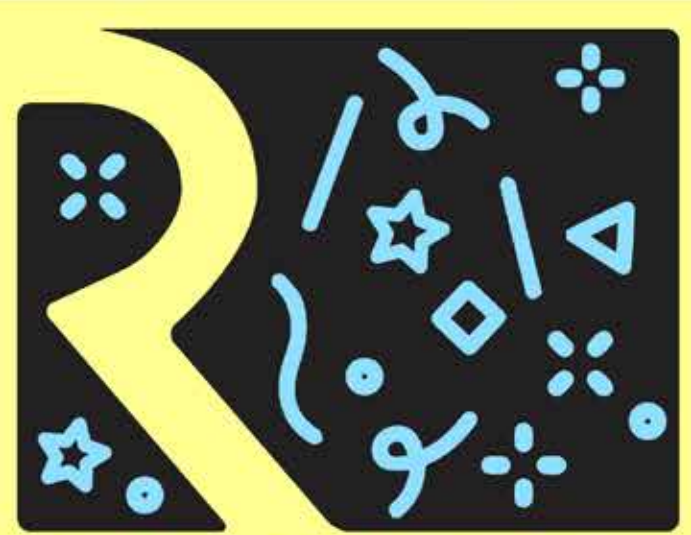



The only local voice for news, arts, and culture



ERIE READER

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ERIE
2017**
ERIE READER



2017 Year in Review
New Year's Eve Rundown
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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

Like a couple of ticking clocks

There is much to celebrate in Erie, whether we realize it or not. Our annual Year in Review issue proves that, as we neatly put a bow on 2017, and take time to honor the winners of this year's Best Of Erie contest.

With over 100 categories, and hundreds of thousands of votes cast, these are the people, businesses, and organizations that are defining our overall landscape as a city. We extend a big congratulations to all the finalists, and especially the winners. The hard work and dedication on display here, the overall commitment to making Erie a better place, is the reason we're able to move into 2018 feeling more optimistic than ever.

But this time of the year generates a lot of feelings. Sometimes, it's too much. As we start to "feel the Christmas noose beginning to tighten," it's easy to lose our cool. While the snow piles up, and gifts zap any spending money we were lucky enough to squirrel away, it can feel like the walls are closing in, like a carnivorous mistletoe-fly-trap.

The arc of the holiday season is a strange one. It's a roller coaster with two hills, and a lot of tense, lingering plains connecting these two thrilling plunges. For Christmas-celebrators at least, there's this rhythmic clicking, a stopwatch counting down to the 25th. You're picking out gifts, trying to be creative and thoughtful, all the while hoping to have enough left over to pay the bills. Things ramp up to a fever pitch all the way until Christmas morning. The gifts manage to be wrapped and put under the tree, as they (hopefully) magically multiply overnight.

And then ... the big day.

There's the crinkle and rips of paper as the white morning light pours through the windows. Disheveled, you lurch to the tree. We're never ready for our closeup on Christmas morning, are we? You watch with anxiety as gifts are unwrapped and approved of. You're hoping for shrieks of delight, but in the end you'll be happy with an accepting smile. Why are we so concerned? In the end, they're *gifts*, and they're going to at least be good, for goodness' sake.

And then ... nothing.

The drop off is almost *immediate*. Amongst the red and green carnage of colored paper, you start to put your life back together, and maybe enjoy some of your well-earned treasures. It's that "high school" holiday vacation. That week-long, eerily calm eye of the hurricane between the 25th and the 31st. No one seems to want to do too much during this refractory period. Chances are you'll watch no less than one season of a TV show while trying to think of something productive to do during this odd annual purgatory.

And then ... New Years Eve.

This, like Christmas, can mean different things for different people. There's another ticking clock, and this time the countdown is *much* more literal. If you're looking for something fun to do, check out our New Years Eve rundown of events for a few choice locations to spend the last evening of 2017. As you rush to be with your family and friends before the ball drops and the clock strikes midnight, it's easy to be contemplative, to look back on the past year in retrospect. Read Ben Speggen's year in review to help jog your memory and provide a little perspective, and don't forget to check out our year-end best of lists.

And then ... rest.

All is quiet on New Years Day. But before we know it, it's time to start again. As this new millennium is ushered into adulthood, let's look forward to all the possibilities in store, all the resolutions we *will* keep, and all the better things ahead as the clock resets and we begin our new timeline.

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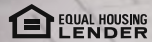

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2017 Year in Review

Remember Not to Forget



CASEY

By: Ben Speggen

When 2016 met 2017 in America to say hello and good-bye, respectively, there was an awkward handshake. There are always expectations that what is to come will be better than what is passing and will help us make sense of what has passed already. But this time, it seemed different.

As withered fingers jutting out from 2016's battered knuckles outstretched to embrace 2017's puerile, callow hand, anyone witnessing the exchange might have heard the whisper: *Be better than I was*. But rather than let go and let the future happen, 2016 seemed unable to relax its grip and followed 2017, obdurate of any desire — or chance — to start anew.

Such shadowing from the ghosts of our recent past challenged our ability to recognize that hope and that potential future. After all, the year began with sharp images from the artist who illustrated “Hope” in 2008 now working to unite us with “We the People,” as tens of thousands of marchers in the nation's capital carried various Shepard Fairey posters reading: “We the People Defend Dignity; We the People Defend Each Other; We the People are Greater Than Fear.”

That came just days after the 45th President of the United States took office on a precipitation-debated January day. According to some reports, the gathering for that inauguration was the largest ever, period. Others

examined it to be less than that. And thus, 2017 begot “alternative facts” at a time when “fake news” was sitting in soiled diapers still sucking its thumb.

So it's been easy to look at 2017's glass as half empty, despite so many thinking — or wishing or hoping — that it'd be better than 2016, that in no way could it be worse. 2017 had to grow up fast, yes, with history clinging to its heels, but it wasn't without its Polaroid moments.

Remember back in February when NASA discovered seven — count 'em, seven! — habitable planets (with warm, Earth-like conditions!) orbiting a single star just 39 light years away!?

Remember when during that same month *Moonlight*, not *La La Land* won Best Picture at the Oscars? Remember when Professor Robert E. Kelly became known as the “BBC Dad” worldwide when his *adorable* children crashed his at-home interview and the World Wide Web was hardly able to contain itself?

How quaint and funny, but also how seemingly distant from us now.

And remember when six months after that NASA discovery, virtually

[Top] While 2017 was marked by chaos and controversy, there are positive signs that the dark clouds may begin to clear in 2018. [Right] Newly-elected school board member Tyler Titus speaks with contributing editors Jim Wertz and Ben Speggen (foreground). Titus is the first transgender candidate to hold office in Erie County, perhaps representing a more socially progressive attitude taking hold in our region.

the entire country headed outside to witness *The Eclipse* — a breathtaking experience for some, a blinding one for others (hey, we were told to wear glasses!), and an otherwise boring but good excuse to put down work for a half an hour for still others?

Admittedly, it may have been hard to remember that, given that in the same month, two hurricanes hit the U.S., wracking Texas and then Florida (a month before another hurricane would pummel Puerto Rico). That same month, too, Heather Heyer was killed by a motorist who turned his car into a battering ram during protests in Charlottesville over Confederate monuments.

But back to the pleasant Polaroid news: We'll get another solar eclipse in just seven years. And in even cooler news, Erie, Pennsylvania lies right along the prime real estate for the best viewing of the 2024 Solar Eclipse — which is something that should draw nationwide attention.

In Erie in 2017, though, nationwide attention wasn't much of a positive. In February, CBS News' Jamie Yuccas came to the area to film her report: “America: Manufacturing Hope.”

Largely a hit-and-run piece with a Rust-Belt-Turned-Red-Belt narrative (likely manufactured miles and cities away) intent on showcasing why a certain group of Rust-Belt-blue-collar-blooded Americans would be willing to change their voting trends out of a perceived desperate hopelessness,

Yuccas and her crew descended upon Erie to snag sound bites, like “Erie is definitely a sinking ship, and you'd be crazy not to get off a ship that's sinking” and to get a tour down Erie's 12th Street Corridor — which they were told was desolate, but had they only gone into any one of the buildings, they would've found that while larger industry in Erie may be shrinking, industry as a whole remains a vital and significant part of our economy.

A weeping young elected official about to graduate college and explore the workforce for the first time uttering “that's the first time a tear rolled down my face since Donald Trump won” when discussing his limited local job prospects and the possibility that he might be the first (in a line of four) to have to leave the area if he can't find work here makes for great TV. But it also forwards a narrative that Erie residents — and residents of similar economically stressed regions throughout the country — expect their town to be ready to hand them opportunity, lest they need to uproot for it to be handed out elsewhere.

