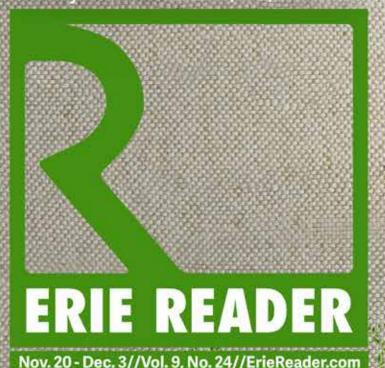
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Turkey lurkey doo and turkey lurkey dap, I eat that turkey then I take a nap

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This week's latest stumper from David Levinson Wilk

From the Editors

Tightening our threads from within

an I help you with anything? "Oh no, just looking." Such is the formality of the average retail worker; and the boilerplate reply of the average shopper that would rather not admit that they have no idea what they're looking for. It's that time of year, though, that just about everyone is looking, whether it be aimlessly or purposefully — for the ideal holiday gift, the ideal temporary to permanent mate ("cuffing season"), or even the ideal college prospect, as professional scouts prepare to disperse to NCAA football's innumerable bowl games. How good would the star performer from the hotly anticipated Maruchan Instant Ramen Bowl look in your team's jersey?

Of course, many of the best finds are mere happenstance — the weirdly endearing collector's item at a garage sale or flea market; the fireball you meet at your evening Intro to Flambé cooking class; the unheralded linebacker from the Northwestern South Dakota Polytechnical Fightin' Mudflaps' clash with a Big Money University. Who knows — maybe the film reveals a future defensive player of the year and Sports Illustrated cover athlete? No less miraculously, this issue's "Shop Local" cover was serendipitously discovered on Etsy during an Erie Reader editors' meeting. In addition to our readers, this Thanksgiving we are thankful to Wilson Textiles for the beautiful stitchwork that adorns this publication.

Truth is, a lot of us don't know what we want until after the fact. The important thing is putting ourselves out there enough for opportunities to readily present themselves. If you're in the market for unique, locally-made gifts for family and friends, such opportunities are abounding. Many of them are packed into Small Business Saturday (Nov. 30), spotlighted in this issue. Beyond that, check our in-print and online event calendars for a smattering of pop-up holiday marketplaces and bazaars throughout the region. Can't make those? Nick Warren clues us in on some of the locally-owned shops you can visit throughout the season, while our annual Made in Erie Gift Guide delivers inspiration on specific locally-made items.

Surveying Erie County for its bounties should prove much less fraught than when Andrew Ellicott first did it in the 1790s (see Jonathan Burdick's fascinating piece on Erie's origins), and certainly not as stressful as canvassing the cosmos for habitable planets (which Harvard astrophysicist and recent Global Summit speaker Avi Loeb, whom Matt Swanseger profiles, highly recommends we do this century). Until we better understand how to weave through the fabric of time and space, let's tighten the threads of our community by supporting our immediate neighbors, family, and friends and custom embroider a future that we can proudly display in our home.

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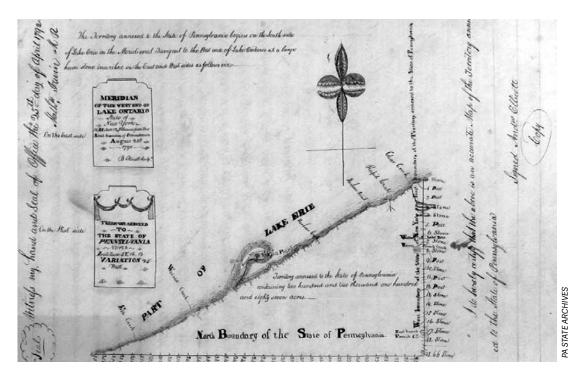
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The Story of the Erie Triangle

How Pennsylvania's early expansion was fraught with tension and threats of war



Bv: Jonathan Burdick

t wasn't long after the American Revolution ended that the newly unified states began squabbling — no surprise, considering the state of colonial relationships preceding the revolution. One of those early disputes included five states who each claimed that their colonial charters granted them the rights to an area along the southern shore of Lake Erie known as "the Erie Triangle."

The abbreviated version: the nearly 300-square-mile triangle (now comprising the northern section of Erie County, roughly from North Springfield to Wattsburg, including the City of Erie) was instead ceded to the newly formed federal government, which eventually sold the land to Pennsylvania in 1792, giving the state its iconic chimney along with much-desired access to Lake Erie's freshwaters.

The story between these bookends is far from simple though. For one, there had long been resistance from indigenous peoples to colonial encroachment in the Triangle.

The French had learned this first - and then the British after their rebuilding of Fort Presque Isle, which was surrounded and burned during Pontiac's War of 1763, with most of its occupants killed.

After the revolution, but before Pennsylvania's acquisition of the Triangle, native resistance to the annexation of their land continued. While an earlier 1784 treaty had created a legal paper trail for Pennsylvania's "Last Purchase," which ceded the northwestern territory of the state (not including the Erie Triangle) to the United States, it was viewed as illegitimate by many within the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, as well as the more loosely affiliated Western Confederacy.

"[W]e must observe to you, that we are sent in order to make peace, and that we are not authorized to stipulate any particular cession of lands," Mohawk leader Thayendanegea (better known as Joseph Brant) had warned when negotiations for the "Last Purchase" commenced. He, as well as many other Six Nation leaders, were not present for the signing of the treaty and while well-known Seneca diplomat Cornplanter had signed it, other tribal leaders argued that diplomats such as he did not possess the power to cede territory, rendering the treaty invalid.

Pennsylvania soon expressed renewed interest in expanding its borders to include the Erie Triangle. Seneca and other Iroquoian-speaking people to the east and Western Confederacy tribes to the west voiced their own claims, expressing that they would resist any American invasion of their lands. War between the Americans and the Western Confederacy had already erupted in the Northwest Territory, so the Six Nations anticipated that fears of such a war coming to Pennsylvania gave them leverage.

In his 1984 essay for The Journal of Erie Studies titled "Elimination of Indian Claims to the Erie Triangle," Carl B. Lechner described the growing suspicions that the Six Nations had concerning Pennsylvania's intentions. According to Lechner, many leaders "resent[ed] their having been cheated in former land transactions" and

[left] The federal government sold the much coveted Erie Triangle to Pennsylvania in 1792, ending a dispute between five states who had staked their claim. The 300-square-mile plot of land now constitutes the northern section of Erie County, including the City of Erie. [bottom right] Seneca diplomat Cornplanter helped mediate often tense negotiations between the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy and the white settlers, as Northwestern Pennsylvania was reluctantly ceded over to the Americans. A reservation near modern-day Warren was set aside for him and hundreds of other Seneca, known as the Cornplanter Tract.

did not consider Americans to be men of their word. Earlier payments to the Six Nations from previous treaties were still unfulfilled.

When a 1789 treaty then authorized the American annexation of the Triangle, the Six Nations argued against the treaty's legitimacy. Joseph Brant told Cornplanter that he was "alarmed to hear the people of the United States being

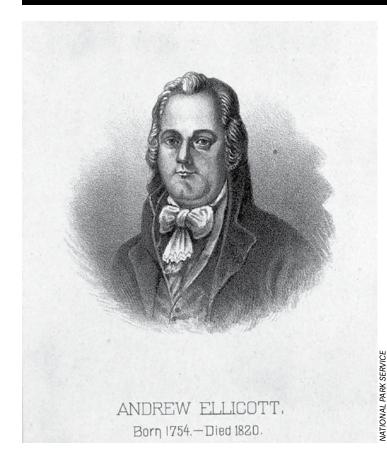
in possession of Presque Isle on Lake Erie." He actively encouraged people of the Six Nations to resist this annexation.

Then in 1790, when Cornplanter and other Seneca leaders were set to travel to Philadelphia to work out grievances, two Six Nations members were murdered in north-central Pennsylvania. Tensions immediately escalat-

"[The treaty] left them with a sense of outrage and indignation," explained Lechner. "The Six Nations' discontent over the murders ... threatened to undo all that had been accomplished."

Regardless of these increased tensions, the transfer of the Erie Triangle from the federal government to Pennsylvania was completed in 1792. The Six Nations were paid \$2,800 from Pennsylvania and \$1,200 from the federal government. An 1896 digest of Erie laws and ordinances described Corn-





planter's "excellent statesmanship" which earned him "a fine reservation near Warren ... [as] recompense for his services to the State." This would become known as the Cornplanter Tract and he and hundreds of other Seneca would live out the rest of their lives there.

The following year, Pennsylvania passed an act directing

an official survey to lay out a town at Presque Isle. Governor Thomas Mifflin appointed Andrew Ellicott for the task, which was also to include plans for surveying and laying towns including Franklin, Warren, and Waterford.

Ellicott, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1754, had been a major during the revolution, Surveyor Andrew Ellicott was appointed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to plan the City of Erie, having previously contributed to the development of Washington, D.C.

afterwards teaching mathematics and holding office in the Maryland state legislature. His assistance on the extension of the Mason-Dixon line, which determined the western boundary of Pennsylvania (aka "Ellicott's Line"), demonstrated his surveying skills and precision. Under the direction of George Washington, he surveyed the boundaries of Washington, D.C., famously clashing with the esteemed Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

Despite Pennsylvania's claim, President Washington was still weary of surveying the Erie Triangle. He feared retaliation from the Six Nations — who were, in fact, considering declaring war on the Americans. Cornplanter likewise had warned officials that surveying under such heightened tensions was not advisable.

Ellicott met with Six Nations delegates at Fort LeBoeuf hoping to ease these tensions. It did not go well. The meeting included, as described by Ellicott, "threatening language" and demands for all Ameri-

cans to vacate the Triangle.

After the meeting, Ellicott and their team of surveyors and soldiers garrisoned at Fort LeBoeuf in the August heat of 1794, awaiting further instructions from Philadelphia. At one point, he almost abandoned the mission altogether due to the miserable conditions and lack of communication.

"We live here like a parcel of monks or hermits," Ellicott wrote his wife. "[O]ur linen is dirty, our faces and hands brown, and ... our beards are generally long."

Although they were able to lay out plans for Waterford, Erie wouldn't be surveyed that summer. Tensions endured over the following year. War was a distinct possibility, but as Western Confederacy forces were defeated in the Northwest Territory by the United States Army (led by General "Mad" Anthony Wayne), the Six Nations leaders reconsidered.

By the spring of 1795, the Pennsylvania General Assembly again passed an act directing a town to be laid out at Presque Isle.

One surveyor, a young man named George Burges, kept a journal of his journey to Erie with the returning Ellicott (who himself only once mentioned Burges in his journals, noting that he tasked Burges with tracking down lost baggage). They departed Philadelphia in late May.

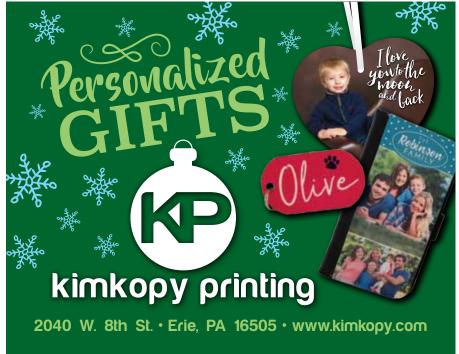
By June, they had reached Franklin. It was there that they heard news of two Americans being killed by members of the Six Nations in the Triangle.

"[W]e met a company who inform'd us that the Indians had lately killed two men and in the evening we were overtaken by a company who inform'd us that there had lately been five war Indians near where we were at this time," Burges wrote

The killed were a father and son (some have claimed this was near present-day State and 15th streets, while others say it was nearer to Parade Street), with the elder man dead upon their discovery and the son scalped, but alive, only to succumb to his wounds later at Fort LeBoeuf.

Ellicott's surveyors continued onward. The trek was slow and difficult. The gnats and mosquitoes were excruciating, described as being as thick as fog and as painful as hot ashes.

"The road we travelled this





NEWS & VIEWS

day was exceedingly bad, having several times to lift our pack-horses out of the mire, the soil being loose and black," Burges described. "[It is] very heavily timber'd with hemlock and pine in places, and in other places an intermixture of almost every kind of wood so thick that the sun cannot shine upon the ground."

To add to such obstacles, many of the soldiers accompanying the surveying team were prone to drunkenness and general unruliness. Burges recounted how one soldier was punished for misbehaving. He had his beard shaved off with no soap or water and a dull razor

While the narrative of the Erie Triangle is often narrowed to simplify the story and fit on a historical marker, in many ways, the more complete story demonstrates the broader complexity of the early years of the United States as a whole.

before being tied up and washed down with cold water.

On another occasion, a soldier was lost and wandered aimlessly for nine days before being found, starving and disoriented.

"[T]he lost soldier, who was truly an object of compassion, having wandered in the wilderness nine days with nothing to eat but a quarter pound of bread, except the berries and herbs which he could find in the woods," wrote Burges.

By mid-July, they arrived at what would be Erie, Pennsylvania. The forests were thick with walnuts, hickories, and oaks. When Burges finally spotted Lake Erie, he described it as "very beautiful, as far as the eye can reach, nothing to be seen but water which is very clear and a fine sandy bottom" and from the high winds there were "very large [waves], dashing against the shore with great violence."

The team began their calculations, running their lines to layout Erie's grid almost immediately. They laid out streets east and west from East Avenue to Cranberry Street and north and south from the bayfront to 26th Street.

Colonel Seth Reed, along with his wife Hannah and their two sons, arrived during this time and began building their log cabin on Mill Creek,

becoming the first permanent American settlers in Erie. The renowned U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, Stephen Rochefontaine, also arrived to construct a new fort. During the ensuing weeks, Ellicott's surveyors worked tirelessly through injuries and mosquitoes, through pouring rainfall and mud.

"We are now completing work at this place," Ellicott wrote his wife. "The Indians continue peaceable and well disposed; the military establishment here will have a powerful effect in keeping them quiet."

