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# **CONTENTS** July 3, 2019

Will justice prevail?-4

PA DEP has moved to shut down Erie Coke, bringing the fight for Erie's equitable future into focus



### Gem City Playbook: Grounded Art Center – 8

The art venture from Sarah Moody and Ashley Pastore

### Hitting the Sweet Spots – 11

Ice cream stands across Erie County serve up scoops of summer

### Frozen Dairy 101 – 12

A breakdown of everything you'd probably break down and eat regardless

### At the Drive-In: Waterford's Sunset – 15

Tuning in to the much-loved local attraction, still in operation

### Spotlight on Erie – 17

On I go, to wonder and to learning, name the stars and know their dark returning

### Movie Reviews – 28

Yesterday, toys made for such an easy game to play

### 2019 Mid-Year Album Watch – 29

The top 10 so far, overlooked gems, and ones to look forward to

### Crossword Puzzle – 31

This week's latest stumper from David Levinson Wilk

# From the Editors

# Good news from the top-down

ost people appreciate a good roof over their heads; most people also appreciate an excuse to be without one. Summer provides plenty of alibis to go "topless": outdoor festivals, barbeques, and pool parties. Convertibles, motorcycles, and bicycles. Open water, open sky, and open-ended plans. Erieites appreciate these things more than most — on average, the city gets only 157 days of sunshine to play with annually. According to a 2015 study by the CDC and NASA measuring average daily sunlight in counties across the contiguous U.S., Erie County (PA) ranked 2,896th out of 3,111 between 1979 and 2011. That's in the bottom seven percent.

So, yes, while Erie is sometimes dreary, it is also often opportunistic; we definitely make our 157 sunny days and 14,146 kilojoules of solar radiation per square meter count. We eagerly flock to Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie for sunbathing, swimming, fishing, and boating. We happily crack open a cold one on our porch, deck, or patio (or a local watering hole's). And we loyally form lines at our favorite ice cream stands across the county (many of them the same ones we grew up with).

Few other confections are as nostalgic or synonymous with summer as ice cream, the sweet frozen foam we pile into bowls, cups, and cones. In this issue, Nick Warren gives us the scoop on a few of the many businesses that dish it out, both seasonally (Sara's and The Freezerie) and year-round (national franchise locations like Dairy Queen). Of course, during your travels, you may encounter other ice cream-like substances that are not advertised as such. To curb your curiosity, Matt Swanseger digs into the details and definitions (some of them legally mandated!) of items such as frozen custard, frozen yogurt, gelato, and more.

And when the sun goes down, Erie County is still out and about — whether it's downtown or at a more quaint locale like the drive-in. Jonathan Burdick speaks to the owners of the Sunset Drive-In in Waterford, a treasured relic of a bygone era still serving moviegoers today. There's something liberating about catching a fun summer flick under the stars; it makes that sweet country air smell a little sweeter.

The city will also breathe more freely if the Erie Coke plant, a repeated violator of environmental regulations and detriment to many east-siders' health and quality of life, were to shut down (as it has been court-ordered to). Everyone deserves a breath of fresh air, just as they do a roof over their heads. There's no better time to celebrate those rights than Independence Day. The Reader staff wishes everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

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# Will justice prevail?

PA DEP has moved to shut down Erie Coke, bringing the fight for Erie's equitable future into focus



### **By: Katie Chriest**

The writer Terry Tempest Williams became the matriarch of her family at age 34. Her mother, grandmothers, and aunts had died from breast cancer.

"Most statistics tell us breast cancer is genetic, hereditary, with rising percentages attached to fatty diets, childlessness, or becoming pregnant after thirty," Williams writes in her landmark book, *Refuge*. "What they don't say is living in Utah may be the greatest hazard of all."

Williams and her family had the misfortune of being "downwinders" whose environment was ineluctably altered by nuclear testing in the Nevada desert. The Atomic Energy Commission had "described the country north of the Nevada test site as 'virtually uninhabited desert terrain," she writes, making her family and the birds of the Great Salt Lake "some of the 'virtual uninhabitants."

She cannot prove that her mother, grandmothers, and aunts developed cancer from nuclear fallout, she notes. "But I can't prove that they didn't."

By referencing Williams in a piece about Erie Coke Corporation, here is what I'm *not* saying: that pollution from Erie Coke is akin to fallout from nuclear testing, or that downwinders from the plant are bound to develop cancer. It's important to note that although possible connections have arisen anecdotally, sufficient contemporary health data has not been collected to assess health problems and potential specific environmental causes.

What I am suggesting is that when corporate or political interests are involved, a sort of "desert-ing" of surrounding areas can follow. Desert regions are often treated as though "there's nothing there." So are neighborhoods primarily populated by people of color or in poverty, where "historically, minority and low-income Pennsylvanians have been forced to bear a disproportionate share of adverse environmental impacts," according to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In Pennsylvania, these areas are now being identified by the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ).

Because "Environmental Justice (EJ) communities typically have the least access to the political processes that can affect them the most," explains DEP, the EJ Enhanced Public Participation Policy was developed "to ensure that EJ communities have the opportunity to participate and be involved in a meaningful manner throughout the permitting process."

Erie Coke's federal Title V operating permit is currently expired, but the company has been able to continue since it met the deadline to apply for a new one in August 2017. As the citizen group Hold Erie Coke Accountable (HECA) explains on its website, "A Title V is like a snapshot that includes all emissions limits and standards to which the source is subject, as well as all operating, monitoring, and reporting requirements that apply at the time of the permit's issuance. By including all the requirements in one document, Title V Operating Permits help source operators comply with such requirements."

### Or not comply.

On July 1, DEP announced that it had "denied Erie Coke's application to renew its Title V operating permit and has filed a complaint for injunctive relief in Erie County Court seeking to shut down the coke production facility following years of numerous repetitive environmental violations," according to DEP's press release (See page 7 for more details).

"On May 6, DEP placed Erie Coke on the air quality compliance docket for nearly 80 unresolved air quality violations over the past two years," DEP's statement said.

And environmental justice areas, defined by our DEP as "any census tract where 20 percent or more individuals live in poverty, and/or 30 percent or more of the population is minority," bear the brunt of pollution when violations occur. Much of central Erie, including the area surrounding Erie Coke, has been identified as an enviAs of June 14, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had sent four formal Notice of Violation (NOV) letters to Erie Coke addressing emissions and other issues that stretch back through October of last year, according to Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP). On July 1, the PA DEP announced it was denying Erie Coke's operating permit and filing a court injunction to close the plant.

ronmental justice area, according to a DEP map. But this is hardly exclusive to Pennsylvania. In March, the Associated Press reported the results of a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which found that "African-Americans and Hispanics breathe in far more deadly air pollution than they are responsible for making."

The AP story, picked up by the Erie Times-News, explained that "Hispanics on average breathe in 63 percent more of the pollution that leads to heart and breathing deaths than they make. For African-Americans the figure is 56 percent, according to [the] study ... On the other hand, non-Hispanic whites on average are exposed to 17 percent less air pollution than they make."

In February of 2018, Vann Newkirk wrote in *The Atlantic*, "researchers embedded in the EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment released a study indicating that people of color are much more likely to live near polluters and breathe polluted air. Specifically, the study finds that people in poverty are exposed to more fine particulate matter than people living above poverty."

"Particulate matter was named a known definite carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and it's been named by the EPA as a contributor to several lung conditions, heart attacks, and possible premature deaths," adds Newkirk. "The pollutant has been implicated in both asthma prevalence and severity, low birth weights, and high blood pressure."

As we noted in May, Erie Coke was Erie County's top emitter of particulate matter in 2017. Last February, an administrative order issued by our DEP included violations related to particulate matter emissions. And on June 13, DEP "observed fugitive particulate matter emissions from the coke oven battery

### **NEWS & VIEWS**

of Erie Coke Corporation ... visible outside of Erie Coke's property."

I often refer to "our DEP" rather than "the DEP" — a switch I learned from leaders at HECA. It's a reminder that these offices - whether state or federal — are in place to serve us. We own them, and it's up to us to support their work and ensure that their eyes remain on our community.

And it's likewise up to us to keep pressure on business and political leaders, many of whom are choosing to remain silent despite knowing that Erie Coke has been unlawfully polluting our city for years, and potentially putting at risk themselves, their own neighbors, or their constituency.

Recently, the volume has been turned up locally and nationally on the public health risks near polluting coke plants. Just after NBC News covered ongoing air quality concerns regarding Clairton Coke Works in Allegheny County, Erie News Now reporter John Last launched an eye-opening five-part investigative series, "Erie Coke: Benefit or Burden." All five segments may be streamed online at erienewsnow.com.

late May to pay the city of Erie a civil penalty of \$118,598 under an administrative consent order" for repeated wastewater discharge violations, ETN's editorial board wrote that the company's "track record demonstrates why that [Title V operating permit] applica-

poverty to believe their voices won't be heard, and a lifetime of evidence to justify that perspective.

I recently had the opportunity to spend time with the great Erie Benedictine Joan Chittister. Later, I came across her writing on her website, imploring

When corporate or political interests are involved, a sort of "desert-ing" of surrounding areas can follow. Desert regions are often treated as though "there's nothing there." So are neighborhoods primarily populated by people of color or in poverty, where "historically, minority and low-income Pennsylvanians have been forced to bear a disproportionate share of adverse environmental impacts," according to PA DEP.

tion merits the strictest possible scrutinv."

This scrutiny must come from all of us — not just those who live next to polluters. Vulnerable communities may convey a desert-like silence. But that frequently reflects a constellation of

us "to speak out for the innocent and oppressed. To speak on, however long it takes and whatever the pressures ranged against us."

I think back to Terry Tempest Williams. When she began to speak out about the connection between nuclear

Meanwhile, after Erie Coke "agreed in circumstances that have led those in testing and cancer in her family and community, her mother told her to keep quiet. She grew up in a Mormon family, and "was taught as a young girl not to 'make waves' or 'rock the boat."

> Regardless of our traditions, many of us absorbed these lessons, either from a sense of not wanting to bother anyone, or not wanting to look naïve by or from an implicit understanding that we might jeopardize our ability to get ahead.

> But as Sister Joan reminds us, "Our obligation is not to be like those who would secure themselves by making others insecure."

> Our obligation is to speak out for those whose lives may not afford them the luxury of time to write letters to our elected officials, contact our DEP, or pressure business leaders. Our obligation is to help ensure that environmental justice means justice for all.

> Our obligation is to Hold Erie Coke Accountable.

Katie Chriest can be reached at Katie@eriereader.com.



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### **NEWS & VIEWS**

### DEP'S ACTION AGAINST ERIE COKE



On July 1, just before this issue went to print, PA DEP announced that it was denying Erie Coke's operating permit and filing a court injunction to close the plant following numerous violations — what the department called a "rare decision."

In a press release, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell said, "For more than a decade, DEP has received persistent complaints from the community and has continuously cited Erie Coke for various environmental violations. DEP has given Erie Coke many opportunities to address violations and comply with state and federal laws. Our staff have participated in stakeholder meetings and have worked with the community, elected officials and the company to address issues and concerns."

McDonnell added that "the frequency and severity of Erie Coke's violations have only increased during [DEP's] review of its permit renewal and the operator has offered no tangible causes for its non-compliance nor viable plans to assure future compliance."

He stressed that "DEP does not take this action lightly. DEP understands and appreciates the importance of industrial facilities to local communities. DEP proactively works with operators to achieve and maintain compliance and industrial sites across Pennsylvania demonstrate that economic success and environmental compliance are not mutually exclusive ideas."

In a statement, Hold Erie Coke Accountable (HECA) noted that "this situation mirrors the one in 2010, when Erie Coke's failure to comply likewise forced the DEP to deny the company's operating permit and issue a shutdown order. That process resulted in a \$6 million fine, paid into the PA General Fund by Erie Coke, which brought nine more years of disregard for Erie. Unfortunately, those monies did not fund needed health impact assessments as was the case with even larger fines paid by the same owner's now-shuttered sister plant in Tonawanda, N.Y."

HECA's statement emphasized that "this is a different moment" from 2010, and applauded "Mayor Schember, County Executive Dahlkemper, our City and County Councils, and members of our local news media who have helped the Erie community recognize that any corporation flagrantly and knowingly putting our city's people and future at risk will not be tolerated.

"HECA simply wants our PA DEP and federal EPA to do everything in their power to ensure that Erie Coke complies with the law so we the people of Erie are protected," the statement continues. "Furthermore, the economic burden of remediating the site should rest squarely on Erie Coke regardless of whether they stay in operation or are closed down."

While DEP's action is unquestionably a major step forward, those who are fighting to ensure that Erie Coke's pollution violations are halted recognize that this is only the beginning. The company's track record of filing appeals to delay legal action suggests that Erie can expect a similar response to DEP's announcement.

Public awareness and participation have therefore never been more critical. In order to enforce the tenets of environmental justice in our community, our DEP needs Erie's continued support for the legal battles likely to come.