Rather than tug on heartstrings, Yuccas and her colleagues could've read Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Mark Muro's “Erie's Rust Belt Activism,” a report showcasing the vibrancy of advanced industries in our area, where Erie is *above average* in its representation to inform their reporting. Or she could've consulted the locally published “Erie's Advanced



NICK WARREN



YOUTUBE / OURERIE

Industries” Jefferson Educational Society report, written by Erie Reader Contributing Editor Jim Wertz and Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Executive Director Perry Wood.

But that didn’t fit the narrative, and I digress.

Others might be digressing, too, as a rehashing of that down-and-almost-out narrative seems to be attracting additional attention.

But maybe the incoming waves of reporters will catch wind of the Dec. 15 announcement of \$32 million in state money aimed at improving Erie’s Bayfront Parkway, amongst other things, like façade improvements and housing repair. That latest contribution now takes the total Wolf Administration investment in Erie to \$76 million — a significant sum of money in a

National media narratives have dished dirt on our city, but a closer examination begins to melt away some of those misconceptions.

place where “great work” is happening, according to Gov. Tom Wolf.

Or maybe other national outlets will head down State Street to check out the new 10,000 square-foot headquarters of the Erie Innovation District, which opened its doors in November with the announcement that Dell would be a partner in the venture. The project is supported by a \$4 million grant provided by the Erie Community Foundation in partnership with the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority,

and includes some of Erie’s biggest players gathered around one table.

Or perhaps national reporters might head farther north on State Street and turn right to see the continued construction and development at Erie Insurance. And if they ventured in to speak with either the company’s CEO or the Chairman of its Board, they’d find out about the \$5 million investment Erie’s only Fortune 500 company made toward transforming the city through redevelopment with the Erie Downtown Development Corporation. That \$5 million has since spurred \$2.5 million investments from each Gannon University, UPMC Hamot, ErieBank, and the Erie Community Foundation, totaling \$15 million. Unconfirmed support has the total investment to date closer to \$30 million. But regardless, big players are playing together, in the same sandbox, and no one seems worried about who’s building the biggest part of the castle.

And maybe they’ll take a stroll along John Vanco Way, the newly named strip of street running in front of the Erie Art Museum’s entrance honoring the 50 years’ worth work and dedication of its recently retired director who stepped down this year. There, they’ll see the beautiful blending of a state-of-the-art facility with historic buildings that serves as a reminder of the burgeoning local art scene Erie’s blessed to have.

Or maybe others will observe home-grown, collaborative responses, like the “Our Erie” short film that has garnered more than 250,000 Facebook views and has been shown at two national conferences, that attempts to capture a more balanced and more

accurate depiction of Erie. If they did, they could head to the Renaissance Centre, where they’d find MenajErie Studio, which along with John C. Lyons, a local filmmaker and head of Lyons Den Productions, and Howie Glover of Three Gloves, shot most of that video.

In the same building, they’d find myriad other startups, a co-working space, and even Erie’s only independent locally owned newspaper.

Or instead of playing out the post-industrial existential crisis and stressed middle class workers, they could follow up on the 24/7 Wall St. report that lists Erie as “the worst city for Black Americans” in an attempt to find what’s led to such disparity in our region. Or they could examine how a city facing a budget crisis consolidated its high schools from four to two, then displayed even *greater* resilience after a fire broke out in one of the two remaining locations. Perhaps they’d be inspired to watch ServErie volunteers collectively roll up their sleeves and dedicate the time and sweat to ensure students would have safe and secure places to study and learn.

Or instead of bickering at the national reaction to NFL players sitting or kneeling, they could tell the tale of a young man from Erie who, in the midst of a successful college football career at the University of Pittsburgh, stood tall in battle against Hodgkin’s lymphoma, defeating it to go on to be drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers and earn a spot on the depth chart and have the No. 1 sales for jerseys. They could talk about how regardless of color, creed, or politics, Erie dons its James Conner jerseys with the same

Just Toyin' Witcha - By B. Toy



fever and pride.

And as the national spotlight continues to shine more brightly on the opioid epidemic, maybe it might shine on Erie, a region not immune from the crisis but that is actively and creatively working to address it. Between benefit concerts, information sessions, and research being done by young civic-minded leaders at a local think tank, few stones are being left unturned.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper has collaborated nationally on "A Prescription for Action: Local Leadership in Ending the Opioid Crisis," a joint report from National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National League of Cities (NLC) that "examines how cities and counties can strengthen collaboration with each other and state, federal, private-sector and nonprofit partners to tackle the opioid crisis." In November, Dahlkemper, a Democrat, went on to become just the second County Executive in Erie's history to hold multiple terms, just narrowly defeating a Trumpian Republican challenger. Previously, only Judy Lynch, a Democrat, had held more than one term as County Executive.

And it'd be hard to ignore the fact that Erie made history in November's election. Tyler Titus, whose campaign and vision were wholly deserving of attention without regard to his gender, won a spot on Erie's School Board. In doing so, he became Pennsylvania's first transgender person elected to office.

And those are two races that received far less local ink than 2017's big show: Erie's mayoral race. With Erie's outgoing mayor having reached his term limit, the city was guaranteed new leadership for 2018. Nine candidates duked it out in the primary election, leading to a showdown between Democrat Joe Schember and Republican John Persinger. And for the first time in a long time, Erie — a city with a 3-to-1 Democratic voter registration edge — nearly elected a Republican. Perhaps it was because both candidates brought ideas, energy, and enthusiasm to the race. Maybe it was because unlike the national political are-

na, debates, exchanges, and statements remained respectful.

Whatever the case, Erie elected its next mayor, Democrat Joe Schember, of whom much will be expected and will be expected quickly. Because despite the successes 2017 bred and the opportunities 2018 brings, Erie is not without its challenges.

An eroding tax base with a continually dwindling population is a reality. A comprehensive plan is still sitting in City Hall with a \$600 million price tag (although investments like the EDDC and the state-driven improvement projects illustrate both progress and commitment).

And of course, stalwarts of Erie yesteryear like GE continue to shed jobs, affecting the entire region.

If 2017 has been Erie's on-the-verge, we're-turning-a-corner battle cry, 2018 cannot be a mere echo. Rather, our boulder we push upwards must crest the hill and we must step fully from any corners and walk our path.

And while we walk we should take note. Because if 2016's parting American words were "be better," 2017's might be "remember not to forget me," which seems to be an increasingly arduous task as we walk the earth in the ever-breaking-news ouroboros that keeps us from digesting one story at a time while continuing to stuff us with more and more and more that is, at times, often hard to swallow.

Will we remember 2017 as the year of #MeToo? Or as the year we began revising "The New Colossus?" Maybe the year when again we experienced the worst mass shooting (again and again and...) to date and did nothing? Or perhaps the year we concluded with the decision that the Internet should suddenly no longer be neutral?

It should be all of it. Because to walk by and ignore it leads to constantly being on the verge of a something and consistently being about to round some corner somewhere we can never quite peer around.

And rarely will we be pushed to the verge or shoved around the corner by life itself — or, perhaps

more apropos, by the place in which we live. The minute we ask what our region, our city, or our home is going to do for us, that's the minute we've failed to remember our history. It's inherently American — even before John Fitzgerald Kennedy said it — to do, not to wait to have done. Erie has had a history of doers that it must remember but must also aspire to be greater than.

Doers are presently shaping the future. And if we walk a little farther north along Erie's downtown path, we'd find one last example of that in Ember+Forge.

There, an engineer-turned-entrepreneur left an industry bigger in the Erie yesteryear for a smaller, but I'd bet more personally meaningful, one of Erie today. And while Hannah Kirby likely knows all too well the stories of failed coffee shops past in Erie, and is familiar, too, with those quick to tell of that, it hasn't deterred her from trying, because I'd wager she'd rather bet her Erie tomorrow on herself rather than on life nudging her around some corner.

The clichéd Wayne Gretzky quote goes something like: "You miss a hundred percent of the shots you don't take." While no one can criticize someone for trying something — however small or large — to change their own conditions or the conditions of those around them, we can surely carp about those opting to take the opposite (passive) approach.

Something tells me Kirby and her new venture will be worrying less about whether Erie's the right climate to start a business and more about how to grow that business by offering good products that, if appreciated, will in turn create local jobs as demand continues to increase. That's something we can toast to as we ring in 2018: A New Year, and a New Us that's older, wiser, and willing to embrace a future instead of letting the passing present hold us back as we break beyond the verge and finally turn that corner.

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



*Wishing you and your fur friends
a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

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The best is here — and whether it's just around the corner or clear on the other side of town, you'd better believe it's not far. A panoply of terrific people, places, and things call Erie home, a fact qualified by your nominations. Now, after several weeks of polling, the most impressive of the bunch have been quantified by your votes. The categories

cover everything from antiques to automobiles and ales to athletic clubs. If your favorite did not win (indicated by bold italics), chances are it at least made the top three (also listed) — if not, there's always next year (please participate in the nominations and the vote!) We extend our gratitude to all those who logged into eriereader.com over the past few months and our

congratulations to the winners. Thank you for all that you do to enhance and elevate our city.