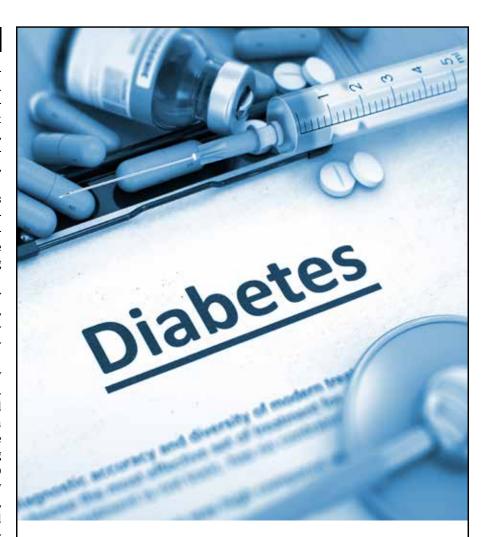
On September 21, 1795, they finally set four stones at the corners of Erie, Pennsylvania. Their work was complete. The next day, they left and Burges "bade adieu to Lake Erie."

By this time, Judah Colt was already organizing the warrants for Erie's land. By the next year, Daniel Dobbins would arrive and began shipping goods with his schooner, while Bo Bladen, once enslaved but moving to Erie having purchased his freedom, bought 400 acres for his family to build a new homestead and life. Within a few years, even more of the well-known historical characters of Erie's past would populate the town while surrounding towns throughout Pennsylvania's chimney Fairview, Harborcreek, Waterford, Union Township, and more — would all begin to grow.

Meanwhile, as the American population expanded within the area, the Six Nations continued to lose territory. Even into the 20th century, one-third of the Allegany Reservation, including Cornplanter's Tract, were controversially condemned by the U.S. government to be flooded by Kinzua Dam, displacing 600 Seneca. Even as recently as September 2019, the Seneca Nation was in the news for a dispute with New York State over repairs to a stretch of Interstate 90 that ran through its Cattaraugus Reservation.

While the narrative of the Erie Triangle is often narrowed to simplify the story and fit on a historical marker, in many ways, the more complete story demonstrates the broader complexity of the early years of the United States as a whole. Our history is as messy as it is intricate — and recognizing such nuances helps one better understand their own place within the larger story.

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



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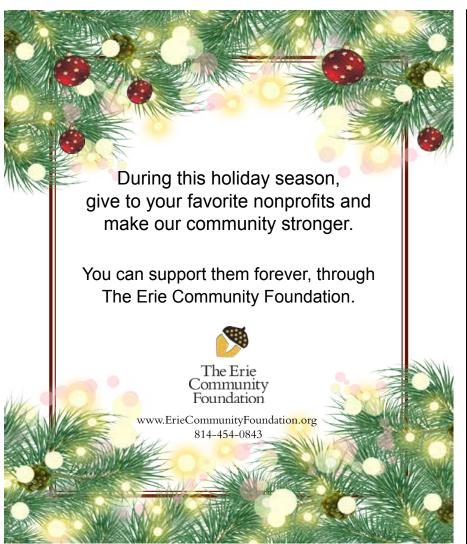
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Astronomical Insights from Avi Loeb

Harvard astrophysicist implores 'cosmic modesty'



By: Matt Swanseger

heck your egos at the black hole, folks. Turns out we're not so special. Take it from a leading astrophysicist and cosmologist. Abraham "Avi" Loeb, the chair of the Harvard Astronomy Department, founding director of its Black Hole Initiative, and director of its Institute for Theory and Computation recently spoke at Penn State Behrend as part of the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit XI. The focal point of his discussion, naturally, was the eternal question — "Are humans alone in the universe?" With refreshing candor and wit, the Israeli-born scientist Earth combined. served the audience a hearty slice of humble pie — and they morsel.

Although Loeb is not espe-

cially convinced there is intelligent life on Earth (joking that the headlines in the morning paper are proof enough of that), he is positive it exists elsewhere. After all, how could it not? Of the (lowball) estimated 1 septillion stars in the universe (i.e. one with a trailing entourage of 24 zeros — indeed an astronomical figure), one-fifth host a planet in the so-called "Goldilocks zone" where conditions are ripe for the atmosphere and liquid water necessary to cultivate life. That means there are more potentially habitable exoplanets (planets outside our solar system) than there are grains

Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb considers a question from the audience (relayed by Ben Speggen, foreground) after his lecture at Penn State Behrend's McGarvey Commons, one of the highlights of the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit XI.

mised Loeb. That is, of course. if an alien civilization doesn't find us first — if it hasn't already. It could be that "we are not significant enough for them to interact with us," suggests Loeb, "like ants" we're apt to ignore as we're traversing a sidewalk — unless we're staring intently at our feet. Considering that the majority of stars formed before our Sun, other forms of intelligent life could have a 1 billion year jumpstart on humanity in technology. With no frame of reference for their advances, they would seem magical or "like God."

One technology that may not surprise us is the lightsail. Like a windsail harnesses the breeze to propel a watercraft between landmasses, a lightsail harnesses the power of light to propel a spacecraft across the vast gulfs between stars. Loeb heads the advisory committee for the Breakthrough Starshot project, which aims to visit the nearest star (Proxima Centauri) and its potentially tenable exoplanet (Proxima B) and even snap

photos. How? A lightsail literally beamed through space (with lasers!) at one-fifth the speed of light. The tiny spacecraft, measuring four meters in diameter and weighing a matter of grams, would carry an onboard camera, computer, communications laser, and plutonium power source. In total, the mission would take about 25-30 years — over two decades for the little spacecrafts to get within range, and another four to five years for the data to be pinged back to Earth.

This is all very fascinating and exciting to us, but it actually may not be at all original. That's because thousands of trapped interstellar objects are likely already present in our solar system, "and if there is another civilization ... that has this technology developed to maturity, then they may have used it," Loeb predicts. One that especially captured the attention of the international media and the scientific community was 'Oumuamua in October of 2017, first observed from Hawaii ('Oumuamua is Hawaiian for "scout" or "messenger"). While many of Loeb's peers discounted it as "purely natural in origin," Loeb wasn't so sure.

"This is the first object that we noticed from outside the solar system that they came

within the vicinity of the earth. And it looked very peculiar. Firstly, it tumbled every eight hours and in the process of doing so, the amount of sunlight that it reflected changed by at least a factor of 10. So that implies that the object is at least 10 times longer than it is wide. But if you're not looking at it edge on, it might actually be much thinner than that. And that's a much more extreme geometry than we've seen before for any comet or asteroid," he explained. Furthermore, it did not show any cometary features like a tail or loss of mass from melting ice, or an orbit shaped by the gravitational force of the sun. "So we suggested that maybe the sunlight reflected off it is giving it the push. And in order for that to be the case, in order for that to be effective, the object needs to be very thin, and act like a lightsail."

"It's not easy to detect objects unless they're big enough, so 'Oumuamua is 100 meters. and we saw the reflected sunlight — but it may well be that there are lots of things moving through space that we don't notice, and if we don't look, we will never notice," Loeb posit-

pen-mindedness and humility have long guided

of sand on all the beaches of Once we leave our cloistered little cul de sac in the cosgraciously sucked up every last mic neighborhood, "we will find that we might not be the smartest kid on the block," sur-





NEWS & VIEWS



This artist's rendering conceptualizes the unusual geometry of 'Oumuamua (Hawaiian for "scout" or "messenger"), the first officially recognized interstellar object to pass through our solar system. Its peculiar attributes led Harvard Astronomy Department chairman Avi Loeb to deduce that it might be unnatural in origin.

Loeb's onboard navigation systems, from his days working on the family farm in Israel all the way to academia. He compares the scientific process to detective work or chipping away at a block of marble. To him, being a scientist is an extension of childhood curiosity, when every possibility was on the table. Know what you don't know, and share and utilize what you do. Because no matter your field of expertise, there's nothing worse for science than having your head up your own asteroid.

"Many of my colleagues say we should wait until we are

sure about something and only then communicate to the public. But I find that a bit arrogant because it gives the sense that scientists are the elite and they're preaching to the public. And that is the reason why many populist movements regard science as part of the elite, because the scientists elevate themselves to an ivory tower where they speak amongst themselves, not necessarily making this clear to the public, and only come out when they feel it's the right time." This foments distrust, and by extension misguided policymaking and behavior. In short, the

opposite of intelligent signs of life

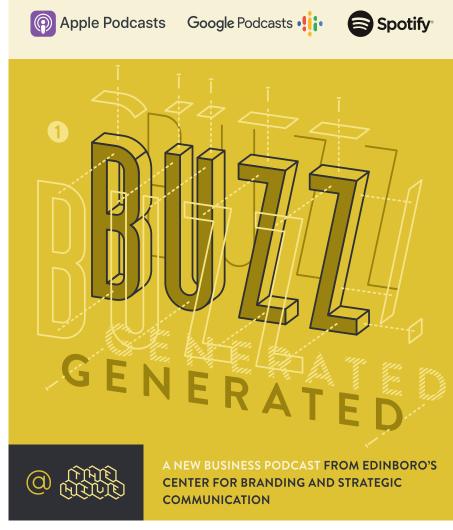
"I have a very simple rule: If you are doing things that benefit you in the long run, you are intelligent. Do what promotes you the best." On an individual scale — one of the very minutest in the universe — that means making healthy decisions regarding lifestyle and relationships. On a humanity scale, it means thinking less in terms of nation-states and more in terms of quantum states, collaborating to put our best fleet forward as we foray into space. If this seems a bit idealistic, Loeb agrees.

Our best chance at surviving as a species, he argues, is to not "put all our eggs in one basket, to spread our civilization elsewhere." There are two ways we could do that: either transporting ourselves to colonize habitable planets or sending the equipment and raw materials capable of remotely replicating ourselves — essentially biological 3D printing. It's not as farfetched as you may think Canadian-American biologist and Nobel winner Jack W. Szostak, a major contributor to the Human Genome Project, has already made tremendous headway into synthesizing life in a laboratory setting. With multiple planets hosting the human race, losing one to our own stupidity would not mean our total extinction. Earth would essentially be our mul-

Loeb compares life on Earth as a cake, baked under a specific range of conditions with a specific set of ingredients. However, tweaking ratios and time in the oven can produce vastly disparate results. "We are very proud of ourselves for no good reason. How do we know it's the best cake?" Loeb asks.

As it stands, we may not be the best cake, but at least we're not a burnt cake. To keep it that way, Loeb argues, we should avoid arrogance (thinking we're superior) and conviction (thinking we're right without evidence). For a species that has repeatedly and historically hiked up its own skirt and flung open its own trenchcoat (look at me!), a little bit of cosmic modesty might ultimately make our tiny pebble worth paying attention to.

Matt Swanseger has never been so arrogant to even attempt to bake a cake. He can be reached at mswanseger@eriereader.com

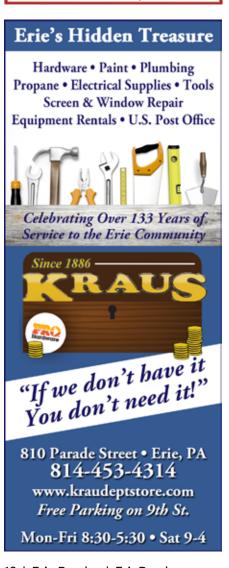




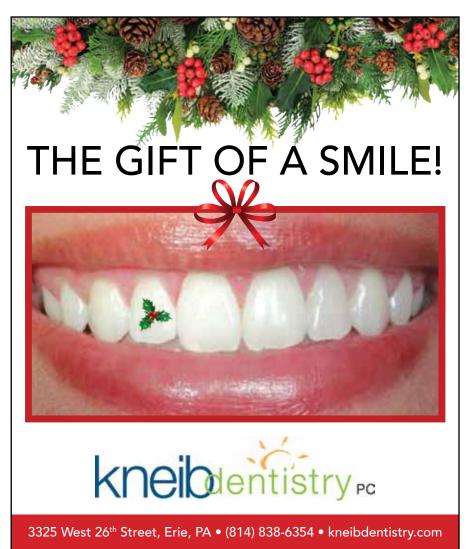


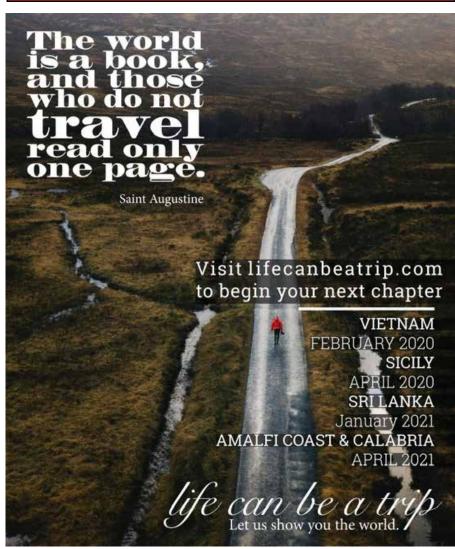












NEWS & VIEWS

Attainable Education for Everyone

The fight continues for local community college



By: Martha "Marty" Nwachukwu

"m reminded again of how far our state capitol is from anywhere that isn't Philadelphia. I'm up at 5 a.m. for another trip to Harrisburg. I'm joining a bus there to rally the Pennsylvania Board of Education to recommend that Erie County be designated as the next site for a community college. I personally find this issue important and feel this resource is necessary for our region to thrive. To this day, I carry the same shock that Erie does not have its own institution as when I first found out. The community college in my home county of Allegheny was intrinsic to the educational ecosystem.

In my junior year of high school, as we began conversations about post-secondary education, CCAC was always at the beginning of discussions. CCAC, the Community College of Allegheny County, was a community staple, with campuses all over the county. Its presence was ubiquitous; everyone knew someone who attended or at one point took a class at the local community college. As the class of 2011, we were at the tail end of the millennial generation. We read and listened to stories about the recent financial crisis, which was hitting the older end of our generation the hardest, being saddled with student debt and struggling to find work in a tight job market. To the best of our abilities as soon-to-be college applicants, we had to be considerate of our financial futures. It was commonly known that if you attended CCAC for your first two years of school while you finished your general education requirements - curriculum that is generally mandated for most degrees of study - you would save thousands of dollars. It was an option that could make attaining a

State leadership again punted on the decision to establish an Erie Community College, despite support from many of Erie's local elected and business leaders. Guest columnist and community organizer Marty Nwachukwu has seen firsthand how a community college can benefit its people in her native Allegheny County.

four-year degree more affordable.