Contact our DEP, follow HECA on Facebook, and stay tuned while we follow this story.

— Katie Chriest



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# Gem City Playbook: Grounded Art Center

The art venture from Sarah Moody and Ashley Pastore



### By: Rebecca Styn

ocated in the heart of Little Italy is a classic two-story industrial-style brick building built in 1930, at the beginning of the Great Depression. Outside hangs a sign acknowledging Angelo's Roofing and Construction, but inside something different is astir.

A new collaborative effort spearheaded by Ashley Pastore and Sarah Moody will be opening up this month. Known as Grounded Art Center, the collaboration brings Maggie Knox Western (a contemporary arts incubator, residency, exhibition space and 501c3 non-profit directed and operated by Moody) and Grounded Print Center (a print and paper shop operated by Pastore) into a collective unit that will become a contemporary membership-based organization providing a unique combination of all the above. The space will be dedicated to supporting the work of projects in the arts by providing access to space, equipment, resources, community, workshops, and exhibitions.

Because of this effort, the two also recently won first place (a tie alongside Whitethorn Digital) at the Big Idea StARTup Competition hosted by Ben Franklin Technology PArtners, splitting \$50,000 between the two groups. As for how this all came to be?

Pastore and Moody jumped on a phone call to talk about their experiences. Pastore opens, "I moved back to Erie under a year ago. I finished my master's in fine arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a degree in printmaking. I really honed in on this idea of a print shop because of being in this super political environment in Chicago. I have a lot of pride in being from Erie because it's a hard-working town. I started thinking that if I'm the kind of person that will leave (Erie) and never return and help influence the culture, then I'm part of the problem." Pastore believed Erie would be a perfect spot for her business. "I wanted to create a print, papermaking, and collaborative workspace. Somewhere that would foster creative thinking to ultimately influence our community as a whole." Moody's path was slightly different.

"My mother is from Erie, so I've been visiting here my entire life." Moody grew up between New York City and Miami, but often traveled to Erie. "We came to Erie twice every year when I was growing up." She developed an interest in photography at 10 years old, but even at a young age, she clearly had a talent for it — one that stayed with her throughout her life. "I went to college in New York to study." She ultimately received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Parson's School of Design alongAshley Pastore (pictured) and collaborator Sarah Moody (whose former gallery space was named after her grandmother, Maggie) will open the Grounded Art Center later this month, in the Angelo's Roofing and Construction building at 1504 Cherry St.

side a Bachelor of Arts from Eugene Lang College. "After college I moved to Miami and started a gallery space called Maggie Knox which was an incubator and exhibition space, and an artist's residency, with programming [featuring] emerging female artists as the focus." She ran that for three years. "I was part of the Miami art community and programmed and worked with many different events inside of contemporary art." Much of Moody's work focused in new development efforts and redevelopment of neighborhoods. "I was making art about it — talking about it and addressing these efforts." She was also responsible for helping to open MADE at the Citadel — a creative co-working space in the heart of Miami. "All of this was feeding this big vision and dream to open an incubator and creative art space where collaboration and community around the arts was the main focus."

Her sister was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, back in 2012 and she would go back and forth from Miami to Erie to be with her. "My sister was treated in Erie until she passed." She ultimately chose to move to Erie. "I moved here in 2017. I became aware of all the revitalization efforts going on and I wanted to be part of it in a big way and wanted to honor my maternal family legacy and felt Erie could benefit from my energy."

Moody and Pastore met through a mutual friend, and ultimately the collaboration of Maggie Knox Western and Grounded Print Center was born. "Maggie Knox Western is named after my maternal grandmother and my family's business — Knox Western — which is still in Erie. Maggie Knox Western is the incubator for creative businesses and Grounded is a print and paper making space with photography that is a collaborative space for Erie."

The duo is also looking to create a link to newer technology. "We want to be a place for artists in Erie to work — activating and programming different spaces in Erie." Currently, there is equipment for printmaking, paper making, and traditional black and white darkroom photography. They will also be selling artwork.

Pastore tells me, "we were both very interested in being in Little Italy because of [its ongoing] revitalization." It was serendipitous experiences that brought them to their current location. "It had everything we needed. The location was great, the space was perfect for what the print shop needed, and the price was right."

"The nature of a print shop is communal. The equipment is heavy and expensive. In contrast to other art spaces, you won't be renting a studio space. This is where all different kinds of people can really collaborate through this kind of medium. It is meant to be a place to communicate with each other."

The memberships will be tiered. Pastore explains: "There will be a monthly membership and a patronage membership as well as other options. You can come and get a day pass, and there will be workshops to learn how to use the equipment. "If you are a [patron] member, this membership will get you access to events we have — more of a donor type of relationship."

They are planning for a late July opening, but as with any business, it's reliant on all the pieces coming together. Moody adds, "We hope Maggie Knox Western and Grounded [Print Shop] add to the revitalization of Erie by retaining student artists and growing the contemporary art community. We want to be a pillar in that effort and continue to grow our equipment offerings, as well as regularly host exhibitions. We also hope to collaborate with many of the other cultural institutions in Erie."

In the end, I am reminded of a quote by Philosopher Alan Watts, "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance." These two epitomize it.

Rebecca Styn is the Executive Director of the Idea Fund Erie, a nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurial development and is the proprietor of Room 33 Speakeasy. She is also completing her Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Learning from Gannon University. Follow her on twitter at @rstyn.



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### **Hitting the Sweet Spots**

Ice cream stands across Erie County serve up scoops of summer



### **By: Nick Warren**

Summertime is a feast for the senses. Just think about the sun's warmth beaming down on your face as you breathe in some fresh air. If we were to take a *Family Feud*-style poll, I'd be willing to bet that for the "taste of summer" the survey would inevitably say: Ice cream. Going out for frozen treats is one of the essential components of summertime. The very journey to the spot is often an experience unto itself, be it by leisurely walk, invigorating bicycle ride, or family carpool, it's all a short trip built on anticipation.

"It takes everybody back to their youth regardless of how old they are," explained Jack Holland Jr., the owner of Holland's Dairy Queen on West 26th Street. "It's a good place for families as a whole to come together and just kind of celebrate everyday life. Sometimes its special occasions, but mostly it's just a good destination for people to get together."

From baby cones and beyond, many of us have built an indelible personal connection with the dessert, a sometimes Pavlovian reward for a job well done, or conversely the high-calorie self-medication following a bad day. It's not just the social context and memory triggers that make us love ice cream, as a study from the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences at the Institute of Psychiatry in London found that eating ice cream immediately affected the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) area of the brain, associated with reward-based stimuli.

So in short, we tend to like ice cream. We tend to like it even more in the summer, as it doesn't take a team of scientists to figure out that a cold treat on a hot day is pretty darn nice.

In particular, July just happens to be National Ice Cream Month, with Sunday the 21st (the third Sunday of the month) being National Ice Cream Day. This is all based on a 1984 proclamation by then-president Ronald Reagan declaring it "the perfect dessert and snack food" (though that same document also opens with the assertion that "ice cream is a nutritious and wholesome food.") Despite his famous predilection for jelly beans, the Gipper knew what the American people liked. In fact, according to the International Dairy Foods Association, the average American consumes over 20 quarts of ice cream every year, more per capita than any other nation.

Arguably the most quintessential Erie spot for the stuff is Sara's Restaurant on Presque Isle. A four-time recipient of Erie's Best Place to Get Ice Cream, Sara's is an iconic destination in one of The orange-vanilla twist at Sara's on Peninsula Drive is one of the unofficial symbols of summer in Erie.

the best locations in the entire county. The restaurant is loved for their burgers and hot dogs as well, but the headliner of the menu is their Orange Vanilla Twist. Speaking with owner Sean Candela, he said "we're blessed. We have really good employees. We have a lot of fun in what we do." Sara's is currently in their 39th year, and Candela has been there from the beginning (his brother, Brian Candela runs the nearby Sara's Campground).

Speaking to how business ramps up as the heart of summer approaches, Candela notes that "when we open April 1 — no matter what the weather is — we have a long line. So people come down no matter what the weather is. And then you get into May and you start getting the kids coming home from school or leaving at the end of the year" he explained. "And of course, when school's out officially, then we really get busy. But it's weather dependent. Cold and wet weather tends to slow us down, but if it's warm rain, or once you get into summer and the lifeguards are around and Waldameer is open it tends to be pretty busy all the time."

"A lot of times I'll grab just a little bit of vanilla when I leave because one of the keys to ice cream is that the faster it goes in and out the machine, the better it is," explained Candela.

"Because it's like a butter churning process. So on slow days, if you ever get chunks in it, it's beating and beating and beating, and it gets butter crystals in it, which isn't going to hurt you, but it just takes away from the smooth texture" that soft serve in particular is known for. "So the faster the better; it goes in and it comes out. It's the best! So that's why everybody says we have such great ice cream, because it doesn't stay in the machine very long."

As Sara's approaches their fourth decade in business, it's important to note that longevity happens to be one impressive characteristic of the industry on a larger level. Creamland has been in business just as long, and eastward down 26th street, Whippy Dip just celebrated their 54th year, opening in 1965. As far as chains go, the Pine Av-

enue Dairy Queen and the Lawrence Park stand (with its authentic vintage design) have also been in operation for decades. Holland's Dairy Queen began as a stand at that location in 1970, and has existed in its current form since 1984. After his father opened a location on 12th and Peninsula in the summer of 1968, he began working with his father at a young age. You can see a plaque at the 26th Street store honoring his 45 years of service. As to why he was happy to do it for so long, he admitted "I liked the setting. I like the fact that you have families that want to come to you and you have employees that enjoy being there. Because it's ice cream, and it's fun, and it's high-energy."

Also situated along West 26th Street is one of the relative newcomers to the scene, The Freezerie. Boasting a menu of homemade ice cream, the parlor was opened by Kang Garnic and his father Gary in 2012.

"It's all from scratch, for anyone who doesn't want to believe it. If it was any fresher, we'd have the cows out in the back," joked the younger Garnic. "The same goes for the dairy-free vegan," he added. "We do buy the cream, we buy the milk, we buy all the ingredients. There are few steps involved when it comes to the churning process, but from start to finish, it's probably about 90 minutes to two-and-a-half hours," he explained, illustrating the path from unboxing ingredients to clean up time.

The Freezerie prides themselves on subtly inventive flavors with a strong creamy base. I fell in love with their sea salt recipe in 2013, when their bright blue offering proved to be the perfect pairing while watching the final season of Breaking Bad. "There have been some flavors where we thought that we basically got the reverse of the thought process we were going to go with. Honestly, one of the top [examples] of that is the sea salt." Garnic admitted. "It was one of those experimentations that was debuted in the very first year. 'Oh hey, it's another one, let's give it a shot' we thought. But long, long story short, my tag team partner at the time — my dad — didn't have the heart at the time but he later dare-we-say confessed a little bit to say 'Kang, if you want to try that, go for it, but I don't think it's going to sell at all.' And it turned out to be in

### FEATURE

the top four that we make and serve [laughs]."

One of the other remarkable things about ice cream shops is their near omnipresence, even when entering more rural areas. From Heavenly Creamery in Conneaut, Ohio to Farmer's Daughter in Westfield, NY, there's no shortage of top-quality places to grab a cold treat, and that's just along Route 20. The local ice cream stand is an important part of any town (growing up in Edinboro, trips to the Dairy Supreme were required summer fare). Many of these have wide selections through reputable partners like Breyers and Perry's Ice Cream, in addition to their own unique recipes. There's frozen yogurt chains, such as Menchie's on upper Peach and the newly opened Pinkberry in the West Erie Plaza. There are creative iconoclasts like Fat Lenny's, who this year moved from The Shops on the Hill to a new location on West Eighth Street to much success. In short, there's a lot of sweet treats out there to be had. If you're one who's inclined to make a drive to get a nice desert, you're in luck.

"Whenever good weather is abound, not just in Erie, people want something refreshing, something sweet, something cold and the like," Garnic reasoned. " I'd like to think that we're one of the stands, one of the places in Erie that can supply that," he smiled humbly. "There have been plenty of days where it's the first crazy summer day, and people come out. And it's not just us, it's multiple stands out there, multiple establishments that get hit that day too. It goes hand in hand like, dare-I-say, [laughs] vanilla and cookie dough."

Nick Warren enjoys a nice butter pecan now and then, as well as county-wide exploring. He can be reached at nick@eriereader.com

### Frozen Dairy 101

A breakdown of everything you'd probably break down and eat regardless



### **By: Matt Swanseger**

There are several legitimate reasons one might scream. Traffic jams. In-laws. The sudden loss of a pet chinchilla. But there is one thing specifically that you scream, I scream, and we *all* scream for. And that thing, of course, is ice cream.

But perhaps that's oversimplifying it. Nowadays, one might get flustered over frozen custard. Or emotionally crescendo for gelato. Same difference? Au contraire — there are key distinctions to be made between our favorite frozen dairy fare. The chemistry and physics behind it can get pretty sophisticated — but don't worry; we won't turn this into a *dessert*ation.