GOODS & SERVICES

Best Car Dealership

Bianchi Honda
Humes
Champion Ford

Best Antique or Vintage Shop

Pointe Fourre Boutique
Oregon Antique Boutique
Buttons and Bows



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Best Jewelry Store

Dahlkemper's Jewelry Connection
Breakiron Jewelers
Glass Growers Gallery

Best Place to Buy Furniture

John V. Schultz
Arthur F. Schultz
Fred's Furniture

Best Comics and Collectibles Shop

Books Galore
Actiontoyman
Kinem's Sports Cards

Best Smoke/Vapor Shop

Smoker Friendly
Erie Vapor Cabana
Hippie and the Hound

Best Chocolate or Candy Purveyor

Romolo Chocolates
Pulakos Chocolates
Stefanelli's Candy

Best Bakery

Art's Bakery
Ye Ole Sweet Shoppe
Icing on the Lake

Best Deli

Wegmans
Teresa's Italian Deli
Tickle's Deli

Best Winery

Mazza Vineyards
Heritage Wine Cellars
Arundel Cellars

Best Place to Get a Six Pack

U Pick 6
Wegmans
Lucky Louie's Beer & Wieners

Best Health Food Store

Whole Foods Co-op
The Juice Jar
Chicory Hill Herbs

Best Bicycle Business:

John Adams Cycling and Fitness

Danny Adams, 28 and John Adams, 61

"It's great to be recognized as Erie's top cycling business. Just the feeling of people thinking we are doing the right thing is great. We are serving the people of Erie."



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Best Tattoo Parlor

Ink Assassins Tattoos & Piercings
Wayward Tattoo Studio
Mid-Town Tattoo

Best Local Graphic Designer

Alice DeGeorge
Mark Kosobucki
Amber Smith

Best Tattoo Artist

Jess Scutella
Jennifer Christina
Eerie Eric

Best Place to Get Pierced

Ink Assassins Tattoos & Piercings
Sacred Piercing
Buddha's Body Art

Best Place to Adopt a Pet

The ANNA Shelter
The Humane Society of NWPA
Orphan Angels

Best Bank

Best New Restaurant, Best Place to Get Barbecue, Best New Business:

Federal Hill Smokehouse
Co-owners: Ryan Atzert, 37 and Autumn Atzert, 38

"We are really shocked we won. There were a lot of good places in this category. Two years ago I was selling pulled pork out of my backyard and now being voted 'Best New Restaurant' is crazy to me."

Erie Federal Credit Union
PNC Bank
Widget Financial

Best Spa

Coventina Day Spa
LECOM Wellness Center
Spa
Panache Salon & Spa

Best Beauty Salon
Panache Salon & Spa



Best Chef:

Jean-Paul, 57,
Pineapple Eddie

Best Restaurant:
Pineapple Eddie

"When I moved to Erie, my sister-in-law said, 'Jean, we will help you open a restaurant' due to Erie having a few family restaurants. It's been an amazing ride so far."



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA



Best Place to Buy Furniture, Best Local Entrepreneurs:

John V. Schultz

Co-owners: Matt Schultz, 41, John Schultz, 50

"It's nice to be recognized by the younger generations and the readers of the Erie Reader. Also, our employees worked very hard to make John V. Schultz Erie's top furniture store."



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Famous Hair
Moxi Hair Salon

Best Barbershop

Uncle Nick's
Ruiz Barbershop/Salon
Russo's Barbershop

Best Bike Shop

John Adams Cycling

Competitive Gear
Lake Country Bike

Best Web Developer

Epic Web Studios
WeCreate
Werkbot Studios

Best Locally Made

Product

Smith's Hot Dogs

Romolo Chocolate
Iron Empire Clothing

Best New Business (Within Last Two Years)

Federal Hill Smokehouse

Pop Luck Gourmet
Popcorn
Erie Apparel

Best Dog Groomer

Paws 'n Claws
Mud Puppies
Peninsula Pups Doggie Daycare

Best Beauty Salon:

Panache Salon & Spa

Owner: Edna Siegel

"It's a tremendous feeling to win the Best of Erie award. Its great for our business — we strive on education to improve our staff's growth. We are a clientele-friendly environment. Thank you to the Erie community for voting for us."

MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Best Consignment Shop

The Sassy Peacock
Plato's Closet
Claudine's Consignment

Best Thrift Store

Salvation Army
Goodwill
Erie City Mission Thrifty Shopper

Best Graphic Design Agency

Presque Isle Printing
Presque Isle Designs
Tungsten Creative Group

CULTURE & NIGHTLIFE

Best Local Festival

Roar on the Shore
Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival
Zabawa Polish Festival

Best Art Event

Arts & Drafts
Erie Art Museum's

Spring Show
Gallery Night

Best Museum

Erie Art Museum
ExpERIENCE Children's Museum
Erie Maritime Museum

Best Performing Arts Space

Warner Theatre
Erie Playhouse
PACA

Best Local Act (Band/Musician)

The Geek Army
Small Town Revolution
Eric Brewer & Friends

Best Local Artist

Jennifer Christina
Evan Everhart
Katie Levan

Best Art Gallery

Glass Growers Gallery
Artlore Studio
Kada Gallery

Best Music Venue





12 Days of Christmas at Alkemē

December 18th thru December 30th, Alkemē will be offering a discount or giveaway each day. Check out our website at alkemecafe.com or go to our Facebook page [alkemecafe](https://www.facebook.com/alkemecafe) to find out what we are giving away that day. Print out the discount and bring it in with you to redeem. If you don't have a printer, you can bring your phone or other devices - we have free Wifi!

New Year's Eve

Don't forget to make your reservations for New Year's Eve. Alkemē will be open from 11:00 am - 10:00 pm for both brunch and dinner with Chef Joe Fontecchio preparing special dishes for that day only. Please join us in preparation for 2018.

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

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MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Best Radio Station:
Happi 92.7

In the photo, left to right: Samm Adams, 26, Music Director; Ryan Maloney, 25, Promotional Director; Shari McBride, 57, Program Director

Texas Roadhouse
Firebirds
Longhorn

Best Place to Get Barbecue

Federal Hill Smokehouse
Three B Saloon
Dickey's Barbecue Pit

Best Burger

Max & Erma's
The Brewerrie at Union Station
Calamari's

Best Pizza

John's Wildwood Pizzeria
Stevo's
Blaze

Best Wings

Odis 12
One Way Inn
Park Tavern

Best Sushi

Chopstix
Wegmans
1201 Kitchen

Best Asian Restaurant

Chopstix
Golden Wok
Like My Thai

Best Italian Restaurant

Mi Scuzi
Cola's
La Bella

Best Mexican Restaurant

El Canelo
Torrero's
El Amigo Mexican Grill

Coconut Joe's

Sherlock's
Basement
Transmissions

Best Local Photographer

Sarah Peach
Robert Frank
Paul Lorei

Best Up-and-Coming Band/Musician (Last Two Years)

The Wildeyes
Broke Boland Band
Cult Classics

Best Local Singer

Mckenzie Lee Sprague
Roy Hollis Jr.
Preston Dillemoth

Best Local Musician

Stephen Trohoske
Abby Barrett
Ron Yarosz

Best MC

Charles Brown
Jonny Evans
Tony Facchiano

Best Neighborhood Bar

The Plymouth Tavern
U Pick 6
Jekyll & Hyde's

Best Night Club

Coconut Joe's
Bourbon Barrel
King's Rook Club

Best New Bar or Club (Within Last Two Years)

Voodoo Brewing Company
Sneaky Pete's
408 Bar and Grille

Best Dance Company

Mercyhurst Dance Company
Dance Elite
Long's School of Dance

Best College Bar

The Plymouth Tavern
Cornerstone
Coconut Joe's

Best Sports Bar

Odis 12
Sluggers
Erie Arena Sports Bar

Best Lounge

Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Jekyll & Hyde's
Scotty's Martini Lounge

FOOD & DRINK

Best Restaurant

Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro
1201 Kitchen
Mi Scuzi

Best Sandwich Shop

Picasso's

Tickle's Deli
Lucky Louie's Beer and Wieners

Best New Restaurant (Within Last Two Years)

Federal Hill Smokehouse
The Brew Brothers
Thai Eatery

Best Place to Get Seafood

Smuggler's Wharf
Joe Root's
Pineapple Eddie
Southern Bistro

Best Romantic Restaurant

Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Mi Scuzi
1201 Kitchen

Best Chef

Jean Paul (Pineapple Eddie)
Dan Kern

Darrell Knopfel (Sneaky Pete's)

Best Bar Food

Odis 12
The Plymouth Tavern
U Pick 6 locations

Best Local Coffee Shop

Brew Ha Ha
Coffee Culture
Out of The Grey

Best Food Truck

The Que Abides
Ernie's
Sticks and Bricks

Best Breakfast

Summerhouse Cafe
The Breakfast Place
The Original Breakfast Place

Best Patio

The Sloppy Duck

Best Bank/Credit Union

Erie Federal Credit Union

From left to right: Chief Marketing Officer Tom Brennan, 52; CEO Brian Waugaman, 46; Director of Marketing Ron Hickoff, 54; Director of Business Intelligence Eric Brotherson, 34

"Being fans of the Erie Reader, we are truly humbled and thrilled to be a part of the Best of Erie Awards. There are some excellent financial institutions serving this area, so winning 'Best Bank/Credit Union' for the fourth year in a row means a lot to us," said Brian Waugaman, CEO of Erie Federal Credit Union. "We take our commitment to serving our members, the Erie community and our employees with care and compassion very seriously. A sincere 'thank you' to all who voted Erie FCU for this recognition!"



