with an anecdote. He told me that my mom was in labor with me during one of the most famous games in baseball history: the playoff between the Dodgers and the New York Giants. Dad said he was torn between listening to the game on the

Retired journalist Liz Allen, a lifelong baseball fan, has entered the political field with the aim of shaping “a new narrative about Erie ... in which we accentuate our assets and solve our challenges.”

radio and awaiting my birth, and then I came into the world around the same time that Bobby Thomson hit his “shot heard ‘round the world,” a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to win the National League pennant for the Giants.

I love my dad’s story. It helps to explain my lifelong love of baseball; after all, it was a backdrop for my exit from the womb.

It also helps to show why I became an usher for the Erie SeaWolves after I retired as a full-time opinion writer and columnist for the Erie Times-News at the end of 2015.

But as I reflect on my foray into politics, I’m also drawing some new lessons from my old baseball stories. First, like Goodwin, I was fortunate to have a dad who understood that a girl could love the boys of summer.

Baseball knowledge has served me well over the years. At Marquette University in Milwaukee, my college roommate was also a die-hard Pirates’ fan and journalism major. Talk about compatibility! When our peers said “ERA,” they meant the Equal Rights Amendment; my roommate and I were computing earned run averages.

Now I’m learning that politics can be hardball, and to navigate that field, I rely on my female friends. My friends I met at Panera that night eventually helped me to gauge whether my skin was thick enough skin to survive political brickbats. Friends from a book club, led by Laura Schaaf, have also been supportive. Our reading list has included *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond, and “Erie Refocused,” the comprehensive plan by Charles Buki. The friends — and the books — are all valuable resources.

I’ve also received encouragement from friends in person and “friends” on Facebook.

When I usher for the SeaWolves, I always feel cool when I scrunch on my baseball cap. It gives me an identity; it signals a sense of authority.

But my true feeling of empowerment came when my sister Colleen gave me a handmade knit pink hat to wear to the Women’s March in Washington, the day after the inauguration.

With thousands of others, we protested peacefully, with our two brothers and with my friend Mary Ann, a classmate from Villa Maria Academy. Mary Ann isn’t just middle-of-the-road. She actually lives on Middle Road in suburban Harrisburg.

After the march, Mary Ann sent me a two-inch strip of paper with this quote by Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement: “People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.”

Two months later, that quote helped to propel me into running for political office at the local level. It has been hard to give up my weekly newspaper column, which I had continued to write after I retired. But I cannot stand idly by and let Trump’s actions trample the values I grew up with in Erie: equality for all, common decency.

If I am elected to City Council, I will have a different storytelling role: I can actually help shape a new narrative about Erie, one in which we accentuate our assets and solve our challenges.

I will always advocate and celebrate fact-based journalism, which will inform my fact-based political decisions. And I pledge to tell the truth, even about the baseball anecdote that rests at the foundation of my life story.

The game with the shot heard round the world was played on Oct. 3, 1951, two days after I was born, which I didn’t learn until years after I wrote my autobiography.

Always verify your sources, even if your source is your dear dad.

LIZ ALLEN worked at the Erie Times-News for 32 years. She is one of five candidates — four Democrats and one Republican — running for four seats on Erie City Council.

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NOVEMBER 2, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Erie and The New Localism
Bruce Katz, J.D.



NOVEMBER 8, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Linking Founding Fathers to Issues of the Day: Focus on Alexander Hamilton and James Madison
Jay Cost, Ph.D.

MILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION



NOVEMBER 9, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Understanding Trump: Washington Insiders on the 45th President

Steve Scully, M.S., Philip Rucker, B.A.,
Tara Palmeri, B.A. and Byron York, M.S.

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



NOVEMBER 10, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

An Evening with Historian Douglas Brinkley
Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D.

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



NOVEMBER 13, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

The End of One Era, The Start of Another: German-American Relations in the Age of Trump

Jackson Janes, Ph.D.

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



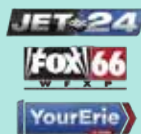
NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Witness to History: Stories from Former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card
Andrew Card, B.S.



NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Feeding the World in the 21st Century
Caitlin Welsh, M.P.A.



NOVEMBER 16, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Biohacking: Is Do-It-Yourself Tech the Future of Science?

Ellen Jorgensen, Ph.D.

McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building,
4701 College Drive, Erie, PA 16510.



NOVEMBER 17, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

The Pre-Something Period: America's Leadership Challenge

Lt. General James Dubik, Ret., Ph.D.

The Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award recipient
The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. Erie, PA 16546



NEWS & VIEWS

Making a Case for Decriminalization

Weighing the costs and benefits



YERKO PHOTO STUDIO

Of 178,000 marijuana-related arrests made between 2010 and 2016, nearly 80 percent have been for possession. Advocates of decriminalization, such as Art Leopold of Keystone Progress, hope to reduce mass incarceration and disencumber downtrodden communities.

THURSDAY, OCT. 26

It doesn't take much to be classified as a criminal — possessing less than 30 grams of marijuana (under an ounce) can weigh heavily on an individual's future prospects, hampering one's ability to land a decent job, housing, or education. It can also lead to up to a month in jail.

Marijuana possession arrests — which accounted for nearly half of all drug possession arrests last year — also weigh heavily on taxpayers and communities (especially those of color, where minorities are written up eight times more frequently than their white counterparts). According to a study by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Pennsylvania, \$225.3 million was spent statewide on marijuana arrests between 2010-2016, with 8 out of 10 of those arrests being for possession only. The numbers have skyrocketed within the past seven years — State Police made 2,221 arrests in 2010 versus 4,612 in 2016, a staggering 108 percent increase.

"In order to help reduce mass incarceration, which is fueled by low-level drug arrests, we need to reduce the criminality of possessing small amounts of cannabis and cannabis-related paraphernalia to a summary offense," says Art Leopold, a representative of Keystone Progress.

This means treating marijuana possession like a parking ticket rather than a ticket into an overburdened prison system. Philadelphia (both the city and its encompassing county) decriminalized marijuana in October 2014, and since then, arrests have dropped by 88 percent. Four other cities have followed suit — Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, State College, and Lancaster.

The Adult Education Committee of

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie (UUCE), Keystone Progress (Erie Chapter), the Erie Branch

NAACP, Erie County United, and Temple Anshe Hessed's Social Action Committee will discuss why Erie should be the next in a public forum entitled "Casual Marijuana Use: A Crime or Civil Infraction?" at the Jefferson Educational Society. The discussion panel will consist of State Representative Ed Gainey (Allegheny County), Pastor Dale Snyder of St. James AME Church, Dr. Nicole Schoenberger (Associate Professor of Sociology at Penn State Erie), and Dr. Michael Balsan of UPMC Hamot Women's Hospital (neonatal-perinatal medicine). Moderating will be Marcus Atkinson, Executive Director of ServErie and host of the monthly interview show "NEXT" on WQLN radio.

Gainey will open the discussion with updates on House Bill 195, his proposed amendment to the state's Controlled Substances Act to decriminalize marijuana statewide, and share insights and observations from Pittsburgh's experiences with decriminalization. The other panelists will then issue brief statements before the forum begins in earnest, with questions from the public encouraged in the time remaining. Leopold has encouraged Erie Chief of Police Don Dacus, all city councilperson, local and state legislators to attend.

Leopold explains: "It's not legalization. We can't [authorize] that on a state level. When we mention decriminalization, some take that to mean, 'Oh you're all just gonna smoke pot now.' That's not our purview; we're about reducing the burden on the community."

— Matt Swanseger

Don't let your chance to be heard go up in smoke; get involved Thursday, Oct. 26 at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street. The forum is free to the public and will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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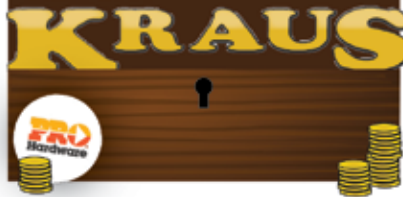


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Erie Observes Reformation 2017: Or Will We?

Revisiting Martin Luther's legacy 500 years later



LIBBY ROSEQUIST

By: Ken Rhodes

Tuesday, October 31, 2017, will mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his now legendary Ninety-Five Theses to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany (Holy Roman Empire to be precise). On the Sunday preceding, called "Reformation Sunday," Protestant churches the world over will celebrate, commemorate, or perhaps disregard, the life and witness of this heretofore obscure Roman Catholic monk. So, what of Erie's churches? This question led me on a pilgrimage to various houses of worship to discuss the upcoming anniversary with area pastors. All were gracious, articulate, and forthcoming about their convictions.

My first stop was where Luther himself began. Fr. Brian Vossler welcomed me to St. George's Roman Catholic Church on Peach Street, where he readily agreed that certain "abuses" in the Renaissance Church, such as a will to power and the promiscuous selling of indulgences, had indeed merited reform. Drawing on the commitments of Vatican II, he praised Evangelical Protestants for their Bible knowledge and zeal for evangelization, but reaffirmed his own deeply personal calling to be a Roman Catholic pastor. Fr. Vossler has no plans to say anything different on the anniversary, but he

emphasized the importance of "sensitivity" towards other beliefs.

Leon Ben-Ezra is the pastor of Faith Reformed Church in Harborcreek. As we chatted over lunch, he explained his belief that, although all branches of Christianity hold in common the basics of the Faith, the "best way of understanding Jesus" is found in the Reformed tradition. When asked which of the sixteenth century reformers he would invite to speak before his congregation, he chose Luther, whom he described as "fiery and blunt." This Presbyterian pastor admires Roman Catholic architecture and the "solemnity" of their gatherings, but prefers that his flock observe the reformed principle of worship. And this, he said, will lead Faith Reformed Church to worship God and no one else on Reformation Sunday.

Rev. Chuck Nelson, pastor of The Cross, an inner-city ministry located on the corner of 11th and Sassafras, also of reformed convictions, echoed his Harborcreek counterpart, both in his applause for the doctrinal stand of the Protestants, and in his decision to observe the anniversary by continuing to preach through scripture. This, he said, "is probably how the reformers would have it."

Rev. Travis Schmidt, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) on West 38th Street, is a newcomer to Erie.

As we enjoyed a theological and historical discussion in his office, he revealed a considerable knowledge of and an enduring affection for the faith of his fathers. When asked why he was Lutheran his response "scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone" would have done his sixteenth century for-bearer proud. The Lutheran Reformation occurred, he explained, because Luther came to see that "change within the system was not possible." Institutional as well as moral and doctrinal reform had become an imperative. Consistent with the synod's directives, Trinity plans to "celebrate" Reformation Sunday as an acknowledgment of Luther's achievement. Pastor Schmidt expressed his wish that Luther could return and speak about the challenges of vernacular Bible translation and publication in a world in which printing was new and literacy a privilege of the few. Toward the end of our conversation I inquired about Luther's vitriolic anti-Semitic statements. My host observed that this much-discussed moral failure had occurred later in the reformer's life after illness and disappointment had befallen him. He made it clear that the synod had long ago rejected that portion of his legacy. As our conversation concluded, Pastor Schmidt praised Catholicism's openness to Lutheran hymnody, but reaffirmed the theological distinctions which still divide Protestant from Catholic.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Old French Road is current-

Reformation Sunday, which celebrates its 500th anniversary on Halloween, has left an indelible legacy on the Christian faith. Protestant churches such as Trinity Lutheran [top left] and Saint Mark's Episcopal Church [bottom right] continue to subscribe (in some form) to the precedent set forth in Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses.

ly without a pastor, but Craig Dressler, Associate for Parish Life, offered a thoughtful exposition of the American Anglican perspective. He commended Protestants for their role in "bringing the scriptures and prayers of the church into the vernacular of the people," but then observed that the Episcopal Church is both Catholic and Protestant, "not one or the other." As such, his church looks to the Anglican Reformation in England rather than to the continental reformers and will observe Sunday, October 29th as any other Lord's Day. Dressler would love to have Thomas Cranmer, author of the first *Book of Common Prayer*, speak at St. Mark's. He honors Roman Catholic witness to the power of the sacraments and respects evangelical knowledge of the Bible, but he describes his theology as "progressive," and finds his home in the traditions of Canterbury.