### Milk, for all it's worth

To understand the composition of frozen dairy desserts, you must first understand the main components of milk: water, milk solids (the sugar lactose, minerals, and proteins), and milk fat (also referred to as butterfat). In milk's natural unpasteurized and un-homogenized state, the majority of the butterfat is concentrated in a layer of cream, which doesn't readily associate with the watery skim milk layer below (butterfat molecules are kind of elitist).

The vast majority of milk that is commercially sold undergoes homogenization, which busts the fat globules to bits under high pressure and redistributes them evenly throughout the liquid for a more universalized richness of flavor. Figuratively, it's socialism; chemically, it's called an emulsion (mingling two things that don't normally mingle).

Structurally, ice cream and its relatives require another ele-

Traditional meets experimental at The Freezerie on West Ridge Road. The waffle cone was introduced at the 1904 St. Louis Fair when ice cream vendors ran out of plates; this unmistakably blue sea salt ice cream has become one of The Freezerie's top-sellers since its debut.

ment — air bubbles. However, homogenized milk is a pretty stable emulsion, meaning it doesn't separate easily. To derive ice cream and its relatives from homogenized milk. that emulsion must be destabilized only to undergo another emulsion (so the fat globules cling together again and to make room for the air bubbles). A spinning paddle called a dasher whips air bubbles into the ice cream mix (milk, cream, and sugar) as it is frozen, reshuffling the molecular bonds so that a "scaffolding" of sugars, ice crystals, and fats forms around them. Added ingredients called emulsifiers and stabilizers keep this delicate structure sound.

### Much ado about fluffing

Is all this science melting your brain more rapidly than a hot fudge sundae? The (legal) definitions of frozen dairy desserts are really only based on two criteria: fattiness (butterfat content) and fluffiness (air content, or "overrun"). Products with more butterfat and less overrun will taste richer and have a denser texture, whereas those with less butterfat and more overrun will be lighter. According to the FDA, a product must contain no less than 10 percent butterfat, no more than 100 percent overrun (i.e. it cannot be fluffed to more than twice its original volume), and weigh no less than 4.5 pounds per gallon to considered ice cream; otherwise it falls under the catch-all category "frozen dairy dessert."

Obviously, not all ice creams are created equal. Economy ice creams meet bare minimum legal standards (think generic school cafeteria ice cream cups); standard ice creams (overruns of 99 percent to 51 percent) occupy the bulk of most grocer's freezers (Edy's, Breyer's, Perry's etc.); more indulgent premium ice cream varieties contain less than 50 percent air and around 14 percent butterfat; super premium ice cream varieties are even richer. All ice creams initially finish at a soft serve consistency (~21 degrees Fahrenheit); hardening drops ice cream to around 10 degrees Fahrenheit, allowing it to survive being packaged, loaded into trucks, and offloaded at its final destination without melting.

# Ice cream's extended frozen family

**Frozen custard:** Essentially ice cream (10 percent butterfat or more) with the addition of egg yolk solids (legal minimum of 1.4 percent). Low overruns

(15 to 30 percent) mean you better have a strong spoon in hand; frozen custard is thick.

**Frozen yogurt:** Like ice cream, but with yogurt cultures (good bacteria) added.

**Gelato:** An ice cream cousin perfected by the Italians; it is traditionally prepared with whole milk (3.5 percent butterfat) with no added cream and churned slowly to limit overrun.

**Sherbet:** Less fatty (legally must contain 1 to 2 percent butterfat) and more sugary than ice cream; this format typically best supports fruity flavors.

**Mellorine:** Poser ice cream with vegetable oils standing in for most of, if not all of, the butterfat.

**Sorbet:** Contains no dairy whatsoever; also fruity. Super old school — legend has it that the Roman emperor Nero (37-68 C.E.) sent slaves into the mountains to fetch snow for him, which he then infused with fruit juices and honey. Today's sorbets are responsibly sourced, although you still might send your significant other to the grocery store "on an errand" to pay homage to the old ways.

Matt Swanseger has never been too good for highoverrun ice cream cups with cardboard lids, and he's never been too good to answer your e-mails either (mswanseger@eriereader.com)





# At the Drive-In: Waterford's Sunset

Tuning in to the much-loved local attraction, still in operation



### **By: Jonathan Burdick**

There is something special about the drive-in theater. Of course, it's a familiar setting in Hollywood films. The drive-in is where Sandy rejected Danny Zuko's advances in his sin wagon. In *Twister*; it's where a tornado ripped through a screening of *The Shining*; where a possessed car almost murdered a young woman in *Christine*; and where a group of working-class greasers nearly rumbled with the preppy Socs in *The Outsiders*.

The drive-in theater is a quintessentially American experience. It harkens back to a previous generation, engraved into our collective romanticized memories alongside jukeboxes, malt shop hangouts, and *Archie* comics, and there's still one in virtually our own backyard.

This now iconic experience all began in a New Jersey driveway. It was the early years of the Great Depression when

a salesman named Richard Hollingshead began tinkering around with the idea of an open-air movie theater outside of his own home. He was inspired by his mother who found theater seats uncomfortable. His setup was simple. He placed a 1928 Kodak projector on the hood of his car, hung up a bedsheet between the trees. and then began problem-solving. What if it rains? How could he ensure everybody could see the screen? What about the sound?

By 1933, he, his cousin, and some business partners opened the very first drive-in theater in Camden. With it, they jump-started a new industry and by the late-1950s, there were over 4,000 drive-in theaters across the United States.

Its rapid rise, however, was followed by years of steady decline. Color television sets soon became living room centerpieces. VCRs and VHS tapes were more accessible by the late-1970s. Attendance decreased as a result. By 1980, there were still nearly 2,400 drive-ins, but such new competition had created revenue problems. Sunday flea markets increasingly became another source of modest revenue, while some theaters turned to screening niche B-movies and adult films to keep their businesses afloat. Cable television and, in recent The Sunset Drive-In in Waterford is one of only about 320 drive-ins still operating in the United States, down from 4,000 in the late 1950s and 2,400 in 1980.

years, streaming services created even more competition. Hollywood studios embracing digital technology further strangled out dozens more drive-in theaters that had managed to hold on, as the conversion was too expensive.

Today, the number of drive-in theaters in operation hovers somewhere around 320. Only one remains in the Erie region: the Sunset Drive-In in Waterford. Located south of Waterford on Route 97. the Sunset Drive-In first opened in 1948 with a screening of the Gary Cooper classic *The Westerner*. In 1988, it was purchased by Dennis and Margaret Koper. Dennis had worked at the drive-in since 1968 and their ownership was a happy accident, of sorts.

"When I started there, I was just servicing the equipment, because I was in the electronic service business," Dennis explains. "Then the one day, the guy who owned it, he walked into the shop there, and he says to me, 'You want to buy the theater?' And I said, 'Yeah, okay.' He threw his keys on the counter and walked out the door."

Dennis never thought the owner was serious — it wasn't the first time the owner had said that — but then a few weeks later, he received a call from the owner's lawyer saying they needed to get together to close the deal.

"So, we did," he says with a laugh. "And that's how I wound up with it. I didn't really expect to buy it."

Buying the theater was a risk. Sunset Drive-In's attendance was dwindling. The previous owner had progressively relied on X-rated movies to help pay the bills, but taking another risk, Dennis and Margaret turned it back to only first-run family movies, relying on the flea market and concession sales for extra revenue.

"We just kept updating and updating the theater over the years," he says.

Then a few years back, he and Margaret were faced with a difficult decision. Should they convert to digital projection?

"I was ready to call it a day because I'm getting close to 70, you know? I really didn't want to go into debt that much, but my wife kind of talked me into it. She says, 'If you don't do it, you're just going to end up with



### FEATURE



a piece of land with a flea market.' She nudged me into it and away we went."

With all of the updates, it cost them nearly \$200,000.

"That was a lot of money to put out," says Dennis. "You could almost say it's another mortgage payment. That's another 20 years of payments."

He doesn't regret the deci-

sion, but he also doesn't mince words over his dislike of the digital equipment. He knew well and could service the previous equipment himself, which he still has in storage ("Useless!" he laughs), but the digital equipment requires a special technician out of Buffalo to service it, another added expense unless he did the When the sun goes down, the motion pictures go up at the Sunset Drive-In in Waterford, which has been in business since 1948.

long and expensive training himself.

"There's nothing I can do with it," he laughs, but one thing is for sure: gone are the days of film reels. "You just get a cartridge and you download it into your server, then you go onto the Internet to get your security keys to download onto a thumb drive which lets you unlock the movies."

He says he has had a few people interested in buying it over the years, but he's never received a firm offer. So, he continues to keep the operation running, working the projection room each weekend while Margaret still works the ticket booth.

"It's been a hair-raising thing for a while, but it's a lot of fun too," he says, noting that after a heart attack in 2004, he retired from the electronics business. "It's a good thing I had the theater going. We were on a good winning streak there until we had to put the digital in."

For many who grew up spending summer weekends at the drive-in, the memories are markedly connected to one's childhood: waiting in the long line of cars as dad drums impatiently on the wheel, the slow crawl up and down the rows looking for that perfect parking spot, grabbing a can of Coke out of the cooler and then throwing around the football while waiting for it to get dark enough to start the first of each night's double-feature.

These memories were made all over the Erie region. There was the Peninsula Drive-In with its two screens, which was located across from Waldameer Park. It closed in 2001. There was the Star Drive-In along West 12th Street and the Skyway Drive-In on East Lake Road. There was the Auto Drive-In on Route 8 just outside of Titusville (closed in the early-'80s) and the Airway Drive-In in Meadville (closed in 1985). The Corry Drive-In closed shop in 2011, while the Pymatuning Lake Drive-In Theater in Andover, Ohio held on until 2015 (although their flea market remains).

As for the Sunset Drive-In, here's to hoping that there will be many, *many* more years of making memories there.

The Sunset Drive-In operates Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer until Labor Day. Children 6 and younger are free, children between 7 to 11 are \$3, and those 12 and older are \$8 per person.

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



### **CALENDAR**

### French Creek Music Festival is Back, Helping to Give Back



THURSDAY, JUL. 4-6

s we celebrate our indepen-Adence this Fourth of July, it's important to remember those who continue to serve us and volunteer their time to help others and their community.

The Venango General Store is proud to bring back the French Creek Music Festival, benefiting first responders. The three-day festival is a feel-good event for family and friends alike, featuring local

The French Creek Music Festival brings together 20 bands over the course of three days, with the proceeds benefiting first responders.

bands such as the Stormalong Scoundrels, 40 Rust, and TK Blues Co., in addition to 17 more. Mark Olenick, owner of Venango

General Store and the heart behind this Music Festival explains that, "This event actually started about six years ago, though it wasn't always a music fest. It used to be a Barbeque Benefit for the Venango Volunteer Fire Department." He mentions how the BBQ didn't bring in the proceeds they had hoped for, but when they decided to switch over to a music festival, it was a true game changer.

"It's great because the music is fcmf.rocks

### **Panegyri Is No Small Wonder**

Popular Greek Fest continues to amaze 31 years later



### FRIDAY, JUL. 5-7

Cour of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World existed within the Greek Empire, each one an amazing feat of human architecture and engineering. The Statue of Zeus at Olympia stood 40 feet tall, with skin of ivory and robes of hammered gold. The Colossus of Rhodes was no less impressive, a 110-foot-tall bronze figure of the Greek god Helios (sovereign of the sun) surveying the Rhodian harbor. Or how about The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus or the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, wildly ornate stone sanctuaries looming high above astounded onlookers?

Now consider a single piece of baklava pastry, a multilayered marvel of flaky phyllo dough and crushed spiced walnuts, over 40 alternating strata fused togeth-

er with honey sweet syrup. If you weren't around to shed tears for the crumbling of Zeus or Colossus, you'll surely get misty-eyed as one of these buttery labors of love is crushed between your mandibles. The volunteers at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church prepare them by the thousands for each year's Panegyri, or "Greek Fest," its annual ode to Hellenic culture and fundraiser for its ministries.

In the pantheon of Erie ethnic festivals, Panegyri has long reigned supreme, drawing tens of thousands to the church grounds each July for a weekend-long marathon of Greek food, music, and culture. Outside the church you'll find savory street fare like gyros and Greek dogs and fries; inside you can indulge in full lamb shank and fish dinners and delicacies like dolmades (stuffed grape leaves), moussaka (eggplant

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church has hosted Panegyri (colloquially "Greek Fest") since 1989, and in that time it has grown to become one of Erie's most popular summer festivals.

one involved. — Kalli Oberlander

Cussewago St., Venango, PA 16440 //

Thursday through Saturday //

Venango General Store, 21747

emphasizes.

lasagna), and spanakopita (spinach pie). And those pastries — those sweet, beautiful pastries. Nutty baklava and kataifi. Chocolaty yogurt cake. Creamy, custard-filled galaktoboureko. Fruity pasta flora. If you're not sure what your Achilles heel is, try a sampler (and don't share your weakness with anyone).