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA



MAITHAM BASHA-YAGHA



Best Mediterranean or Middle Eastern Restaurant

Casablanca
Petra
Habibi Mediterranean Cuisine

Best Late-Nite Menu

Panos

Jekyll & Hyde's
Cloud 9 Wine Bar

Best Dessert

Icing on the Lake
Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Coffee Culture

Best Indian

Restaurant

Tandoori Hut
Curry Point LLC
Dawat Restro

Best Thai Restaurant

Like My Thai
Thai Eatery
Khao Thai

Best Fitness Club:

LECOM Medical Fitness

Tyler Travis, 39

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PEOPLE & PLACES

Best Radio Station

Happi 92.7
Star 104
93.9 The Wolf

Best Radio Personality

Jessica Curry
Sammy Stone
Shari McBride

Best TV Personality

Sean Lafferty
Craig Smiley
Emily Matson

Best Yoga Studio

yogaErie
LECOM
Plasha Yoga Studio

Best Politician

Ryan Bizzarro
John Persinger
Kathy Dahlkemper

Best Poet

Marisa Moks-Unger
Chuck Joy
Robert Hass

Best Filmmaker

John C. Lyons
Jesse Olszewski
Len Kabasinski

Best Place to Work

Wegmans
Erie Insurance
LECOM

Best Tourist Attraction

Presque Isle State Park
Waldameer Park
Erie Zoo

Best Local Actor

Shawn Clerkin
Jesse Olszewski
Chris Bucci

Best Local Actress

Emily Olszewski
Adele Crotty
Kelly Rodland

Best Non-Profit or Charity

The ANNA Shelter
Erie Zoo
Sisters of St. Joseph Network

Best Landmark

US Brig Niagara

Perry Monument
Asbury Woods Nature Center

Best Bartender

Molli Jane
Brittany Stowe
Chris Pace

Best Place to get Lectured to

Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Mercyhurst University
Jefferson Educational Society

Best University

Penn State Behrend
Gannon University
Mercyhurst University

Best Fitness Club

LECOM Medical Fitness
YMCA
Planet Fitness

Best Athletic Competition

Beast on the Bay
LECOM Health Challenge
Erie Marathon

Best Bowling Alley

Greengarden Lanes
Eastway Lanes
Rolling Meadows

Best Team to Root for

Erie Otters
Erie Seawolves
Eerie Roller Girls

Best Golf Course

Whispering Woods
Peak Upper Course
Erie Golf Club

Best Local Entrepreneur(s)

John and Matt Schultz
Lisa Heidelberg
Tom Kennedy

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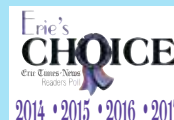
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Spotlight on Erie

December 20, 2017 – January 2, 2018

Friday, Dec. 22

Family Matters at Basement Transmissions



Reuniting with family over the holidays can be a mixed bag. Some people are thrilled to see long-missed family members, but others might dread being forced into awkward and uncomfortable situations with familial strangers. The Basement Transmissions family is offering a more enjoyable holiday get together, featuring both live music and stand-up comedy in the form of the BT Holiday Reunion Extravaganza.

Headlining the evening's events

are Green Fingers, an experimental electronica trio unifying members of Joose, The Bloodies, and the father of the BT family himself, Bob Jensen, creating the some of the most adventurous sounds in Erie.

Fellow Erieites on the bill are Cult Classics, a dreamy indie folk rock five-piece for your emotional catharsis and light dance moves. The vocal harmonies by singers Jess Royer and McKenzie Sprague are awe-inspiring; this is not a band you'll want to miss.

Next up is Pittsburgh solo artist Liss Victory. Victory puts her heart on her sleeve with her grunge-inspired acoustic songs on her EP *The Low Lights Make Me Love You*.

Mixing up the run-of-the-mill BT show is comedian Krish Mohan. Mohan's socially-aware comedy style intelligently and tastefully covers touchy subjects like religion and politics, bringing laughter and fun into normally dry topics.

The opening act on the bill is John Zuck, the unquestionably talented

bassist of the experimental rock band Zuck's Turkey Farm.

So come join the BT family for the holidays, to support the scene and distract yourself from your own awkward family holiday reunions. — Tommy Shannon

7 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // BYOB, 21+ // \$5

Friday, Dec. 22

Gem City Revival Raises Hootenanny at Brew Bros.

When it comes to the three gifted local musicians who make up the trio that is Gem City Revival, they say "happenstance made [us] friends, but hootenannies made [us] a band."

Well, hell, that's almost enough to make us like them already.

But there's more to dig with GCR: Each of its members — Abby Badach (fiddles, vocals), Pat Doyle (guitars, vocals), and Ang Phillips (guitar, vocals) — really are quite gifted. And, since coming together musically in



early 2016, Gem City Revival has been keeping their hootenanny going in and around Erie with a bright, joyful, well-tended-to rendering of all kinds of alt-country goodness.

You down for that? Cool. They'll be bringing the Revival to The Brew Brothers at Presque Isle Downs & Casino as part of the casino venue's ongoing, weekly live entertainment

MUSIC

Acoustic Confusion

Dec. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. [cork1794.com](#).

Rick in the Roadhouse Rockers and Vulgar Display of Pantera

Dec. 22 — 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com](#).

Family Reunion Holiday Extravaganza

Dec. 22 — 7 to 11 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](#).

Gem City Revival

Dec. 22 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](#).

Monk's Brew

Dec. 22 — 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](#).

Slow Motion Breakdown and Trip The Deuce

Dec. 22 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Tyler Smilo

Dec. 23 — 8 to 11 p.m.

Lavery Brewing Company,

128 W. 12th St. [facebook.com](#).

Whiskey Road

Dec. 23 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](#).

1st Annual Old Skool Christmas Jam

Dec. 23 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 W. Bay Dr. [elitedjserviceseriepa.com](#).

1980 Something

Dec. 23 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com](#).

TK Blues Co.

Dec. 23 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

The O'Needers

Dec. 24 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](#).

Gem City Revival

Dec. 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. [cork1794.com](#).

Tomkat Black, Gabba Ghoules, Coffin Bangers, Tradesmen, Wave Trails and Broke Boland

Dec. 29 — 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com](#).

Superband

Dec. 29 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](#).

Spooky Westcott with Surprise Guise

Dec. 29 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Everyone Leaves and Chris Bernstorff

Dec. 30 — 6 to 11 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](#).

Crooked Creek Brothers

Dec. 30 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](#).

I-90's

Dec. 30 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com](#).

Elektra Kings

Dec. 30 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com](#).

Galactic Duo

Dec. 30 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921

Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](#).

Sam Hyman

Dec. 31 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. [facebook.com](#).

Branislaus

Dec. 31 — 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](#).

Chestnut Grove, Looms and The Wildeyes

Dec. 31 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Cult Classics

Jan. 3 — 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](#).

FOOD & DRINK

Cocktails & Color

Dec. 20 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Voodoo Brewery & Brewpub, 215 Arch St. [facebook.com](#).

Happy Hour

Dec. 21, 22 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Shops at the Colony, 2580 W. 8th St. [piwine.com](#).

Festivos

Dec. 23 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. [eriealeworks.com](#).

Xmas Eve Party

Dec. 24 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](#).

Christmas Night

Dec. 25 — 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](#).

Holiday Week at the Wineries

Dec. 26 through Dec. 31

Various Locations, [lakeeriewinecountry.org](#).

Erie Food Tours

Dec. 29 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Like My Thai, 827 State St. [eriefoodtours.com](#).

Brew Year's Eve

Dec. 31 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The Brewererie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. [brewererie.com](#).

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](#).

Blood Prism (2017)

Dec. 22 — 8 to 11 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](#).

The Blue Angel (1930)

Dec. 29 — 8 to 10 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](#).

VISUAL ARTS

Sensing the Unseen

Ongoing through Jan. 3

The Kada Gallery, 2632 W. 8th St. [kadagallery.com](#).