An Orthodox perspective was offered by Fr. Pimen Simon, Rector at Church of the Nativity on Front Street. Sitting on the porch of his home overlooking the bay, Fr. Simon agreed with the reformers that the Roman Church had become corrupt; he admired their "piety and prayer," and praised their emphasis on education. Nevertheless, he lamented their abandonment of the sacramental life, their "error" of

scripture alone, and the "erosion of Christianity" that followed.

Others I contacted were unavailable, so my final ecclesiastical conversation took place at First Alliance Church on Zimmerly Road, the place of worship I have called home since moving to Erie. Pastor Mark Harris, a history aficionado, seated us both at a table in his office. He readily identified the Protestant Reformation as "the restoration of the Gospel," and commended Martin Luther for returning to the teachings of the Apostles. He would ask Luther to speak in his pulpit, if he could, and the topic would be the "unity and purity" of the now badly fragmented Western Church. Pastor Mark spoke of his respect for Roman Catholic allegiance to their institutions, and echoed most of his Protestant colleagues in their intention that nothing would be different about Reformation Sunday.

Driving home at the end of the day I concluded that Erie's Christians are a well-looked after community, and that for most of them, surprisingly, October 29, 2017 will be simply another Sunday of faithful worship and service.

Kenneth W. Rhodes, Ph.D. is a retired high school teacher living in Erie, he can be reached at kenrhodes3291@gmail.com



LIBBY ROSEQUIST

Making History?

Erie School Board candidate Tyler Titus answers a few questions about his journey



NICK WARREN

By: Nick Warren

T Tyler James Titus is one of five people on the ballot for the board of Erie's City School Directors. On Tuesday, Nov. 8, voters can select up to five candidates. If his name is one of the four top choices, history will be made. He will be the first elected official in the state of Pennsylvania who is openly transgender. While Pennsylvania does boast one of the nation's top trans officials, Dr. Rachel Levine, our state's Physician General, she was appointed to the cabinet by Governor Tom Wolf.

In 2014, Titus came out as trans, and his life has been on a positive trajectory ever since. In May, Titus staged a successful write-in campaign to be on November's ballot. In June, he was selected for The Erie Reader's 2017 40 Under 40 class, and has since been featured in news outlets, most notably The Daily Beast.

An energetic father of two boys, aged 9 and 4, he's personally invested in the Erie School District. We were able to sit down with the charismatic candidate to get his take on things.

Nick Warren: Let's start with how you got here. In regard to your write-in campaign, how did the hurdles of

May's primary get you to this point on the ballot?

Tyler Titus: What happened in May was a testament to my commitment. I accept accountability for filing one form in the wrong building. I filed my paperwork in the county courthouse, making it a public document available to all interested parties; however, what I neglected to do was file an additional form at the School District building. At the end of the day, several of the candidates did not comply with this filing expectation and were essentially sued by a democratic voter within the city. Four candidates who were running for an unpaid political position stood and presented testimony that we were all told that we filed correctly. However, the responsibility was still on our shoulders, and all four democratic candidates were knocked off the democratic ballot for the May primary election.

I was not willing to back down from the fight for our community's children and teachers, so I launched a write-in campaign. I spent many evenings at local events sharing my platform and many hours knocking on voters' doors. I wanted to make sure that our community knew that it did not have

Tyler Titus, 33, works as a clinical therapist for Harborcreek Youth Services. If voted to the Erie School Board, he will be the first openly trans official elected in Pennsylvania.

to accept the current condition of our public schools and that they had an additional option: write my name on the ballot. And that's exactly what they did. I received enough support from Erie City voters that I won a spot back on the ballot for the general election.

NW: What have you learned so far being a parent in the school district, and what has your involvement been with the district so far?

TT: We have some phenomenal teachers and staff who are dedicated to providing for our students. I have learned that our students want to learn and are desperate for a safe space to discover their talents. I have learned that we as a community have neglected our schools and passed it on as someone else's problem to fix. I have been in our schools as a treatment provider for many years and I've been an advocate for the students, teachers, and parents. I've worked to alleviate some of the barriers that stood in the way of successful outcomes for students and teachers.

NW: How will you work with local and state government to try to curb our school's ongoing financial crisis?

TT: Erie has an enormous amount of dedicated humans trying to make it a successful and safe community. However, so many of these talented people are operating in isolation, almost like a million little islands with invisible "do not cross" tape wrapped around their edges. I have already started forging connections with county and city government in order to understand their systems and how those departments can support each other. I believe that Harrisburg has a responsibility to support our public schools; however, I do not think we can wait for them to rescue us. We have to come together as a city and ask, "what can we do to help our schools?" It is a responsibility of every individual within our city to support and advocate for our public schools. We have to change the dialogue from how the schools are failing

our children to how are we as a community failing our schools.

NW: What would it mean to you to become the first openly trans elected official in Pennsylvania?

TT: When I was in high school I was bullied to the point of believing I was intrinsically flawed. I would fall asleep wishing that I wouldn't wake up, so that my family wouldn't have to face being shamed because of their "defective" child.

Becoming the first openly trans elected official means my community believes in my ability to be a voice and advocate for our children and teachers. It means that every moment of self-doubt I ever experienced and fought to eradicate was worth it.

Now here I am — a man who has learned how to love himself and believe in possibility. Society told me to believe I was not worth fighting for and now I know that every child deserves to have someone fighting for them. Becoming the first openly trans elected official means my community believes in my ability to be a voice and advocate for our children and teachers. It means that every moment of self-doubt I ever experienced and fought to eradicate was worth it. This election means that people are not defined by gender or orientation, but rather by the skills that they bring to the table.

And that is exactly how a candidate should be assessed.

NW: What effect did the Daily Beast article, and subsequent coverage, have on your campaign?

TT: [laughs] Outside of blowing my mind? I went from being a guy running for a local office to a guy making national headlines and potential state history. The article in the Daily Beast launched my campaign which brought about both positive and negative feedback. I have been approached by trans youth and parents of trans youth stating that I have given them

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hope that things are going to be okay. I have also been cyber-attacked by people who believe that being transgender is a choice, a sin, and that my access to children should be denied as I am a “perverted threat.” However, I expected backlash and thankfully have already healed old wounds that relied on approval from others. I know why I am running and it doesn’t have to do with being transgender.

NW: I hear stirrings that there’s a documentary being made about you, is that true?

TT: It is true! I had the privilege of working with Laurence Mathieu-Leger, a Senior Producer from Bustle — formerly a film producer at The Guardian. The piece is on five trans/non-binary candidates who are currently running for elected political offices across the US. The piece is set to be released early November 2017.

NW: What about your professional background makes you feel you are a good choice for school board?

TT: At the age of 19, I started working for my county’s child protective services as a case-aide. I would transport children who were adjudicated dependent [i.e. recipients of child welfare services upon a juvenile court ruling] and in foster care to visits with biological family members. I was exposed at an early age to systemic flaws within systems designed to help those in need. This experience, and others, propelled me into a social service career. I worked at the Erie County Office of Children and Youth for seven years, as a caseworker and eventually the training supervisor, before accepting the clinical therapist position at Harborcreek Youth Services three years ago. The past ten years have been dedicated to serving children and families

here in Erie County.

I don’t just read about the struggles of our community, I go into them with the families. I am at the dining room table, on the living room couches, in the classrooms, at the court hearings, and in my office as we figure out a way to get out of the darkness they are experiencing. I don’t just make decisions for other people. I empower them so they can make their own.

Fighting for our children is not only what I know how to do; it is what I want to do. I serve on local nonprofit boards without compensation because I believe in creating a safe and thriving community for families, for my family.

NW: Lastly, how can voters get involved?

TT: Every person needs to ask themselves if they are okay with what they see happening in their community. If

they aren’t, then they need to run for office or get behind a candidate that they believe in. Every voter needs to know what is going on in local politics as this is what directly impacts their daily lives and ultimately determines the larger government around us. Local elections matter and we owe it to ourselves and our children to become invested. Ask questions, demand clarity and accountability, rally for your causes.

Titus is joined on the ballot by incumbents Angela Euell-McNair (herself a 40 Under 40 honoree in 2016) and Thomas Spagel, as well as realtor Tim Kuzma, and former teacher and coach Darlene Feeney — who was also struck from the primary ballot.

Nick Warren can be reached at nwarren@eriereader.com.

Persinger, Schember Look to Guide a City at a Crossroads

Erie decides which direction to turn on Nov. 7



Regardless of whether Erie elects Republican John Persinger (left) or Democrat Joe Schember (right), there will be a new mayor in City Hall this November.

which to judge one of the county executive candidates: A political record in that office.

Although Democrat Joe Schember has served on Erie City Council, neither he nor Republican John Persinger has held elected office in an executive capacity. And each is promoting their seemingly clean slates through their platforms.

There is another way the mayoral race is unlike the county executive race. Voter registration in the city favors democrats 3-to-1, making the path to victory for any Republican immediately more challenging by numbers alone. Whereas a Republican county executive candidate can appeal to both parties but still feel comfortably wrapped in a warm-enough GOP blanket, a Republican mayoral candidate must, without exception, convert thou-

sands of Ds to Rs on the path to victory.

But at this point, what else can be said about Erie’s mayoral race? After all, there’s been a lot of talk, there continues to be a lot of talk, and here will be more talk after Nov. 7, no doubt.

Ask virtually anyone concerned with the fate and direction of Erie and they’ll tell you that this is one of – if not the – most important election in Erie’s history. Erie is at a crossroads. It’s at a turning point. It must take action through leadership.

But that was said before May’s primary election outcome, too. And then, less than one-third of registered voters made it to the polls to participate in democracy.

Since 1961, Erie has not elected a Republican mayor. Some will say that the numbers alone make it improbable at best – impossible at worst – for a Republican to be elected mayor. Some will say that because of a hunger for change, now will be the time that voters abandon their

party in favor of ideas over party loyalty.

Spend more than five minutes with either Persinger and Schember and you’ll know that both are well-intentioned and want a bright future for Erie, which undoubtedly appeals to voters given the vitriol spewed at the national level. And both are nice guys – they’ve pledged to keep their campaigns civil, and so far, they have.

Both see Erie Refocused, the city’s comprehensive plan, as a pathway to a better Erie. However, they differ in their approaches.

Persinger’s plan is more ambitious: Remove 1,000 blighted homes in 1,000 days. It’s bold, for sure, and is gaining its due attention. Yet where the funds will come from specifically – an estimated \$10 million – and where the people who live in the regions he plans to target will go remains unclear.

Schember’s plan is more conservative: Address 50 to 100 homes in the first year after re-engag- **[cont. on page 36]**

By: Ben Speggen

For the first time in 12 years, regardless of which political party assumes controls of the executive branch of city government, Erie will have a new leader. Completing the final year of his final term, Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott will leave the fifth floor of City Hall not by ballot but by the term limits (three four-year terms) imposed after Lou Tullio’s two-decade-plus reign as mayor.

This is the chief difference between Erie’s mayoral race and its county executive race: The presence of an incumbent with a record to judge.

A certain excitement exists in the unknown – especially after Sinnott won both his second and third terms uncontested. This either might serve as Erie’s affirmation of the Sinnott administration or a signal that it’s easier to run in an open field than challenge an incumbent. There were nine. And there were many more names rumored.

In the County Executive race, Democratic incumbent Kathy Dahlkemper, vying to keep her seat, is running on a proven record. Voters can keep course or opt for a change, but either way, they have something against

The Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit IX

World-class lecturers speak on the world we live in

By: Jim Wertz, Nick Warren, and Matt Swanseger

You could say that Erie is rarely considered to be the center of global thought and culture. However, for two weeks during each of the past nine years, the Jefferson Educational Society and its sponsors have brought to town the most significant names in politics, culture, and the greater intellectual community of artists, journalists, and wonks...oh, my.

This year is no exception. Global Summit IX will explore localism, globalism, and the politics that mediate the space in between, tackling issues that are germane to regional thought leaders and policy-makers by introducing Erie to some of the world's most influential thinkers in their fields as well as welcoming back — and in some cases welcoming home — people who are shaping national and international policy.