Of course, plenty of ouzo (an anise-flavored aperitif), beer, and wine will be available to get revelers in the proper spirit — if the authentic music and dancing doesn't do the trick. Tour the church and church cafeteria for a gander at beautiful iconography, jewelry, and artwork; and while you're there, enter yourself for a trip to Greece.

Only two lucky winners will get that far, but tens of thousands will get pretty close by simply attending one of Erie's most cherished summer rituals. - Matt Swanseger

Friday 2:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (fireworks), Sunday noon to 7 p.m. // 4376 W. Lake Rd. // Free admission and parking // erieorthodox. org





sorceriefoodtruck.com

### Great Blue Heron a Festival for the Generations



### FRIDAY, JUL. 5-7

or a long time now (since I was, or just barely wasn't, a flanneled long-hair of the 90s, really) I've had a little multiplicity of friends drop a line — usually sometime around the Summer Solstice and year after year — to ask if they'll be seeing me at the Heron.

"Hope to!," they always say, and they mean it, too, because they know pretty much anyone who's ever been there and is going again can't wait to get back — and anyone who's not, well, they wish they were.

A good couple of handfuls of years have passed between those first and last lines dropped from longago college friends, and even longer-ago high school friends. We're all older, and some of us are now grayish The Great Blue Heron Music Festival in Sherman, N.Y. boasts an undeniable family vibe and, of course, great music of the roots, folk, soul, and Americana varieties.

flanneled long-hairs, and a lot of us have at least a rugrat or two in tow most of the time.

So all those people who went to the Heron as kids who grew up going to the Heron — are, in a lot of cases, now taking their kids, who'll grow up going to the Heron. And in a lot of cases the family connections stretch back to the grandparents too, even, and even where there aren't kids, there are tribes of friends that have grown together everywhere there.

That takes me back to a sweet little moment years ago: "I've been right here for the last 20 years," an allsmiles guy named Bob Johnson told me, showing off his wife, his daughter, and his grandchild as they relaxed and jammed out in the same spot on the hill he told me he'd always (really — at that point, for the last 20 years) set his tribe up at.

"Just look out there. It's beautiful," he said, and he was right.

The family vibe is strong at the Heron. Really strong, and really real. And that's the way it's always been, and — at 28 years in and still going and growing beautifully on a big farm in the rolling foothills of New York's lush Southern Tier — it seems that's the way it'll be for some time.

That literally roots-deep connection to the festival grounds is a strong draw there and back, no doubt, but

make no mistake: It's the music that keeps the Heron soaring.

And this year, I must say, the lineup of this always-awesome big little festival is stacked up to be about as great as it gets: Donna the Buffalo, The Wailers, 10,000 Maniacs, The Gunpoets, Sarah Shook & The Disarmers, The Town Pants, The Probables, Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People, John & Mary, Alison Pipitone, Richie Stearns, The Sun King Warriors, Cats on Holiday, The Slacktones, Mosaic Foundation, Urban Pioneers, Folkfaces, Janet Batch, Blind Owl Band, Little Mountain Band, Max Garcia Conover, Black Rock Zydeco, Old Dawg Bluegrass, Slyboots Circus, Feverhawk, Bill Ward, Charity & The Drive, Jeb & Tara, Derek Davis, Alex Kates Band, Tiger Maple String Band, Stewed Mulligan, Ken Hardley, Buffalo Zydeco, Steel Rails, Rebecca McIlvain, and Ezekiel's Wheel.

Whew.

"It really is my favorite festival — and [I've] been all over the place," singer and multi-instrumentalist Charity Nuse, a longtime Heron player, told me while we sat for a chat some years back. As performers, she said, "we have some of our best shows here," and it's because everyone is drawing from and giving to the shared energy unique to that space.

"It's an amazing experience," she said, and she was right, too. — Ryan Smith

Friday through Sunday // 2361 Wait Corners Rd, Sherman, NY 14781 // For tickets, directions, daily lineups, and more information, visit greatblueheron.com.

MUSIC

### Dave VanAmburg & Friends Jul. 3, 5, 10, 12 — 6 to 9 p.m. Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

**Crush** Jul. 3 — 5:30 to 8 p.m. Harley Davidson of Erie, 3712

W. 12th St. hderie.com. Music in the Park:

### Loose Change Band

Jul. 3 — 7 to 9 p.m. Lake Erie Community Park, 10192 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA 16423 // 814-774-4738

**Open Mic w Jason Heberle** and Insult to Injury Jul. 3 — 10 p.m. Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301

German St. facebook.com. French Creek Music Festival

### Jul. 4, 5, 6, 7 Venango General Store, 21747 Cussewago St., Venango,

PA 16440 facebook.com Grateful Fest 2019

### Jul. 4, 5, 6, 7

Deadheads unite annually at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park's Grateful Fest, featuring a full weekend of jam bands and outdoor recreation, along with a "legendary" fireworks display over the water.

### rettsville, Ohio 44231 nlqp.com **Sam Hyman & Friends** Jul. 5 — 6 to 9 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing,

Nelson Ledges Quarry Park,

12001 Nelson Ledge Rd., Gar-

Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

### Earthquakers Jul. 5 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Kevin Wilson Jul. 5 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

### JD Blues & Jazz

Jul. 5 — 7 p.m. Warm up your soul as JD Jazz and Blues brings the fun with jazz, blues, and Latin standards rendered in the band's unique lyrical style. Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

### **Cee Brown's Variety Show 5** Jul. 5 — 10 p.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

### Music in the Vineyards: East Ave

Jul. 6 — 5 to 9 p.m. Penn Shore Winery & Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd., North East, PA 16428 pennshore.com.

### Bonfires & Brews: The Groove

Jul. 6 — 6 to 10 p.m. Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405

### Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com. **Small Town Revolution** Jul. 6 — 6 to 10 p.m.

Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

### Bodysnatcher, Shiver, Scars to Prove It, Inertia, Deadbeat

Jul. 6 — 6 to 11:30 p.m. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

### Fred Oakman Jul. 6 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edin-

borolakeresort.com. **Carl Hultman Jazz Trio** Jul. 7 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

### Acoustic Ear Candy Jul. 7 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 grundelcellars.com.

### Sunday Sesh: Good for Nuthin String Band

Jul. 7 — 1 to 4 p.m. Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

### Music and Munchies: Lexi Weege & Sal Del Negro Jul. 7—1 to 5 p.m.

Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300 facebook.com.

### Tyler Smilo Jul. 7 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Monday Music in the Woods: Katie & Jessie Jul. 8 — 6 to 8 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

### **Open Mic Night** Jul. 9 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

### 8 Great Tuesdays: The Groove

asburywoods.org.

Jul. 9 — 6:30 p.m. The 2018 Best of Erie award winner for Best Band returns to the Highmark Amphitheater with the funk. Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park, 726 W. Bayfront Pkwy. porterie.org.

### **Mid-Day Art Break: The Mountain Thyme Ramblers** Jul. 10 — noon to 1 p.m. Grab lunch at the Frie Art

Grab lunch at the Erie Art Museum and enjoy the Irish/ bluegrass stylings of Mountain Thyme Ramblers inside the air conditioning or out on the patio. *Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.* 

### UPMC Sunset Music Series: Six Year Stretch, Daddy Longleg's Homegrown Revival Jul. 10 — 5:30 p.m. Beach 1 at Pl State Park. 1

Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com. Music in the Park: Jim

### Madden & Friends

Jul. 10 — 7 to 9 p.m. Lake Erie Community Park, 10192 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA 16423 // 814-774-4738

MVP

Jul. 11 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

### Jesse Weston

Jul. 11 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

### Smith Carillion Series: Carl Eyndhoven

Jul. 11 — 7 to 8 p.m. Smith Chapel at Penn St. Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

### We Were Sharks, Summer Wars, Real Fake Doors, One Wing Jul. 11 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.

The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland St. facebook.com. **814 Metal Fest** 

Jul. 12, 13, 14 Erie County Fairgrounds, 13993 PA-8, Wattsburg, PA 16442 facebook.com.

### Stiletto

Jul. 12 — 6 to 9 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

### The Groove

Jul. 12 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

### The High Life

Jul. 12 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

### Summer Music Series: TK Blues Co.

Jul. 12 — 7 to 9 p.m. Goodell Gardens' Summer Music Series continues with TK Blues Company, an experienced band that describes itself as "not quite copycat, not quite original," and concessions provided by the Chameleon food truck. Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

**Sounds Around Town: The Duke Sherman Band** Jul. 12 — 7:30 p.m.

### CALENDAR

Firemen's Cherry Fest a Cheery Family Celebration in Historic North East



### TUESDAY, JUL. 9 - 13

Scelebrations and festivals, which highlight local art, vendors, food, and provide an excuse for community members to come out and enjoy the warm weather. Some of these festivities are smaller and more community-oriented, while others — like North East's Cherry Fest — attract thousands of visitors from surrounding areas annually.

Approaching the eve of the 74th annual North East Firemen's Cherry Festival fundraiser, preparations have begun in the quaint coastal town. Carnival rides provided for the second year in a row by the Thomas and Powers Ride Company are being brought into Heard Park in historic downtown, and arranged to begin operation on July 9, the opening night The North East Firemen's Cherry Festival returns for a 74th year with classic carnival rides and concessions.

of the 5-day event, with food and vendor stands being erected in the surrounding grassy area.

At this year's event, "We have our famous North East Fire Department (NEFD) sausage sandwiches and fries," Dave Meehl, fire chief of Crescent/Fuller House and the co-chairman of Cherry Festival said. The Taylors, a local family-run food vendor, will serve up their popular Doughboy's Waffles.

The Cherry Fest parade begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 13 — the final day of festivities — on Main Street. This parade happens to also be the largest volunteer firemen's parade in Pennsylvania.

Those driving to the event can find free street parking around town and handicap parking on Main Street and at the senior center, said Meehl. — Hannah McDonald

Tuesday through Saturday // Heard Memorial Park, 31 N. Lake St, North East, PA 16428 // All ages // Free admission // (814) 725-5616 // necherryfestival.com

### WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

**Rodger Montgomery** Jul. 12 — 9:30 p.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Music in the Vineyards: Tennessee Backporch Jul. 13 — 5 to 9 pm. Penn Shore Winery & Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd., North East,

### Malpractice

Jul. 13 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

PA 16428 pennshore.com.

Dionisio/Colette Bone Jul. 13 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort com.

### **Doug Phillips Trio** Jul. 13 — 7 p.m. *Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook com.*

### John Two-Hawks

Jul. 13 — 7 to 10 p.m. With an evocative tapestry of mystical sound and moving oratory, John Two-Hawks welcomes all to reawaken the awareness of our living connection to the earth and to the unseen world. *Lily Dale Assembly, 5 Melrose Park, Lily Dale, NY 14752 lilydaleassembly,org.*  Paper Matches, Wasted Info, Half Glass Jul. 13 — 10 p.m.

Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

### Sunday Sesh: Paolello & Gone

Jul. 14 — 1 to 4 p.m. Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

### Rankin & Schell Jul. 14 — 1 to 4 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North Eas

11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

### Exit Wounds, Home Seeker, Sacred Decay, Bong Mongrels Jul. 14 — 5 to 11:30 p.m.

Indy metalcore band Exit Wounds and special guests Home Seeker will be performing live at Basement Transmissions with local deathcore band Sacred Decay and local 420-inspired thrash band, The Bong Mongrels. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

### Justin Moyar

Jul. 14 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Monday Music in the Woods: Paolello and Gone Jul 15 — 6 to 8 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

### 8 Great Tuesdays: Separate Ways

Jul. 16 — 6:30 p.m. Separate Ways, a Journey tribute band, will perform at the Highmark Amphitheater for fans of '80s arena rock. Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park, 726 W. Bayfront Pkwy. porterie.org.

### Born A New, Shattered Utopia, Fall of Nox

Jul. 16 — 7 to 11 p.m. Another slate of metalcore and hardcore hits Basement Transmissions. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

### Erie Philharmonic String Orchestra

Jul. 16 — 7:30 p.m. Gibson Park, Main St. (Rte. 20), North East, PA 16428 eriephil.org.

### The Vaughns, The Vics, Josh Travis, Penny Racer Jul. 16 — 7:30 to 11 p.m. The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland St. facebook.com.

Mid-Day Art Break: Gem City Jazz Band Jul. 17 — noon to 1 p.m.



# MIKE SUPER: MAGIC & ILLUSION

Saturday, July 27 • 7 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



*miac.mercyhurst.edu* or 814-824-3000

### Cirque du Soleil Returns to Erie...With a Twist



### WEDNESDAY, JUL. 10-14

he majesty and excitement of Cirque du Soleil is returning to the Erie Insurance Arena — but this time around, it's as if the show anticipated its surroundings. We may be in the middle of summer, but CRYSTAL, Cirque's latest exploration of movement, music, and what is humanly and physically possible, takes to the ice.

