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CONTENTS:

June 6, 2018

Erie at Large: Getting Out the Vote – 5

Why the possible changes for Pennsylvania’s closed primary system matter

Kelly Puts Choke Hold on Women’s Health with Support of Federal Gag Rule – 7

Congressman backs Trump plan to strip funding for family planning services

The McBride Viaduct: No Joking Matter – 8

Preservation of bridge crucial for Erie’s people of color

On a Mission – 10

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network reaps positive change where it has sown the seeds of kindness, compassion, and connectedness

Reinventing a Town – 13

Cambridge Springs still discovering what’s on the other side after blaze claims Riverside

Spotlight On Erie – 17

Oh carousel, won’t you let it be what we were

Summer Kickoffs – 26

Several seasonal series set to start shortly

Bake a Heart Like You Would Roast Beef – 32

Practical Advice for Nineteenth Century Erieites

Music Reviews – 34

Courtney Barnett, Deeper, Pusha T, and A\$AP Rocky

Movie Reviews – 35

Galaxies far, far away and amusement parks that we wish were

Crossword Puzzle – 37

This week’s stumper from David Levinson Wilk

Maitham’s Corner – 38

Bassam Dabbah, Owner of Sham Market and Micro-Enterprise Program Coordinator

From the Editors

And the dust, it settles on these things

Things begin and things end. It sounds simple, doesn’t it? In a way it is, but in a different way, it’s something we’re never ready to accept and never fully will be. So maybe it’s not so simple at all. Or, maybe the answer is — in the immortal words of the girl from the Old El Paso commercial — “why not both?”

The cessation of a thing is usually a cause for despair, or at very least, reflection. We imbue certain things with a life of their own, rightfully so, are sad to see them go. To focus in more specifically, and stop using such frustratingly general and repetitive terms, let’s talk about the Riverside Inn. The historic hotel stood from for over 130 years, the symbol of an entire town (though it’s more accurately a home rule municipality, but where’s the poetry in that?).

In May of 2017, it was destroyed by a fire. To many people it was Cambridge Springs. The Crawford County town, just beyond the county border, is a place with a rich history. John Burdick, a longtime resident, examines that history, taking a personal look at the past, present, and future of his hometown through the lens of the Inn. With it’s beautiful turn of the century aesthetic, it perfectly bred nostalgia with gusto. The memories people shared there were amplified by the setting, and after the building’s tragic loss, they’re boosted even more.

There are things beginning in Cambridge Springs too. Running for several wonderful years, the Riverside Music Festival was one of the best ways to hear local talent, and now it returns just as strong in the form of the Cambridge Springs Music Festival.

North of Crawford County, there’s plenty more things that are beginning. After all, it’s summertime. Starting in June, there’s something to do every day of the week. Take a look at our spotlight section for handfuls of Summer Kickoffs. There’s Music in the Park, Movies Under the Stars, and every manner of *X + preposition + Y* (allow us to humbly suggest “Tunes in the Lagoons”).

There’s a famous scene in the finale of the first season of *Mad Men*. In it, Don Draper gives the single most beautiful pitch for a slide projector, beginning with “nostalgia - it’s delicate, but potent.” He goes on to cite “that in Greek nostalgia literally means ‘the pain from an old wound.’ It’s a twinge in your heart far more powerful than memory alone. This device isn’t a spaceship, it’s a time machine. It goes backwards, and forwards ... it takes us to a place where we ache to go again. It’s not called the wheel, it’s called the carousel. It let’s us travel the way a child travels - around and around, and back home again, to a place where we know are loved.”

Memories a beautiful things. Let’s continue to make more of them.



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Erie at Large: Getting Out the Vote

Why the possible changes for Pennsylvania's closed primary system matter



Primary voters are on average six to eight years older than those who vote in the general election. Like most states, Pennsylvania does not allow voters unaffiliated with a political party to partake in the primary elections — which means that many younger people still forming their worldviews and attitudes are barred from the polls.

Erie's 2017 Democratic primary — then there needs to be an entry point to the political process for those who are unaffiliated.

Pennsylvania currently has a closed primary, which means that you have to be a registered member of a political party in order to vote in the primary election. If you are registered with the Green Party and there is a Green Party candidate, you're in luck. If you are independent, you are disenfranchised by virtue of your independence.

Following the abysmal turnout this May, State Senate President Pro-Tempore Joe Scarnati announced that he would introduce legislation that would open primaries in Pennsylvania to allow all registered voters to participate in primary elections. Scarnati is more interested in marginalizing the extremes of both parties, like those who knocked off Republican State Senator Randy Vulakovich and Democratic State Representatives Dom and Paul Costa. But these are anomalous events, the evidence suggests.

Whatever the motivation, a change to Pennsylvania's closed primary system is necessary. The Commonwealth is one of nine states that excludes independents and unaffiliated voters from primary elections. Nevertheless, Scarnati is not likely to find wholesale support for an open system that allows anyone to vote for any candidate of any party, as you would in a general election.