Moving forward as a region has never been more complicated as our political processes, both local and national have grown exceptionally partisan. As a reflection of this political moment, much of this year's Global Summit points toward the challenges faced by American institutions, including universities, the press, and even the White House.

"Erie and the New Localism"

— With Bruce Katz, Centennial Scholar at the Brookings Institution
Thursday, Nov. 2 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.



On radars because: Bruce J. Katz is the very first Centennial Scholar at the Brookings Institution. The unique distinction is reserved for someone whose work is, according to Brookings, "cross-program, inter-disciplinary, international, and intensely focused on impact." Katz' work analyzing metropolitan prosperity has made him one of the leading authorities on city issues. After getting his B.A. from Brown University, and his J.D. from Yale Law School, Katz co-lead the housing and urban transition

team during President Obama's first 100 days. He also served as an advisor to Shaun Donovan, Obama's first Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Katz has been to Erie before as part of the Jefferson Society's collaboration with Brookings on Erie's Advanced Industries — an extension of the Brookings publication *America's Advanced Industries*, which Katz oversaw as the Director of Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program from 1996-2015. Katz returned to the JES in 2015 as part of the Metro 100, a public policy round table for regional civic and business leaders.

Worth seeing because: As an almost unparalleled expert on American cities, his knowledge could be invaluable. He has a forthcoming book — co-authored with Jeremy Nowak — titled *The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism*. The book examines three key cities: Copenhagen, Indianapolis, and our neighbor to the south, Pittsburgh. Katz has been a staunch advocate for metropolitan regions to regain a sense of agency from the state and federal government. On his previous visits to Erie, he's articulated how Erie might draw upon the strengths of its manufacturing past to participate in new economies, including global trade and technology. Katz has a common refrain, "No one is coming to save you." Erie, like other metropolitan regions in the former Rust Belt, he demands, will have to figure out how to move forward on their own.

"Linking Founding Fathers to Issues of the Day: Focus on Alexander Hamilton and James Madison"

— With Jay Cost, senior writer at The Weekly Standard
Wednesday, Nov. 8 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society



On radars because: Offering views from a conservative perspective, Jay Cost is the author of 2012 book *Spoiled Rotten: How the Politics of Patronage Corrupted the Once Noble Democratic Party and Now Threatens the American Republic*. Cost holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia, as well as an M.A. from the University of Chicago. He is a former writer for the website, RealClearPolitics.com, rising to prominence via his "Horse Race Blog," and currently writes for The Weekly Standard. Two of the journal's editors, William Kristol and Fred Barnes, have also been featured guests for previous Global Summit events. His latest work is titled *The Price of Greatness: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and the Creation of American Oligarchy*. To gain Cost's insights on how the two forefathers' views shaped our current government, be in the room where it happens

Worth seeing because: November 8-10 might prove to be three critical days in the American conversation with regard to the Trump presidency and the future of our political system. The author and political analyst will begin the three-day run by linking the founding fathers to current political issues, including free speech and "mi-

cro-aggressions." An ardent defender of conservative values, but no apologist for the current administration, Cost will likely establish a tone that will infuse a media round table on the relationship between the press and the executive branch.

"Understanding Trump: Washington Insiders on the 45th President"

— Media panel discussion moderated by C-SPAN's Steve Scully featuring Tara Palmeri, Philip Rucker, and Byron York
Friday, Nov. 10 // 7:30 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St.



On radars because: This special panel discussion will be moderated by C-SPAN's Steve Scully, an Erie native and Chairman of Global Summit IX. A Yale graduate and Pulitzer Prize finalist, Philip Rucker serves as White House Bureau Chief for The Washington Post, notably having covered Mitt Romney's campaign in 2012. Politico and CNN contributor Tara Palmeri, is an American University alum who previously worked at The Washington Examiner and The New York Post. Byron York is the Chief Political Correspondent for The Washington Examiner and author of *The Vast Left Wing Conspiracy*. Scully, the senior executive producer and political editor whom John Oliver calls "the most patient man on television," will moderate this forum, filled with panelists




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popular in both liberal and conservative circles alike. With each member of this panel being a noted White House correspondent, this should deliver a unique perspective on national news coverage of the executive branch.

Worth seeing because: Real news correspondents will get their chance to weigh in on “fake news.” It’s important to have this discussion during our current political climate, as navigating sources and information is different in this administration than it was for previous political candidates and presidents. See different points of view as they have an educated conversation about the strange, ever-changing world of the White House.

“An Evening with Historian Douglas Brinkley”

— With Douglas Brinkley, professor of history at Rice University

Thursday, Nov. 9 // 7:30 p.m. // Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University



On radars because: Presidential historian for CNN, Douglas Brinkley has been referred to as by the network as “a man who knows more about the presidency than any human being alive.” The renowned presidential historian has more than a score of books to his name (23 to be precise). Brinkley is accomplished both as an author and an editor, being the literary executor to his friend Hunter S. Thompson, overseeing the release of Jack Kerouac’s diaries, Woody Guthrie’s novel *House of Earth*, and *The Nixon Tapes*. His biography of Walter Cronkite was named Book of the Year

by The Washington Post. This year, he even shared a Grammy Award with Wynton Marsalis thanks to his work co-producing the album *Presidential Suite: Eight Variations on Freedom*. The well-rounded expert will speak with authority to a number of topics.

Worth seeing because: For context, the first week of the Global Summit will close with Brinkley, who has been a critic of the Trump presidency and the unorthodox candidacy that brought Trump to power. Brinkley has written books about Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan, in addition to a notable list of cultural figures and personalities. His observations on the businessman-turned-reality-television-star-turned-President of the United States are not to be missed.

“The End of One Era, The Start of Another: German-American Relations in the Age of Trump”

— With Dr. Jackson Janes, president of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington, D.C.

Monday, Nov. 13 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society



On radars because: Unlike certain other presidents, Dr. Janes is well-regarded on both sides of the pond for his work in international relations. He has headed the American Institute of Contemporary German Studies at John Hopkins University since 1989 — the same year the Berlin Wall fell — and has been a respected voice on the

state of affairs between the United States and Germany for decades. His early career in academia took place in Cold War Germany, where he taught at universities in Freiburg, Giessen, and Tübingen. He directed the German-American Institute in Tübingen (1977-80) and the European office of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (1980-1985) before returning stateside. He serves on several international advisory boards and is a regular consultant on German-U.S. relations for CBS, CNN, C-SPAN, PBS, CBC, and numerous German stations.

Worth seeing because: Germany is the most populous and most influential member of the European Union, and sets the tone for foreign policy. President Trump has not exactly endeared himself to German leadership since taking office, forecasting the demise of the EU and adding that “the Germans are bad, very bad.” Furthermore, he called NATO “obsolete,” although he pledged his commitment to Europe’s defense. Although Trump has gotten off to a rocky start with Germany, it is imperative the countries work together in the face of many global challenges.

“Witness to History: Stories from Former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card”

— With Andrew H. Card, Chief of Staff under President George W. Bush (2000-06)

Tuesday, Nov. 14 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society



On radars because: Card has special insight into U.S. politics, having served under three presidents — Ronald Reagan (various roles), George H.W. Bush (Secretary of Transporta-

tion and Deputy Chief of Staff), and George W. Bush (Chief of Staff). The Massachusetts native entered public service in 1975, holding a seat on his state’s House of Representatives until 1983, when he joined the Reagan administration. He served as Deputy Assistant to the President, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, and as a liaison to public officials on both the state and municipal levels. Under the senior Bush, he managed the daily operations of the White House, coordinated disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, and oversaw the transition to the Clinton administration. Under the junior Bush, Card was the first to notify the president of the 9/11 attacks and helped guide the country’s intelligence policies in the tragedy’s aftermath.

Card was the first to notify the president of the 9/11 attacks and helped guide the country’s intelligence policies in the tragedy’s aftermath.

Worth seeing because: Card himself has seen a lot worth seeing, both for the better and worse of this country. The past informs the future, and much of what Card witnessed over the three previous decades has parallels to today’s reality. He is credited with playing a central role in shaping post-9/11 intelligence strategies. His understanding of how to manage the generals and the bureaucrats in Washington will serve attendees well as a starting point for the final nights of this year’s Global Summit, which feature two Erie natives. This year’s hurricanes Harvey and Maria have wrought destruction unrivaled since Andrew (1992) and Katrina (2005). Issues of safety and security are again at the forefront of the public consciousness, following ugly incidents in Charlottesville and Las Vegas. Times like these call for levelheadedness, solidarity, and resolve between our leaders and our people — how does our present compare to the past? Card will share what he’s learned and the lessons we can apply to our situation moving forward.

FEATURE

“Feeding the World in the 21st Century”

— With Caitlin Welsh, Acting Director of the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Food Security (S/GFS) at the U.S. Department of State

Wednesday, Nov. 15 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society



On radars because: You could afford to feed into the knowledge Welsh has acquired as she’s attempted to answer a critical question: how do we better feed the world? After receiving a B.A. from the University of Virginia in 2001,

the Erie native volunteered with the Peace Corps in Morocco and earned a Master in Public Administration from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. Her mission has taken her all over the globe, from the sprawling agricultural operations in California’s Central Valley to tiny rice farms in Liberia. In her current position, Welsh oversees efforts to minimize hunger and malnutrition and promote sustainable production practices. She also represents America in G-7 negotiations on global food security, where she engages with members of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

Worth seeing because: As population and urbanization rise, many mouths continue to go unfed. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, up to 12.7 percent of American households do not get enough to eat. “Food deserts” (areas where fresh produce and meat is not within walking distance) exist not only in remote or sparsely-populated areas, but also in poor inner cities (such as Erie’s lower

east side). Healthy people are happier, more productive people — that truth applies everywhere, from Africa to North America. Earth is capable of putting enough food on the table — we just have to make sure everyone has the opportunity to pull up a chair.

“Biohacking: Is Do-It-Yourself Tech the Future of Science?”

— With Ellen Jorgensen, co-founder and president of Biotech Without Borders

Thursday, Nov. 16 // 7:30 p.m. // McGarvey Commons at Penn St. Behrend, Reed Union Building, 4701 College Dr.

On radars because: Biotechnology has come under the microscope as of late, both for its intriguing possibilities and its ethical considerations. Jorgensen has made a career of illuminating the mysteries of science with her nonprofit organization Biotech Without Borders, which fosters scientific literacy among children and adults, especially in regards to molecular and synthetic biology. She also helped establish Genspace, a community lab in Brooklyn focused on those



same two subjects — the endeavor landed her on *Fast Company’s* World’s Top 10 Innovative Companies in Education. She holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from New York University, her work has been featured in scores of magazines and TV programs, and her two TED talks (“Biohacking: You

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FEATURE

Can Do It Too” and “What You Need To Know About CRISPR”) have drawn over two million viewers.

Worth seeing because: Biohacking is adjusting the lens through which the common person approaches science — if you don't have the formal knowledge but the curiosity is in your DNA, this could be the lecture for you. Biohacking can refer to either DIY biology (outside the typical university setting) or maximizing one's own biology through medical, nutritional, physical, or electronic means. Designer genes are in fashion; listen as Jorgensen tells you all about this emerging trend.

“The Pre-Something Period: America's Leadership Challenge”

— With Lt. Gen. James Dubik, U.S. Army (retired)

Friday, Nov. 17 // 7:30 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University



On radars because: Another Erie native, Lt. Gen. Dubik stands to earn your attention after a decorated 37-year career in the U.S. Army and numerous post-service accolades, most recently the 2017 Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award (which is bestowed upon an Erie citizen who “has made a significant contribution to the vitality

of American democracy.”) Currently, Lt. Gen. Dubik owns a revered international consulting firm (Dubik Associates), which specializes in leadership development, organizational change, and national and strategic intelligence issues. He also belongs to the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Security Advisory Council, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame. His tactical mind has been deployed on several fronts, working on behalf of the Church (The Leadership Roundtable on Church Development), the Institute for the Study of War, the Institute

Another Erie native, Lt. Gen. Dubik stands to earn your attention after a decorated 37-year career in the U.S. Army and numerous post-service accolades,

of Land Warfare, and many others.

Worth seeing because: Whether or not a single bullet is fired, there are wars raging among us culturally, socially, economically, and environmentally with outcomes yet to be decided. Dubik is a well-respected leader and Erieite on the front line of many discussions concerning our nation's welfare.