Not specifically inspired by the beauty and grace of a frozen Erie — but wildly appropriate, all the same - CRYSTAL whirls together a spectacular blend of figure skating, acrobatic movement, and the artistry of dance for their 42nd creative endeavor. As with all Cirque shows, CRYSTAL has its own narrative. Crystal, a young lady who feels a little bit lost in the world, decides to leave her version of reality for one more compelling. She glides out and away onto a frozen pond and travels through the ice into a chilly,

underwater world, where she is able to meet a reflection of herself - a being that serves as a guide, so to speak, empowering Crystal to discover the true depths of her creativity. She connects to her authentic self for what is perhaps the first time, and makes her way back into the mortal realm with a newfound sense of confidence and self-understanding.

The tale invites audiences to better understand themselves, look at experience and life from a new perspective, and entertain the possibility of being awoken to one's imagination.

During the performance, acrobats and figure skaters will soar above the audience, glide across the ice, and seemingly blur the lines between skating and physical feats of grandeur. Performers are of 11 different nationalities, and they are skilled in figure skating, music, comedy, extreme skating, and acrobatics.

Perfect for a hot summer night and a beautiful escape into a frozen realm, CRYSTAL will inspire, delight, and leave audiences spellbound by the amazing performances by yet another highly talented and outstanding Cirque du Soleil cast. — Miriam Lamey

Wednesday through Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday 1:30pm // 809 French St. // \$35-\$75 // cirquedosoleil.com

### Summer Carillon Series Continues to Answer the Bell



### THURSDAY, JUL. 11

Cince Smith Chapel opened on Penn **J**State Behrend's (PSB) campus in 2002, the campus church has hosted the Smith Carillon Concert Series. The theme of these concerts is simple; they all feature carillonneurs, or individuals who have mastered and perform musical works on carillons.

What is a carillon you ask? It is "a musical instrument consisting of at least two octaves of carillon bells arranged in chromatic series and played from a keyboard permitting control of expression through variation of touch," according to The Guild of Carillonneurs of North America (GCNA). In short, carillons are organs (of the musical variety).

Holding the first series slot is Carl Van Eyndhoven, a graduate of organ and music pedagogy from the Netherlands Carillon School. Today, he is the carillonneur of the cities of Tilburg in the Netherlands and Mol in Belgium. Van Eyndhoven is internationally recognized for his jazz improvisations on carillon, and

for his memorable instrumental recitals. He has "played concerts in Japan, Denmark, U.S., Ireland, Poland (and) Germany," said Chris Fox, assistant director of civic engagement and Smith Chapel at PSB.

"The lineup of performers is actually set by members of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. Our tour includes Western N.Y. with locations in Williamsville, Rochester, and Alfred University," Fox continued. "Once they set the lineup of performers, the venue selects the dates for the summer tour. This way we are having those with the background and expertise find the performers and we focus on making sure our venue is an enjoyable place to enjoy the music."

Following Van Eyndhoven's performance, the Smith chapel will host carillon talent in the form of Alex Johnson on July 18, Margaret Pan on July 25, and Geert D'hollander on August 1.

The events, held outdoors in the summer evening air, have "a very relaxing vibe and we hope those who attend would enjoy the community feel of the event — and the complimentary hot dogs," Fox said. — Hannah McDonald

Thursdays through Aug. 1, 7 p.m. // 4701 College Dr. // Free // Guests encouraged to bring blankets or chairs for outdoor seating // All Ages

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.ora.

### **UPMC Sunset Music** Series: Jamie B. Gallagher, **The Breeze Band**

.lul. 17 — 5:30 n.m. Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

### Matty B & 57 Pickup

Jul. 17 — 6 to 9 p.m. Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com

### **Music in the Park: Contels**

Jul. 17 — 7 to 9 p.m. Lake Erie Community Park, 10192 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA 16423 // 814-774-4738

### DANCE

### Hail to the Red, White, and Blue Dance .lul. 6 — 6:30 to 10 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Par-

ish Center, 2216 Peach St. usadanceerie.org. Cirque du Soleil: Crystal

Jul. 10, 11, 12, 13—7:30 p.m. & Jul. 13—4 p.m. p.m. & Jul. 13 — 4 p.n & Jul. 14 — 1:30 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. cirque.com.

### FOOD AND DRINK

**Happy Appy Food Tour** Jul. 3. 10. 17 — 5 to 7 p.m. Bolero, 16 W. 10th St. eriefoodtours.com.

### **Downtown Erie Food Tour**

Jul. 5, 6, 12, 13 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

### 20th Anniversary Celebration

Jul. 6 — 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Arrowhead Wine Cellars, 12073 E. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

### **July Paint N Sip** Jul. 6 — 5 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

### North East Food Tour Jul. 6 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Little Shop of Donuts, 36 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com

### Doggy Ice Cream Social Jul. 7 — 2 to 3 p.m.

The Little Church on the Hill, 10410 High St., Albion, PA 16401 sites.google.com.

### **Makeover Your Leftovers** Jul. 10 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St. LifeWorksErie.org. Siri Thai Cuisine Jul. 12 — 5 to 10 p.m.

### Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300 facebook.com.

### Good Vibes Beer Fest Jul. 13 — noon to 4 p.m. Voodoo Brewery Compound, 834 Bessemer St., Meadville, PA 16335 voodoobrewery.com

### **Flagship Trolley Wine Tours**

Jul. 13 — noon to 6 p.m. Millcreek Mall (east of Towne-Place Suites at Home), 5800 Peach St. 814-453-4666

### Whiskey Barrel Tasting Jul. 13 — 1 to 2 p.m. Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing,

8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand 20.com.

### **BBQ Chicken &** Holupki Dinner

Jul. 14 — noon to 3 p.m. Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 25636 N. Mosiertown Rd., Edinboro, PA 16412 crossingvilleorthodox.org.

**Portion Distortion** Jul. 17 — 6 to 7 p.m.

# MOVIES

### Honey, I Shrunk the Kids (1989)

Jul. 5 — 2 to 4:30 p.m.

### Front St. events.erielibrary.org. **Paris to Pittsburgh** Jul. 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society,

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.

Millcreek Municipal Bldg., 3608

W. 26th St. LifeWorksErie.org.

3207 State St. jeserie.org. Mean Girls: 15th Anniversary

### Jul. 10 — 6 p.m. Pointe Foure will host dinner and a showing of \*Mean Girls to celebrate the movie's

15th anniversary, with other activities such as a Pointe Foure pop-up shop, a pink outfit contest, trivia, positivity jars, and pink specialty cocktails. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietvnwpa.ora

### **Movies Under the**

Stars: Shrek Jul. 11 — 6 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy a summer evening watching a movie under the

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

Jul. 17 — 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

### Volcanoes: The

**Fires of Creation** Ongoing — 10 a.m., 4 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

### **Turtle Odyssey**

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

### **Backyard Wilderness** Ongoing — noon & 3 p.m.

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

### Mysteries of the **Great Lakes**

Ongoing -1 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center. 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

### **VISUAL ARTS**

### **Figure Drawing in**

the Mansion Jul. 3 — 6 to 8 p.m. Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.org.

### Art in the Garden: **Open Air Studio**

Jul. 7 — 1 to 3 p.m. Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

### **Teen Crafternoon: Bookend Painting**

Jul. 12 — 2 to 4 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

### Mind

Jul. 12 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

stars on Edinboro University's campus with popcorn and snow cones available for free (while supplies last). Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444 facebook.com. Wall-E (2008)

# Jul. 12 — 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Teen Book to Movie: Aquaman

### **Gloria Bell**

Jul. 17 — 6 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State



# Monday, August 5 6:30 p.m.

Sox Harrison Stadium, Edinboro

### Featuring 7 Top Corps Including:

The Cadets Colts Jersey Surf Madison Scouts

Music City Pacific Crest Seattle Cascades





3/6-9PM GEEK ARMY ACOUSTIC 6/12-2PM ACOUSTIC JUKEBOX 10/12-2PM MATT BENNETT 13/12-2PM BROOKE SURGENER 17/5-8PM MATT KRAMER 20/3-6PM DOCK BOYS 24/12-2PM JESSE WESTON 27/12-3PM GEEK ARMY ACOUSTIC 31/12-2PM CLAIRE STUCZYNSKI

### AUGUST

3/12-2PM ACOUSTIC JUKEBOX 7/12-2PM ERIKA KUHN 10/12-2PM BROOKE SURGENER 14/6-9PM SASS ACOUSTICS 17/12-2PM MATT BENNETT 21/5-8PM BOYD BAKER 24/12-2PM BROOKE SURGENER 28/12-2PM MATT BENNETT 31/3-6PM DOCK BOYS

SEPTEMBER 1/12-2PM JESSE WESTON 4/12-2PM CLAIRE STUCZYNSKI 7/12-2PM CLAIRE STUCZYNSKI

2 Sassafras Pier, Erie, PA • (814) 636-1005 Book reservations on • OpenTable

# LITTLE ITALY FARMERS MARKET

331 West 18th Street

# EVERY MONDAY 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Featuring produce from several local farms, including the SSJNN Urban Farm Project.

Little Italy Farmers Market <u>doubles</u> SNAP, WIC and FMNP Senior Vouchers!

For more info call: 814-454-7814 Online: www.SSJNN.org Facebook or Twitter: @SSJNN

### CALENDAR

### We Were Sharks at Ballet Haus



### THURSDAY, JUL. 11

The weather is heating up and The Ballet Haus is too. The Andromeda Agency is rolling out a hot show July 11th featuring We Were Sharks with support from Summer Wars, Real Fake Doors, and One Wing.

We Were Sharks is an Ottawa-based pop-punk five-piece. Formed in 2011, the band combines hard-hitting guitar riffs with passionate vocals in their music, as exemplified by their hit song "Hotel Beds," released on Victory Records. "Hotel Beds" isn't the band's only hit; their Spotify page showcases multiple singles which collectively have gathered over 2 million streams. When they aren't in the studio, We Were Sharks is hitting the highway, bringing their sound to fans near and far. In the past, the quintet has shared the stage with some pop-punk heavyweights in State Champs and The Wonder Years.

Currently touring with We Were Sharks theandromedaagency

### 814 Metal Fest Dials Up The Noise



### FRIDAY, JUL. 12 -14

A h, the bucolic Erie County Fairgrounds at Wattsburg — the ideal backdrop for showing off the region's sharpest livestock — and headstocks? Amplifiers will be turned way up and tuning pegs will be turned way down as the 814 Metal Fest invades the site of the Erie County Fair a whole month-anda-half before the cows come home. No bull(s) here, just 20 of the area's heaviest bands charging hard for your eardrums with a full stable of punishing riffs, blistering solos, and pulse-pounding blast beats.

As usual, the event features a wide representation of metal subgenres, a very

is Summer Wars. This North Carolina-based band pulls their influence from bands such as The Story So Far, The Wonder Years, and Blink 182. They have gotten praise from multiple print outlets, most notably *Rock Sound Magazine* and *Alternative Press*. In 2012 they were featured in *Alternative Press*' "Bands You Need to Know."

Erie's Real Fake Doors are making their presence known in the local music scene. In the past, they have played soldout shows and have supported some big name bands; most recently the UK band Trashboat. Real Fake Doors' high-energy style makes them a great addition to an already impressive lineup.

One Wing is a hometown alternative rock band whose sound is inspired by acts such as Flyleaf and Paramore. Over the past couple months, they have helped support bands such as Hang Tight and Youth Fountain. Not only does this gig have some pretty hot bands, there will also be hot waffles provided once again from A Waffle Miracle. Local alternative clothing brand Melancholy will also be selling their one-of-a-kind merch at the event. — Dylan Tutmaher 7:30 p.m. // The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland

St // \$12 Pre-sale, \$14 doors // All ages // 21+ BYOB with ID // facebook.com/ theandromedaaaency

friendly price of admission, and an even stronger sense of community. Camping is both free and encouraged, as it tends to foster the kind of bonds that can only be forged from heavy metal.

The 8th Annual 814 Metal Fest lineup is as follows, with another bumper crop of best-in-show-caliber band names: Aspirant, Atomic Rize, Bravura, Brotherhood of the Jam, Gelatin Skeleton, Joe Nameless, Manokin, Narwhal Bloodbath, Neuroticism, Never to Suffer, Obelus, One Wicked Bender, Pathos Departure (reunion performance), Sacred Decay, Sentinel, Skull'rz Bane, Slaughter in the Meridian, Sudden Frost, 15 Wallz, 415.

For discounted pre-sale tickets, contact any of the bands above — they'll make sure you're plugged in before they rock out. — Matt Swanseger

Music from 5 p.m. Friday to Sunday at noon (performance slots TBA) // Erie County Fairgrounds, 13993 PA-8, Wattsburg, PA 16442 // Pre-sale \$25, at gate \$30 // facebook. com/814metalfest

### CALENDAR

### Awaken Your Summer Experience with Spring Awakening



### FRIDAY, JUL. 12

Banned. Censored. Deemed tasteless and pornographic.