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

Ongoing through Jan. 7

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](#).

Rachael Burke, Recent Paintings

Ongoing through Jan. 10

Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. [glassgrowersgallery.com](#).

Ancient Ink: Mark Perrott

Ongoing through Jan. 28

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](#).

CALENDAR

series.

Whether you're into old songs with new soul or new songs with old soul, chances are pretty good Gem City Revival might just stir up some of the spirit(s) inside you (P.S., half-off drinks from 5 to 7 p.m.)

— Ryan Smith

9 p.m. // 8199 Perry Highway // presqueisledowns.com/event/nightlife/live-entertainment

Saturday, Dec. 23rd

Old Skool Christmas Jam at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel



There's nothing quite like getting in on the ground floor of a new tradition, be it with friends, family or

co-workers. And what better time for new traditions than the holiday season? With this in mind, the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel is likely proud to be the venue for the inaugural Old Skool Christmas Jam.

For those wondering what is taking place at the Old Skool Christmas Jam, a better question might be what isn't taking place. Hosted by M.C. Gucci Marv, the night will first feature music spanning the '70s, '80s and '90s, courtesy of DJ Primo and DJ Seen. Later on, there will be a number of contests and challenges, including (but not limited to) a Pop Lock Contest, a Beat Box Contest, and what are presumably challenges to sing Whitney Houston's undeniable smash hit "I Will Always Love You" as well as Lenny Williams' "Cause I Love You." There will also be a Red Light Couples Dance, noted to be "for lovers only."

All tickets include access to a buffet and parking as well as a 50/50 raffle and adult auction. V.I.P. tickets come with additional perks such as reserved seating, a cheese and charcuterie tray, and a coat check. There are also group tables available for reservation that include all of the benefits of a V.I.P. ticket, seating 10 and going for \$300.

From the barrage of activities we

know to be happening to the mystery of what (or who) else could make an appearance, the Old Skool Christmas Jam has the potential to be the must-attend event of the holiday season. Room bookings are available as well as a limited number of tickets online and at several local vendors (Dee's Cigar Store, Moe's Shop Rite), so get yours before they're gone. For more information, email elitedjserviceseriepa@gmail.com. — Aaron Mook

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 55 West Bay Drive // \$25 GA, \$35 V.I.P.

Saturday, Dec. 23

A Festivus Miracle at Jekyll & Hyde's

December 23rd is traditionally set aside for the "Airing of Grievances" (particularly for *Seinfeld* fans), but Festivus celebrants will find little to complain about this year — at least should they venture to Jekyll & Hyde's (unless they have misgivings with live music and/or half-priced draft specials).

Although the musicians on hand may not be known for physical "Feats of Strength," their artistic powers are undeniable. The night begins with



folk-pop songstress Brooke Surgener, whose nuanced vocals and thoughtful lyrics have cemented her as a mainstay of the local scene. Following her performance, Falling Hollywood returns to the stage for the first time since July's Gears & Grubs. It's even better than a Festivus miracle for the quartet's legions of fans, who gravitate to the band's musical melange of Americana, alternative, and garage rock (with a sprinkle of punk and blues). Nick Taylor and Matt Flowers split the vocal and guitar duties (and harmonize rather well with one another), while Bill Frackowiak (bass) and Brad Triana (drums) provide the rhythmic backing.

So gather friends, families, and foes — if you're going to bicker about any-

Tattoosday

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

Annual Faculty, Staff, and Alumni Art Show

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

Mark Weber: Animals

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

Daniel Burke: Callings

Ongoing through Apr. 8
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATER

Annie

Dec. 29, 31 — 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 30 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org

COMMUNITY

Great Lakes Shipwreck Exhibition

Ongoing through Apr. 13, 2018
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Tai Chi

Dec. 20 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

IU5 Office Hours: GED & HiSet Tutoring

Dec. 20, 27 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Learn to 3D Print

Dec. 20, 23, 27, 30 — 9 to 10:30 a.m. & Dec. 28 — 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

DiscoverE - Animals in Winter

Dec. 20 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Vinyl Cutter Open Lab

Dec. 20, 23 — 11 a.m. to noon
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Innovation and Collaborative Walk-In Hours

Dec. 20, 27 — 1:30 to 5 p.m. & Dec. 22, 29 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Resumes, Cover Letter Drop In Help

Dec. 20 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Free Small Business Advice

Dec. 21, 28 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160

E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

ABE/GED Prep Course

Dec. 21 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

ScienceGo!

Dec. 21 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Night Hike on Dead Pond Trail

Dec. 21 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Thompson Circle at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Christmas Town

Dec. 21, 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Erie First Assembly of God, 8150 Oliver Rd. eriefirst.org.

Erie BayHawks vs. South Bay

Dec. 21 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Painting With Pride

Dec. 21 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Dramashop, 1001 State St. facebook.com.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling lunch included

Dec. 22 — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Live Nativity

Dec. 22, 23 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Fairview United Methodist Church, 4601 Avonia Rd. wearrefumc.org.

World Junior Hockey Championship Exhibition Game

Dec. 22 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Winter Stroll in the Park

Dec. 23 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Pine Tree Trail Head at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Blasco Writers Group

Dec. 23 — 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Erie BayHawks vs. Delaware

Dec. 23 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Dec. 24 — 10 to 11 a.m. & 4 to 5:30 p.m. & 8 to 10 p.m.
Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd. wayside-erie.org.

Snowshoe Demonstration

Dec. 27 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Yoga Class for Kids

Dec. 27 — 5 to 6 p.m. & Dec. 28 — 10 to 11 a.m. & Jan. 3 — 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. & Jan. 10 — 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.
Tumble 84, 4504 W. Ridge Rd. apluseventsforkids.com.

Winter Wonderland

Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Erie BayHawks vs. Ft. Wayne

Dec. 28 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Minecraft Mania

Dec. 29 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

DiscoverE - Wild Animal Tracks

Dec. 29 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

NYC Comedy Night in Erie

Dec. 29 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Harlequin Ballroom, 55 W. Bay Dr. facebook.com.

Yoga Class for Kids

Dec. 30 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Tumblmania, 2126 Filmore Ave. apluseventsforkids.com.

Erie BayHawks vs. Santa Cruz

Dec. 30 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Greg Hahn

Dec. 30 — 7 p.m. & Dec. 31 — 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Erie Otters vs. Kingston

Dec. 31 — 6:30 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Boogie On The Bay

Dec. 31 — 9 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

New Year's Eve Walk

Dec. 31 — 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Stull Center at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Otters vs. Mississauga

Jan. 3 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

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thing, may it be about who has the better seat or whose glass is less full. — Matt Swanseger

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. (drink special runs from 10 to midnight) // 8 E. 10th St. // facebook.com/jeykllhydesgastropub

Friday, Dec. 29th

Must See Shows: NYC Comedy Night at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel



Much like hip-hop, comedy is largely a regional scene; different locations produce different styles and voices, as well as a healthy amount of friendly competition. At the end of the month, the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel will be bringing a taste of New York's infamous comedy scene to our city. Comedian John Saponaro, noted for his conversational, Carlin-esque delivery, will be headlining alongside Gianmarco Soresi and host Zachary Hammond.

"John Saponaro is our headliner and performs all over the country," explains Ron Herron of Herron Entertainment. "Gianmarco Soresi will be

featured and headlines many of our shows along the East Coast, and hosting the show is Zachary Hammond, who tours all up and down the east coast and has released three separate comedy albums ... many comedians struggle to have one or two in their entire careers."

"I'm just a spoke on a wheel," he continues. "They are the talent."

Saponaro himself is eager to talk about the event, calling his pairing with Soresi "awesome" and mentioning that he hopes it will be the first of many great shows together.

"It'll just be a great show with great energy," says Saponaro. "Both [Soresi and I] like to leave it all out on stage for the people in the crowd because ultimately, our job is to make them feel good. This will be my first time performing in Erie, so I appreciate the tremendous response from everyone who bought tickets already. I'm really looking forward to it."

For regulars at Junior's Last Laugh and frequenters of Erie's spoken word and comedy scene, NYC Comedy Night at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel is a must-see show for which tickets are still available. For more information or to purchase tickets, simply visit the Facebook page for the event. — Aaron Mook

8 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 55 West Bay Drive // \$23

Saturday, Dec. 30

Get into BT Before Everyone Leaves

Heel Heat Productions, which continues to bring the best of the best in underground music to Erie, is hosting another emo and pop punk show at Basement Transmissions on



Saturday, December 30.

Everyone Leaves, from Columbus, Ohio, will be headlining the show. The band is making big strides in the scene with their compelling seven-track album *The Lonely End*, which is brimming with emo-rock anthems like "Head In A Vice" and "Better Love." Songs such as "Seeing Red" and "Black Umbrellas" from the 2015 EP *The Great and Terrible* make them one of the best bands in the region, not to mention the growing emo/indie rock scene as a whole. You won't want to leave before they're done with their set.