Jim Wertz (jwertz@eriereader.com), Nick Warren (nwarren@eriereader.com), and Matt Swanseger (mswanseger@eriereader.com) are all concerned world citizens and members of the Erie Reader editorial board.

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Spotlight on Erie

October 25 – November 7, 2017

Thursday, Oct. 26

Playhouse to Perform Mamma Mia!

From Thursday, Oct. 26 to Sunday, Nov. 19, the Erie Playhouse will be performing one of the most memorable musicals of all time. *Mamma Mia!* debuted March 1999 in London, England. Since then, more than 60 million people have seen it. In 2015, it became the longest running musical on Broadway.

Mamma Mia! tells the story of a bride, her single mother and the three men who might be her father. Sophie wants her father to walk her down the aisle on her wedding day, but she doesn't know him. To resolve this, she invites the three contenders to her big day. Though undeniably dramatic, the storyline ultimately unfolds in an amusing way, keeping audiences entertained from beginning to end. But if that doesn't draw you in, surely the music will. The famous musical includes countless catchy songs by ABBA, who joined the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2010. Weeks after the show, you'll likely still be humming songs like "Dancing Queen," "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!," "Knowing Me, Knowing You" and "Honey, Honey."

— Tracy Geibel

7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2 p.m. Sundays and Saturday, Nov. 18 // Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. // \$12 to \$20.25 // 454-2852 // erieplayhouse.org

Thursday, Oct. 26

Weber's Spirited Menagerie



Mark Weber makes memorable art. His fanciful, buoyant, illustrative style has been well-displayed in Erie — particularly the Erie Art Museum — for years. His work has been featured on multiple posters for the Blues & Jazz Festival, most recently in

2015. In January of that year, he was also the artist in residency at the museum, crafting new, improvised creations live in front of patrons.

His newest show will feature one of his most-loved motifs: "Animals." That's the title of Weber's latest exhibit at the Erie Art Museum. Running until February 11, 2018, the show's opening celebration will be on Thursday, Oct. 26 at the Ronald E. Holstein Gallery. The artist will be on hand to create live drawings and illustrations similar to his 2015 appearance. His animal-themed drawings will be accompanied by beer pairings from the Erie Beer Company, and the Erie Zoo's "Traveling Zoo" will even bring around live animals to the event — likely subjects for live illustration.

Weber has had his work appear in numerous publications over the years such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

The Erie expatriate — and current Wilmington, North Carolina resident — has had his work appear in numerous publications over the years such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*. An active illustrator, he has provided art for over 75 young reader books for Townsend Press.

At 10 a.m., following Thursday's opening, *The Big Picture Mural Project* will unveil a mural by Weber in the heart of Erie. On the south-facing wall of the St. Martin's Center, at the corner of 18th and State, Weber's bright, vibrant work will be showcased for all to see.

Imbuing each creature with a humanistic life of their own, he anthropomorphizes them with exuberant style. Whether working in painterly clouds of gauche, or bold vector-like line work, each piece carries its idiosyncratic traces. While often varying wildly in terms of style from one piece to the next, each of Weber's creations has an organic, warmly cartoonish feel. — Nick Warren

7 to 9 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 John Vanco Way // \$10, \$8 for member and animal-costumed guests // erieartmuseum.org/mark-weber

Saturday, Oct. 28th

All That Jazz: Brubeck Brothers Quartet at the Warner Theatre



For jazz enthusiasts around the world, the name "Brubeck" first conjures the likeness of American composer and jazz pianist David Warren Brubeck. As noted on the Erie Philharmonic's website, the influential jazz master "instantly evokes a special sound or tune in your ear." Noted to be a founding father of "cool jazz," Brubeck is perhaps best known for his eclectic range in styles, often combining classical training with a knack for improvisation. Brubeck's music was challenging, utilizing complicated rhythms and peculiar time signatures. And by the sound of it, his sons Chris and Dan Brubeck (performing as the Brubeck Brothers Quartet) are continuing his legacy. This month, the Brubeck Brothers Quartet will be performing at Erie's historic Warner Theatre. In addition to a number of "jazz standards," the Brubeck siblings will be performing several highlights from their father's very own collection (including fan favorites "Take Five" and "Blue Rondo a la Turk"). Executive Director Steven Weiser couldn't sound more excited for it.

"We are beyond excited to welcome the legendary Brubeck name to the stage for this concert on October 28," says Weiser. "As a young drummer, one of the first pieces I played with a trio in public was "Take Five." Knowing that the Brubeck Brothers will be playing this iconic piece alongside Daniel Meyer and the Erie Philharmonic is awesome!" The concert is being co-presented by JazzErie and conducted by the aforementioned Daniel Meyer, truly making this night one of Erie's must see shows of the fall sea-

son. — Aaron Mook

8 to 10 p.m. // 811 State St. // \$22-\$45 // eriephil.org

Saturday, Oct. 28

Boogey Down at the King's Rook Halloween Bash



Every year's Halloween get-down at the King's Rook is off the hook.

And Mister F, well, they're effin' fantastic.

Mosaic Foundation? They lay a heluva groove down too.

Add all those parts together, and what's brought to life is one Franken-funky creepy crawlin' evening of All Hallows' awesomeness.

That's what's going down at the Rook's 2017 Halloween Bash.

Scared to let the spirits move you? Don't be. Chances are you won't even need the liquid variety to boogey, man.

That's because Mister F — a tight, synthy fusion of, well, just about everything — are a standout among standouts on the wider region's live music scene. Brooklyn-based *Live for Live Music*, one of the last words in what's happening in that scene, have this to say about the quartet: "Mister F ... broaches all aspects of organized music. Rooted in funk traditions, [the band's] members are no strangers to unique compositions and sonic explorations, though it's done with a tightness that keeps listeners dancing throughout their performances."

And Mosaic Foundation are most definitely no slouches either. Coming to us from New York's pristine Finger Lakes region, the collection of multi-talented musicians stays true to its name and deep roots, mashing ska, dub, dance-hall, and other influences into a sweet, positive, powerful sound that's uniquely their own.

CALENDAR

What they bring to the stage, they say, is “an exploration in reggae that is pushed to the limits — and sometimes spills over.”

There’s gonna be some groovy ghouls going bump in that night for sure.

— Ryan Smith

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday, Oct. 28

Grab The Gals for the For Women Only Expo



A girls night out is always a blast, sometimes, more so when copi-

ous cocktails are involved — hey, you end up with a good story or two, at the very least — but this isn’t your only option in October for some lady-bonding time. On the 28th and 29th, head over to the Bayfront Convention Center for this year’s For Women Only Expo. Over 100 vendors will purvey their wares, related to all things fashionable, fun and functional for female health — yes, there’s the opportunity to participate in all-important health screenings as well as learning how to better apply your mascara.

New to the event this year is the Lux Lounge, where ladies looking to indulge can relax in gorgeous cabanas, enjoy special salon treatments — which have to be booked in advance — or just chill out to some tunes. Local businesses Gallery 16 Salon and Beauty Bar Erie will be in the space to treat you, so be sure to stop by and see what they plan to offer. Onstage, attendees can check out informative demonstrations from Massage Envy and the European Wax Center throughout the day.

Need a breather? Pause from your pampering to participate in seminars which will range from a talk by the Frugal Fashionista Valerie Weaver, who will present tips on looking great and sticking to a budget, and a discus-

sion of home decor techniques with JoAnne Lenart-Weary. Have a penchant for all things literary? Check out National Reader’s Choice Award winner Holly Jacobs, USA Today Best-selling novelist Gayle Callen, and local scribe Chuck Pora.

Have a blast shopping, sipping—yup, there will be wine available—and celebrating all things traditionally feminine and fun at this year’s For Women Only Expo. Just remember your comfortable shoes — and a sense of humor. — Miriam Lamey

10 a.m. and 11 a.m. October 28 and 28 // Bayfront Convention Center // 1 Sassafras Pier // 814-790-5079 // eriepromotions.com

Thursday, Nov. 2

Guys and Dolls a Safe Bet

The Theatre Program at Mercyhurst University is mounting their second offering of the fall season with their upcoming production of the world renowned musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls*.

Brett Johnson is the director of the Mercyhurst Theatre Program and the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture, as well as the director of *Guys and Dolls*. Johnson explained how the

program pushes for great literature within the productions that are chosen. To Johnson, *Guys and Dolls* “is the perfect collaborative project for theatre, dance and music because of the large cast, extensive use of dance, and intricacies of Frank Loesser’s immortal score. It provides opportunities for students in each department to showcase their strengths while also learning from each other.”

Guys and Dolls, according to Johnson, “is about rolling the dice and falling in love under the bright lights of Broadway.” Illicit gambler Nathan Detroit is in search of money so that he can afford a venue for his gaming enterprise. He seeks out the adventurous Sky Masterson and confidently bets him that he can’t take the pious Sarah Brown of the Save-a-Soul-Mission out on a date. However, the players quickly come to discover that the game of romance is nothing if not unpredictable.

Mark your calendars and come out for a night full of “gamblers, gangsters, and sassy showgirls”. — Maddie Hepler

Nov. 2 - 4 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. // Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 East 38th Street // (814) 824-3000 // \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors/ students, \$5 with Mercyhurst ID // miac.mercyhurst.edu/

MUSIC

The V Band

Oct. 25 & Nov. 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Maxi’s Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

MVP

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Dickey’s Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St. jazzerie.com.

Dave VanAmburg & The Acoustics

Oct. 27 — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Maxi’s Restaurant, Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Sam Hyman

Oct. 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Halloween Hootenanny

Oct. 27 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Darcy’s Pub & Grub, 3746 West 12th St. facebook.com.

Man’s Room Band

Oct. 27 — 9 p.m.

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

Chickstock IV

Oct. 27 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Next2Rock Showcase two

Oct. 27 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Insane Clown Posse “The Great Milenko” 20 Year Tour

Oct. 28 — 6 p.m.

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

All That Jazz

Oct. 28 — 8 to 10 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.com.

Whiskey Road

Oct. 28 — 9 p.m.

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

KRC Halloween Party w/ Mister F & Mosaic Foundation

Oct. 28 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Halloween Ball

Oct. 28 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

McCoy’s Barrelhouse and Grill, 1013 State

St. facebook.com.

Kevlar

Oct. 28 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Dock Boys

Oct. 29 — 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Gabriel Alegria and the Afro-Peruvian Sextet

Oct. 29 — 3 to 5 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. afroperuviansextet.com.

Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra: A Visit to Eastern Europe

Oct. 29 — 4 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Nov. 1, 3 — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Maxi’s Restaurant, Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Music Takes Action Benefit

Nov. 1 — 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Concourse of Union Station, 121 W. 14th St. eriephil.org

Music Takes

Action Benefit

Nov. 3 — noon to 1 p.m.

WQLN Radio, 8425 Peach St. eriephil.org

Oogee Wawa

Nov. 3 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Zarathustra Speaks

Nov. 4 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org

Vibe & Direct

Nov. 4 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Scream Blue Murder, Altered Perceptions, & Unwill

Nov. 7 — 6 p.m.

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

An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin

Nov. 7 — 7:30 p.m.

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

DANCE

Creative Dance Residency

Oct. 27 & Nov. 3 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Harvest Celebration Weekend 1

Nov. 3 — noon to 6 p.m. & Nov. 4 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Nov. 5 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Arrowhead Wine Cellars, 12073 E. Main Rd. arrowheadwine.com.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Nov. 5 — 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saint Andrew Church, 1116 W. 7th St. saintandrewerie.com.

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

Nov. 5 — 11:30 to 4 p.m.

St. Boniface Church Hall, 9363 Wattsburg Rd. stbonifaceparisherie.org.

FILM

Aircraft Carriers

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Prehistoric Planet

Ongoing — noon & 3 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental

Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986)

Oct. 27 — 8 to 10 p.m. & 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Hocus Pocus

Oct. 28 — 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

H.O. Hirt Auditorium in the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 East Front St. erielibrary.org.

Anime Night: Ghost Stories

Oct. 28 — 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

Oct. 29 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.