I personally never attended CCAC, but my family is one of many households that have been impacted and helped by the resource. Although I attended Edinboro University, I often found myself looking at their catalogs and considering taking classes at home to save money. After struggling during her first year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, my sister returned home to Pittsburgh and began taking classes at CCAC rather than dropping out of college.

During my time at Edinboro, I met many students like my sister. In the fall semester, the campus would be filled with energy and life, but after we returned from holiday break, the campus seemed emptier. Every year, students who were unprepared for college or not able to financially support themselves left after the fall semester. Many of them were Erie natives. Unlike my sister, Erie natives do not have the fallback and academic and financial support that community colleges provide.

These students are like many residents in Erie, in a place that could open doors — but without the proper preparation, they are left out of great opportunities. Erie County is at a critical moment. We are witnessing a Rust Belt Renaissance, but we need an inclusively educated and trained workforce to build our future.

Many of our local elected and business leaders have supported and backed the need for a community college. I have never witnessed the community rally together behind a cause like they have this one, but on Wednesday (Nov. 13), I saw state leadership shortchanging the people of our county. The subcommittee for the Erie Community College failed to make a recommendation but instead recommended a hearing on an issue they have already been reviewing for two years.

Erie lacks the workforce to sustain itself, whether it's in the trades, nursing, or tech, but we have the human capital to change this. Traditional four-year institutions are not financially accessible for all students. Traditional colleges do not accept all students. Even for those accepted, not every student is prepared for the collegiate level upon high school

The time is now to make this happen. We cannot allow another generation of students to slip through the cracks.

Marty Nwachukwu is a community organizer with Erie County United. To get involved, get a hold of them at contact@eriecountyunited.org





TV 54.1 • Radio 91.3FM • WQLN Education • Q-Media Schedule Highlights November 26 at 8pm on WQLN-TV 54.1

NEWS & VIEWS

Ten Years of 'All Aboard Erie'

Experts continue to weigh in on rail travel and the future of transportation in Erie



By: Lisa Austin, CIVITAS

igh-speed rail is a multi-billion dollar effort" that isn't coming here "any time soon," said Mark Spada of Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail during the All Aboard Erie (AAE) Annual Meeting at the Blasco Memorial Library on October 21.

Spada encouraged AAE to tackle "achievable goals." But, because Erie was absent from national high-speed rail (HSR) maps, some AAE founders, including the late Bill Welch, embraced HSR. Through self-funded visits to state leaders, AAE's executive director Brian Pitzer brought Erie to the national conversation and recruited Penn State Behrend students to conduct preliminary route studies. Via Kickstarter campaigns, AAE is half-way to the \$25,000 needed for a professional Erie-Pittsburgh route study. A true believer, Pitzer says that "HSR in Erie is inevitable" and wonders if we'll be "[at] the forefront — or last on board." Like Pitzer, the California transit expert Roger Rudick is convinced that "one day HSR will be an essential part of our transportation fabric."

People who can't drive, can't afford a car, or who are environmentally and/ or health-focused are choosing to live in walkable, bikeable, and connected places. To attract and retain residents. Erie needs convenient, affordable transit. To get "good transit," Freda Tepfer, a mobility expert, says Erie needs "a dedicated funding source, through a small local sales or a utility tax, which requires state legislation." Existing transportation funding shouldn't be used to expand roadways for private vehicles. Instead, ideas such as creating a rail trolley running on the old waterfront railroad line and up State Street, replacing the McBride Viaduct, connecting A passenger train speeds by at the Erie Amtrak station, 125 W. 14th St. Organizations such as All Aboard Erie have advocated for smarter, cleaner, and faster forms of mass transit including high speed rail, but getting the infrastructure in place is years — if not decades — down the road.

the east side of Erie to Presque Isle, and working to create a Great Lakes ferry are worth considering.

Art can help make transportation visions tangible. In 2014, AAE and CI-VITAS collaborated with Edinboro University students to design PHERN—the Pennsylvania Higher Education Road Network. PHERN maps were distributed to politicians, college presidents, and students to plant a seed for future collaborations.

Transportation advocacy is essential. AAE's persistent call for the inclusion of experienced bus riders on the EMTA Board eventually led to the appointment of AAE's Julie Minich and Jessica Molzan.

Transportation policy changes are crucial. In 2017, Bike Erie and AAE co-hosted a Candidates Forum on the economic and social benefits of transit-oriented design. Moderated by AAE's Brian Pitzer and Bike Erie's Adam Trott at the Asbury Woods Nature Center, the forum clarified the role transportation plays in the economy, the environment, public health, and social justice.

Transportation education is needed. AAE has convened local experts including EMTA's Mike Tann and respected author Kenneth Springirth. They have also brought many national speakers to Erie. In 2015, Dr. Daniel Hess, Chair of Urban/Regional Planning at the University at Buffalo, explained how transit "can maximize mixed-use development." In 2016, James McCommons, the train advocate and author, told AAE that safe, affordable and convenient rail services are a public good and should be publicly funded.

In 2018, AAE held a panel discussion about an Erie streetcar plan and intercity HSR featuring Peter Voorhees, an urban transportation planning manager from Ohio.

This year, Mark Spada suggested that AAE work to link existing services. For instance, while there is one daily train from Erie to NYC, a state subsidy for New York's Amtrak routes gives Buffalo residents four daily trains to the Big Apple. Spada suggested working toward creating a direct bus route to connect to the more frequent rail services in nearby cities. Inspired by Spada, AAE has revisited ideas about cleaning and painting Erie's shabby Amtrak waiting room, getting local art and history showcased at the station and leaving visitor information in the lobby, including the Erie Reader and flyers from local venues.

For a decade now, AAE has been advocating for local bus, inter-city bus, light rail, Amtrak, and HSR. AAE's advocacies echo those of Smart Growth America's Complete Streets all-inclusive transportation policy and design approach. Complete Streets benefit residents "of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation," while protecting the environment and jumpstarting local economies. Complete Streets integrate "people and place in the planning design, construction, operation and maintenance of transportation networks."

The late Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings, an outspoken advocate for social justice, said that transportation decisions are crucially important because they "determine the connections and barriers that people will encounter in their daily lives" as they try to get "where they need and want to go." To benefit residents, they must be engaged to play a primary role in transportation and infrastructure planning.

By helping people have a voice in "where they need and want to go," AAE will continue to play an important role helping to create thriving, safe, healthy and just communities in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Learn more at AllAboardErie.com

Social sculptor Lisa Austin, an art professor at Edinboro University, co-founded CIVITAS in 2004 which in turn initiated and co-founded Preservation Erie in 2007, Innovation Erie at the Erie Art Museum in 2008, All Aboard Erie in 2009, SculptureX in 2010, the Made in Erie Marketplace and Rethink the McBride Viaduct/ ErieCPR in 2013 and the Made in Erie/Innovation Erie Design Labs at the Blasco Library in 2015.

November 30 at 10pm

on WQLN-TV 54.1



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Made in Erie Gift Guide 2019

Thinking lo-lo-locally this holiday season

By: Rebecca Styn

n an era when big box stores and e-commerce dominate the market, locally made products and brick and mortar shops continue to play an even more critical role in our communities. In fact, today, the nation's top employers are small businesses. For every dollar you spend at a small business, 67 cents stays local and a majority of that (44 cents) goes to the small business owner and the wages and benefits of their employees. Small businesses also reinvest 23 cents of every dollar into other local businesses. And if the statistics aren't enough, when you keep your money where your heart lives, you're supporting an economy of family, friends, and neighbors, and helping to build a community that thrives. Here are just a few hints for making this yuletide a little brighter with some of Erie's native products. Remember, there's no place like home for the holidays.

Harmonious Gifts



Believe it or not, Erie was once a mecca for world-famous musicians. In its heyday, the Erie County Fieldhouse was a stop for a variety of renowned musicians, including the likes of Alice Cooper, Aerosmith, Barry Manilow, Johnny Cash, Santana, and many others. And although we can't go back in time, we can commemorate some of these moments with vintage style posters recreated by local author and artist Dan Schell. In 2012, Schell also wrote and published 9 Years of Rock: The Story Of The Concerts At The Erie County Fieldhouse which chronicles the backstory and descriptions of each of the shows. Unique posters, t-shirts, and the book commemorating those

years can be found at their Etsy shop @ ErieCountyFieldhouse.

Distinktive Cards



Flagship City Press is woman-founded, owned and operated by designers Corinne Kraus and Dena Rupp. Through their minds' eye, these two talented designers have found an impressionable way to showcase Erie's uniqueness — by designing Erie-inspired stationery and paper goods. So, if you're looking for unique holiday (or everyday) cards or postcards, we highly suggest you invest in these two. Whether it's the "Happy Pawlidays from Erie, PA," or taking a stance on your favorite hot dog, "Let's be frank, it's Gotta be a Smiths," there's a unique message to be taken (or given) from each of these fine Lake Erie creations. Find them online at flagshipcitypress.com, featuring a guide to more than a dozen physical locations that stock their wares.

Holiday Cheer for the Home Team



Erie has always had a lot of hometown pride — especially when it comes to our local sports teams. If you have a hockey, basketball, or baseball fanatic in your life, you otter check out some of the great-looking swag to be found while supporting our hometown ath-

Just this past year the Erie Otters reintroduced the furry little namesake in their logo and gear. Their secondary logo — the angry otter — is a fierce yet lovable character, made in partnership with Erie Apparel. Their blue, gold, and white colors adorn all of their merch and any true local hockey fan would love to get in on the swag action. Go to erieottersstore.com to shop, or drop by a game at Erie Insurance Arena.

How about giving a gift that supports a great cause? The Erie SeaWolves are selling replica jerseys in honor of Chace Numata, the Seawolves catcher who tragically passed away in September. These bright yellow jerseys feature Chace's name and number. The hashtag #LiveLikeNumi is featured on the back of the shirt, to honor his life both on and off the field. Proceeds benefit the Chace Numata Scholarship. This and other SeaWolves gear can be found at seawolves.milbstore.com.

As mid-season approaches for the Erie BayHawks, what better time than now to support Erie's NBA G League affiliate. Surprise your basketball fanatic with a replica jersey featuring their name on the back. This and other avian merchandise can be found at gleaguestore.nba.com/erie-bayhawks.

Fleece Navidad



Annadele Alpacas farm was founded by Deb King and Sharon Heiser almost two decades ago. According to their site, the duo learned how to breed, birth, and improve genetics for better fiber, and their respect for the curious and intelligent alpacas turned into a deep love of the lavish fiber they produce. Alpaca wool is as soft as cashmere, about 5 times warmer than sheep's wool, and has fewer natural oils that make the fiber less itchy and more likely to be hypoallergenic. Today, they offer a variety of products and are known especially

for their socks — including boot, trouser, and therapeutic styles. Check out this line of unique and one-of-a-kind items online (or arrange a personal tour) at annadelealpacas.com.

Happy Howlidays



One Leg Up! Pet products was the brainpup of Jon Meighan, owner of Lake Erie Rubber & Manufacturing. With the help of the Northwest Pennsylvania Beehive Network, and utilizing the area colleges and universities, Meighan was able to create a prototype that helped him perfect his design before he went through the process of having a rubber mold made. Currently, the company features two main products: the Groove Ball and the Hydrant Toy. The Groove Ball (in mellow yellow or cosmic blue) is a solid, natural rubber ball — BPA and phthalate-free and engineered with long-lasting Durafloat™ technology. It is gentle on dogs' teeth and dishwasher safe (top shelf). What fur-baby wouldn't pawsitively love this product? Order one at 1leguppets.com, or use their store locator to find a nearby retailer.

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FEATURE

cal coffee shops provide the caffeine fix most of us seek daily. Aside from gift cards (which are always great ideas), these local coffee crafters feature other great gifts for the coffee-phile in your

Last year **Tipsy Bean** opened in Erie's Federal Hill area (2425 Peach Street and online at tipsybean.cafe). Since then, owner Giselle Littrell has added the Luminary cocktail bar and a variety of European baked goods and desserts. Fans of this warm and welcoming café can also purchase the Tipsy Bean logo t-shirts and hoodies, art, hop leaf tea tins, handmade ornaments, and gift baskets all made by local entrepre-

Ember + Forge's owner Hannah Kirby has seen great success since she first opened her doors back in 2017 to become Downtown Erie's only independently run coffee shop. A hotspot for daily meetings, gatherings with friends — or just a quick stop to say hello to resident coffee and pop trivia lover Donny — the store offers more than a quick espresso hit for those looking to gift something to the local coffee connoisseur. Brandwear including t-shirts, logo mugs, and the hip new 8-1-Forged (play on the 814) raglans are on hand, as well as the always appreciated gift cards and fresh roasted bags of coffee. If you go, make sure to ask Donny for a trivia question. Located online at emberandforge.com, and in real life at 401 State St.

Making Spirits Bright



In the last few years Erie has become home to some great craft distilleries including Luminary, Cart/Horse, and Five & 20. Ever-expanding entries to this spirited market continues to afford the local bibulous even more offerings. Proprietors Karen and Dave Harkness opened the Prohibition-themed **Erie Distillery** (eriedistilledspirits. com) last spring at 1101 Peninsula Drive. Their distillery is home to a variety of hand-crafted spirits including limoncello, vodka, apple pie moonshine, and a hot pepper moonshine to enhance

even the finest Bloody Marys.

Started by long-time friends and Erie natives Aaron Hetz and Gavin Haus, Altered State Distillery officially opened their doors on Nov. 19, but their grand opening celebration will be held Saturday, Nov. 30. Located in the Greengarden Plaza, the distillery houses a 500 gallon, American-made copper still — one of the largest in the region. It will feature three barrel-aged whiskeys (Peated, Red-Tail, and American blended) and White Mink vodka bottled and ready for sale. Patrons can also purchase unique brand merchandise including zipped hoodies and flannels, glassware and caps. Find them at 1535 W. 8th St. and at alteredstatedistillery.