Opening bands include Franklin's The Plot Twist, New Castle's FlipSwitch, and The Standby, from right here in Erie. The Plot Twist's two-album discography is a perfect fit for fans of high-energy, catchy pop-punk tunes similar to The Wonder Years and State Champs. FlipSwitch plays a style reminiscent of early 2000s pop-punk on their EP *Grilled Demon Cheese*, with the ballad-esque song "Limbic" standing out from the rest. The Standby turns up the reverb and channels Brand New with their stellar *Passiflora* EP.

So come out to Basement Transmissions, see some amazing bands, and get into one last great show before the new year. — Tommy Shannon

6:30 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$10 Advance, \$12 Doors

Saturday, Dec. 30

Galactic Duo to Prove (Again) They're Out of This World



I've said it before (more than once), and I'll say it again — and again: Tony Grey and Ian Maciak are (to me) most definitely two of the artists who make Erie's music scene plenty worth writing about, and any chance (for you) to see them should not be missed.

And the chance to catch the Galactic Duo crafting their sonic brew on the day before New Year's Eve? And at the King's Rook Club?

Well, happy holidays, everybody.

Grey is one of the jazz world's — like, the whole jazz world's — most outstanding and in-demand bassists, and Maciak is one amazingly versatile percussionist, regularly collaborating locally (along with Grey) with musicians like Zack Orr of SpaceLounge Productions, Adam Holquist, and Stephen Trohoske, forming the trio known as Human Flux.

Another thing I've said before (and will say again) is that the fact these guys are just two of the mega-talented musicians who call Erie their home base is really good reason — great reason — for us all listen to up.

Enjoy the present(s), Erie.

— Ryan Smith

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

TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK





**December 22 at 9pm
December 23 at 3pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1**



**December 22 at 10pm
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CALENDAR

Party in the ERI

Kick off 2018 with a host of activities



BRAD

By: Miriam Lamey

Another year over and in the blink of an eye, it seems...hang on, wasn't the *Reader* just compiling New Year's Eve events to ring in 2017? Maybe we're getting older, wiser and more in touch with our roots, but we're pretty psyched about the events on offer to those who want to start 2018 the right way. Whether you choose to enjoy cocktails in the comfort of your home, a classy sit-down meal at Presque Isle Downs, or the last Otters game of the year, make the concluding night of 2017 a good one.

PREGAME

Erie Otters vs. Kingston Frontenacs

Before you head to the bar, why not engage in something a bit more interactive? Catch the Erie Otters as they take on the Kingston Frontenacs — and you'll certainly get bonus points if you wear your New Year's Eve finery to the game.

6:30 p.m. // 809 French Street // (814) 452-4857 // \$20 // ottershockey.com

ArtErie Gallery night at BrewHaHa

Prefer your pre-party activities with a touch of class? Check out some local art, gather together with members of the local community, and get some caffeine to fuel those bad late night decisions you will probably make. If you're ready to start with libations, enjoy the specialty cocktails on offer — plus some snacks to soak up the booze.

7 to 10 p.m. // 2612 W 8th St // Free // brewhahacolony.com

Annie at the Erie Playhouse

When it comes down to it, isn't this holiday all about *tomorrow*? Bet your bottom dollar, it is. To those looking ahead to 2018, the Erie Playhouse has a special presentation of the musical *Annie*. The family friendly event will have refreshments, balloon animals, face painting, and a photo booth, complete with special gifts for theater-goers 12 and under.

Reception at 6:30pm, Show at 7:30 p.m. // 13 West 10th St. // \$32.50 // (814) 454-2852 // erieplayhouse.org

A DELICIOUS DINNER

Brew Brothers Three-Course Dinner and Party

There's nothing more fun than getting dressed up, being served a delicious meal, and then taking advantage of the opportunity to dance the night away. If you're of this ilk, head to Presque Isle Downs first for dinner — at 4:30 or at 7:30 — before enjoying music from The Man's Room Band to get you through to midnight. Still partying? Pool together the last of your resources for the stretch run in the downstairs Mutuels room, where you can bet DJ Butch Knight will be spinning tunes until 2 a.m.

4:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 8199 Perry Hwy // 866-374-3386 // \$80 to \$95 // presqueisledowns.com

New Year's Eve at Peak 'n Peek

Hit the slopes to close out 2017 at Peak 'n Peek, and then enjoy a hearty New Year's Eve buffet to warm you up inside and out. When satiated, swing over to the New Year's

Eve party at Bistro 210 with tunes by DJ Henry (the festivities run from 9:30 until 1:30) and be sure to step outside for fireworks at 11 p.m.

5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. // 1405 Olde Road, Clymer, NY // (716) 355-4141 // \$39, adults; \$22, children // pknpk.com

HEAD TO THE BAR

Raise a glass at Scooters

There's nothing better than heading to a local bar for your favorite tippie, chatting with bartenders that know your name, and seeing plenty of familiar faces. And if you're new to Scooters, what better time to visit than on New Year's Eve? The venue will be serving up snacks, drink specials and a pork and sauerkraut dinner at midnight. Enjoy a champagne toast and party favors too.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 2802 Old French Rd // (814) 452-4141 // Free // facebook.com/ScootersErie

Bourbon Barrel New Year's Bash

If you like your cocktails strong and your mechanical bull rides stronger, Bourbon Barrel could be your rodeo this New Year's Eve. The bartenders will be slinging their specialties and hopefully you'll be swinging some prizes — or at least last long enough to be swigging some champagne, compliments of the establishment. We don't recommend hopping on the bull with a full stomach, however.

5 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1213 State St // (814) 452-3000 // Free // facebook.com/BourbonBarrelErie

BYO

Groove into the New Year

Dahhhling, don't forget your pearls and that bottle of bubbly before you head over to the Wingate to funk with The Groove at their New Year's Elegant Eve party. And yes, we're serious: bring your libations with you — this is a BYO event. And yes, on another formal note: Get dressed up because there will be a professional photographer capturing the soirée, so be ready to strike a pose in the photo booth, which will be on site.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 8281 Oliver Rd // ((814) 490-7093 // \$50 // facebook.com/TheGrooveErie



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"Scott Bradlee's group is known for retro-fying modern hit songs into viral success."
– *Entertainment Weekly*



Founded by arranger/pianist Scott Bradlee in 2011, Postmodern Jukebox is a rotating music collective that reimagines contemporary pop, rock and R&B hits in the style of various vintage genres, from swing to doo-wop, ragtime to Motown.

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LET THEM ENTERTAIN YOU

Brew Year's Eve 2018

Beer. Check. Great space. Check. Delightful music. Check. All systems are go for Brewerier's annual party. Head down to enjoy an open bar, hors d'oeuvres and great sounds from the Ruby Port Band, who provide the evening's soundtrack for the third consecutive year. Grab tickets quickly because they tend to sell out.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 123 W 14th St // (814) 454-2200 // \$50 // brewerie.com

Have a laugh with Greg Hahn

Giggle your way into the New Year at Jr's Last Laugh with comedian Greg Hahn, who has appeared on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, Comedy Central, CBS and ABC, to name but a few. Great with the one-liners and possessing an insane amount of energy, Hahn will have you rolling out of your seat with laughter. And the evening doesn't stop there: Enjoy music from Superband after the 9 p.m. show as they take you through the night.

6 p.m. or 9 p.m. // 1402 State St // (814) 461-0911 // \$20 (early show) or \$37.50 (late show) // jrslastlaugh.com

Chestnut Grove, Looms & The Wildeyes

Like your music loud and energetic? Head over to the King's Rook Club for a blast of sound and some great jams from Chestnut Grove and Looms. Then, continue the party upstairs with local favorites The Wildeyes. Music lovers should know that this is the place to be on New Year's Eve. And when the late-night munchies hit, KRC Bistro will be serving up delectable fare until 2:30 a.m.

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St // (814) 456-6439 // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Piano tunes shaken and stirred

There may be nothing classier than sitting at the bar with a martini and listening to soft piano music in the background. If this sounds like your jam, pop over to Scotty's Martini Bar where Branislaus will be hitting the old ivories to carry you into 2018. If you really want to get in the mood, enjoy one of the fine cigars on

offer, or just enjoy peering mysteriously through the smoke and imagine you're traveling back in time.

6 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 301 German St // (814) 459-3800 // Free // facebook.com/ScottysMartini

A GOOD, OLD FASHIONED PARTY

Avalon Hotel New Year's Eve Gala

Put on your dancing shoes and sweep into the Avalon Hotel to party the night away. The event features an open bar, tunes from Dynamic Sounds and a balloon drop at midnight. Snack on hors d'oeuvres and scream "Happy New Year!" with a champagne toast at midnight.