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

VISUAL ARTS

Left to Their Own Devices

Ongoing through Oct. 31

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Friday, Nov. 3

Hie and Hurry to Tom, Dick and Harry



A loving and worthy couple have decided to adopt a baby. The soon-to-be father's two brothers decide to help pitch in and make the adoption agency's home visit the very best it could be. What could possibly go wrong?

With the father-son playwright team of Ray and Michael Cooney at the helm, plenty — but at least it's all high hilarity for the audiences who come to see *Tom, Dick and Harry* at the All An Act Theater. Starting November 3, this side-splitting farce will run throughout the rest of the month, with a very special November 25 performance where all the admission fees

go toward the Community Shelter Service's Children's Christmas Drive. Comedic genius and the opportunity to help those less fortunate? That's a winning combination.

Speaking of winning combinations, David W. Mitchell, the co-owner and artistic director of AAA, as well as the director for *Tom, Dick and Harry*, thought it was time for the company to stage another Cooney play.

"They are hilarious fun for both the audience and the actors," he said. Quick, lively motion on-stage, coupled with the utter "ridiculousness of the situation" as Dick and Harry attempt to help out their brother Tom (while simultaneously keeping their own foibles under wraps), contribute to the "physically exhausting" nature of the play, "because of the break-neck speed and physical comedy bits required to make them work."

Mitchell cited slamming doors, a cadaver's body parts and a duo of non-English speaking Croatians as some of the comedic highlights of *Tom, Dick and Harry*, but as always, it is the chemistry and joy of the cast and crew at work that make each performance worth catching. — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays // 652 West 17th Street // \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (55+), \$10 Students // allanact.net

Friday, Nov. 3

Take a Chance on HEISENBERG



Any romantic encounter where one party does not discover the other by swiping right seems to have a hint of the mysterious and the serendipitous. And so the two main characters of *HEISENBERG* come together, not through Tinder, but through literal impact with one another. Curious as to how and why the duo enter each other's lives? Then come to the Simon Stephens play at Erie's Dramashop starting on Friday, November 3 and running Friday and Saturday evenings through November 18.

Also having penned the Tony-award winning epistle *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, Stephens pre-

sented *HEISENBERG*, a two-person play originally performed Off-Broadway. The plot is simple but extremely compelling. Set in a busy London train station, Georgie — played at Dramashop by Jessica Annunziata — notices Alex (Shawn Clerkin) and kisses him, randomly, on the neck. The play then tracks what happens next, and the adventure upon which the duo embark.

Dramashop artistic director Zach Flock says that Stephens, a "powerful contemporary author," has created a play that is "really intriguing [and] well-written. It will captivate audiences." The theater made a bold decision to put on such an intimate play, which was performed on Broadway to a 200-seat audience, positioned on-stage and close to actors Mary-Louise Parker and Denis Arndt. "Few theatres in town can get away with doing a two-person show, because the conventional wisdom in community theatre is the larger the cast, the bigger the audience," Flock added. Not so, in the case of Dramashop nor the play itself.

So go ahead, immerse yourself in the story of Georgie and Alex this November and see how an accidental encounter can play out...with no swiping at all in sight. — Miriam Lamey

November 3, 4, 10, 17, 18 at 8 p.m. // Dramashop, 1001 State Street, 2nd floor // 814-315-3348 // dramashop.org

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

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

Ongoing through Nov.12

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

Arab Spring/ Unfinished Journeys, works by Helen Zughuib

Ongoing through Nov. 12

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

Michael Camp, Recent Paintings & Erie Clayspace Artist Association Members Show

Ongoing through Nov. 14

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

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

Ongoing through Jan. 7, 2018

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

Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott

Ongoing through Jan. 28, 2018

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

Tattoosday

Ongoing through Jan. 28, 2018

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

Arts, Ales & Animals

Oct. 26 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Live Virtual Art and Gallery Night! With Artlore Studio Part II

Oct. 26 — 7 to 10 p.m.

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

Mark Weber: Animals

Oct. 27 through Feb.11, 2018

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

Dark Arts Fest 2017

Oct. 27 — 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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

Juried Photography Exhibit

Oct. 30 through Dec. 15 (Reception Nov. 2 — 5 to 7 p.m.)

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

Use Your Illusion

Nov. 8 through Nov. 30

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

THEATER

Enjoy It Now, Your Children Will Survive

Oct. 25 — noon

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

Disney Live! Mickey and Minnie's Doorway to Magic

Oct. 26 — 3 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Mamma Mia

Oct. 26, 27, 28 & Nov. 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 12, 18, 19 — 2 p.m.

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

The Rocky Horror Show: The Last Floor Show

Oct. 27, 28 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 28 — midnight & Oct. 29 — 2 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

A Canterbury Feast

Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 10, 17 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 28 & Nov. 4, 11, 18 — 5:30 p.m. & Nov. 5, 12 — 2:30 p.m.

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

Guys and Dolls

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

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

Heisenberg

Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 — 8 p.m.

Dramashop, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

Tom, Dick, & Harry

Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 25 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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

An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin

Nov. 7 — 7:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY

2017 Season Sissons Pumpkin Patch

Ongoing through Oct. 29

Sissons Pumpkin Patch, 1244 Springfield Rd. sissionspumpkinpatch.com.

ZooBoo

Ongoing through Oct. 30 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Fall Harvest Festival

Ongoing through Oct. 31

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

Fishing Rod Loaner Program

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Amish Country Tour

Oct. 25 — 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tai Chi

Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 1, 6, 8 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tiny Trees Yoga

Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.

LEAF Education Center,

1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Employment for the Older Adult

Oct. 25 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Graduate Programs Information Session

Oct. 25 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Erie Mayor Candidate Debate

Oct. 25 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

East Middle School, 1001 Atkins St. facebook.com.

Adult Art Classes

Oct. 25 — 7 to 9 p.m.

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Haunted History Tours

Oct. 25 & Nov. 1 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 27 — 7 & 9:30 p.m.

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

Preacher Lawson

Oct. 26 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 27, 28 — 6:45 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

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

Paint & Rock

CALENDAR

Saturday, Nov. 4

Orchestral Odyssey Plumbs the Depths of the Warner



Predicated on the rumble of an organ and a thunder-boom of bass, German Romantic composer Richard Strauss' "Also sprach Zarathustra" is one of the most famous and easily recognizable tone poems ever created. Not ringing a bell yet? Just think about that big, unforgettable, iconic refrain from Stanley Kubrick's Earth-shaking film *2001: A Space Odyssey* (if you've seen it, you'll know what we mean).

Got it now? Good. Sticks in your head, doesn't it?

With that, you have a little taste of what the Erie Philharmonic is bringing to the illustrious Warner Theatre's stage as it continues its journey into the heart of its 2017-18 season.

And the Phil's presentation of "Zarathustra" — Strauss' sonic interpretation of one of German philos-

opher Friedrich Nietzsche's most famous works — won't be the only lofty work on display that night.

That performance will close the event. It'll be an evening full of musical drama leading up to that finish, opening with Estonian Arvo Part's "Fratres" — "a striking example," according to the Phil, "of how rich and spiritual music can evolve out of humble ingredients."

There will also be the Erie Phil debut of cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan, a Tchaikovsky Competition winner who will present Shostakovich's on-fire Cello Concerto No. 1.

Stellar work, Erie Philharmonic.
— Ryan Smith

8 to 10 p.m. // 811 State St. // \$20-\$52 // eriephil.org/calendar or 455-1375

Saturday, Nov. 4

TEDxErie presents "Bridges Over Barriers"



When encountering barriers, build a bridge.

That's the theme of the upcoming TEDxErie event (TED = Technology, Entertainment and Design), where several speakers will discuss how they've overcome barriers in their lives and how others can do the same.

The event kicks off at 1 p.m. and, after an intermission, lasts into the evening. TEDxErie lead curator Jonathan D'Silva says some are initially surprised by this, but he encourages everyone to attend the conference in its entirety.

"Don't attend with the idea that you are only interested in one or two speakers. Instead come with an open mind and listen to what everyone has to say," D'Silva said. "TED is based on the concept of 'Ideas Worth Sharing,' and you miss the point if you only stay for the things you *might* be interested in."

"Bridges Over Barriers" will feature a mix of experts and community members. Speakers include McDowell chemistry teacher Jacob Tobolewski, who will speak about "investing in one's self," and Iron Empire Clothing's RJ Messenger, who says he's "in the business of changing lives," among others.

The audience will see performances from Leeanna Golembewski, Cee Williams and Cult Classics. Dietrich Wegner, the Erie Arts and Culture Artist Commission Stage Design winner, will feature his interpretation of Bridges over Barriers.

"If you have seen any TED or TEDx

talks, then you need to come and see how they come together," D'Silva said.

Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

If unable attend the Nov. 4th event, D'Silva invites the community to check out the more informal, monthly TEDxErieSalon events, held the last Wednesday of every month — except December — typically at 6 p.m. at Calamari's Squid Row. These free programs highlight a local organization and include open discussion after guests watch a few TED talks. —Tracy Geibel

1 p.m. // McDowell Intermediate High School Little Theater, 3320 Caughey Rd. // \$20 general admission // tedxerie.com

Sunday, Nov. 5

Singing the Praises of Harry T. Burleigh



Before *The Voice* and *American Idol*, television and even radio, Harry Thacker Burleigh was winning over much tougher crowds. He sung where

Halloween Theme

Oct. 26 — 8 to 10:30 p.m.

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

Nature Tots: All Around Me, I See

Oct. 26, 30 & Nov. 2, 6 — 9 to 10 a.m.

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

The Nonviolent Journey

Oct. 26 — 9:30 a.m.

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

Weight Lifting/ Cardio Fitness Class

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 9 — 9:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Mystery and Fiction Book Sale

Oct. 26 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Oct. 27 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Oct. 28 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Preschool Nature Discovery: Trail Mix

Oct. 26, 30 & Nov. 2, 6 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Resilience Among Children

Oct. 26 — 1 to 2 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

New Horizons Music Project - Strings and Folk

Oct. 26 & Nov. 2 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Nordic Walking

Oct. 26 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Erie County Executive Candidate Debate

Oct. 26 — 7 to 8 p.m.

East Middle School, 1001 Atkins St. facebook.com.

Tai Chi

Oct. 27 & Nov. 3 —

9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Regency at South Shore, 322 Washington Pl. lifeworkserie.org.

Kooky Spooky Halloween Party

Oct. 27, 28 — 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Erie Children's Museum, 420 French St. eriechildrensmuseum.org.

Candlelight Ghost Walks

Oct. 27, 28 — 8 p.m.

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com.

For Women Only Expo

Oct. 28 — 10 a.m. & Oct. 29 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier. erieevents.com.

Idea Lab Grand Opening

Oct. 28 — 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Walk Before You Talk

Oct. 28 — 10 to 11:15 a.m.

McBride Viaduct, 1201 E. Ave. facebook.com.

Peek a Boo Pumpkins

Oct. 28 — 10 a.m. to noon

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

TREC or Treat

Oct. 28 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

2017 Fall Craft Show

Oct. 28, 29 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. erieguildofcraftsmen.com.

Little Mates Halloween Spooktacular

Oct. 28 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

unBOOlievable Trick-or-Treat Event

Oct. 28 — noon to 3 p.m.

Gabe's, 7200 Peach St. mygabes.com.

Erie Otters vs. Guelph Storm

Oct. 28 — 7 p.m.

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

Halloween Party

Oct. 28 — 8 p.m. to midnight

Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. eriemannenchorclub.com.

Erie Otters vs. Sudbury Wolves

Oct. 29 — 5 p.m.

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

2017 Fall for Arts & Culture Appreciation Awards

Oct. 30 — 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Union Station Haunted History Tour

Oct. 30 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Fit for Life Fitness Class

Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Microsoft Word Essentials

Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 —

10:30 a.m. to noon

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

DiscoverE - Bugs

Nov. 1 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Erie Otters vs. Kitchener Rangers

Nov. 1 — 10:30 a.m.

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

Find Your Sequel

Nov. 1 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Music Takes Action

Nov. 1 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Concourse of Union Station, 121 W. 14th St. juniorleagueoferie.com.

An Introduction to Medicinal Herbs

Nov. 2 — 1 to 2 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.