If you thought musical theater was all sunshine and roses, you'd be wrong.

Indeed, the above descriptors were applied to the source material for a 2006 Broadway musical, an 1891 German play by the same name: *Spring Awakening*. Frank Wedekind, the 19th century playwright, set his sights on critiquing the sexual mores of his time and place, showing the consequences of sexual repression, made ever more present and alarming by his characters' youth — mere teenagers.

And while social mores have certainly changed since the end of the 19th century, the musical version — composed by Tony award-winner Duncan Sheik — can still raise eyebrows or elicit the clutching of pearls.

"Spring Awakening tackles such important subject matter that has maintained its relevance from the inception of the original stage play ... and we felt that the topics it touches upon were very important to address theatrically for our community," explained Kate NeuJosh Lapping (left), Luke Weyland, and Kat Elan star in the Erie Playhouse production of *Spring Awakening*.

bert-Lechner, who is directing *Spring Awakening* at the Erie Playhouse.

She continued, "On the surface, Spring Awakening is an exploration of teenagers going through puberty and an awareness of their own sexuality, but it also addresses the topics of mental illness and how it can manifest if not acknowledged and treated."

The Playhouse's production features Luke Weyland as Melchior and newcomer Kat Elan as the female lead, Wendla. Five other Playhouse debut performers will take the stage for their first production at the 10th Street theater, and rehearsals have been in full swing since late May.

"The talent in the cast is really phenomenal, and it's been a wonderful process creating this show with them," Neubert-Lechner said. "I hope that audiences walk away from this production inspired to talk to each other about the difficult subject matter they've seen and identify ways that they, personally, can help make our current society better, more open, and more accepting to those with life experiences that may seem so very different, but are actually so very similar to our own." — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. (for full schedule, show list and ticket prices, visit the website listed) // 13 W. 10th Street // General Admission: \$20.25 // erieplayhouse.org

### Sex with Strangers: A Smart Summer Comedy



### FRIDAY, JUL. 12

Does technology bring us closer together or make us virtual strangers? That's for the audience to decide after watching the Performing Artists Collective Alliance's performance of *Sex with Strangers* by Laura Eason, directed by Craig Schneider.

This smart and sexy summer comedy follows 20-something sex blogger and memoirist Ethan (played by Michael Haas), who tracks down his idol — a gifted novelist in her 40s named Olivia (played by Krista Perry). As attraction turns to sex, they get closer to what they want, but both must confront the dark side of ambition and the trouble of reinventing themselves, especially when the past is only one click away.

Ethan's career seems to contrast Ol-

Sex With Strangers is as provocative as you might imagine, asking intriguing questions about the human psyche and sexuality in the age of technology.

ivia's, who has been writing almost as long as Ethan has been alive but has seen little success. Haas says that playing a character like Ethan is interesting and exciting because he exemplifies the extremes of the human psyche: he is equal parts hedonism and existential dread. Haas calls Sex with

Strangers "fun," but he still hopes that the play will leave the audience with a touch of self-doubt as they see their best and worst attributes reflected in the play.

This twisty two-character drama discusses lust, love, and the complex nature of identity in a technology-dominated era, while also remaining a thoughtful comedy about privacy and publicity. The playwright offers poignant observations about the dual-edged sword that is technology: it both eases and complicates relationships. *Sex with Strangers* is well-crafted with clever dialogue and wit; this play is both sexually and intellectually provocative. — Madeline Dufala

Fridays and Saturdays through July 27, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. // PACA, 1505 State Street, Floor 2 // \$15 // paca1505.org

AWE Art Room, 915 State St. LL1 artforwellbeingeverywhere.com.

### Jennifer Overholser: Transitions

Jul. 13 — 1 to 3 p.m. Conneaut Arts Center, 1025 Buffalo St., Conneaut, OH 44030 jennifer-overholser.com.

### Sunday Funday: Art in the Garden

Jul. 14 — 1 to 4 p.m. New this year, enjoy kids activities, entertainment, a farmers market, and a flea market. Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

### Second Sunday: Make Your Own Comic Strip

Jul. 14 — 2 to 4 p.m. Get carried away making your own comic strips while bringing out the artist and storyteller in you. Participants of any age can wear a superhero costume to this event.

### Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Eyes of Freedom Erie Jul. 16, 17 — 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eyesoffreedom.org.

### Paint Your Own Planet Jul. 17 — 2 to 3 p.m. Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd., Ste.

280 events.erielibrary.org. Jason Amantangelo: Painted 3D Collages Ongoing through Jul. 23 Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

### **Bill Brady**

Ongoing through Aug. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

### **Brian Pardini** Ongoing through Aug. 2019

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

**96th Annual Spring Show** Ongoing through Sept. 1 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

### Artist Takeover: Roman Glass Ongoing through Sept. 15

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org. **Everything But The Shelves** 

Ongoing through Dec. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

### Ashley Pastore: Everyday Monumental Ongoing through Mar. 2020 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

### THEATER

Spring Awakening Jul. 12, 13, 18, 19 — 7:30 p.m. Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

### Sex with Strangers

Jul. 12, 13 — 8 p.m. PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.org.

### Dick Clarkson's Jukebox Hop Jul. 14 — 2:30 p.m.

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com. Shakespeare Summer Nights: Shrewd

### Jul. 15, 16, 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. facebook.com.

### COMEDY

**Giggle Water: Comedy Showcase** Jul. 10 — 8 p.m.

### Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

### Comedy Night at Erie Movie House

Jul. 13 — 8 p.m. Tony Foxworthy headlines a stand-up comedy event featuring comedians from Erie, Pittsburgh, and Indianapolis. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

# SPORTS

### Presque Isle Volleyball Tournament

Jul. 3, 17 — 6 to 8 p.m. & Jul. 7 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Jul. 9, 16 — 6 to 9 p.m. & Jul. 11 — 5:50 to 9 p.m. & Jul. 13 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beach 6 at Pl State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Binghamton Rumble Ponies Jul. 3 — 7:05 p.m.

UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com.

**LECOM Health Challenge** Jul. 4, 5 — 6:30 a.m. & Jul. 6 — 7 a.m. & Jul. 7 — 6 a.m.

The Upper Course at Peek'n Peak, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 lecomhealthchallenge.com.

### Atlantic Coast Baseball Mercyhurst Tournament Jul. 5, 6, 7 Various locations play-

Various locations playacbaseball.com.

### Erie Commodores vs. FC Buffalo

Jul. 5 — 7 p.m. McConnell Family Stadium, 200 W. 4th St. eriecommodores.com.

### **Rally North America: Insure.it Rally New England** Jul. 8 — 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Jul. 8 — 7:30 to 9 a.m. Perry Square rallynorthamerica.com.

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Altoona Curve

Jul. 11, 12, 13 — 7:05 p.m.& Jul. 14 — 1:35 p.m. Thursday's game will host well-behaved, leashed furry friends in another edition of Bark in the Park; Friday will feature an Angels-era jersey giveaway; fireworks will follow Saturday's game. UPMC Park, 110 E.10th

Don't Give Up The Disc

Jul. 13, 14 Beach 11 at Pl State Park facebook.com.

St. milb.com

### Get Down to Sounds Around Town



### FRIDAY, JUL. 12

t's time to bring out all your family's favorite picnic items, because the kickoff to the WQLN's 2019 Sounds Around Town Summer Concert Series is right around the corner. The series, which includes performances from five local bands, will be hosted for the fourth time by Larry Wheaton (himself a member of This American Song and Tiny Paper Boats).

"What makes this concert series important is that we can hopefully expose artists, both up-and-coming as well as veteran acts, to a wider audience. I also feel that we are creating a time capsule of the artists that are making an impact on the Erie region," expresses Wheaton.

A time capsule is certainly the perfect description of the event as it was relaunched from a previous WQLN program in 2014. Throughout the series, there will be free samples of beer (Erie Beer Company), coffee (Mill Creek Coffee Company), and Smith's products. These sponsors plus the multitude of other local involvements are what make the event a possibility.

As an added bonus, the audience not only gets to experience a live concert, but also a live television/radio production. During each concert, WQLN sets up and records the production and airs it later on both radio (91.3 FM) and television.

Wheaton states, "The staff of WQLN is important. It's an event where it is all hands on deck, as the production department is working diligently on capturing the performance. We also have employees of other departments volunteering their time to make sure that our guests are happy, safe, and to answer any questions that may arise."

The Sounds Around Town Summer Concert Series lineup is as follows:

July 12: The Duke Sherman Band — A staple in the blues and rock community, this is a four-piece band that has been performing in the area for the last decade.

July 19: Cult Classics — A indie-pop band (featuring Erie Reader managing editor Nick Warren on guitar) that is popular in the local community, as they have been featured in multiple festivals and events with their unique melodic tones.

July 26: East Ave — A family band that offers Americana style melodies straight out of the Erie community.

August 2: Fred Oakman & The Flood — A Meadville modern country/folk band that switches up the pace by adding rock-influenced tones into their music.

August 9: TK Blues Company — A entertaining band that stands out with their "not quite original, not quite copycat" blue-infused setlists. - Symoné Crockett

7:30 p.m. // WQLN, 8425 Peach St // Free // waln.ora

### Shoot the Rock National Championship

Jul. 13, 14 ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eteamz.com.

Fan Series Truck Show, **Bandit Big Rig Series** Jul. 13 — 10 a.m., 3 p.m. Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

### Erie Commodores vs. **Rochester Lancers** Jul. 13 — 7 p.m.

McConnell Family Stadium, 200 W. 4th St. eriecommodores.com

### **Eerie Roller Girls Roller Derby**

Jul. 13 — 7:30 p.m. **Bayfront Convention** Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eerierollergirls.com.

### Frie SeaWolves vs. **Akron RubberDucks** Jul. 15, 16 — 7:05 p.m. & Jul. 17 — 12:05 p.m.

UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com

### COMMUNITY

### **Teddy Bear Picnic & Open Field Play** Jul. 3, 10 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

### Boro with the Works

Jul. 3 — 6 to 10 p.m. Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444 facebook.com.

#### **Lights Over Lake Erie** Jul. 3 — 10 to 11 p.m.

Dobbins Landing mercyhurst.edu.

Friends & Family Day

24 | Erie Reader | ErieReader.com

Jul. 4 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Erie Maritime Museum. 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

**Strollers & Striders** Jul. 5, 12 — 11:15 a.m. expERIEnce Children's Museum, 420 French St. eriedowntown.com.

### 1650 Friday

Jul. 5 — noon to 10 p.m. Downtown Erie eriedowntown.com.

### **Dance It Out Downtown**

Jul. 5, 12 — 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. Perry Square eriedowntown.com.

### **Little Perry Story** Time + Play Jul. 5, 12 — 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Perry Square eriedowntown.com.

### Panegyri Greek Festival

Jul. 5 — 2:30 to 11 p.m. & Jul. 6 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. & Jul. 7 — noon to 7 p.m. Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 4376 W. Lake Rd. erieorthodox.org.

### **VIPKid Information Session**

Jul. 5 — 4 to 6 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. facebook.com.

### **Caddyshack Party**

Jul. 5 — 5 to 10 p.m. Celebrate one of golf's most iconic movies during this first-ever Caddyshack Party with a variety of free family activities, including a fireworks display with live music, yard games, giveaways, a costume contest, and much more. Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com.

### **Red, White, and Splash** Jul. 6

Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach

### St. splashlagoon.com. **Erie Bluffs Creek Stomp**

Jul. 6 — 9 a.m. Erie Bluffs State Park, 11122 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA 16423 events.dcnr.pa.aov.

### Learn to 3D Print Jul. 6 — 10 a.m. to noon Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.

Front St. events.erielibrary.org. **Drop-in and Discover:** 

### Leaf Prints Jul. 6 — 11 a.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

**Pokemon League** Jul. 6 — 2 to 4 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

### **Modified Martial Arts**

Jul. 6 — 3 to 4 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events. erielibrary.org.

### **Girard Candlelight** Ghost Walk

Jul. 6 — 8 to 9:30 p.m. Corner of Main & Mechanic streets, 34 Main St. West, Girard, PA 16417 candlelightghostwalks.com.

### **Summer Sunday Fundays** Jul. 7, 14 — noon

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

### **Remembering Apollo 11:** Journey to the Moon Jul 8 — 10 to 11 a.m. & Jul. 16 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Multiple library locations events.erielibrary.org.

**Perry Peddlers** Jul. 8, 15 — noon This 1-mile lunchtime walk around downtown reduces stress, boosts energy, and builds community as you walk and talk with others. Perry Square eriedowntown.com.