8 p.m. // 16 West 10th Street // (814) 459 2220 // facebook.com/AvalonErie

New Year's Eve Bash at the Ambassador

Make sure you have a drink in your hand and dance along to tunes spun by DJ Matt Barnes at the Ambassador's celebration. Attendees can also enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast and jump into the photo booth before the party ends. Want to stay the night? Ask about

special room packages to wake up in someone else's bed — literally.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 7794 Peach St // (877) 866-3445 // \$59 // facebook.com/ambassadorcenter

Toast 2018 at McCoy's Barrelhouse & Grill

Downtown Erie is the place to be on Dec 31 (and every other night of the year) and local favorite McCoy's is opening its doors to celebrate. Get there early to grab a good spot as the drinks will be flowing and the horns will be blowing. The venue is offering up the services of its best bartenders and providing free noisemakers, party favors and a champagne toast when the clock strikes 12. Watch the ball drop in Times Square from a warmer place with a drink in hand and friends all around.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1013 State St // (814) 871-2940 // Free // facebook.com/mccoysbarrelhouse

Miriam Lamey can be reached at mlamey@eriereader.com



The Best Movies of 2017

A foray into film's finest

By: Forest Taylor

1. The Lost City of Z



AMAZON STUDIOS

An adventure story that also seeks to criticize the very notion of adventure, James Gray's masterful film follows an explorer's obsession with finding a fabled advanced civilization somewhere in the Amazon. As a man who's both critical of colonialism and a product of it, his search for this city has the noblest of intentions, but his obsessions may ultimately be his downfall. The film is absolutely beautiful, with every shot looking like it could be hung up in a museum and the story of exploration, exploitation, war and family kept me riveted from first frame to last. If you like old school adventures with a modern sensibility, this is the film for you.

2. Personal Shopper

Olivier Assayas proves once again that he's one of the most interesting filmmakers working today and Kristen Stewart reassures us that those *Twilight* films were just a fluke. This is the story of a medium working as a celebrity's personal shopper who is



LES FILMS DU LOSANGE

hoping to find a sign that her recently deceased brother's spirit still exists in some form. In a way, it is the most modern ghost story ever told. In this age of technology at our fingertips, the people we've lost never truly seem to be lost. When a dead person's voice, image and words are preserved for all time, isn't that the same as their spirit living on? That's just one question asked in this cryptic, hypnotic film with one of the most emotional gut-punches of a final shot I've seen in a long time, so check it out for yourself.

3. mother!



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

A horror film? An absurdist farce? A biblical allegory? An environmental warning? It's all these things and more, but the one thing I found Darren Aronofsky's intentionally controversial and confrontational film to be is damn entertaining! Depicting a house

and the people within it as a metaphor for the stories of the Bible worked extremely well and the depiction of every human evil and atrocity in the context of a domestic squabble was both chilling and really funny. Sure, the message was obvious and the symbolism was heavy-handed, but I don't care when a film fills me with this much sadistic glee from beginning to end. I hadn't had this much fun at the movies in years.

4. Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

The most achingly human film of the year, Martin McDonagh's film brilliantly depicts how one horrific crime and the emotional devastation left in its wake can destroy an entire town. Both funny and heartbreaking — often at the same time — the film is not only an angry, foul-mouthed rant against the evil of this world, but also a commentary on our limited ability to do anything about it. Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson and Sam Rockwell all give incredible performances that I hope the Academy is really paying attention to. The film itself will leave you feeling weary, battered, emotionally drained and once again, human ... all too human.

5. The Lure



JANUS FILMS

And now for something completely different. Agnieszka Smoczyńska's film about two homicidal mermaid sisters who get hired as nightclub performers in Poland during the last days of the Soviet Union is one of the strangest films you're likely to see this year. A horror/musical/romance/fairy-tale that also works surprisingly well as an allegory for the allure of capitalism in the waning days of a communist regime. The mermaids become both victims and victimizers of the people they encounter resulting in an interesting little twist on the old "Little Mermaid" story. Plus, the musical numbers are absolutely rockin'!

Honorable Mentions:

A Ghost Story
Your Name
Get Out
Lovesong
Lady Bird

Forest Taylor can be contacted at forebore1982@gmail.com

Best Locally Made Albums of 2017

By Nick Warren

The Sex Blossoms - Pomegranate Treehouses

A shockingly intimate creation, Andrew Henderson and Madeline Genest have built something beautiful with their first full-length album. The record plays for a sprawling 66 minutes, spread out over eight tracks (though the final track, aptly named "Infinite Melody" accounts for over a third of the record's running time). The vocal interplay between the two is captivating, full of complicated syncopation and interweaving harmonics. Using only first or second takes for every song, there's a romantic immediacy bursting from



each track, an intensely personal love letter the audience is fortunate enough to be privy to.

Optimistic Apocalypse - The Art of Love

This year's solo effort from McKenzie Lee Sprague is rife with creative exploration, something that will come as no surprise if you've been following the 20-year-old's already lengthy career path. The 22 track album is filled with mirror-like reflections, with every "proper" song being introduced by a backwards-titled interlude for palindromic balance. With lush melodies crafted from captivating lyrics, Sprague's voice bounces around space, echoing through eclectic instrumenta-



tion and gorgeous, dream-pop soundscapes.

Deadhorse - Crescendo

A passionate, intense offering, *Crescendo* sees the return of the long-running neo-classical band Deadhorse. Giving a voice to their instrumental tracks, the band eloquently asserts that these tracks are an outcry to what's going on in the world. While that context might not be intrinsically apparent, it adds an emotive backdrop to each of the 28 minute album's eight tracks. Mostly consisting of minimalist piano, the alliterative names of each song evoke an urgency, and a plea for change.



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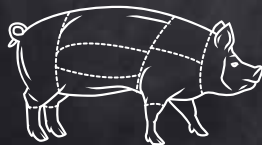
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COUNTRY FAIR

The Best Albums of 2017

Highlighting a magnificent year in music

By: Aaron Mook with Nick Warren and Matt Swanseger

For normal people, the end of the year signifies a string of holidays and a sense of change in the upcoming year. For music writers, the end of the year signifies “listmas season,” in which everyone’s hot takes demand to be heard. Here, we have gathered out contributors’ favorite releases of the year, weighted against a point-based system, and included a short description in hopes to catch you up on (and help you survive the holiday season with) some of the year’s finest.

1. Tyler, the Creator — *Flower Boy*

In a year when hip-hop stepped its game up, *Flower Boy* represents an unexpected leap for Tyler, the Creator. The creative heartbeat of the alternative rap group Odd Future strikes a vein here with an album that showcases not only his skills as an MC, but also his surprising ability as a singer and arranger. While hard-hitting in spots (“Who Dat Boy” feat. A\$AP Rocky), the majority of the album consists of dreamy alt-R&B peregrinations buttressed by some of the best voices in the biz (Frank Ocean, Estelle, etc.) Engrossing from start to finish. — Matt Swanseger



2. Beach Fossils — *Somersault*

For their third and arguably best album, the Brooklyn trio Beach Fossils have made something indelibly gorgeous. As soon as *Somersault* opens up with the jangly perfection of “This Year,” the stage is set for a warm, infectious journey. The lighthearted beach-pop makes for an album that’s hard not to enjoy. With understated potency, the album makes for some of the most accessible indie rock all year, while also venturing into hip-hop (“Rise”) and jazz (“Saint Ivy”) excursions to welcoming results. — Nick Warren



3. Kendrick Lamar — *DAMN.*

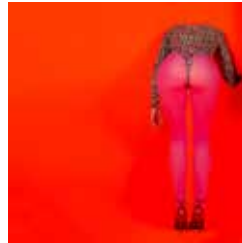
Again proving himself to be one of the greatest hip-hop artists of his generation, Kendrick Lamar’s *DAMN.* shows another side of the celebrated musician. After his 2015 landmark album *To Pimp a Butterfly*, the stakes were supremely high for Lamar. Following the success of *DAMN.* (not to mention last year’s *Untitled Unmastered* collection), it’s obvious



that these stakes didn’t mean a damn thing. Using a more traditional hip-hop approach, Lamar builds on his media persona, and is able to fit detailed stories between every beat. — Nick Warren

4. St. Vincent — *MASSEDUCTION*

The aesthetics of Annie Clark’s albums as St. Vincent may act as a first impression, but they quickly become complementary to whatever sonic palette she pursues. Never one to half-bake a vision, *MASSEDUCTION* is yet another ambitious entry in Clark’s catalog, employing big-name pop producers to add a distinctive sheen to her already alien songwriting. And like most of the artists on this list, she can’t help but dig into the fear that some of 2017’s worst habits might be more than just that. — Aaron Mook



5. Alvvays — *Antisocialites*

Three years following the success of their self-titled debut (and breakout single), Alvvays have returned with another, arguably stronger, set of reverb-drenched, beach-ready dream-pop tracks. What sets Molly Rankin and co. apart from their peers is the way they deliver on each aspect of that genre, executing dynamite hooks with lush guitar tones, equal parts DIIV and Death Cab for Cutie. — Aaron Mook