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RESERVOIR 26
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THAT PLACE
TREEHOUSE TAVERN
THE BARRACKS
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UPTOWN BROWNS
12TH STREET PUB
21 HAMPTON

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AMERICAN LEGION POST #571
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AMERICAN LEGION MILLCREEK
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FULTON CLUB
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KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN
LAWRENCE PARK AC CLUB
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MOOSE CLUB ALBION
NORTH EAST ATHLETIC CLUB
NORTH EAST VET'S CLUB
NUOVA AURORA
POLISH FALCONS E. 3RD
POLISH FALCONS #123
POLISH FORESTERS
POLISH SHARP SHOOTERS
PULASKI CLUB

SACRED HEART
SEIBENBUERGER CLUB
SOUTH ERIE TURNERS
SPORTSMEN ATHLETIC CLUB
STAR ATHLETIC CLUB
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BUFFALO WILD WINGS
FOX N HOUND
HOCH & BLOTTO'S
QUAKER STEAK & LUBE

SOUTH

BEECHWOOD INN
CREEKSIDE
DAN'S RT. 8 BOARDWALK
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EMPTY KEG
FAT WILLIES
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APPLEBEE'S WEST
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no African-American had sung before, in white churches and synagogues. His compositions, drawn from the days of slavery, set souls free.

Born December 2, 1866 in Erie, Burleigh displayed an early gift for music, which was cultivated by his mother and mother's employer, Elizabeth Russell. Russell utilized Burleigh as a doorman at the musicales she hosted at her home (musicales = social gathering centered around a musical program, not musical theater), where he was exposed to some of the best singers of the day. From there, he built his reputation in local churches and synagogues, demonstrating a rich baritone as he matured. In 1892, he moved on to New York City, where he studied at the National Conservatory of Music under the Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. Burleigh was a tremendous inspiration to Dvorak, who incorporated elements of African-American spirituals and plantation songs into his compositions and encouraged Burleigh to do the same.

Burleigh did exactly that, gaining renown as a prolific composer of vocal works, with an estimated output of 200-300 songs, most notably song cycle *Five Songs of Laurence Hope* (1915) and "Deep River" (1917). The latter was probably his greatest hit, spawning numerous arrangements and preparations for various settings. As the popularity of such songs increased, it became customary to end concerts with a set of spirituals. Burleigh himself participated in this tradition many times during his 50 years as soloist at St. George Episcopal Church in New York, where he went from unwanted in 1894 (because racism) to beloved in 1949 (thousands attended his funeral there).

Burleigh's contributions to the American songbook are enduring (indeed, he was a charter member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers or ASCAP, a prevalent musician's rights and royalties organization), but Episcopalians hold him in especially high regard —

he has his own feast day, celebrated September 11. If you missed the party, fear not — redemption is yours for the taking as St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral presents "Choral Evensong and Burleigh Spirituals." After the performance, you can buy the Cathedral Choir's Burleigh CD (*Hold On! Keep Your Hand On the Plow!*), enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, and bid on the art of sculptor Jon Chisolm.

Come join the praise of an Erie and American songwriting legend, regardless of your denomination. — Matt Swanseger

Doors 3 p.m., performance 4 p.m. // 134 W. 7th // Free // 452-3779

Monday, Nov. 6th

Tabla For Two at Mercyhurst University



Erie is known for many things, including its diversity — but that may be the biggest thing that's seemingly missing from our local music scene. This November, a very diverse group will be performing as part of the Roche Guest Artist Series at Mercyhurst University's Walker Recital Hall. Comprised of Afghan refugee Masood Omari and Erie native Abigail Adams Greenway, Tabla For Two will be performing a number of classic rhythms and Bollywood themes alongside professional Russian dancer and performer Sofya Sovkina. Their reputation precedes theme; just

ask Lael Mohib, the wife of Afghan Ambassador Hamdullah Mohib.

"Abigail and Masood are an outstanding duo," says Mohib. "Masood is a renowned contemporary master of the tabla, and Abigail plays the harmonium with ease and mastery. The beauty and rhythm of their music is further energized by the sheer enthusiasm and passion that comes through in their performance—you can tell they truly enjoy playing the music, and that enjoyment permeates to the listener."

For those first being introduced to the concept, the tabla is a South Asian percussive instrument not unlike a pair of bongos, consisting of both a Baya (bass) and Daya (treble) drum. Masood Omari is a particularly special player as he is one of the only musicians in the world to sing as he plays the unique instrument. Greenway herself was originally a visual artist with no musical background aside from her obvious love for culture and arts. She began to study the tabla with Omari, and since their pairing, they have been fortunate enough to play such impressive venues as the Freer Gallery at the Smithsonian Museum and even the Embassy of Afghanistan. For those invested in Erie's diversity and affinity for local culture and arts, Tabla For Two's upcoming concert is one event not to be missed. — Aaron Mook

8 p.m. // 501 East 38th State Street // Tickets start at \$10 // eriephil.org

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Screams from Overseas at BT

Heel Heat Productions is hosting another metal night at Basement Transmissions, this time bringing in Scream Blue Murder all the way from the United Kingdom.

Erie and Basement Transmissions have welcomed countless acts from across the country, but booking bands from overseas is a bit rarer of a feat. Scream Blue Murder, however, should



feel right at home with their style of metalcore — one that's extremely popular in the US right now. Their 2016 album *Hollow Stories* is full of catchy choruses in songs like "Restart, Rewind, Reset" and the quasi-party anthem "Let's Do Coke...I'll Have a Diet," with enough heavy mosh riffs in tunes such as "Personal Message (F*** Off)" to keep you excited throughout their set.

Far from local, but not nearly as far-journeyed as Scream Blue Murder, comes Altered Perceptions from Illinois. Altered Perceptions plays a much darker and heavier style of metal on their album *From Rise to Ruins*. But while more extreme metal fans might enjoy the creepy melodies accompanied by bone-crushing guitars, the album seems to blend together with no songs really standing out from the rest.

Closer yet is Unwill, from Rochester, N.Y. The band shows their sense of diversity in their debut release *Past Life*, blending both melody and aggression for a more well-rounded sound, especially in the songs "Tomb" and "Drifting".

Finally, the local opening bands on the bill are Design the Void (Kane, Pa.), Familiar Dark, and Raven's Law, both from Erie. Each band on the bill brings their own distinct style of metal to the stage, assuring that you and your ears will not get bored. So come out to have a good time and support the touring and local bands. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th // \$10 advance, \$13 doors

Rex Havens

Nov. 2 — 7 p.m. & Nov. 3, 4 — 6:45 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. <https://www.jrslastlaugh.com>.

Erie and The New Localism

Nov. 2 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Erie Otters vs. Oshawa Generals

Nov. 3 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809

[French St. erieevents.com](http://FrenchSt.erieevents.com).

Fire Cider

Nov. 4 — 10 a.m. to noon

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

Bingo Palooza

Nov. 4 — 1 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Children's Cornucopia Craft

Nov. 4 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

asburywoods.org.

A Day in the Life of a Lighthouse Keeper

Nov. 4 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Presque Isle Lighthouse at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Wurst Party Ever

Nov. 4 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Erie Otters vs. Windsor Spitfires

Nov. 4 — 7 p.m.

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

Trauma and College Drop-Out Rates

Nov. 6 — 1 to 2 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Presque Isle History Series

Nov. 6, 20 — 6 to 7 p.m.

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

Erie. You're Welcome: Global Disruption and

the Rise of Cities

Nov. 6 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

Nov. 8 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

We Can Do It! WWII: Traveling Exhibit

Nov. 8 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Historical Society of Erie County, 356 W. 6th St. lifeworkserie.org.

History Documentary Community Meeting

Nov. 8 — 7 p.m.

PA Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, 560 E. 3rd St. dmva.pa.gov.

Linking the Founding Fathers to Issues of Today: Focus on Alexander Hamilton and James Madison

Nov. 8 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Erie County Public Library Opens Idea Lab to Public

New collaborative space offers community members education, opportunity, and advancement



With an array of 3D printers [top], along with newly designed spaces [bottom], the Blasco Memorial Library is ready to open their new Idea Lab to the public.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

A Pew Research Study done in the fall of 2016 revealed that, within that past year, millennials were more likely to have visited a public library than any other adult age group. With that said, there is a large push in Erie when it comes to educational programs aimed toward all age groups. With the role of libraries evolving, The Erie County Public Library realizes this necessity when it comes to educational opportunities, and on October 28, The Blasco Library will host the grand opening of their brand new Idea Lab.

Erin Wincek, Library Director explained that “the Blasco Master Plan took a hard look at our main location’s strengths and weaknesses in a series of forums, surveys, and conver-

sations.” She continued that “the result called for a bold, human-centered redesign, including more spaces for community connections to develop. The plan also recommends the addition of interactive spaces for all ages with hands-on learning opportunities, outdoor spaces which give everyone in our community access to the waterfront, and most notably, it included the addition of the Idea Lab.”

Wincek moved to Erie in 2015 to become the Blasco Library Coordinator, where she now oversees the facility — the main branch of the county’s six sites. In her time as coordinator, Wincek has hired the first Teen Services Librarian, reduced barriers when it comes to gaining access to borrowing films and newly released books, and has

worked with her team to create a five-year strategic plan to help map out the future of these programs. Her predecessor, Mary Rennie, was very active in her role, continuously working toward improvements and new ideas to increase the educational potential and reach within the community. Wincek noted that Rennie was always looking for ways to enhance lives while strengthening the community. She would refer to the spaces that were dedicated to enrichment and educational opportunities as “idea labs,” and the name stuck.

The Idea Lab focuses on creating an environment that invites learning, new ideas, and inspiration. It also focuses on the development of small businesses and workforce cooperation with local agencies in the community. Wincek said that if you have never attended college, or you feel as though you have a lack of social connections within the community, the path to your career or to your field of interest can be hard to maneuver. “While Erie has tremendous resources

focused on entrepreneurs and workforce development,” reasoned Wincek, “we’ve seen that our patrons feel overwhelmed by the options. Again and again they come to the library seeking direction, and it’s our goal to connect them to the right resources and support them at whatever point they’re at on their journey.”

With the intention of generating a collaborative and creative environment, the Idea Lab is open to everyone in the community, and will include a makerspace, digital media studio, community classroom, workspace, and resources for small business development. The use of equipment in the makerspace and digital media lab will be available at no cost, but there will be some fees for the use of materials.

“The Idea Lab will give visitors access to shared equipment including 3D printers, 3D pens, a large format printer, sewing machines, a vinyl cutter, and recording equipment,” said Wincek. She also explained that, starting on November 1, the lab will begin offering classes, workshops, technology training, and job-seeking training by partners in the community and on staff. The programs “will include Intro to 3D Printing, Fiber Meetups, Maker Monday, Bike Repair, GED Prep, computer classes, and more.” — Maddie Hepler

Grand opening 10 a.m. Saturday, Idea Lab will be open to the public Monday // Raymond M. Blasco, M. D. Memorial Library, 160 E Front Street // (814) 451-6900 // erielibrary.org/idealab



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kings Rook

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OCT 28

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UPSTAIRS LOUNGE DJ DALE C

**FRI
NOV 10

THE WERKS

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UPSTAIRS LOUNGE NATASK

**SAT
NOV 11

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SAT 11/04

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+ CHESTNUT GROVE

[DOWNSTAIRS]

NATASK

[UPSTAIRS]

SAT 11/18

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NOVEMBER 2, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Erie and The New Localism
Bruce Katz, J.D.



NOVEMBER 8, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Linking Founding Fathers to Issues of the
Day: Focus on Alexander Hamilton and
James Madison
Jay Cost, Ph.D.

MILLER FAMILY FOUNDATION



NOVEMBER 9, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Understanding Trump: Washington Insiders
on the 45th President

Steve Scully, M.S., Philip Rucker, B.A.,
Tara Palmeri, B.A. and Byron York, M.S.

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



NOVEMBER 10, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

An Evening with Historian Douglas Brinkley
Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D.

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



NOVEMBER 13, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

The End of One Era, The Start of Another:
German-American Relations in the Age
of Trump

Jackson Janes, Ph.D.