Christmas Bells are Ringing



The White family has been involved in the organized sport of horseshoe pitching for five generations — a game that has been enjoyed for centuries whether at family gatherings or serious competitions. It was 1920 when Sam White organized the first horseshoe pitching leagues and tournaments here in our Gem City. The business has been passed down from generation to generation where it finally landed with Tony and Bobby White, the current owners. Over the years, the business has developed dozens of horseshoe designs, and their current lineup includes twelve models of four horseshoes in each of the three major types — traditional, flip-style, and universal. These distinctive blue and red shoes are designed for players of all skill levels. Haven't checked out the game before? Now is your time to discover it at horseshoesonline.com.

The Advent of Artistry

Diderot once noted, "Only passions, great passions, can elevate the soul to great things." Heather Cash is one of those that lives that statement. Today, this computer programmer-turned-artist lives her passion through a variety of creative outlets - providing art instruction, and creating illustrations



and murals — including ones for key organizations throughout the city, such as the Children's Museum and the Erie Zoo. She has illustrated a children's book and wrote and illustrated her own coloring book. And now you can instill this creativity in others. Children (and adults) are sure to delight in her whimsical hedgehog, sloth, and kitty paint kits; her friendly forest coloring books; and her paint-your-own canvas sets (all with free shipping). This and more can be found at her online shop at heathercash.com.

Seas and Greetings



American Cruising Sails is a sailmaker started by — who else? — sailors. This team effort led by A.J. Miceli, Kim Yamma, Mark Platteter, and Rosemary Briggs creates sails for avid seafarers around the country. Their subsidiary, Vela, repurposes old sails into a variety of unique products. According to their site, Vela is the "sail" constellation of the sailing ship Vargo in the southern sky." The items are individually made from recycled sailcloth donated by sailors and the look and style varies. Each one is a living memory of sails gone by. Wine totes, pillows, wristlets, duffel bags and more can be found at americancruisingsails.com.

Rebecca Styn is VP of Ventures at Erie Innovation District 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. List compiled with help from Nick Warren.



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Erie Gift Epicenters

Stop into these storefronts for a bevy of locally-made items

By: Nick Warren

n addition to the items featured in our annual Made in Erie Gift Guide, there is a staggering number of locally-made gifts available to Erieites elsewhere. While the home-minded gifter should keep their eyes peeled for the various one-off craft events around the holiday season, there are a handful of places around town you can waltz right into and pick something up any time. Keep in mind that there are many different dedicated storefronts, be they wearables (Iron Empire, Erie Apparel, Relish Studio & Gallery, etc), food (Romolo Chocolate, Icing on the Lake, Stanganelli's, etc.), or drink (Mazza Vineyards, Altered State Distillery, Lavery Brewing Co., etc.) that service one primary retailer. At these places you'll find things from a multitude of makers, many of them from right here in Erie. Each place has helpful staff on hand who will be more than happy to assist you. Simply ask "what do you have that's locally-made?" and they'll point you to a sea of choices for your yuletide needs.

Artlore Studio

Now celebrating their fourth year in business, Artlore Studio is one of the few businesses that boasts a varied inventory entirely comprised of Eriemade works. Part art gallery and part boutique, it's a true gem for Erie's art community. Keep up with their event calendar to catch one of their many musical offerings, or simply stop by during their regular hours.

3406 W Lake Rd. // (814) 520-8800 // instagram @artlorestudio

Attic Rehab



One wouldn't expect to find an attic on the ground floor, but this mesmerizingly charming storefront on the first level of the PACA building defies those odds. With a gorgeous array of upcycled furniture and home goods, Attic Rehab's "recovered treasures" are worth a look. The boutique also features a stable of local vendors for candles, soaps, ceramics, and more (with a special locally-centered pop-up on Dec.

1501 State St. // (814) 860-4886 // instagram @ atticrehaberie

Glass Growers Gallery

Right next to the Erie Art Museum (in fact, there's a museum entrance at the rear of the store), Glass Growers Gallery has been operating since 1974. One can find beautiful gifts large and small, from fine art and jewelry to socks and toys. Guests will get lost in their well-stocked shelves, the store's friendly staff able to guide you to works from many local artists and artisans.

10 East 5th St. // (814) 453-3758 // instagram @ glassgrowersgallery

Gone Local



A new pop-up location that's running until the end of December, Gone Local is exactly what the Erie-focused gift giver is looking for. Everything in the store is either made in Erie or with the city keenly in mind. The store features a nearly exhaustive list of many items that have been featured in our Gift Guide, and inspired a few new ideas. Take special notice of their curated gift boxes for the coffee, snack, or pet enthusiast in your life.

405 State St. // (814) 392-0488 // instagram @ gonelocalerie

The Oasis Market

Not just a place for produce, baked goods, and other foods, The Oasis Market has all kinds of locally-made items, and an inventory that's always growing. Guests that come in looking for a few stocking stuffers will want to return to this small business incubator again and again with its warm, invigorating atmosphere.

914 State St. // (814) 651-0679 // instagram @ theoasismarket

Presque Isle Gallery & Gifts

Situated right at the entrance of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle Gallery & Gifts is a fun desti-



nation, and an easy excuse to pop into TREC while you're there. Take a second and ask one of their staff members to point you to their Erie-made items. Art, keepsakes, accessories, and more are scattered throughout, with a large cluster just beyond the register island.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle, 301 Peninsula Dr. // (814) 836-9107 // instagram @pi_galleryandgifts

Sparrow Gallery

Opening its doors just this August, Sparrow Gallery is a wonderfully welcoming place with a focus on championing regional artists and makers. From soap and spices to paintings and jewelry, Sparrow's shelves are filled with great local finds, and are always looking for more on a consignment basis. They also offer a full slate of workshops, growing the arts community by letting attendees try their own hand at painting and crafting as well.

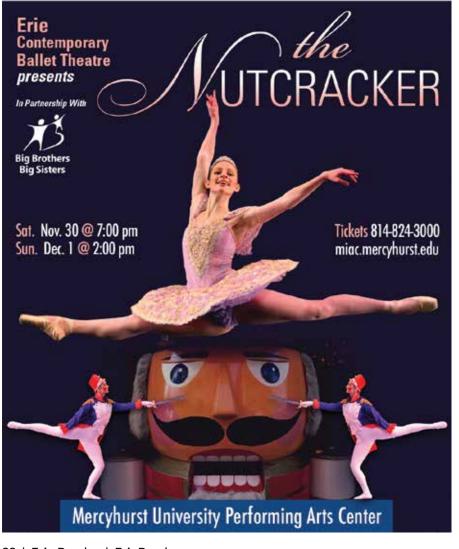
1835 W 26th St. // (814) 923-1380 // instagram @ sparrowgalleryerie

Nick Warren loves stopping in to all of these places, and got himself a few nice things when compiling this list. He can be reached on eBay at some_numbers trying to sell non-locally-made things, and on email at nick@eriereader.com.











Give Yourself the 'Wilis' with Giselle at Mercyhurst



FRIDAY, NOV. 22 - 24

pon its premiere in Paris in 1841, the ballet Giselle was an instant success.

Just look at all the compelling elements that make up this classic: Beautiful, naive peasant girl who dies of heartbreak? Check. Wicked seducer of innocents who must pay for what he has done in an utterly horrific fashion? Check. Spooky spirits of women who were betrayed and died of heartbreak (called "Wilis"), and who take their revenge by inducing disloyal lovers to dance until they die? Also check.

It is no wonder that Giselle, ultimately a story of forgiveness and love, was a smash hit 178 years ago and has remained one of the most popular ballets, staged all over the world, ever since.

Now, this darkly tragic and deeply moving story is coming to the stage at

Mercyhurst University's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, for a four-performance engagement presented by the MU Dance Department. Portraying the lead role of Giselle are senior dance major Megan Carnuche and sophomore dance major Mary Joy White, with guest dancer (and MU'10 alum) Justin Michael Hogan as Giselle's lover, Duke Albrecht.

The ensemble is rounded out by some 60 other performers, with the Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra performing the score live, under the direction of Jonathan Moser.

Retired dance professor Tauna Hunter, who herself portrayed Giselle throughout her career, has returned to direct this production. She commented, "The choreography for this ballet has withstood the test of time and is the only ballet in the classical repertoire that remains true to the original."

The public is also invited to the \$50 pre-performance gala reception prior to the Friday show, which benefits the Jenni-Lyn Watson Memorial Scholarship Fund and SafeNet. — Cara Suppa

Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St // Adults \$16, seniors \$11, students \$8.50, youth \$6 // miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/giselle

Thollem McDonas Stirs Things Up at Artlore Studios



FRIDAY, NOV. 22

any labels could be applied to Thollem McDonas — including pianist, keyboardist, composer, improviser, singer-songwriter, activist, author, and teacher — but perhaps the one that fits best is "traveler." The 52-year-old Bay Area native has spent the majority of his adult life on the move, performing solo and in myriad groups, conducting workshops, and putting on clinics throughout North America and Europe. Rarely settling in one place physically or sonically, McDonas is a nomadic soul through and through. Next stop: Artlore Studios.

McDonas' playing restlessly explores

the limits of musical possibility, rarely adhering to "the rules." Predictable chord progressions? Seldom. Easily identifiable key signatures? Not really, but you're welcome to try. This fearless experimenter has even been known to tinker with temperament, or the distance between tones (Western music uses 12 tones, seven naturals and five sharps/flats - microtonal music utilizes even tinier variations in pitch). Blues and classical music are often reference points in McDonas' work - indeed he can and has performed in these spheres —but it's all spun in an improvisatory centrifuge powered by free jazz spirit and punk rock attitude (indeed, he is the frontman of the Italian punk band Tsig-

Cumulatively, McDonas has recorded over 60 albums, performed in over 1.500 shows, and collaborated with hundreds of like-minded artists in music, dance, and film - while breaking an untold number of conventions along the way. Intrepid ears and open minds are encouraged to come along for what should be a hell of a ride. — Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. to 10 p.m. // 3406 W. Lake Rd. // \$8 suggested donation // facebook.com/ Artlorestudio

MUSIC

Matty B & 57 Pickup

Nov. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m. Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Open Mic

Nov. 20, Dec. 4 — 9 p.m. Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com

The High Life

Nov. 21 — 6 to 9 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Nov. 21 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

The Rooftop Project

Nov. 21 — 7 to 10 p.m. Riverside Brewing Company, 1 Fountain St., Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 riversidebrewery.com.

Behrend Concert Band

Nov. 21 — 8 p.m. Reed Union Bldg. at Penn St. Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Live from Studio Q: Chautauqua Brass

Nov. 22 — noon WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Katie & Jesse

Nov. 22 — 5 to 7 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Pop Rockets

Nov. 22 — 6 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Jesse James Weston

Nov. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m. Mound Grove Golf Course, 10760 Donation Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 moundgrove.com

Dave Van Amburg and Friends

Nov. 22, 27, 29, Dec. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m. Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

The Earthquakers

Nov. 22 — 6 to 10 p.m. BIGBAR, 14 E, 10th St, biabar, net.

Rhythmic Explorations World Drumming Workshop

Nov. 22 — 7 p.m.

This world drumming workshop shows attendees how to play the African djembe drum, who will learn traditional songs from Africa. This 90-minute session only has 20 seats available. PACA, 1505 State St. (2nd Fl.) facebook.com.

Mark Morris

Nov. 22 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy, presqueisledowns.com.

Acoustic Adelaide

Nov. 22 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794 900 W. Frie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Trio Concert

Nov. 22 — 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy. uuerie.org.

Thollem McDonas

Nov. 22 — 8 p.m. Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Jay Baumgardner

Nov. 22 — 8 to 11 p.m. Riverside Brewing Company, 1 Fountain St., Cambridge Springs. PA 16403 riversidebrewery.com.

Optimistic Apocalypse

Nov. 22 — 11 p.m.

The trio led by Mckenzie Sprague brings their indie-alternative music to King's Rook Club in the upstairs lounge. King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Dan Baney Country Unplugged

Nov. 23 — 5 to 7 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

JB Aaron

Nov. 23 — 6 to 10 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Geek Army

Nov. 23 — 6 to 10 p.m. BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. bigbar.net.

Doug Phillips

Nov. 23 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Danny and the Daddios

Nov. 23, 27 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

A Motown Christmas

Nov. 23 — 7:30 p.m.

Past and present members of The Temptations, The Miracles, and The Capitol combine to bring audiences Motown and holiday classics, complete with the choreography and tight vocal harmonies that took the R&B world by storm in the '60s and '70s. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriewarnertheatre.com.

Paolello and Gone

Nov. 23 — 8 to 11 p.m. Riverside Brewing Company, 1 Fountain St., Cambridge Springs. PA 16403 riversidebrewery.com.

Mungion, Magic Beans

Nov. 23 — 10 p.m. King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Maybelle and The Band Nov. 24 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Cork 1794 900 W. Frie. Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Jamie Holka

Nov. 24 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tayern 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Uncharted Course

Nov. 24—1 to 4 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 F. Main St. North Fast PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Gino Vannelli

Nov. 24 — 7 p.m.

Mutli-platinum Canadian singer-songwriter and AOR mainstay brings his distinctive voice to the Warner Theatre. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriewarnertheatre.com

Mercyhurst Small **Ensembles Concert**

Nov. 25 — 7 p.m. Walker Recital Hall at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Ukulele Workshop

Nov. 26 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Misery Bay Dulcimer

Holiday Concert

Nov. 26 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Cat's A Bear

Nov. 27 — 7:30 p.m. Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Division St. Machine

Nov. 27 — 8 to 11 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

The Mulligans

Nov. 27 — 8 to 11 p.m. Lavery Brewing Co., 128 W. 12th St. laverybrewing.com.

Turkey Day Eve Party w JJW Trio

Nov. 27 — 8 p.m. to midnight Mound Grove Golf Course 10760 Donation Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 moundgrove.com.

Brown Dog

Nov. 29 — 5 to 7 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy, presqueisledowns.com.

Crush

Nov. 29 — 6 to 10 p.m. BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. bigbar.net.

Monica Lewis

Nov. 29 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199

The Box's Encore at PACA



SATURDAY, NOV. 23

And just when you think it's over, there's more. "Encore" is the follow-up event to the annual "Box of Love" hip-hop fundraiser put on by Jon Box and his crew at The Box Streetware LLC.

Box expresses that, "Coming from a third world country and growing up in the streets of Oakland, California ...I never really had the best holidays during my childhood. Most of our lives our family struggled to make ends meet. This fundraiser allows me to be able to make sure other kids don't have the same bad experiences."