6. Sampha — *Process*

With an unmistakable voice and an unclassifiable amalgam of styles, Sampha is to the 2010s as Seal was to the 1990s, evolving from obscure collaborator to a heralded artist in his own right. After numerous accolades (including this year’s Mercury Prize), it is safe to say that critics trust Sampha’s *Process*. Whether he’s accompanying himself with a mere piano or he’s singing above a choppy sea of studio trickery, Sampha’s vocals bring an affecting rawness and urgency to an album that truly transcends. — Matt Swanseger



7. BROCKHAMPTON — *Saturation III*

With a hustle matched only by King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard, “all-American boyband” BROCKHAMPTON released three studio albums this year. In an unprecedented move, they billed *Saturation III* as their “last studio album” before quickly announcing their next album for 2018. This is the

world BROCKHAMPTON inhabits; they make the music they want to make and will continue to do so until they simply lose interest one day. The group’s dedication to diverse voices and musical styles make them not only a vital force in hip-hop, but in popular music as a whole. — Aaron Mook



8. Phoebe Bridgers — *Stranger in the Alps*

This year saw Phoebe Bridgers often compared to Julien Baker, perhaps due to the heavy nature of their songwriting (or, more nefariously, simply because they are female singer-songwriters in a male-dominated industry). Regardless, *Stranger in the Alps* stands on its own legs, lending Bridgers a platform to experiment with subtle folk and fuzzy power-pop as she details her fears of intimacy and death with an equally unique (and at times, genuinely charming) voice. — Aaron Mook



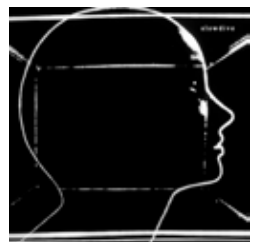
9. Thundercat — *Drunk*

Genius rarely comes without quirks, and electric bass virtuoso Thundercat (a.k.a. Stephen Bruner) — from his odd sense of style (socks and sandals with swim trunks on stage) to the dorky pop culture references that litter his lyrics — is no exception. Despite this, an undeniable sense of cool pervades the 23 tracks (some better characterized as vignettes) that comprise *Drunk* — somehow as simultaneously mellow and restless as that title would suggest. One of the better left-field R&B albums you’ll ever stumble into. — Matt Swanseger



10. Slowdive — *Slowdive*

After 22 years of silence, Slowdive have returned like a quiet storm. The English shoegaze band have made an album that arguably plays better in the late 2010s than it would have in the 1990s. A style now heavily in vogue, the group returns to the “Scene That Celebrates Itself” as respected elders. With haunting delay timbres and a rich atmosphere, singer/guitarists Neil Halstead and Rachel Goswell are at the top of their game, creating a gorgeously evocative tone. — Nick Warren



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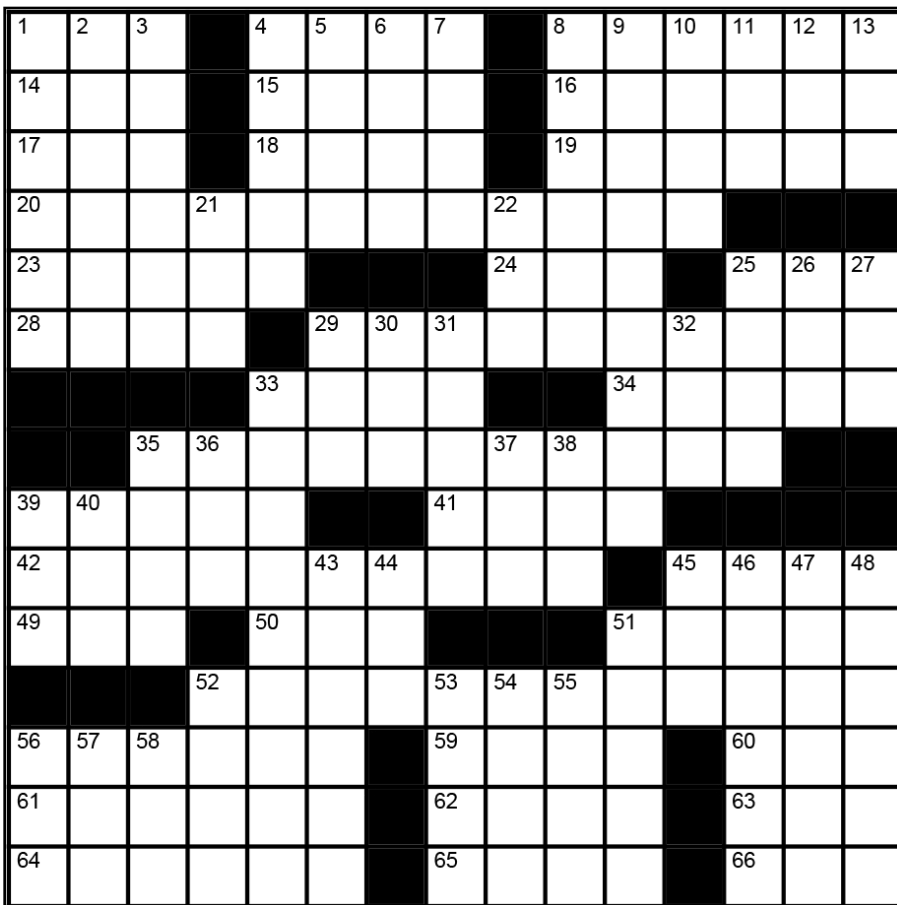
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MOON

Answers to last issue's puzzle

N	A	Y		A	L	B	U	M		L	O	T	S	A	
U	R	E		M	A	R	T	A		E	A	S	E	L	
T	M	S		P	R	O	A	M		S	T	A	M	P	
M	A	S	H	M	A	S	H	M	A	S	H				
E	N	I	D				A	L	I		T	E	A		
G	I	R	L	S	G	I	R	L	S	G	I	R	L	S	
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T	E	R	R	A		E	M	O	R	Y		T	W	I	
A	R	K	I	N		T	I	B	I	A		A	T	A	
P	R	O	N	G		S	T	E	E	N		G	O	N	

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Comments accompanying shrugs
4. Photocopier malfunctions
8. "___ first!"
14. Parliamentary vote
15. Hollywood's Ken or Lena
16. Lack of oomph
17. Clear the dishes?
18. Granny
19. 1960s sitcom set in the 1860s
20. Subjectin' silo contents to subzero temperatures?
23. "I'm at your disposal"
24. Tulsa sch. named for an evangelist
25. Org. that promotes Energy Star Day
28. Microscope part
29. Greetin' heard when two Aussies tie the knot?
33. One of TV's Huxtables
34. How fish is shipped, often
35. Expletive yelled after becomin' fed up with a foot ailment?
39. Open-mouthed
41. "Nuts!"
42. Manufacturin' a piece of sports equipment for a baseball fielder?
45. "Right away!"
49. The Cavs, on sports tickers
50. "Whoop-de-___!"

51. James Baldwin's "If ___ Street Could Talk"
52. Puttin' a suit on a guy before he walks down the aisle?
56. "King" serpents
59. Notion
60. Prank-pulling sort
61. Self-assurance
62. It's what's to be expected
63. Rode the bench
64. Take-home amount
65. Ye ___ Shoppe
66. Virginia Woolf's "___ Dalloway"

Down

1. Quite a sight
2. Harold's car in "Harold and Maude"
3. Glossy fabric
4. "Being John Malkovich" director Spike
5. Jai ___
6. Sen. Al Franken's state: Abbr.
7. Slight problem
8. A giraffe might be seen on one
9. Strike-breakers, e.g.
10. Plant with spores
11. Angsty music genre
12. Padre's hermano
13. Piehole
21. Ambulance letters
22. Fishing shop purchase
25. Tweak, as text
26. Campaign-funding grp.
27. Reply to a captain
29. Question asked with an open mouth
30. "Yikes!"
31. 1982 Stevie Wonder hit
32. Serengeti roamer
33. "Gossip Girl" or "Pretty Little Liars"
35. ___ news
36. The Engineers of the NCAA
37. Like certain engineers: Abbr.
38. Test in advance of an advanced deg.
39. "The Walking Dead" network
40. Guy's partner
43. Elapses
44. Start of many California place names
45. Rev.'s address
46. Eastern belief
47. Roberto in the Baseball Hall of Fame
48. Really appeals to
51. Not one's best effort, in coachspeak
52. Plunge
53. ___-Soviet relations
54. Bedroom poster subject
55. Homework lover, maybe
56. Bottle alternative
57. "To his good friends thus wide I'll ___ my arms": "Hamlet"
58. Crunchy sandwich

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