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



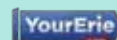
NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Witness to History: Stories from Former White
House Chief of Staff Andrew Card
Andrew Card, B.S.



NOVEMBER 15, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Feeding the World in the 21st Century
Caitlin Welsh, M.P.A.



NOVEMBER 16, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

Biohacking: Is Do-It-Yourself Tech the
Future of Science?

Ellen Jorgensen, Ph.D.

McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building,
4701 College Drive, Erie, PA 16510.



NOVEMBER 17, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.

The Pre-Something Period: America's
Leadership Challenge

Lt. General James Dubik, Ret., Ph.D.

The Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award recipient
The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546



For more information & to register visit www.JESErie.org or call us at 814.459.800

A Night Full of Art Stars

Erie Art and Culture recognizes Erie's finest artistic achievements



Recipients of last year's awards include [from left] Jude Shingle, the George Junior Republic, Mark Tanenbaum, Ron Bayuzick, and the Erie Playhouse.

at the 21 La Rue Dix event space.

The award categories cover a wide range of endeavors, from organizational governance to individual achievement. The Leadership Award, which recognizes a business, government, organization, or foundation whose support of arts and culture have had a clear and positive effect on a community is being bestowed upon the Edinboro Art & Music Festival for its 15 years of success. The Corry Area Historical Society captured the Applause Award this year for the work of dedicated volunteers who revitalized the organization when facing closure. Frank Ferko, who has a thirty-year career as an artist and arts educator, is receiving The Imagine Award which recognizes an educator, instructor, or individual artist whose efforts have made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of arts and culture.

Dafna Rathouse Baier, artistic director of Dafmark Dance Theater, will take home the Bruce Morton Wright Artist of the Year Award. This distinguished award recognizes an individual artist of any medium who has had a significant impact on the arts and cul-

ture landscape and is an aid to or an inspiration to others.

In addition this year, a Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to John Vanco, in honor of his 50 years of service as executive director of the Erie Art Museum.

Amanda Brown Sisseem, executive director of Erie Arts & Culture, says, "This year's honorees reflect the great work happening across Erie County. We're proud to be able to shine a light on the talent and commitment that makes this a vibrant region."

Erie Arts & Culture will also announce two 2017 fellowships winners. The fellowship program, established in 2016, helps one emerging and one established artist advance their work with cash awards.

Fittingly, EAC award honorees will collect a work by a local artist to commemorate their achievements. This year's winners will receive a painting by Dr. Geoffrey Dunn, a local physician who also takes up the brush and has exhibited locally.

In all, this is a night to hail the achievers who create art for us to appreciate and confer upon the community a bounty of treasure. — Mary Birdsong

6 p.m. // 13 W. 10th St. // \$45 per person, \$30 for Erie Arts & Culture members // 452-3427 // erieartsandculture.org

MONDAY, OCT. 30

To celebrate the abundance of art and cultural accomplishments in our region, Erie Arts & Culture is holding its annual Fall for Arts and Culture award ceremony at the Erie Playhouse. The fete, now in its third decade, will be held at the Erie Playhouse and a reception to greet the recipients will follow next door

[cont. from page 17] ing the community in discussion. While the community discussion element is attractive for those who feel that the community was locked out of the planning process initially, the more measured call to action – 50 to 100 homes – may not seem like enough, or may seem like a continuation of slower-than-necessary progress.

Both are big on education. Schember's plan is to work with the superintendent and Erie School Board to obtain fair funding from the state, saying on his website, "We need to join together on common issues like property taxes to expand the tax base and reduce the burden on city residents."

Of Persinger's three-point platform, education is first. "We must invest in education," Persinger says on his website. "If we don't have a good, quality, public school system in Erie, then it is game over." As mayor, he says he, too, would work with the superintendent and School Board.

But the school system is a different taxing body. What does investment look like? How much control can either expect to have?

Like plans to address blight, details and specifics are light. Nevertheless, a call for better schools, improved education, and more funding sound great to voters. What the follow-through looks like in a year or four (or twelve), however, is more critical.

I wrote the following for a piece I drafted on the Erie County Executive race. Although the races are different, I believe it's worth considering here, too, in the days leading up to election:

What will be of further interest is what will happen between now and Tuesday, Nov. 7. Additional debates and forums will be held. Ads will saturate the airwaves. And citizens will get their first look at campaign finance reports.

In regards to the latter, out-of-county money was injected into local elections in 2016. Whether it's present again – how much and where from – remains to be seen but will be telling as to whether Erieites are the only ones who care about the outcome of this election.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bspeggen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter at [@BenSpeggen](https://twitter.com/BenSpeggen).



Long Live Lily Tomlin

Seasoned actress brings her best to Mercyhurst



TUESDAY, NOV. 7

Longevity: Merriam-Webster defines it as “permanence, durability,” and it is not a word that often applies to Hollywood or very many people inside that bubble. Trends hold steady for a few years before everyone loses interest and moves onto a new hot genre, and “it” girls rack up a few feature films and then fade into obscurity. Longevity in show business must be cultivated as vigilantly and as conscientiously as the art of performing itself. Enter Lily Tomlin.

Mary Jean “Lily” Tomlin was born the year — actually the day — World War II officially began, in 1939. Seven decades later, she is as buoyant a presence in Hollywood as ever. Her career began in earnest in the 1960s, running the gamut from sketch comedy TV programs, where she etched out a niche for herself playing a wide variety of characters and showed off her comedic range, to feature films like 1980’s *9 to 5*, which also starred Dolly Parton and Jane Fonda. Then, of course, there was her Tony Award-winning one-woman Broadway show, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, a collaboration with her life-partner and wife, writer Jane Wagner.

Veteran actress Lily Tomlin is renowned for portraying a motley cast of characters, sewn together from a number of influences.

Lily Tomlin has racked up the aforementioned Tony, as well as a Grammy and four Emmys, plus an Oscar nomination in 1975. She is currently starring in the hit Netflix program *Grace and Frankie*, which has earned her critical acclaim. And now, she is coming to Erie to delight the audience at the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center on Mercyhurst University’s main campus with her program *An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin*.

“I had seen a version of Ms. Tomlin’s show as a graduate student at the University of Missouri in Columbia. When I assumed the directorship of the institute, I knew I had to bring her to Mercyhurst,” Dr. Brett D. Johnson, director of the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture said. Though the process took several months, and hinged greatly on Tomlin’s busier-than-ever schedule, Johnson was finally able to bring this larger-than-life presence to the Gem City.

He wasn’t the only one excited about her performance. Tickets for the event sold out in mere hours, though fans should take heart (and stay alert): additional seats might be sold closer to the performance, including the night of, with those at the front of the cancellation line being given the best odds.

Patrons who secure their tickets are in for a rare treat. Johnson describes the evening as “appearances from some of Tomlin’s most beloved characters, including Ernestine, Ms. Beasley and Edith Ann, witty observations about the human condition,” and — as if the night couldn’t get any more special — “questions from the audience.”

If the idea of standing before a huge assembly and hearing your voice fill the auditorium as you speak the lines you’ve been rehearsing in your mind over and over again strikes you with a particular kind of terror, take comfort knowing that practice makes perfect — and Lily Tomlin is the proof. — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. // 501 E 38th St // <http://miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/lily-tomlin> // \$30 adults, \$25 seniors, \$20 students/youth

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MOVIE REVIEWS

More Human Than Human: *Blade Runner 2049* is a Sequel Done Right



We are currently living in the age of the remake. Whether they are called “re-make,” “re-imagining,” or the dreaded “soft reboot”, Hollywood films are obsessed with taking a story that has already been told and giving it a few new bells and whistles. Fortunately, Denis Villeneuve’s new film *Blade Runner 2049* is the exception that proves the rule.

Set 30 years after Ridley Scott’s masterful original, the film stars Ryan Gosling as a new “blade runner” (cops tasked with hunting down human-like androids who have gone rogue) who discovers new evidence that may lead him to the whereabouts of renegade blade runner Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford), who escaped with a fugitive android and disappeared. During his investigation, Gosling’s character (known only as “K”) unknowingly becomes a key player in the decades-long feud between escaped android slaves called replicants and the corporation that designed them who wishes to keep them controlled.

Thankfully, the films doesn’t just tell the same story over again. This is a direct sequel that expands on and advances the themes of the 1982 original, and like the original, this film is a visual marvel, bringing the bleak cityscape of future Los Angeles to life. It contains some of the most spectacular visual effects and music that I’ve ever seen in a film, with a tight, intriguing story that makes the film’s massive 164 minutes fly by. However, it lacks more of the esoteric and philosophical themes that fans of the original (myself included) may be longing for. While it may work better as a traditional sci-fi thriller, the film doesn’t have anything as poetically beautiful as Rutger Hauer’s “Tears in the Rain” speech that the original had in spades.

That being said, hopefully people can get past the slow pace and long running time and check out this smart, suspenseful and expertly made science fiction film. In an age of quick cash-grabs and creative bankruptcy, seeing a direct sequel lovingly made by a true fan is like finding an origami unicorn amongst a pile of shredded paper. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Denis Villeneuve // Written by: Hampton Fancher and Michael Green // Starring: Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Ana de Armas, Sylvia Hoeks, Robin Wright, Jared Leto // 164 minutes

Deja Vu: Happy Death Day is the Same Old Story



No, just because you acknowledge in your movie that you’re ripping off *Groundhog Day* doesn’t make it any less of a rip-off of *Groundhog Day*. And ripping off the basic premise of Harold Ramis’s film would have been fine if the story went anywhere interesting, but unfortunately, Christopher Landon’s *Happy Death Day* has nowhere to go beyond its intriguing concept.

The story follows college student Tree Gelbman (Jessica Rothe) who suddenly finds herself repeating the same day again and again; a day that happens to be both her birthday and the day that will end with her being murdered. Now Tree has to use this new ability to uncover her murderer.

That’s pretty much it as far as story is concerned. The film knows it’s far too ridiculous to be a horror story so it instead tries to be some kind of absurd comedy with the humor coming from Tree’s reactions to living the same day over and over. Unfortunately, unlike its inspiration, there just isn’t anything very interesting or insightful to do with the character or her predicament so the whole exercise just becomes tedious.

In the end, *Happy Death Day* isn’t scary, isn’t particularly funny and falls flat as a character study. Much like the film’s main character, I just wanted it all to end but the end didn’t come soon enough. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Christopher Landon // Written by: Scott Lobdell // Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Charles Aitken and Laura Clifton // 93 minutes

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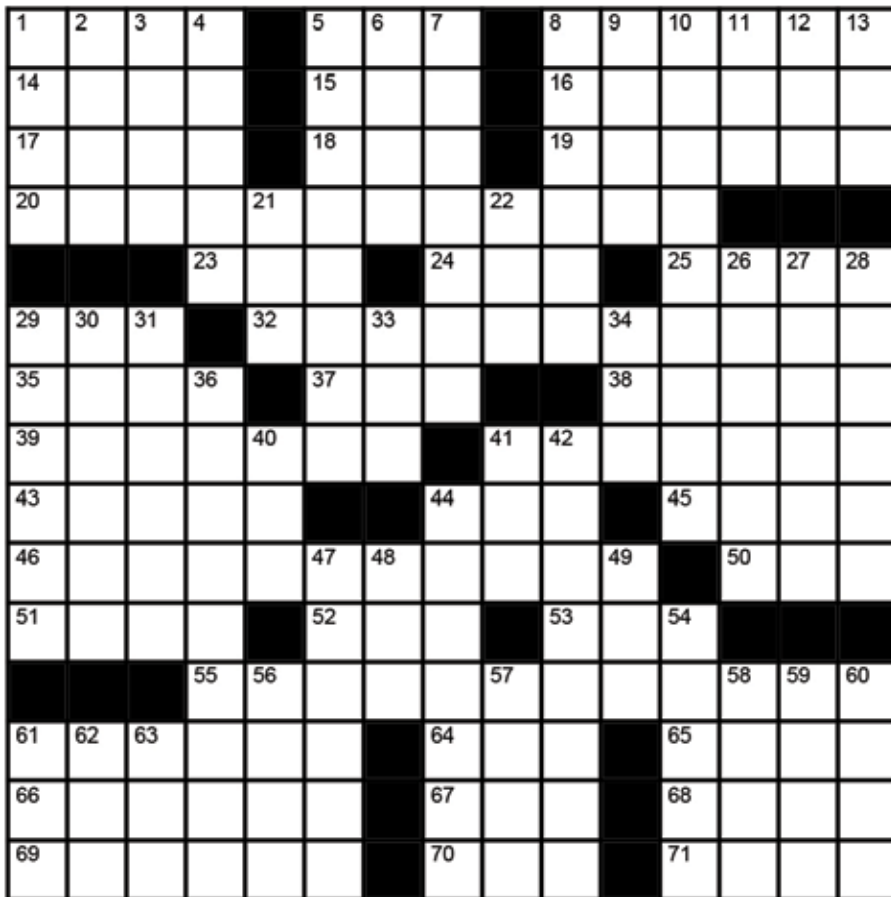
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Across