With this fundraising campaign, The Box Streetware LLC is able to raise funds in order to help families that struggle to obtain Christmas gifts for their children with the help of prominent artists within

and also close to the community.

The event will feature music throughout the night provided by DJ TZ and Pittsburgh's B. White (58's) and John Quest (half of Varsity Squad). Local MCs Doc Proto, Devious, and J Pohl will also take the stage. Artists, vendors, and concessions will also be available, with proceeds going toward the fundraiser.

The Box Streetware LLC focuses their energy towards events that help promote their motto of "One Erie, One Love." Box proclaims, "If we could help these parents even by just a little, we are confident these kids would be happy and the parents would be thankful! Just the smile on the kids' faces are more valuable than any material thing in this world!"

So come out, come together, and help raise funds for this worthy cause — and get the chance to see some old school local hip-hop performers that haven't been to Erie in quite some time. Start the holiday season off right and spread the love. — Symoné Crockett

7 p.m. // PACA, 1505 State St. // Doors, \$7 // All Ages // facebook.com/theboxstreetware

Mungion and Magic Beans Gather at the Rook



SATURDAY, NOV. 23

uickly becoming one of the region's favorite jam bands, Mungion returns to the King's Rook Club. The Chicago-based quartet - pronounced "mung-yin" — have been touring relentlessly over the past few years, always making Erie a stop on their travels. Guitarist Justin Rekamp's playing is marked by crisp articulation, with Joe Re, Sean Carolan, and Matt Kellen all helping to fuse complicated jazz phrases with a progressive funk mindset. Capturing the spirit of Umphrey's McGee (and that of guitarist Jake Cinninger), and the intricate musical compositions of early Phish, it's no wonder why this band is so well-received by certain fans. This Mungion, a proggy jazz funk collective from Chicago, evokes comparisons to jam giants like Phish and Umphrey's McGee.
After lighting it up at this year's Gathering at Chaffee's, they'll mark their return to the 814 with a pitstop at the Rook alongside Magic Beans.

time around, the boys will be joined by another band that's becoming just as beloved by festival-goers, Magic Beans. This funky, groove-oriented four-piece from Denver, Colo. has taken off with a bang. In April, they made their Red Rocks debut, releasing their debut fulllength, Off Leash in June. This July, both bands made main stage appearances at the Gathering at Chaffee's Music Festival. So whether you want to recreate that special weekend, or you're looking to see what you missed, this will be your chance, in what will be one of the biggest shows on the Rook's fall schedule. — Nick Warren

10 p.m. // King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // \$15 for current members, \$20 for non-current members (2019 membership included). Ticket sales at the door on the day of the show, cash only // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

2 For The Show

Nov. 29 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Yam Yam

Nov. 29 — 11 p.m. Harrisburg jazz/funk/soul group Yam Yam will perform in the upstairs lounge of the King's Rook Club. King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Radio Santa

Nov. 30 — noon to 4 p.m. Drake Well Museum & Park, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville, PA 16354 facebook.com.

Jesse James Weston

Nov. 30 — 5 to 7 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy, presqueisledowns.com.

Porcelain Busdrivers

Nov. 30 — 6 to 10 p.m. BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. bigbar.net.

CareyOn

Nov. 30 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Katie & Jack

Nov. 30 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

NARY

Nov. 30 — 7 to 10 p.m. Local rapper NARY headlines in this showcase of regional trap and hip-hop. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. eriemoviehouse.com.

Emo Night Bar Crawl w The Emo Band

Nov. 30 — 9 p.m. Resolution Nightclub, 26 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Barefoot Fishermen

Nov. 30 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Mound Grove Golf Course, 10760 Donation Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 moundgrove.com.

Dirty Leaf, Dionisio & Collette Bone

Nov. 30 — 11 p.m.

American roots rock collaborative Dirty Leaf joins Dionisio and Collette Bone at King's Rook Club. King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

December

Dec. 1 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Shady Side

Dec. 1—1 to 4 p.m. Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com

Annual Christmas Concert

Dec.1—5 p.m. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 Myrtle St., Girard, PA 16417 // 814-774-8264

Festive Flutes of Christmas

Dec. 2 — 7 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

The Ten Tenors: Home for the Holidays

Dec. 2 — 7:30 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Behrend Choirs Holiday Sing-Along

Dec. 2 — 7:30 p.m. Reed Union Bldg. at Penn St. Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Blues Jam & Open Mic

Dec. 3 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Erie Jr. Philharmonic Chamber Concert

Dec. 4—7 to 9 p.m. Strong Vincent Middle School, 1330 W. 8th St. eriephil.org.

DANCE

Erie Swings

Nov. 21 — 7 to 10 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Giselle

Nov. 22, 23 — 7 p.m. & Nov. 23, 24 — 2 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Global Dance Party

Nov. 22 — 8 to 11 p.m. Gannon University's Beyer Hall, 124 W.7th St. engageu.gannon.edu.

The Sugar Plum Fairy Tea

Nov. 24 — 1 to 2:30 p.m. Lake Shore Country Club, 5950 Lake Shore Dr. eriecbt.org.

The Nutcracker

Nov. 30 — 7 to 8:45 p.m. & Dec. 1 — 2 to 3:45 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. eriecbt.org.

FOOD AND DRINK

Whiskey Paired Dinner

Nov. 20 — 6:30 p.m.
Enjoy six courses of fine dining, including blistered butternut squash, lamb ribs, apple tart, and more. Each course is paired with a complementary whiskey, custom to each dish.

Molly Brannigan's, 506
State St. facebook.com.

Global Coffee Hour

Nov. 21 — 3 to 4:30 p.m. Beyer Hall at Gannon University, 124 W. 7th St. events.gannon.edu.

Sorcerie at the Meadery

Nov. 22 — 4 to 8 p.m. Ironstone Meadery, 9333 Tate Rd. ironstonemeadery.com.

Mercyhurst Fall 2019 Dining Series

Nov. 22 — 5 p.m. Marriott Cafe at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Luxury Liner Lunacy Murder Mystery Dinner

Nov. 22, 23, Dec. 6 — 6:30 p.m. Murder, mania, and marriage —the Luxury Liner Lunacy

— the Luxury Liner Lunacy murder mystery keeps its guests on their toes as they solve the thriller. Dinner is buffetstyle, catered by Nunzi's.

style, catered by Nunzi's.

Blessed Sacrament Hall, 1626
W. 26th St. facebook.com.

Cat Cafe

Nov. 23 — 1 to 3 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

Lil Wagon Pt. 3

Nov. 23 — 4 to 8 p.m. Ironstone Meadery, 9333 Tate Rd. ironstonemeadery.com.

Medical Mayhem: A Murder Mystery Dinner

Nov. 23 — 7 to 9:30 p.m. Masonic Temple, 32 W. 8th St. eventbrite.com.

1 Year Celebration

Nov. 24 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Breakfast with Santa

Nov. 30 — 9 a.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier ahn.org.

Bloody Mary Sunday Funday

Dec. 1—11 a.m. Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St., Ste. 300

Rebecca Mae's Drag Brunch

Dec. 1—11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

It's always lovely weather for a slay ride together with Rebecca Mae. Her latest drag brunch welcomes guest performers Jaida Essence Hall (from Milwaukee, Wisconsin), Sasha Nolan (from Pittsburgh, PA), Evon Michelle (from Baltimore, Maryland), Michelle Michaels (Erie's OG Diva) and Priscilla Godzilla (Erie's newest baby Queen). Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

MOVIES

Amazing Grace

Nov. 20 — 6 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Lake of Betrayal

Nov. 20 — 7 p.m. Walker Recital Hall at Mercyhurst Univ., 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Guessing Game

Nov. 21 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. eriemoviehouse.com.

Thankskilling (2009)

Nov. 22 — 8 to 10 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. eriemoviehouse.com.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood





MOLLY BRANNIGAN'S

Buy a \$50 gift card, receive a \$10 bonus card!

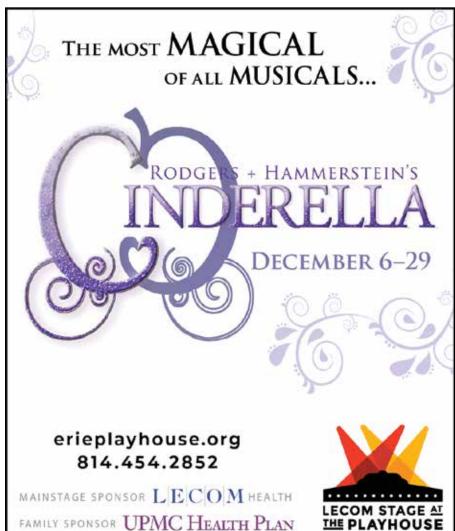


available until 12/24/2019

Ugly Sweater Party at Molly Brannigan's Friday, November 29th | 8pm-IIpm | Live Music: The Roof Top Project Band the Cork 1774.

November 20, 2019 ErieReader.com | Erie Reader | 25













www.ironstonemeadery.com 814-616-0086

Donnie Irish Band at Molly's



SATURDAY, NOV. 23

aking the name of Pittsburgh rock icon Donnie Iris in vain and being attached to that city's FBI violent crimes task force both seem to require a lot of nerve.

But to Ricky Manning, frontman of Pittsburgh's Donnie Irish Band, the former is much less bold than the latter.

"We hope that he (Donnie Iris) is honored and somewhat amused," says Manning, who is a detective sergeant with the Allegheny County Sheriff's Department. "And we've yet to receive a cease and desist letter."

Manning and his band will be performing a benefit concert to raise money for Edinboro University's Ryan Cappelletty Scholarship Fund at Molly Brannigan's on Saturday, November 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. Cappelletty was a McDowell High and Edinboro University graduate who was killed in his first year of service as

a police officer in Chesterfield County, Virginia in 2003.

This is the third year that Manning has been involved in raising money for the scholarship, but the first time that his Donnie Irish Band will be the featured performers. In past years, Manning (known as the "Singing Detective") also appeared in a solo concert in Edinboro University's Cole Auditorium, where he showcased a voice that earned him an audition with legendary conductor Marvin Hamlisch and multiple performances with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

But the focus this year will be on classic rock covers and traditional Irish tunes, a musical blend that makes Molly Brannigan's the perfect venue. The band is known for putting a lot of rock and drive behind the traditional Irish music that they perform, and Manning's skill on the bagpipes would make the Dropkick Murphys proud.

"We're happy to make the trip up I-79 for this cause," Manning says. "Ryan Cappelletty made the ultimate sacrifice. This is good for his family, and good for Edinboro University." — Tony Peyronel

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. // 506 State St. // Free, but donations accepted // facebook.com/ MollyBrannigans

Nov. 23 — 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Gannon Paint & Pour

Join the Crime Victim Center of Erie County as they host a special screening of A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood, starring Tom Hanks as Mr. Rogers. Tinseltown USA, 1910 Ro-

tunda Dr. facebook.com. Timeless (Extreme Ski/ Snowboarding)

Nov. 23 — 7 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erieskiclub.com.

Victoria & Abdul

Nov. 24 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Alien: 40th Anniversary (1979)

Dec. 4 — 6 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Canvas Classes

Nov. 20, Dec. 4 — 6 to 8 p.m. Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. claytopiaerie.com.

Adult Art Classes: Drawing Still Lifes w Pen & Ink

Nov. 20 — 7 to 9 p.m. LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Nov. 21 — 7 to 9 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Our Favorite Things

Opens Nov. 22; ongoing through Jan. 9, 2020 thereafter Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Animals are the Artist

Nov. 22 — 4 to 7 p.m. & Nov. 23 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. eriezoo.org.

Cocktails and Clay

Nov. 22 — 6 to 8:30 p.m. Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. (3rd Fl.) eventbrite.com.

Merry Ornaments Plate

Nov. 25 — 6 to 8 p.m. Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. claytopiaerie.com

Dog Print Ornaments

Nov. 26, Dec. 3 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. claytopiaerie.com.

Artlore Studio 4 Year **Anniversary Weekend**

Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1 Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Beach Glass Crafts for Kids

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

Doodle Pen Decorations

Dec. 2—6 to 7 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrarv.org.

Jack and Sally (Nightmare **Before Christmas)** Salad Plates

Dec. 3 — 6 p.m. Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. claytopiaerie.com.

Fiber Arts Meet-Up

Dec. 4—6:30 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

National Collage Society **Juried Exhibit**

Ongoing through Dec. 7 Cumminas Art Gallerv at Mercyhurst Univ., 501 E. 38th St. mercvhurst.edu.

Everything But The Shelves

Ongoing through Dec. 2019 Frie Art Museum 20 F. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Women's Suffrage in Erie County

Ongoing through Dec. 25Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.com.

Ashley Pastore: Everyday



The 'Black Wednesday' Briefing



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27

Steel your livers, Pilgrims. It's time once again for "Black Wednesday" (aka Thanksgiving Eve), that annual cornucopia of absurd drink specials, awkward encounters, and hopefully-not-toobad decisions that America has come to embrace as one of its top drinking days of the year. Erieites past and present will no doubt be filling their gobblers full of grog. If that includes you, just make a Mayflower Compact with yourself not to go overboard.

A good rule of thumb for portion con-

trol is pacing one's self — and what better way to pace one's self than with live music and entertainment? The Erie Reader has tilled up a handful of events to kick off your harvest celebration. Dig in. — Matt Swanseger

Bayfront Brawl 9

If you prefer your fisticuffs free-range and cage-free, then you may not want to put your eggs in the Bayfront Convention Center basket on this night. That's because some of the northeast's feistiest cage fighters will be packed in tight for a full slate of MMA action, courtesy of Bizzarro Promotions. The main card is highlighted by Logan Thompson and Jacob Lowry's bout, with the Northeast middleweight title on the line.

Doors 6 p.m., bells 7 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // General admission \$30, ringside VIP \$50, VIP table (10 people) \$600 // bayfrontconventioncenter.com

Doug Phillips and Amanda Barton at The Brewerie

Maybe turning up is not your cup of gravy. Sit back and let your juices settle with Doug Phillips and Amanda Lynn Barton

at the Brewerie. The interplay between Phillips' acoustic guitar and Barton's violin and mandolin is sure to soothe as you casually sip some brews. Perhaps some of November's featured beers — Pumpkin Bomb pumpkin stout and Apple Pie spiced apple ale — will still be leftover.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. // The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. // Free // thebrewerie.