### **Total Body Bootcamp** Jul. 8, 15 — 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Erie Art Museum steps, 411 State St. eriedowntown.com. **Throwback Game Night** 

### Jul. 8, 15 — 6 p.m.

Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe. Monday Makers: Make

### a Cola Lithograph

Jul 8 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org. **Time Out Tuesday** 

Jul. 9, 16 — 6:30 a.m., noon, & 5:30 p.m. **Dobbins Landing & Perry** Square eriedowntown.com. Social Media When

### You're Spread Too Thin Jul. 9 — 9 to 10:30 a.m.

UPMC Health Plan Community Room, 100 State St. 1st Fl. prsanwpa.org. **Teen Time** 

### Jul. 9, 16 — 2:30 to 4 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog Jul. 9 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. & Jul. 17 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Multiple library locations events.erielibrary.org

### North East Firemen's **Cherry Festival**

Jul. 9, 10, 11, 12 — 5 to 11 p.m. & Jul. 13 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Heard Memorial Park North East, PA 16428 necherryfestival.com.

**Roller Girl w Derby Girls** Jul. 9 — 5:30 to 7 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.

### Front St. events.erielibrarv.ora.

**Food Preservations** Jul. 9 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

### The 50-year Legacy of **Astronaut Photography** .lul. 9 — 7 to 8 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

asburywoods.org. **Primitive Skills** 

### Survival Series

Jul. 10 — 10 a.m. Pine Tree Pavilion at Pl State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

### **Craft Corner** Jul. 10 — 1 to 3 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library. 4212 Iroquois Ave. events. erielibrary.org.

**Fiber Arts Meetup** Jul. 10 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

### **Reach Cyber Charter School Free Info Session** Jul. 10 — 6:30 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn Erie, 2225 Downs Dr. Reach-CyberCharter.com.

### **Crash Into Kindergarten**

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

### **Garden Sprouts Preschool**

Jul. 11 — 11 a.m. to noon Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

### **Picnic in the Park**

Jul. 11 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Gibson Park, Main St. (Rte. 20), North East, PA 16428 nechamber.org.

### **3D Modeling Basics:** Sculptris

Jul. 11 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrarv.ora.

### **Regional GSA**

Jul. 11 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrarv.ora.

### **Erie Downtown Block Party**

Jul. 11 — 6 to 10 p.m. Perry Square eriedowntown.com.

**Alien Encounters** 

Jul. 11 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.

Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Jefferson Educational Society,

The Inclusive Economy:

**How to Bring Wealth** 

Jul. 11 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jul. 11 — 7 to 9 p.m.

3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**Golden Hour Photo Club** 

221 Waterford St., Edinboro,

**Intro to Files & Folders** 

PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Jul. 12 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.

Front St. events.erielibrarv.ora.

Wellness Classes: Qi Gong

Lincoln Community Center

Library, 1255 Manchester

Rd. events.erielibrary.org

Jul. 12 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

Party on the Promenade

Bring your lawn chairs and cool

July 3, 2019

cars to the car cruisin' event

at Millcreek Mall, where you

Jul. 12 — 10 to 11 a.m.

**Trivia Afternoon** 

St. LifeWorksErie.org.

Jul. 12 — 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Car Cruisin'

Goodell Gardens & Homestead.

America's Poor



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### CALENDAR

### Festival Uses Arts and Culture to Combat Racism and Oppression



SATURDAY, JUL. 13

A meriMasala organizer Lynn Johnson knows that racism won't be eradicated in a day, but he is counting on his July 13 festival to leverage the power of arts and culture as a tool in helping bridge the divisions of race, ethnicity, gender, and class.

Johnson's project, which he first initiated in 1995 and brought back to Erie last year after a 12-year hiatus, is aimed directly at "countering hatred and confronting racism and oppression." Literally, AmeriMasala is a mash-up of "American" and "masala," which means "a blend of spices." To Johnson, however, the meaning runs much deeper than what can be conveyed by a single term or event.

"AmeriMasala is not simply a word or just a festival, it is a movement that emphasizes community and promotes the value and nobility of all people," he says.

But what could be a better way to embody that movement than by organizing a day-long celebration that emphasizes the truly humanitarian aspects of art, creativity, and imagination? And that's exactly what Johnson has done.

Opening festivities will begin at 11 a.m. in Perry

The AmeriMasala is a celebration of the ethnic melting pot that is America, featuring the food and music of cultures around the world. Said organizer Lynn Johnson: "it is a movement that emphasizes community and promotes the value and nobility of all people."

Square, highlighted by an appearance by Tonawanda Seneca spiritual leader Leon Sam Briggs, who will offer a traditional blessing known as a "smudging." Briggs will set the stage for the vibrant UnoWE Parade. The parade was inspired by the tradition of the Cleveland Museum of Art's "Parade the Circle" event, which just celebrated its 30th anniversary and features bright costumes, unique floats, giant puppets, stilt dancers, and handmade masks.

The UnoWe Parade promises much of the same, as participants will lead a colorful procession along State Street, between Perry Square and the Erie Art Museum. The parade will feature costumes and musical styles from around the world, headlined by Batala New York, an all-female Afro-Brazilian samba reggae percussion band.

"Batala New York is truly amazing, and it is the type of musical performance that we would not typically have the opportunity to enjoy here in Erie," Johnson says.

In addition to enjoying a variety of performers, those attending the day's festivities will also be able to enjoy a variety of foods. Multiple ethnic cuisines will be featured, and a wide array of food vendors and food trucks will be on hand, providing dining options that represent many cultures and are sure to please any palate.

For Johnson, AmeriMasala is both a pleasure and a passion. He delights in describing the details and has essentially functioned as a "one-man band," simultaneously seeking funding, booking acts, and urging everyone to come out and be part of the celebration. He also credits Margarita Dangel, neighborhood manager with the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, for helping him to revitalize the festival.

This year, however, Johnson has received additional assistance in spreading the word. He's tapped into the resources of Edinboro University's Center for Branding and Strategic Communication, part of the NWPA Innovation Beehive Network, a grant-funded collaboration between Edinboro, Gannon, and Mercyhurst Universities, Penn State Behrend, and the Erie County Library. The collaboration typically focuses on fostering regional business development and expansion, but in this instance, Edinboro's "beehive" was asked to apply its expertise in public relations and marketing communication to help promote the festival.

Edinboro faculty and students developed branding materials for AmeriMasala and are helping Johnson with media relations, social media management, and enhanced promotion within the regional arts and culture community. They also plan to provide Johnson with additional "boots on the ground," traversing the Erie region to hang fliers, increase awareness, and help build enthusiasm.

Although Johnson's enthusiasm level for the project is always off the charts, he is happy to have some help in getting others excited about AmeriMasala, primarily because of the importance of the central message.

"We need to turn people out for this event because the whole point is overcoming differences and bringing diverse backgrounds together," he says. "I've said many times that I want to see a black family and a white family run into each other at a craft store because they are both working on a float or a giant puppet. That is really what we are aiming for." — Tony Peyronel

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. // Perry Square // Free // facebook.com/ The-AmeriMasala



### CALENDAR

### Hamlet and Shrew Get a Makeover at Frontier



### MONDAY, JUL. 15

hether or not you've delved into the realm of characters that Shakespeare had to offer, let it be known that it's never too late to start ... especially when the characters are modernized and must deal with issues present in 2019. The best part of this experience is simple — you get to watch all the hilarity and drama unfold at Frontier Park.

Perhaps watching a live stage performance outside is new to you, but if you've been to one of the Shakespeare Summer Nights performance before, then you know that the directors and actors bring new light and laughter to these classic tales.

Alaina Manchester, director of I Am Hamlet (as Written and Performed by Hamlet), explains that this "play is an adaptation by Mark Jackson in which one actor, portraying Hamlet, goes on to also portray multiple characters and act out selected scenes from Hamlet. The premise is that the audience meets the characters of Hamlet ... when they are not being performed, and Hamlet gives a first-hand account of his story as well as his notions on the theatre, love, death, life, and family."

With so many tales and adaptations to choose from, it seems important to understand what drew Manchester to this particular story. She enlightens, "I love the story of Hamlet and I really love adaptations that The Shakespeare Summer Nights theater series returns to the McCain Outdoor Classroom and Amphitheater at Frontier Park with 21st-century makeovers of Hamlet and Taming of the Shrew, presented by Gannon University's Schuster Theatre.

pay homage to the original while asking new questions or allowing us to view the source material in a new light. I also thought it would be a delicious challenge for an actor to do a one-actor production of the story."

A delicious challenge indeed, especially for the local actor who happily accepted. "Our Hamlet is Adam Rossi. He is a force of nature, pure energy! He has to transform into, at one point, six different characters in one scene, whilst performing a two-person sword fight, with himself. Not only does he have to become multiple characters, he has to become those characters as they would be played by Hamlet himself. It's a very layered and physical portrayal and I am so happy to work with Mr. Rossi on this show," affirms Manchester.

In addition to Hamlet's adaptation, The Taming of the Shrew is also receiving a modern-day makeover, showcases a cast of all women, and is directed by Jenna Westfall. "The Taming of the Shrew is a problematic story, especially as we look at it through our 2019 sensibilities. We were intrigued by how or even if we could take the original script and flip it on its head through a process of ensemble devising to find out how the themes are still relevant. Ms. Westfall's cast brings their own experiences into the devising process to shape the story to create an exciting new piece of theatre," states Manchester.

Who would have thought that Shakespeare's stories and characters would continue to be relevant in the age of technology? Well, put down your phone and come witness it for yourself. — Kalli Oberlander

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays through Jul. 24, 7 p.m. // Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. // gannon.edu/ schustertheatre

The Erie Philharmonic Sets Up in North East



### **TUESDAY, JUL. 16**

he Erie Philharmonic will take up residency in Gibson Park for three concerts this summer. The Summer Concerts in the Park series will be offered for free, thanks to a partnership between the Erie Philharmonic and North East Arts Council, along with contributions from local sponsors The Skunk & Goat Tavern, Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, 4 NINE Place, and The North East Community Foundation. Steve Weiser, Executive Director of the Erie Philharmonic, says that "bringing the music outdoors is a perfect fit for the summer and offers a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere that's perfect for all ages to enjoy." The concerts each have unique musical formats for different tastes. Concertgoers are invited to bring their own chairs. The fun continues with food and beverages available on-site for purchase from local vendors, a free "instrumental petting zoo," and virtual reality experiences. ---- Madeline Dufala

July 16 — Erie Philharmonic Music Director Daniel Meyer will direct a 22-person string orchestra

July 24 — A brass guintet will perform patriotic and energetic tunes

July 31 — An Erie Philharmonic octet will provide a fun night of popular classics

7:30 p.m. // Gibson Park, North East, PA 16428 // Free // eriephil.org

can enjoy food from Firebirds and a performance by Matty B and the Dirty Pickles, a high-energy rockabilly band that encourages crowd participation with their catchy songs and onstage antics. Millcreek Mall Parking Lot, 5800 Peach St. millcreekmall.net

### Wellness Night

Jul. 12 — 6 to 9 p.m. Various locations eriewellnessnetwork.com.

### 24 Hour Bike Ride

Jul. 12 — 7 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Saturday) Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

### Goat Yoga

Jul. 13 — 10 a.m. Enjoy a gentle yoga class taught by Kelly Jameson in a beautiful meadow accompanied by eight baby goats. Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com

Vinyl Cutter Open Lab Jul. 13 — 10 to 11 a.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

**Fairy Gardens** Jul. 13 — 10 to 11:30 a.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

### **Master Builders Block Party** Jul. 13 — 10 a.m. to noon & Jul. 15 — 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Multiple library locations events.erielibrary.org.

**Dungeons & Dragons** Jul. 13 — 10 a.m. to noon Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

**Cricut Basics for Teens: Vinyl Decals** Jul. 13 — 10 a.m. to noon Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

**Drop-in and Discover: Animal Adaptations** 

Jul. 13 — 11 a.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

The AmeriMasala Jul. 13 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Perry Square facebook.com.

**Teen Advisorv Board Meeting** Jul. 13 — 2 to 4 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

**Game Afternoon** Jul. 13 — 3 to 4:45 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Pinups at the Erie Zoo Jul. 13 — 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. facebook.com.

**Candlelight Ghost Walk** Jul. 13 — 8 to 9:30 p.m. Dobbins Landing candleliahtahostwalks.com.

**Patio Yoga with Dariel** 

Jul. 14 — 10 to 11 a.m. Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

### **Erie SeaWolves Storytime**

413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA

# Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.

Gentle Yoga & Meditation Lvl. 2 Jul. 15 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Community Center

Rd. events.erielibrary.org. Monday Makers: Make a Robotic Arm w Cardboard

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

**Teen Game Night** Jul. 15 — 6 to 8 p.m.

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

The Whiskey Rebellion: New Problems for a New **Nation in Western PA** 

Jul. 15 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Branching Out Jul. 16, 17 — 10 to 11 a.m. or noon to 1:30 p.m. LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Kids' Yoga

Jul. 16 — noon to 12:45 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

### Crystals 101 Jul. 16 — 6:30 p.m. Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

Brexit: Is It Worth It? Jul. 16 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

### Using the Internet to Get a Job

Jul. 17 — 1 to 2:30 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events. erielibrary.org.

**Read to a Therapy Dog** Jul. 17 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Multiple library locations events.erielibrary.org.