1. Splinter group
5. Shoveled
8. Shot out, as lava
14. Hip-shaking dance
15. "Well, look at that!"
16. Actress Milano of "Charmed"
17. "Dancing With the Stars" co-host Andrews
18. Election mo.
19. Wiggle room
20. "Check out that dude's washboard stomach!" (or, with 55-Across, a decidedly more disappointed comment)
23. Plop down
24. Pacific ____
25. Bank founded in 1865 to finance trade between Europe and Asia
29. Comic strip sound from a drunkard
32. "Don't worry ... you're talking to an expert" (or, with 46-Across, a decidedly more worrisome comment)
35. "____ pronounce you man and wife"
37. Twitter titter
38. Colloquialism
39. Opening of a 1975 Ali/Frazier sports event?
41. Old Army base on the Santa Fe Trail, briefly
43. Spooky
44. Tool in a magician's act

Down

1. Silverstein who wrote "The Giving Tree"
2. Symbol gotten by typing Ctrl+Alt+E, in Microsoft Word
3. Award coveted on "Mad Men"
4. Fails utterly
5. "Shh! It's a secret!"
6. "This doesn't look good"
7. Really take off, in a way
8. Deli meat
9. Commoner
10. Compact material
11. ENE's opposite
12. Spanish "that"

13. New Year's ____
21. Show
22. Many a first grader's age
26. One navigating the web?
27. Ankle-high work shoe
28. Rising stars
29. Containing state-of-the-art gadgetry
30. "Hey!" from someone who's hiding
31. Rodeo locale
33. Mauna ____
34. Prefix with life or size
36. Popular video game for wannabe athletes
40. Chair umpire's call
41. What the "Gras" of Mardi Gras means
42. In pairs
44. Put away (for)
47. "If you say so"
48. Rabid fan
49. Swanson on "Parks and Recreation"
54. Library no-no
56. Princess captured by Jabba the Hutt
57. Hay storage locale
58. Name first encountered in Genesis 2
59. Wallop
60. Fifth Avenue retailer
61. White ____ sheet
62. Bespectacled Disney dwarf
63. Healthy



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 28**

**Vs. GUELPH
STORM
7:00 PM**

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29**

**Vs. SUDBURY
WOLVES
5:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 01**

**Vs. KITCHENER
RANGERS
10:30 AM**

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 03**

**Vs. OSHAWA
GENERALS
7:00 PM**

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 04**

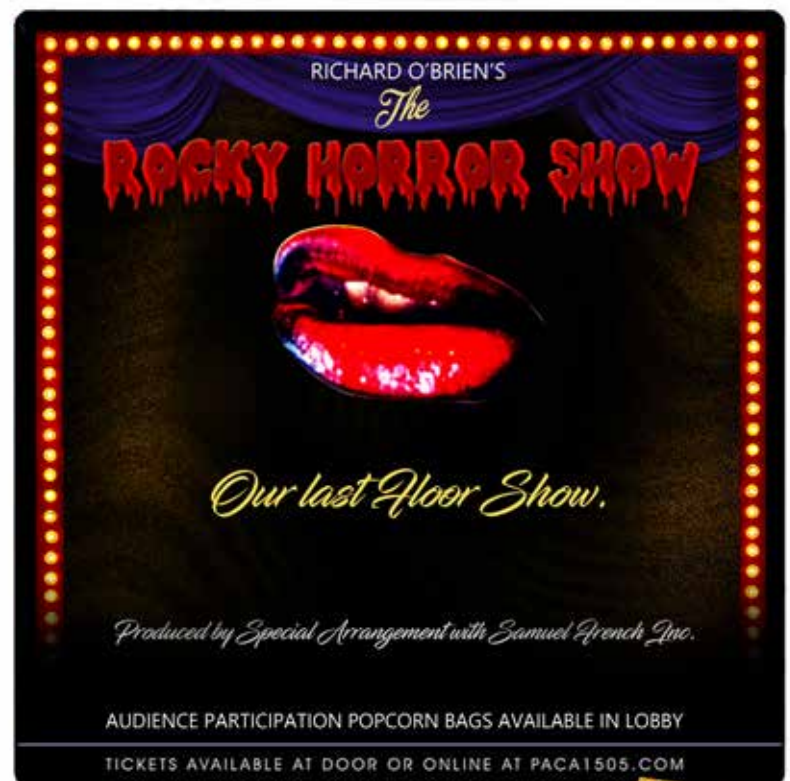
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MUSIC REVIEWS

King Krule
The OOZ
 XL Records



It's been two years since we heard from Archie Marshall, and even then, the resulting trip-hop project was released under his own name. It's been even longer since we've heard from the King Krule moniker, whose 2013 debut *6 Feet Under the Moon* wooed critics with brilliant jazz guitar compositions and a distinct and exuberant baritone. Never one to create under pressure (even turning down an impromptu request to collaborate from Kanye West), the King has finally returned with *The OOZ*, a 65-minute odyssey that spans the fringes of jazz, trip-hop, indie-rock and R&B. In fact, *The OOZ* might have most in common with West's 2016 masterwork, *The Life of Pablo*. Both are unwieldy documents of their creators' mental states, the details of which span their 19 tracks with a scatterbrained ambition, sketch-like at times and seemingly meticulous at others. But above all, *The OOZ* is dynamic, with Marshall exploring his penchant for eerie, surf-rock riffs on songs like "Dum Surfer" and "Emergency Blimp" and a love for woozy, late-night synths on "Logos" and "Czech One." *The OOZ* may not be an easy listen, but it is easily one of the most rewarding of the year.

— Aaron Mook



Foo Fighters
Concrete and Gold
 RCA Records



Despite a mixed critical reception, 2014's *Sonic Highways* got shafted. Sure, it's not a perfect listen, but for a radio-rock band that's been active for two decades, its songwriting experiments were rooted in something substantial. Collaborations with Ben Gibbard and the Zac Brown Band (among others) resulted in a shape-shifting lesson in American music history, uneven but never boring. *Concrete and Gold* is a fun rock record. It's easy listening, and there's nothing wrong with that. But it's also very much their stylish record, with surface-level elements often repeating themselves from track to track. How many times can you throw a choir on a track and call it a day? Who decided that lead single "Run" needed to repeat itself for five minutes? Perhaps most baffling, who gave Taylor Hawkins a microphone? Still, what *Concrete and Gold* lacks in concrete ideas, it makes up for with golden, Beatles-esque melodies. From political barn-burner "La Dee Da" to the foot-stomping "The Sky is a Neighborhood," these songs are among their most immediate since 1999's *There is Nothing Left to Lose*. It's everything you could want from a Foo Fighters record; the hooks are immediate, the guitars front and center.

— Aaron Mook



Iron Chic
You Can't Stay Here
 SideOneDummy



For anemic, vitalizing punk rock, there's almost no better place to look to than Iron Chic. From the ashes of Latterman and the Shorebirds, the Long Island quintet continue to build on their impeccable, yet relatively short catalog. The band's third full length since their 2010 debut, *You Can't Stay Here* doesn't stray all that far from the band's initial mission statement. A perfect blend of fun singalongs and light introspection, this release is sure to appease the band's dedicated following. This brand of punk rock is arguably some of the most pure, potent, and powerful stuff available these days. There a few surprises on this record, like the keyboards on "Lets. Get. Dangerous," and most noticeably, the acoustic, minor-tinged ballad of "Ruinous Calamity." After a fuzzy instrumental intro, the album cuts in with the energetic one-two punch of the first two tracks. It finishes strong as well with "To Shreds, You Say?" The simple, phonetically-dependent lyrics of Jason Lubrano may be short on syllables, but they're heavy on meaning, passion, and that special kind of fist-pumping honesty that gets flannel-clad, bearded, PBR-soaked punks to sing their damned hearts out.

— Nick Warren



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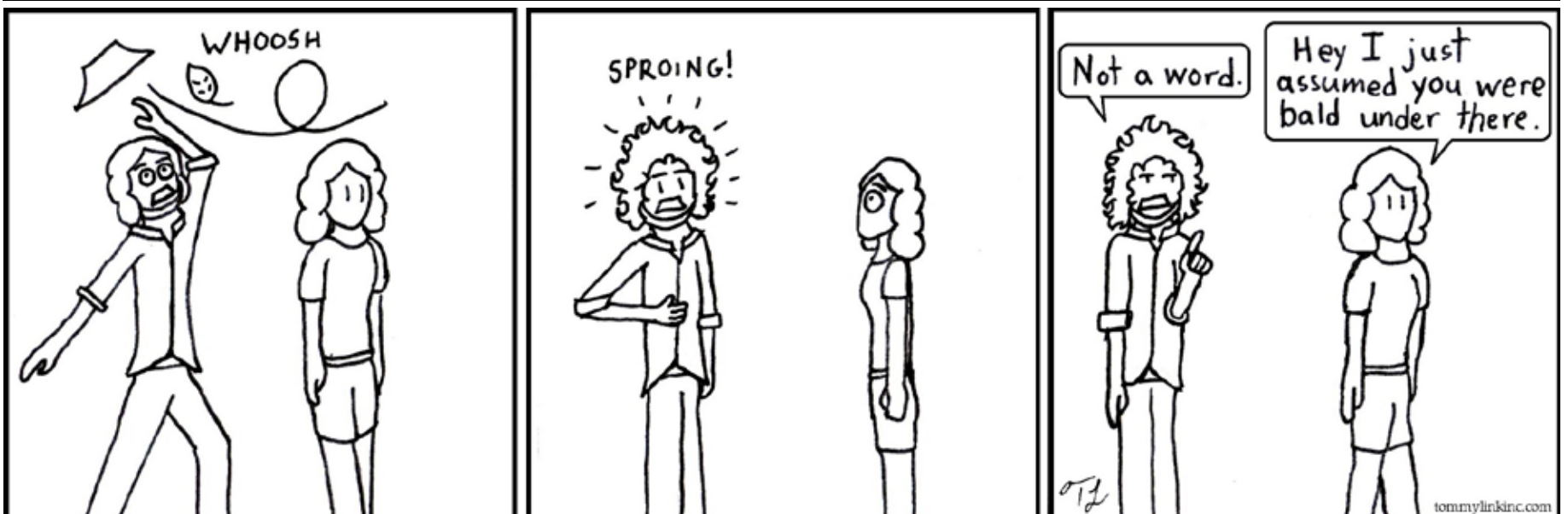


The Toronto-based trio return with their fourth full length album since 2014's *Mended With Gold*. The strength of frontman Nils Edenloff is what helps the band stand out, his delivery somewhere between the biting accent of Jeff Mangum with the polished edges of modern folk-poppers Mumford & Sons. Perhaps it's his adventurous purity that let's him retain his credibility in a sea of less-deserving acts whose glory has faded along with banjo sales. The hot-tempered passion of the band runs throughout all ten tracks, although the experience feels more like a collection of moments than clearly discernible songs. With a near perfect timbre recipe at work, it's strange that even after multiple plays, the listener is left nearly unable to hum more than a few bars. While it may not be the most indelible takeaway, it's worth visiting for any fan of the genre. The band's previous albums are worth visiting as well, this most current venture seeing the departure of Amy Cole, who's leaving has since been skillfully transitioned thanks to the addition of fellow female multi-instrumentalist Robin Hatch. A high energy work of incendiary folk, it's a noble effort from a continually talented band.

— Nick Warren



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