Cat's A Bear at Artlore Studios

Artlore Studios is prepping for its fourth anniversary weekend with a musical potluck catered by Cat's a Bear. The Eriebased jazz trio features Frank Singer on guitar, Joe Frisina on bass, and Nick "Tito" Ronzitti on percussion and is known to cook up a mean casserole, consisting of jazz, funk, Latin, swing, and blues. The event will coincide with the gallery's annual lightning of the trees — because ambience plays a vital role at any feast.

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. // Artlore Studios, 3406 W. Lake Rd. // Free // facebook.com/ ArtloreStudios

The Mulligans at Lavery Brewing Co.

Why sit around waiting for your bird

to thaw when Lavery Brewing's is ready to go? Devil Bird Holiday Ale, the Erie brewpub's full-bodied seasonal porter, has been marinating in bourbon barrels for months and is a perennial favorite of dark malt lovers. Later on, guests are invited to shake their thigh meat to the Irish pub tunes of The Mulligans, a trio comprised of brothers Jonathan and Joseph Nolan (guitar and upright bass) in partnership with Brian Strobel (drums). They're known as expert place setters, so pull up a seat and make yourself at home on the Emerald Isle.

8 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 128 W. 12th St., Unit 101 // Free // laverybrewing.com/erie

3rd Annual Thanksgiving Throwdown at Jekyll's

Just like Gramophone used to make — well, with a little spin on it. For the third consecutive year, Steve Maynard and Ben Frazier host a night of classic vinyl at Jekyll and Hyde's Gastropub. Pair with a \$2.50 PBR pounder or half-off draft from 10 p.m. to midnight. Delicious.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 8 E. 10th St. // Free // facebook.com/jekyllhydesgastropub

Monumental

Ongoing through Mar. 2020 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Chuck Johnson Sculptures

Ongoing through Jun. 1, 2020 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Iverd Exhibit

Ongoing through Jun. 2020 Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.com.

Expanded Griswold Exhibit

Ongoing through Jun. 2020 Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.com.

Felix Gonzalez-Torres: "Untitled" (L.A.), 1991

Ongoing through Aug. 2020 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Brett Kern: The Lost World

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

Chuck, Up Close

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

THEATER

Sisters Wyrd

Nov. 21, 22, 23 — 8 p.m. Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.

A Canterbury Feast

Nov. 22 — 7 p.m. & Nov. 23 — 5:30 p.m.

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

LECOM's Got Talent

Nov. 22 — 7 to 10 p.m. Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. web.eriepa.com.

God's Favorite

Nov. 22, 23, 30 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 24, Dec. 1 — 2:30 p.m. All An Act, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)

Nov. 22, 23 — 8 p.m. & Nov. 24 — 2 p.m. Dramashop, 1001 State St. Ste. 201 dramashop.org.

Annie

Nov. 30 — 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 1 — 2 p.m. The Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA 16335 theacademytheatre.org.

Christmas Memories

Dec. 4— noon Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

COMEDY

University Players Live

Nov. 21, 22, 23 — 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16412

Black Monk Brewery's Free Comedy Night

Nov. 22 — 6 p.m. Black Monk Brewery, 3721 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

SPORTS

Erie BayHawks vs. Capital City Go-Go

Nov. 22 — 7 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

NCFA Playoffs: North Atlantic vs. Great Lakes

Nov. 23 — 3 p.m. Dollinger Field, 501 W. 12th St. ncfafootball.org.

Erie BayHawks vs. Raptors 905

Nov. 23 — 7 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. gleague.nba.com.

Erie Otters vs. London Knights

Nov. 24 — 2 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

Bayfront Brawl 9

Nov. 27 — 7 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // 814-452-4857

Turkey Trot

Nov. 28 — 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Otters vs. Kitchener Rangers

Nov. 28 — 7 p.m. Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

Erie Otters vs. Peterborough Petes

Nov. 30 — 7 p.m.

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

SmashErie: The Snowdown

Dec.1

SmashErie hosts Snowdown, its biggest e-sports competition yet with a prize pool of \$2,500 to \$5,000. Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W.

COMMUNITY

Diversity Dialogues w Lisa Demyanovich

Nov. 20 — 4:30 to 6 p.m. Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center, 628 Peach St. engageu.gannon.edu.

Artist John Chisolm: Where Do Ideas Come From?

Nov. 20 — 7 p.m. Alex Theatre at Mercyhurst NE, 16 W. Division St., North East, PA 16428 mercyhurst.edu.

The Three Forts of Erie and Their Economic Importance Today

Nov. 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Fairview Area Historical Society, 4302 Avonia St., Fairview, PA 16415 jeserie.org.

Get Crazy w Coding

Nov. 21 — 10 to 11 a.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

Alzheimer's Support Group

Nov. 21 — 3 to 4 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org

Read to a Therapy Dog

Nov. 21—3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (Millcreek) & Nov. 26—4:31 to 5:30 p.m. (Iroquois) Multiple library locations events.erielibrary.org.

White Cane Coffee Success Story

Nov. 21 — 5 to 6 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. facebook.com.

Discover Your Impact: Ethical Consumption

Nov. 21 — 5 to 7 p.m. Gannon University's Waldron Campus Center, 628 Peach St. engageu.gannon.edu.

Club D-20

Nov. 21—5 to 8 p.m. Ironstone Meadery, 9333 Tate Rd. ironstonemeadery.com.

Off the Shelf: Talking Animals

Nov. 21 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

2019 Niagara Awards

Nov. 21 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Northwestern PA chapter of PRSA hosts its 6th Annual Niagara Awards, celebrating excellence in the community and honoring award winners. The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. facebook.com.

Herbal Allies: Hawthorn

Nov. 21 — 6 p.m. Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wholefoodscoop.org.

Military Repatriation: Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise

Nov. 21 — 7 p.m. Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.com.

The History of Erie County's Responsibility for the Poor

Nov. 21 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Corry Higher Educational Center, 221 N. Center St., Corry, PA 16407 jeserie.org.

Caring for Yourself

Nov. 22—1 to 3 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events.erielibrary.org.

Wellness Night

Nov. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m. Various locations eriewellnessnetwork.com.

Pop Up Shops Vendor Fair

Nov. 23 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grandview Elementary School, 4301 Lancaster Rd. mtsd.org.

Thanksgiving on the Isle

Nov. 23 — 10 a.m. to noon Presque Isle Lighthouse, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Find Your Inner Tribe Through SoulCollage

Nov. 23 — 10 a.m. to noon Thrive Therapy Space, 3910 Caughey Rd. artforwellbeingeverywhere.com.

Jobs Workshop

Nov. 23 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. East Middle School, 1001 Atkins St. ylierie.org.

Holiday Craft Show

Nov. 23 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Festival of Trees Lights up the Bayfront After Dark



FRIDAY, NOV. 29 - DEC. 1

This year, the magic of holiday decor can be enjoyed from the comfort of the Bayfront Convention Center.

For three days, the Festival of Trees will feature uniquely decorated trees — carefully crafted by local talent — as well as musical entertainment and a live reindeer. The Festival of Trees is a family-friendly event with activities such as a teddy bear clinic, breakfast with Santa Claus, and a tour of his castle.

When the children go home, the event shifts to cater to a more mature audi-

The Bayfront Convention Center gets spruced up for the Allegheny Health Network's annual Festival of Trees, featuring festive decor and activities for children and adults alike.

ence with the Festival After Dark, which will feature local appetizers, train rides, dancing in the gallery of trees, and local drinks from Erie Distillery, Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing, and Mazza Vineyards. With the purchase of a ticket, select wine and beer are available from an open bar.

While Festival of Trees tickets will be available at the door of the event as well as ahead of time via the event's Facebook page, Festival After Dark tickets are only available by pre-sale until November 23. — Hannah McDonald

Festival of Trees: Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // All Ages // Adults \$10; children, \$6 // supportahn.org/festival

Festival After Dark: Sat., 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. //
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier
// 21+ w/ Valid ID // \$45 per ticket or 2 for \$80
// supportahn.org/festival

Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4624 Avonia Rd., Fairview, PA 16415 fairviewpresbyterianchurch.com.

Craft Addicts

Nov. 23 — 1 to 4 p.m. Ironstone Meadery, 9333 Tate Rd. ironstonemeadery.com.

Family Saturday Crafternoon

Nov. 23 — 2 to 4 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Fallen Officer Benefit

Nov. 23 — 7 p.m. Molly Brannigan's, 506 State St. facebook.com.

Master Builder: Block Party

Nov. 25 (Millcreek) — 6 to 7 p.m. & Dec. 2 (Lincoln) — 9 a.m. to noon Multiple library locations events.erielibrary.org.

Hands All Around Erie Quilt Guild Meeting

Nov. 25 — 6:30 p.m. Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd. facebook.com.

Life Line Health Screenings

Nov. 26 St. John' Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. lifelinescreening.com.

Genealogy w Susan Mueller: Family Photos

Nov. 26 — 10 a.m. to noon Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

DiscoverE: Eagles

Nov. 27 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Festival of Trees

Nov. 29, 30 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Dec. 1 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier ahn.ora.

Small Business Saturday

Nov. 29 — 1 to 9 p.m. Ironstone Meadery, 9333 Tate Rd. ironstonemeadery.com.

Blessed Sacrament School 2019 Craft Show

Nov. 30 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Dec. 1 — noon to 5 p.m. Blessed Sacrament School, 1626 W. 26th St. facebook.com.

Erie Handmade Fair

Nov. 30 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. facebook.com.

Light Up North East

Nov. 30 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Gibson Park, Main St., North East 16428 nechamber.org.

Festival After Dark

Nov. 30 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center,
1 Sassafras Pier ahn.ora.

Christmas at the Station

Dec. 1—10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m.

Race on down to the station for a day filled with speeder car rides, a bake sale, model train displays, a raffle, and caboose rides.

The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. facebook.com.

Sip-N-Shop Vendor Fair

Dec. 1—11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mound Grove Golf Course, 10760 Donation Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 moundgrove.com.

Whisker Wonderland

Dec. 1 — noon to 4 p.m. Erie Humane Society, 2407 Zimmerly Rd. eriehumanesociety.org.

The Cinderella Ball

Dec. 1—3 p.m. Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach St. erieplayhouse.org.

Robots and Coding

Dec. 2—3 to 4 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

DNA and Genealogy: New Features Using Genetic Affairs

Dec. 2 — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Woodburning 101

Dec. 3 — 5:30 to 7 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

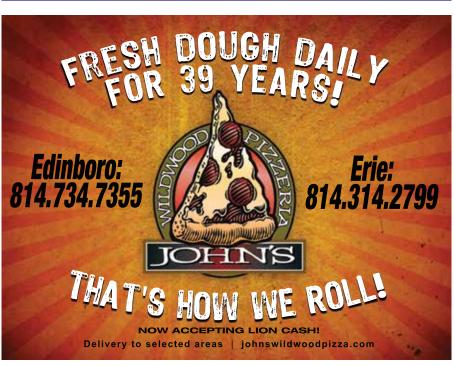
Cricut Basics: Create and Apply an Iron-On Decal

Dec. 3 — 6 to 7 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Intro to Excel Pt.1

Dec. 4 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.









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Made in Erie Marketplace a Locally-Made Treasure Trove

SATURDAY, NOV. 30



he Made in Erie Marketplace is the event for homemade gifts this holiday season.

"From the intersection of Front and German Street, you'll be able to see the event and the crowd," Jeremy Bloeser, executive director for the Bayfront East Side Task Force (BEST), said of the Made In Erie Marketplace.

BEST is a nonprofit organization working to revitalize Erie's oldest neighborhood by investing in the community. As the oldest task force in the city, BEST works to revitalize the community in ways that make it "the best neighborhood to live, work, and play," Bloeser said.

One such effort is the annual Made in Erie Marketplace, which BEST inherited from Civitas Erie five years ago. The event features locally-made goods "that vou wouldn't find while shopping at the mall," Bloeser said. "There are unique crafts and great shopping."

"All vendors are small [and independent], who make things themselves, and who do not have a brick and mortar store," Bloeser said. "So, this is one of the few places you may be able to find their work that isn't online."

As of Nov. 13, there were 35 approved vendors approved, Bloeser said, making this the biggest Made in Erie Marketplace yet. Vendors include Mercyhurst University graduate and fine artist Katie LeVan and more. Jewelers Karin's Kreations and Little Hummingbird Designs will have hand-made jewelry and gemstones, Alex's Puzzles will be selling hand-crafted wooden puzzles, and Lake Erie Candy Company offers something

"When you by a pair of mikes at the mall, you don't get to meet who designed them," Bloeser said, "but with this event, you get to meet the people who have actually crafted the thing you'll be purchasing."

While some vendors do provide shopping bags, event organizers suggest bringing reusable ones as well. Free parking will be available in the adjacent parking lot or on the street. — Hannah McDonald

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. // Church of the Nativity, 109 German St. // All Ages // Free admission // facebook.com/MadeinErieMarketplace

Emo Night Bar Crawl Taking Back Saturday



SATURDAY, NOV. 30

ith the recently announced second coming of emo gods My Chemical Romance, now is the perfect time to join The Emo Band on stage to sing your favorite sad songs at the Emo Night Bar Crawl Karaoke, presented by the Andromeda Agency.

The Emo Band, from Pittsburgh, have been a regional staple in the growing "Emo Night" trend that's taken the bar scene by storm in the past few years, as those who lived through the music's peak popularity are approaching their

30s and trying to hold on to their youth. The Emo Band's website has a full list of pop-punk and emo covers from the '90s and'00s from the likes of Blink 182, Good Charlotte, Green Day, Hawthorne Heights, Taking Back Sunday — and of course, My Chemical Romance among many more. The band also lists "You!" as the lead vocalist, so those interested in singing on stage are encouraged to arrive early to sign up.