### **Remarkable American** Women: Alice Paul and **The 19th Amendment** Jul. 17 — 4 to 5:30 p.m. Jefferson Educational Society.

3207 State St. jeserie.org. **Cricut Basics for Teens:** 

**T-shirt Transfers** Jul. 17 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

**Holy Warrior Presidents** 

Jul. 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Fairview Area Historical Society, 4302 Avonia St., Fairview, PA 16415 jeserie.org.

Jul. 15 — 10 to 11 a.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 16412 events.erielibrary.org. How to Pay For College

Jul 15 — 2 to 3 p.m.

# Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Library, 1255 Manchester

# Jul. 15 — 6 to 8 p.m.

"Someone's Poisoned the Water Hole!": *Toy Story 4* is Just Another Unnecessary Pixar Sequel

### \*\*1

fter the clunky but ultimately satisfying finale of Toy Story 3, I was genuinely shocked to hear that Pixar was planning another film in the series. Where would they go after the story of Andy and his toys had been so definitively concluded? A retread of old storylines? Bold new adventures? The dreaded "soft reboot?" The answer to all those questions is "yes" with Toy Story 4: one of the most un-



necessary sequels in recent history. With this installment, Pixar's flagship franchise has joined the ranks of *Cars 3* and *Finding Dory* as another series that's perfectly content just treading water.

Now in the possession of young Bonnie, Woody and the gang want to help the girl on her first day of kindergarten. But when Bonnie makes a new toy out of a plastic spork named "Forky", who doesn't accept his new place as a toy, Woody gets into a series of misadventures trying to bring this reluctant creation back to Bonnie's care. In the process, Woody meets old friends and new friends to help him on his journey.

More than any other film in the series, this film is solely Woody's story. As a result, most of the other toys take a back seat. It was disheartening seeing so many beloved characters being reduced to background extras. Even fan favorites like Jessie and Buzz Lightyear get brushed aside for new toys, some memorable (Keanu Reeves is great as Duke Caboom), most forgettable. *Toy Story 4* tries to be a new and exciting entry to the series, but it never gets close to the creative and emotional highs of the other films and ends up feeling more like a rip-off film than a genuine sequel. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Josh Cooley // Written by: Andrew Stanton and Stephany Folsom // Starring the voices of: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Annie Potts, Tony Hale, Christina Hendricks, Joan Cusack, Ally Maki, Keegan-Michael Key, Jordan Peele, John Ratzenberger, Wallace Shawn, and Keanu Reeves // 100 minutes // Rated G

# "Then You Can Start to Make it Better": Yesterday Doesn't Make the Most of Its Concept

### \*\*\*

The Beatles are now so firmly entrenched in popular culture that it's almost impossible to imagine what popular music would be like without their influence. Mythologized and deified seemingly into eternity, a vast majority of people would argue that they are the greatest songwriters in history. Thus, Danny Boyle's (*Trainspotting*, *Slumdog Millionaire*) new film *Yesterday* asks a very intriguing question: What if The Beatles suddenly didn't exist anymore? The film briefly touches on the implications of this ingenious concept before settling comfortably in romantic comedy cliches (it is, after all, penned by *Love Actually*'s Richard Curtis).

The film follows young Jack Malick (Himesh Patel), a struggling musician who gets into a bad accident only to wake up in a world where only he seems to remember the existence of The Beatles and their music. Jack now finds himself in an interesting moral predicament: "write" all the band's hit songs and pass them off as his own (along with all the fame and money that comes with them) at the expense of knowing that he's stealing from his favorite band.

As I said before, the premise is a brilliant one; is it morally right to commit a massive act of plagiarism when nobody but the perpetrator is aware that it's plagiarism? The film also has fun playing with the idea of The Beatles writing their music in to-

day's age of commercialized pop. Would their songs even be the same? These are great ideas that get dropped completely to settle for a nice little feel-good conclusion. It's not all bad as the characters are likable and well-written, but the third act feels like a waste of all the fascinating ideas that came before. — Forest Taylor

Directed by Danny Boyle // Written by: Richard Curtis // Starring: Himesh Patel, Lily James, Joel Fry, Kate McKinnon, Alexander Arnold, Sophia Di Martino, Ellise Chappell, Harry Michell, Meera Syal, Sanjeev Bhaskar, and Ed Sheeran // 116 minutes // Rated PG-13



# Alright, Brewskil It's summer time, and you know what that means. We're playing more shows at more bars this time of year, so no going overboard with drinking all the time! I LEAVE COFFEE OUT OF THIS! Yeah yeah, here we go. Same talk every year. And this is concerning all beverages, right? I hate how he picks favorites... Mither talk every year. I hate how he picks favorites... Oooooo, someone's in trouble! I hate how he picks favorites... I hate how he picks favorites... I hate how he picks favorites...

### **MUSIC REVIEWS**

### 2019 Mid-Year Album Watch

The top 10 so far, overlooked gems, and ones to look forward to

### **By: Aaron Mook**

llow us to pull back the curtain for A moment; it's no secret that music writers love formulating their mid- and end-of-the-year lists. It's self-indulgent a way for us to place some arbitrary value on the albums we've valued most over the past several months, and try to convince some readers to get in on the celebration. This year, we're doing things a little differently, considering we'll almost certainly be writing about some of these same albums yet again come December. We're still sending along our Mid-Year Top 10 in a simple list form (as always, we are proud to put together what we feel is a diverse, atypical, and worthy list of highlights), but we're also focusing our energy on a couple of albums you may have missed, as well as a couple we're looking forward to. We'd love to hear what made some of your lists and what you're looking forward to. And just like that, we'll be seeing you ---same place, same time — in six months

### The best of 2019 so far:

- 1. Julia Jacklin Crushing
- 2. The National I Am Easy to Find
- 3. Tyler The Creator *IGOR*
- 4. Lizzo Cuz I Love You

5. Better Oblivion Community Center – Better Oblivion Community Center

6. Kevin Abstract – Arizona Baby

7. Say Anything – Oliver Appropriate

8. PUP – Morbid Stuff

9. Sharon Van Etten – Remind Me Tomorrow

10. Pedro the Lion - Phoenix

### Overlooked

### Perma – Fight Fair



Max Bemis has always hustled, often shuffling his efforts between projects like Two Tongues, Perma, Max Bemis & the Painful Splits, and of course, Say Anything. While he may have announced the end of the latter (his hallmark act) Bemis has stayed no less busy, already releasing a second full-length project: the follow-up to Perma's *Two of a Kind*.

Perma is Bemis' project with Sherri Dupree-Bemis, vocalist of Eisley and Bemis' wife. Fight Fair is the duo's first new music since 2013, and it's fair to say fans' expectations were tempered. The album is a return to Bemis' troublesome "lo-fi" home recording, but this time around, something clicks. The album manages to be cohesive and diverse, guiding listeners through both noisy experimentations ("Fight Fair," "Navigate") and love songs with DNA rooted in Say Anything ("I Always Just Make Things Easy") and Eisley ("Goodbye Palace"). The biggest shift here is the band's acceptance of full-band instrumentation alongside their gorgeous acoustic work, successfully mimicking the highs and lows of the couple's largely public and cherished relationship.

### **Orville Peck – Pony**



Every so often, an artist takes a genre by storm, and as cliche as that felt to write, there's no other way to describe Orville Peck's rising success. Peck is a Sub Pop star; a masked, reverb-drenched, LGBTQ+ friendly cowboy crooner whose music both pays tribute to classic country-western/rock and roll as well as forges its own unique path. There's a bit of Morrissey in there, a bit of Roy Orbison, a bit of Chris Isaak, but at the heart of *Pony*, his debut album, there are really 12 gay desert anthems unique to Orville Peck.

Pony's sequencing is deliberate and its production is exquisite; lead single and opening track "Dead of Night" is filled with a minimalistic drum beat and echoing guitars, allowing Peck's falsetto to drive the song's unforgettable chorus. Comparable to Isaak's hit "Wild Heart," it feels as though it's been pulled directly from a David Lynch film. Peck does an excellent job of wearing his influences on his sleeve, letting them shine through on the album's front half (single "Turn to Hate" is very Morrissey) while tailoring *Pony*'s second half to himself. Peck is doing for classic country what Brockhampton has done for hip-hop over the past two years; paying tribute to those who came before while unapologetically pushing ahead. It feels desperately necessary.

### Looking forward

Whitney – Forever Turned Around (August 30th)



Indie soft-rock duo Whitney released their debut album Light Upon the Lake in 2016 to largely positive reception. It's a very good (albeit short) record, but after three years with nothing but a couple of cover songs and demos released, fans were starting to worry about when the band would return and whether the wait would be worth it. As if they heard our pleas, Whitney will be back with *Forever Turned Around*, a brand new album set for release August 30th. If lead single and opening track "Giving Up" is any indication, we're in for something truly special.

"Giving Up" doesn't so much divert the sound Whitney crafted on their debut as it does enhance it, adding instrumental and production flourishes that make the song irresistible. "Waiting on the morning sun/Are you coming home, my love?" sings vocalist and drummer Julien Erlich after a series of gorgeous piano clinks. The song is not only successful in im-



### **MUSIC REVIEWS**

proving the band's formula but in creating imagery and a tone we can only hope they'll explore further on the upcoming *Forever Turned Around*.

(SANDY) Alex G – House of Sugar (September 13th)



(SANDY) Alex G is another independent artist whose rise to DIY success seems most observable within the past three years, despite having an extensive discography and loyal fanbase before 2016. While records like *DSU* and *Beach*  *Music* garnered the singer/songwriter critical acclaim, it was the revelation that he had played guitar on Frank Ocean's *Blonde* that truly began to turn heads. It seems serendipitous, then, that the artist would also have *Rocket*, his best album yet, primed for the following year.

A large part of Rocket's success was in its variety, an aspect that makes (SAN-DY) Alex G a tough artist to predict; you never know what kind of album you're getting from him. But "Gretel," the first song released from the upcoming House of Sugar, does seem to explore the unique sonic territory first hinted at on Rocket. The production is unsettling at times; pan flutes follow a series of pitch-shifted vocals, elements he explored on highlights like "Sportstar" and "Judge," respectively. It's a hodgepodge of sounds only he could pull off, but it's also what makes us consistently excited for new music from (SANDY) Alex G.

Aaron Mook can be contacted at amook@ eriereader.com. Mid-year Top 10 list assembled with help fro**m** Nick Warren.





JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - BY B. TOY



### CROSSWORD

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### Across

crawl 1. 4. Analyze, as ore 9. Some email attachments 13. Nonverbal communication, for short 14. Collins and Mickelson 15. Work (up) Paulo, Brazil 16. 17. Message on a cake in "Alice in Wonderland" Paul, Emmy win-18. ner for "Breaking Bad" 19. Metamorphic rock named after a Dakota tribe 22. Quashes 23. Russian for "peace" 24. Like many users of sign language 27. Add oomph to something 32. "It's f-f-freezing!" 34. Vacuum brand 36. Bombeck who wrote "Housework, if you do it right, will kill you" 37. "Vive le !" (old French cry) 38. They're played with plectrums 41. Abbr. ending a company name 42. Motocross racers, for short 44. Egypt's Sadat 45. Center of a poker table 46. Orange snacks in a red box 49. Competitor of Ivory and Coast

51. Crosses (out) 52. Clobber with snowballs, say 55. TLC reality series hosted by dermatologist Sandra Lee (who would definitely give her attention to 19-, 27-, 38- and 46-Across) 62. "The roof of the world" 63. Singer with the 1999 #1 hit "If You Had My Love" 64. Myrna of "The Thin Man" 65. Mideast bigwig 66. Former Disney president Michael 67. "I'll take that as 68. A crane might hover over one 69. Tooth trouble 70. Yang's opposite Down 1. So last year 2. Bolt of lightning speed 3. Red Cross event 4. Top 5. NBA legend with a size

22 sneaker, informally \_\_\_ (as found) mater 8. French/Belgian river 9. Kansas expanse 10. Word before poor or 11. Resting place for a polar bear 12. Many a presidential hopeful: Abbr. 18. Ansari of "Parks and Recreation"

6. In \_

cheap

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20. " your head!" 21. Celebrity gossip site 25. Woodworking tool 26. "In case it's of interest ...*"* 27. \_ Hopkins University 28. From scratch 29. Rare baseball event 30. "Let me think ... yeah, that's dumb" 31. Treaty 32. Bric-a-33. Philip who wrote "Portnoy's Complaint" 35. "Right now!," to a surgeon 39. "Way cool!" 40. Lanka 43. Authority on birds and bees? 47. Time, in Germany 48. Suffix with ideal 50. Google Maps, for one 53. Téa of "Madam Secretary" 54. Assess, as a dress 55. Cost of an old phone call 56. Ruth's 2,214 57. Move doggedly 58. "A temporary insanity curable by marriage": Ambrose Bierce 59. Grandiose 60. Org. that opened a Bob Barker building in 2012 61. Osbourne of Black Sabbath 62. J's value in Words With Friends



### Answers to last puzzle

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