The bar crawl will begin at Plymouth at 9 p.m., head over to Bigbar at 10 p.m., and then conclude at Resolution Nightclub, where The Emo Band (and you), will perform. And don't forget to dig out your hair straightener, eyeliner, Converse shoes, and your tightest pair of pants for an emo-themed costume contest. — Tommy Shannon

Song sign-ups 11 p.m., music at 11:30 // 28 N. Park Row // \$10 pre-sale, \$13 doors // theemoband.com











Shop Small This Holiday Season



FRIDAY, NOV. 29 - 30

ocal staples are often deemed Erie favorites over time — Smith's hot dogs, Stanganelli's pepperoni balls, Romolo's sponge candy, and more.

Erie is no stranger to the world of small businesses, so in 2010 when American Express launched Small Business Saturday to bring holiday shopping back to local businesses, it is no surprise that the Erie community joined in. Spanning from local art shops to cozy coffee spots, there are *lots* of options in the area.

This year, check out a few of these various events happening around the community and find your favorite, while supporting local businesses and getting some holiday shopping done. — Chloe Forbes

Winter Welcome

Head over to West Erie Plaza to get deals at Achilles Running Shop, Icing on the Lake, The Cork, and more. The first annual tree-lighting ceremony will take place at 6 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 29, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. // West Erie Plaza, 800 W. Erie Plaza Dr. // westerieplaza.com

Artlore Studios

Join Artlore studios for live music and local art as they celebrate their four-year anniversary weekend.

Fri. Nov. 29 – Sun. Dec. 1, special holiday hours // Artlore Studios, 3406 W. Lake Rd. // facebook. com/Artlorestudio

Small Business Saturday in the Heart of Erie

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) hosts Small Business Saturday again this year in downtown Erie. Pick up a passport in any of the participating stores and get it stamped at each place you go. When you visit at least four of the stores, you will be entered to win a large prize basket with gift certificates and goods worth hundreds of dollars. Participating regions include: Parade/E. 26th St. area, Historic Little Italy, Liberty/W. 26th St. area, and The Hill District area shops.

Sat. Nov. 30, times vary // facebook.com/ SSJNN

Coffee in the Park

Coffee in the Park offers seasonal treats

Initiated by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday is a yearly rallying cry to "shop small" and support local businesses in the wake of Black Friday's big box blowouts.

and giveaways to customers for Small Business Saturday. There will also be local crafters to shop from at the event.

Sat. Nov. 30, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. // Coffee in the Park, 4007 Main St., Lawrence Park // coffeeinthepark16511.com

Relish Studio & Gallery

Support Erie's craftspeople and makers at Relish. Each purchase comes with a free holiday ornament and a chance to win their signature butterfly necklace made with Lake Erie beach glass.

Sat. Nov. 30, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. // Relish, 3835 W. 12th St. // relishinc.com

North East Chamber of Commerce

Starting at 10 a.m., the first 50 small business shoppers that stop into the North East Chamber of Commerce office will receive a free gift tote with a gift certificate (ranges \$5 – \$20) accepted at over 70 businesses in North East.

Sat. Nov. 30, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. // North East Chamber of Commerce, 44 W. Main St., North East // nechamber.org

Erie Handmade Fair

Local makers and musicians gather for Small Business Saturday. Shop local crafts and more.

Sat. Nov. 30, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. // St. John's Parish/Gymnasium, 2216 Peach St. // Free admission // facebook.com/eriehandmadefair

Shops at the Colony

Stop by any of the shops at the Colony and get your passport. Visit at least seven businesses to be entered for a chance to win one of three grand prizes.

Sat. Nov. 30, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. // Shops at the Colony, 2580 W. 8th St.

School House Yoga Studio Open House

Recharge from holiday shopping with School House Yoga Studio's holiday open house, including free gentle yoga classes. There will also be refreshments in the gallery, along with Leslie Alexander (clinical herbalist), Katie Adiutori (Thai Bodywork), and Maki Kurata Acupuncture.

Sat. Nov. 30, yoga 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., gallery open 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. // School House Yoga, 310 E. 10th St. // schoolhouseyogastudio.com

Attic Rehab's Holiday Open House

Attic Rehab transforms into a winter wonderland with Christmas trees, lights, and seasonal refreshments. Shop local crafts for the perfect present.

November 20, 2019

Sat. Nov. 30, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. // Attic Rehab, 1501 State St. // facebook.com/AtticRehab

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Don't Be 'TEN'tative — Come See the TEN Tenors



Celebrate the holidays in 10-part harmony with the TEN Tenors at Mercyhurst University's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.

Daniel Belle, Michael Edwards, Keane Fletcher, Nigel Huckle, Nathan Lay, Boyd Owen, JD Smith, Sam Ward, and James Watkinson. Their signature performance features mind-blowing 10-part harmonies, coupled with effortless choreography that

complements each song, whether it's a classical aria or Bohemian Rhapsody.

As part of their Home for the Holidays tour, TEN is coming to the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, and it's the perfect family-friendly event to kick off the 2019 holiday season.

TEN might not be leaping, but you surely will be. — Cara Suppa

7:30 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St // Adults: \$31, Seniors: \$26, Students/Youth: \$21 // miac. mercyhurst.edu/events/ten-tenors-homeholidays

MONDAY, DEC. 2

The traditional song goes, "On the 10th day of Christmas, my true love gave to me: 10 lords a-leaping..."

So maybe these gentlemen aren't proper lords of the nobility, and perhaps they are not exactly leaping all over the stage, but the TEN Tenors are bringing their own magical blend of Christmas/holiday cheer to Erie — and all the way from Australia, at that.

This vocal group, which formed in 1995, is now comprised of Cameron Barclay,

SHOP LOCAL, SHOP AT THE PLYMOUTH Small Business Saturday November 30, 2019 STOCKING STUFFERS Fill their stocking with Plymouth gift cards & apparel 1109 State St. Erie, PA 16501 • 814.453.6454 • www.plymouthtavern.com

Thank You For Voting HAPPI BEST Remember HAPPI again! VOTE HAPPI BEST!

Times Old Newsies Hit the Streets



FRIDAY, DEC. 6

Since 1937, the Times Old Newsies have worked to help those in need. This year is no different as the group will hit the streets throughout the day on Dec. 6 to sell special edition newspapers and raise funds to feed families this holiday season.

"It's time, talent, and treasure," said event organizer Scott Barnes. "We are all given that gift and it's very important to help other people."

For each paper sold, 100 percent of the proceeds go toward baskets of food that will feed people who may not have access to a meal. The Times Old Newsies have partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank in order to expand their resources.

In the past couple of years, the News-

Extras, extras? Some of Erie's needy families don't even get a first helping, which the Times Old Newsies seek to rectify when they collect donations on Friday, Dec. 6.

ies have been able to deliver 2,400 baskets, but this year they are looking to reach a new goal of 2,500. Each basket has enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

The baskets will go to people all the way from Downtown Erie to Corry.

Around 80 percent of the collectors are past newspaper carriers, but now second and third generations are getting involved as time goes on. With this comes new changes as well.

"One of the issues we faced was that millennials don't carry money," Barnes said.

To accommodate this younger generation, they have also set up a GoFundMe page for people to donate. Newsies will be selling newspapers in over 200 locations, but some popular ones you can find will be the Millcreek Mall, Walmart, Giant Eagle, Country Fairs, most banks, and various other businesses and shops.

— Chloe Forbes

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. // Various locations // gofundme.com/f/erie-times-old-newsies



Proceeds to benefit
NAMI of Erie County

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Doors open at 5:30**Games start at 6:30

\$25 each, or table of 5 for \$100

16 games of Bingo and a 2nd chance drawing Basket auction, instant games, & tip boards

St. John's Social Hall 1001 Main St, Girard, PA

Buy tickets online @eventbrite.com or email Megan@namierie.org

(Must be 18 yrs or older to attend)

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Maki Kurata Acupuncture

Presque Isle Closing Service

V-Gallery

Serendipity Emporium

THEATER

It's All In the Act

How one local group is putting the 'community' in community theater



By: Nick Warren

alking into All An Act Theatre just feels like home. On a snowy Friday in November, I was able to catch the opening performance of God's Favorite. My girlfriend hadn't been to All An Act (AAA) before. "I never noticed that there," she remarked as we turned to park near their 17th Street location.

Tucked away in a mostly residential side of Columbus Square in Erie's Little Italy, we saw guests make their way to the well-lit entrance a few minutes before showtime. We came in and purchased our tickets, and my date was immediately drawn to the wall at stage

Looking over more than 1,000 photos, framed in groups of twelve, she warmly asked "wow, are these from all the shows?" I said that yes they were, motioning behind us to the stage left wall to not have those shows feel left out. This was, after all, their 89th production.

Sharing a building with Community Shelter Services, the 130-seat theater has been operating at its current location since 2007. In its formative days, they began at East High School, their first production being Ray Cooney's Funny Money in 2004.

"We had to take the set down and put it back up every single weekend," co-owner and artistic director David W. Mitchell, 50, lovingly bemoaned. They did one show a year in those days. "Oh, there's a school board meeting? Gotta take the

set down" joked co-owner and managing director Larry Lewis, 68, explaining that to this day they "are very appreciative they let us use their space."

When they opened at their current home, Lewis recounted that in addition to the Erie Playhouse with its "fantastic musicals, great production, and great history ... at the time you also had the Roadhouse, Stage Right Productions, Director's Circle Theater, and The Station Dinner Theatre."

All An Act is still around, of course, along with the Erie Playhouse (who are now in their 102nd season). The Station Dinner Theatre is, too — in fact, that's where AAA sometimes rehearses, and where Mitchell and Lewis asked me to join them for a chat about their theater's history. [As for the others: Where are they now? The Roadhouse is now Basement Transmissions, AAA took over the theater from Stage Right, and the Director's Circle is now Dramashop's space].

"We thought we'd do more family-type dramas. We don't try to challenge you," Lewis reasoned, "We entertain you."

"There was a niche that wasn't being served," Mitchell explained, noting that aside from musicals and more avant-garde works, a swath of actors and audience-goers were being overlooked. "There are a lot of people that don't sing and dance that are actors," said Mitchell, "that just want to act."

And that's what seems to be at the heart of AAA. Though it began with a smaller rotating company, it's grown over the years to an extended family of All An Act co-owner and managing director Larry Lewis stands before the community theater's wall of photos, commemorating the 89 productions he and partner David W. Mitchell have put on since 2004.

like-minded thespians. "You look at the pictures on our wall from 2004, and you see the same faces," Lewis noted. "And gradually you see more faces." Actors keep wanting to come back to AAA. From an outsider's perspective, it feels like one of the warmest, most tightly-knit creative groups around.

The type of plays they choose to perform as their bread-and-butter are comedies, mysteries, and farces. Some of their most produced playwrights include perennial favorites like Neil Simon (who penned God's Favorite. They opened their W. 17th Street space with Simon's The Odd Couple), Ray Cooney, and Agatha Christie. They've also featured authors such as Michael Parker, Arthur Miller, and of course, William Shakespeare. In addition, they've helped premiere works from authors like Anne Pié (See Alice Run and The Liberation of Jerome Gleason).

"We like to make them laugh or cry - or whatever we're in the mood for," Mitchell joked. "And our formula works; we've been growing every year."

"We're the best kept secret in Erie," Lewis said, echoing what he and Mitchell have repeatedly heard throughout the years.

The only local theater that is not a nonprofit, AAA is exempt from much of the funding that keeps most community theaters afloat. "We survive on ticket sales only," Mitchell underlined, laughing at the sometimes fluctuating nature of that situation.

Still, they find themselves giving to the community, having donated \$56,000 to their neighbors Community Shelter Services over the years. One dollar from every admission benefits the shelter. There are days though, like Nov. 30, that all proceeds will go to that same worthy cause.

Their most recent effort proved to be an absolute delight, mixing comedy with tragedy in Simon's retelling of the biblical Book of Job. Raymond Steinbacher was commanding as Joe Benjamin, monologuing with a light Mid-Atlantic affectation in the first act, only to be weighed upon in the second. Chris Bucci

THEATER



God's Favorite, a comic retelling of the Book of Job written by Neil Simon, is playing at All An Act Theatre through Sunday, Dec. 1.

was hilarious as "Sidney Lipton," cycling through impressions and manic expositions with a Robin Williams-esque fury. Ben Robson excelled as Steinbacher's prodigal eldest son, acing the sloven poetry of a drunken buffoon. Lisa Simonian as Rose Benjamin, young actors Andrew Heidt and Tori Snyder, along with Shantel Kay and AAA veteran Dave DiCola felt rightfully at home on stage, landing each joke, intermingled with a desperation caused by forces out of their con-

The play's often uneasy laughs underscored why Neil Simon is one of AAA's most regular inspirations. As the show was transpiring, I glanced around the room, to see face after smiling face.

Along with Mitchell, the production was co-directed by KC McCloskey. The latter has been with AAA since the early days, having been teamed up with Mitchell since 1998, and is house manager of AAA. She also helps run the Footlights Theatre Program, which works with young actors to present a show each summer.

Underscoring AAA's warm familial nature when it comes to participants of all ages, McCloskey noted that "when we have actors come in to work with us who are new to our theater, they constantly comment on how welcoming we are and

how much they appreciate the kindness we given to everyone. That, I think, is what one of our greatest assets," she asserted. "We strive to create great art, we work to give back to our community, and we work hard to treat our actors with kindness and

acceptance," she explained. "Theater is for everyone, and we work to bring this art to everyone we can."

The upcoming 2020 season will see productions of Agatha Christie's Murder on The Orient Express, Julian Mitchell's Another Country, Billy Van Zandt & Jane Milmore's comedy What the Bellhop Saw, John Michael Telebak & Stephen Schwartz's Godspell (via Footlights), Ray Cooney's Funny Money (a reprisal of their inaugural production), Sharon Pollock's Blood Relations, and Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman's The Man Who Came To Dinner.

God's Favorite runs until Sunday, Dec. 1, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. // 652 W. 17th St. // Adults: \$12; Seniors (55+) and Students: \$10 // allanact.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, all proceeds and admissions will benefit Community Shelter Services Children's Christmas Drive, providing winter coats, boots, and Christmas presents to Frie's children in need.

In addition to his occasional musical accompaniments, Nick Warren has had minor roles, acting at Dramashop and the Erie Playhouse. He's currently utilizing the Stanislavski method for an as-of-yet uncast role as a Managing Editor. He can be reached at nick@eriereader.com.





mix of the traditional and unconventional offers a fresh and highlyoriginal take on the staid traditions of opera."

- The New York Times

Monday. Dec. 2 • 7:30 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center



miac.mercyhurst.edu 824-3000

MOVIE REVIEWS

The "Innocence" of Youth: Jojo Rabbit is Too Twee for Its Own Good

heodor Adorno famously said that "to write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric." This is ironic given how many filmmakers have used the subject to move audiences to tears and often win copious awards. But so often these films resort to cheap sentimentality rather than truly attempting to grasp the scope of the horror of life under Nazi-oc-



cupied Europe (closer to Roberto Benigni than Claude Lanzmann). Taika Waititi's (What We Do in the Shadows, Thor: Ragnarok) new film Jojo Rabbit is just such a film. Dubbed an "anti-hate satire" by its director, it's so bright and often cutesy that the satire becomes harder to swallow.

The story follows Johannes (Roman Griffin Davis), a lonely German boy who fully believes and supports the ideology of his country as espoused by his imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler (Waititi). However, when he learns that his mother (Scarlett Johansson) has been hiding a young Jewish girl (Thomasin McKenzie) in their house, Johannes's blind nationalism is put to the test.

The film could be viewed in two ways: on the one hand, it works as a story of a young mind reaching maturity under the shadow of totalitarianism. But as a satire, it falls flat due to Waititi's style of storybook, sub-Wes Anderson gloss, made worse by the laughably bad German accents. As a result, any truths about living in Nazi Germany feel artificial (aside from one heartbreaking scene) and worst of all, he runs the risk of turning history's greatest monsters into Saturday morning cartoon villains. And that is no laughing matter. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by: Taika Waititi, based on the novel Caging Skies by Christine Leunens // Starring: Roman Griffin Davis, Thomasin McKenzie, Scarlett Johansson, Sam Rockwell, Rebel Wilson, Alfie Allen, Stephen Merchant, Luke Branden Field, Joe Weintraub, and Taika Waititi // 108 minutes // Rated PG-13

"They Are Nice Because They Are Rich": Parasite is a Darkly Funny Satirical Masterpiece



America has a very strange relationship between the rich and the poor. I was shocked when a certain politician referred to it as the land of "the haves and the soon-tohaves" because it is inherently ridiculous. In a world with "winners" and "losers" so to speak, there can be no winner unless someone else is losing and many people will work as hard as they can but never rise in class. It seems these issues are prominent in South Korea as well, as evidenced by films like Burning and Bong Joon-ho's (Memories of Murder, Snowpiercer) new masterpiece, Parasite, a film that takes class struggle to its dark, logical conclusion. I don't think a more socially radical film has been released all year.

Following the unemployed Kim family, the film shows them living in a squalid basement apartment and doing whatever they can to merely get to the next day. This all changes when young Kim Ki-woo (Choi Woo-sik) gets a job as a tutor for the wealthy Park family. Soon the Kims are finding ways to get the other employees of the family fired so they can take over the vacant positions, but when they discover a secret under the foundation of the Parks' home, things turn tragic.

The film works beautifully as a poignant satire of class struggle in modern society, but Bong doesn't settle on it being mere agitprop. It is also highly entertaining and very often darkly funny. However, the anger never leaves — as demonstrated in the rainstorm scene — as he juxtaposes both families' positions. One comfortably watches the storm in their home while simultaneously the poor families are literally drowning in theirs. It doesn't get more pointed than that. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Bong Joon-ho // Written by: Bong Joon-ho and Han Jin-won // Starring: Song Kang-ho, Jang Hye-jin, Choi Woo-sik, Park So-dam, Lee Sunkyun, Jo Yeo-jeong, Jung Ji-so, Jung Hyun-jun, Lee Jeong-eun, and Park Meong-hoon // 132 minutes // Rated R



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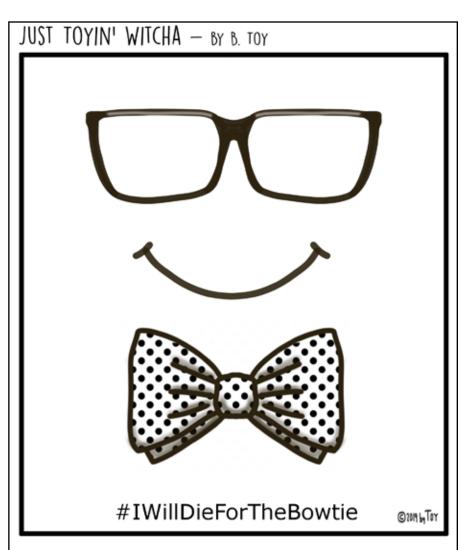
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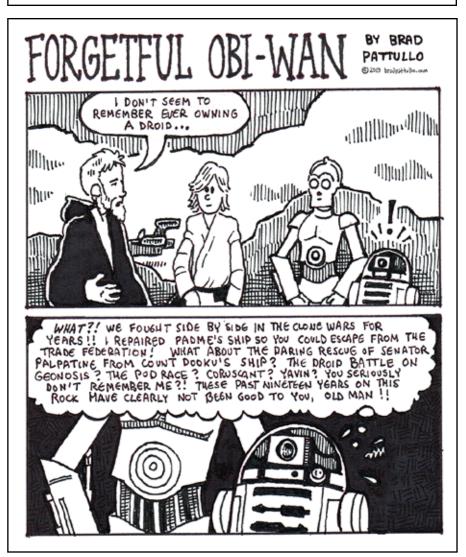


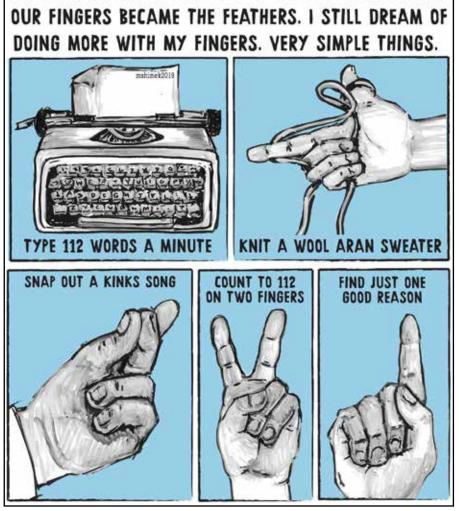


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AS KIDS. WE MADE TURKEYS BY TRACING OUR HANDS.

November 20, 2019 ErieReader.com | Erie Reader | 37

ALBUM REVIEWS

Greet DeathNew Hell
Deathwish



Wanted death, now you've got it ... And now all we seem to love is the darkness."



These are just some of the head-turning lyrics on "Strange Days," the lead single from Greet Death's sophomore LP, New Hell. It's a heavy album, sure, but also a deceivingly catchy one that owes as much to '90s space-rock pioneers Hum as it does to their peers in Cloakroom. New Hell is a constant bummer in the best way, writing lyrics that would leave Wayne Campbell asking, "So it's not just a clever name?" Interestingly enough, the album actually starts with its weakest tracks. "Circles of Hell" and "Do You Feel Nothing" are both instrumentally sound, but suffer from mediocre vocal performances from two already eccentric vocalists. From there, however, it's smooth sailing, with the album standing on two massive 10-minute songs, "You're Gonna Hate What You've Done" and "New Hell." And sandwiched between them is the band's best song yet; "Crush" is a devastating pop song about losing touch with a lover, hung around the simple phrase, "Every single night, I dream about you." — Aaron Mook

Clams Casino Moon Trip Radio Columbia



Clams Casino
is far from a
household name.
In fact, if your
average listener recognizes
the producer's



pseudonym at all, it's likely from his work pioneering cloudy beats for hiphop giants like Lil B, Vince Staples, and A\$AP Rocky. But on the producer's second solo LP, Moon Trip Radio, he forgoes the guest spots for a collection of atmospheric, dreamy, and cohesive instrumentals. For all intents and purposes, Moon Trip Radio could be most successful when divorced entirely from its hip-hop origins. The album plays closer to something from film musician Oneohtrix Point Never: while drums and bass still remain close to the front of the mix. songs like "Rune" and "Cupidwing" are designed to melodically score endless late-night drives. Lo-fi sound effects, tape hiss, and vinyl crackles breathe through these songs, adding a layer of texture where other producers might be comfortable delivering something more two-dimensional and straightforward. In Moon Trip Radio, Clams Casino manages to casually deliver an experience than many musicians only dream of. - Aaron Mook

FKA Twigs *MAGDALENE*Young Turks



Capturing both a fragile beauty and a powerful exploration of self, FKA Twigs' sophomore album is one of



the most critically acclaimed albums of 2019, and rightfully so. Tahliah Debrett Barnett, the 31-year-old English musician is better known as FKA Twigs (she insists the initials are simply a random set of letters, not standing for "formerly known as"), released her first album, LP1 in 2014. Fans of her initial release will find a similar sonic tone here, less the pop sensibilities of singles like "Two Weeks" and "Pendulum." When fans were offered MAGDALENE's initial single "cellophane" in April heralding this album, listeners were struck by Barnett's minimalist composition. In this album, her voice is thrust to the forefront, an effective instrument utilized in remarkable ways. It has its tense moments, like sections of "fallen alien," one of many futurist moments in this record's 38 minutes. Barnett is aiming just as high as she ever has, and she's virtually in a class by herself. MAGDALENE is tempered emotion, surely perplexing to some, and heart-wrenchingly evocative to others. - Nick Warren

Michael Kiwanuka *Kiwanuka* Interscope



n the follow-up to 2016's wonderful Love & Hate, Michael Kiwanuka mines deeper, to equally and possibly



more successful results (fans of HBO's Big Little Lies will immediately recognize him by his song "Cold Little Heart," among many other TV appearances). The 32-year old Englishman is carving out his own distinct niche in the world of commercially-friendly indie rock, this album cementing an increasingly credible catalog. Simply on a musical level, Kiwanuka is one of the most rewarding listens of the year. Combining soul and light psychedelia, it provides a soothing feeling, entrenching the listener, its epic 51 minutes speeding by in 14 tracks, with producers Danger Mouse and Inflo returning to give their venerable stamp once again. While its aural accessibility comes in at an all-time high, Kiwanuka's lyrics and emotive vocals lead one on a personal journey of identity and place in the world. In the end, it's Kiwanuka's sincerity that transcends a genre marked by lifeless pastiches. A modern take on sounds of the 1970s. Kiwanuka is maiestic, subtly defiant, with a voice all its own. - Nick Warren

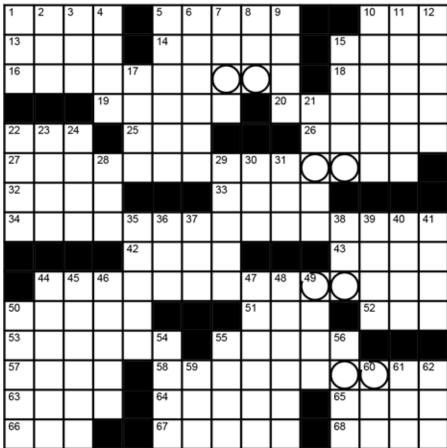
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Across

- 1. Nickname for Miriam
- 5. President between Washington and Jefferson
- degree
- 13. Supermodel from Somalia
- 14. The Washington Post,
- CNN, etc.
- 15. Manhattan area north of TriBeCa
- 16. "Girls" actress
- 18. "Lemme
- 19. "Oh, that's a shame"
- 20. Something people love
- to reach out and take?
- 22. Code-cracking org. 25. Aviv
- 26. Line that ended with
- Nicholas II 27. "Schitt's Creek"
- actress 32. "That makes perfect
- sense now!"
- 33. Ye ____ Shoppe 34. Answer from fans of
- 16-, 27-, 44- or 58-Across when asked "What is it
- about her that you like?"
- 42. Hans Christian Andersen, by nationality
- 43. Elaine ____, first
- female Asian-American cabinet member
- 44. "New Girl" actress 50. World's smallest island nation
- 51. A.L. West team, on scoreboards
- 52. Fútbol stadium cry

- 53. On deck
- 55. 57. Bell
- 58. "Private Benjamin"
- actress
- 63. Hwys. 64. Strand at a ski lodge,
- maybe
- 65. Garfield's frenemy 66. Flashlight inserts,
- perhaps 67. Babes in the woods
- 68. Will's opposite

Down

- 1. "Cool" amount of money 2. The Beatles' " Mine"
- 3. The Beatles' "Nowhere
- 4. Sworn (officially given the role of)
- 5. Jester, e.g. 6. Mount McKinley, now
- 7. What Adderall treats, for short
- 8. Farrow of "Hannah and Her Sisters"
- Club (Costco competitor) 10. In the neighborhood,
- 11. Militant org. in a 1994 peace agreement
- 12. Great Lakes mnemonic 15. It may involve dips, in two different senses
- 17. What many grandparents do
- 21. Blues legend Waters 22. Longtime CBS police

- procedural
- 23. Pageant wrap Belt
 - 24. Precisely, after "to"
 - 28. Fashion line?

 - 29. ____-um (gnat) 30. Common street name
 - 31. Work from Keats or Shelley
 - 35. For two, in music
 - 36. Eloise creator Thompson
 - 37. Put the kibosh on 38. Pres. Obama's
 - signature achievement
 - 39. "You might think so, but ..."
 - 40. Iona College athlete 41. Evidence left by a moth 44. Mexican revolutionary
 - played by Brando 45. There are eight in a
 - cup 46. Cookies that flavor
 - some ice cream 47. Came home feet first,
 - maybe 48. Mountain retreats
 - 49. In good shape
 - 50. Commercial lead-in to Sweet
 - 54. Cry to kick off the weekend
 - 55. Erupted 56. Popular self-help
 - website 59. Mozart's "L'____ del Cairo"
 - 60. Bustle 61. Triumph
 - 62. ____ neutrality



child lepers in UN-controlled noodle hut SOMEBODY'S **GOTTA PUT A** STOP TO THIS!

2016: CONSPIRACY THEORY

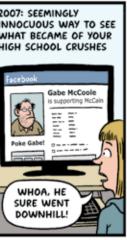
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2003: ORIGINATED WITH

DORM ROOM PROJECT

RATING WOMEN











Answers to last puzzle

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