Party loyalists, both Republicans and Democrats, have concerns about allowing the other side to meddle in the selection of standard bearers each spring. Luckily, an open primary isn't our only option.

A primary open to unaffiliated voters — currently in place in nine states including Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire — allows unaffiliated voters to vote in any party primary they choose, but it doesn't allow registered members of a party to vote in another party's race. This would resolve the concerns of party loyalists while opening the door to independents who might ultimately find a political home with a major party.

This will depend upon the

What's becoming clear nationally is that low voter turnout is not about political apathy, but perhaps it is more about the chasm between political activism and party activism. The complicated worldviews of politically active young people tend to be at odds with the robust, but rather homogeneous, platforms of the major parties.

political will of our state legislature and the willingness of candidates to broaden their message, but it would also open the door to primary participation yet unseen in Pennsylvania.

It has the potential, quite simply, to get out the vote.

Jim Wertz can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @jim_wertz.

By: Jim Wertz

You might say we were all a bit underwhelmed with voter turnout in the May 15 primary election. Just 22 percent of the registered voters in Erie County showed up that Tuesday, and statewide voter turnout was just 17 percent. Even the victors — who would never admit to the benefit of voter apathy — agree that there needs to be more engagement at the polls.

If you watch or listen to some brand of political jibjab on radio or television, you may have bought into the narrative that low voter turnout is a byproduct of a takeover by radical fringes of the Republican and Democratic parties. After all, our rhetoric has become more staunchly partisan, our elected officials are markedly less moderate, and civility seems to be in short supply. The jibjab hardly lacks substantiation.

But a new study by Georgetown University and the University of California, Los An-

geles published in the British Journal of Political Science offers evidence that partisanship is hardly problematic. In fact, the findings suggest a number of factors that continue to impact Republican and Democratic voter turnout in both primary and general election cycles but ideological extremism is not one of them.

The study analyzed five national surveys and four elections between 2008 and 2014 — two presidential elections and two mid-term elections. The authors found that when it came to demographics and policy positions, there was not a great deal of variance between those who voted in primary elections and voters who only participate in the big dance. Primary voters simply had higher levels of engagement with the political process, including donating to and volunteering for individual candidates.

In other words, they tended to have some skin in the game.

What's becoming clear nationally is that low voter turnout is not about political apathy, but perhaps it is more about the chasm between political activism and party activism. The complicated worldviews of politically active young people tend to be at odds with the robust, but rather homogeneous, platforms of the major parties.

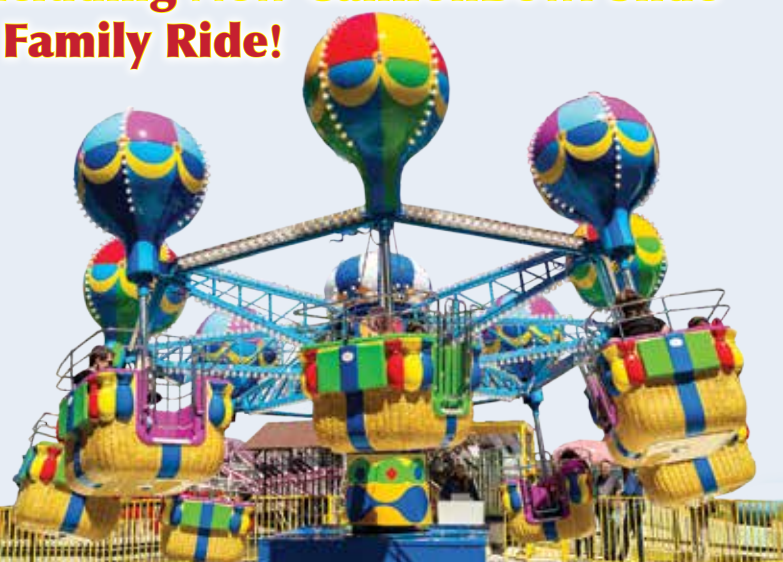
Primary voters tend to be six to eight years older than those who only vote in the general election. In that near decade, personal ideals are formed, personal finances begin to take shape, and the alienation of political independence often brings people into a party fold, whether they be Democrat or Republican, moderate or extreme.

But if blame for the dearth of primary participation can be laid at the feet of those who do not yet identify with party politics — remember that only nine (not nine percent, just *nine*) 18-year-olds voted in



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Kelly Puts Choke Hold on Women's Health With Support of Federal Gag Rule

Congressman backs Trump plan to strip funding for family planning services



Planned Parenthood provides a plethora of reproductive health benefits to citizens, especially lower-income and higher risk individuals, including contraception, STI screenings and treatment, and more. A proposed Title X Gag Rule, supported by Congressman Mike Kelly, would cut funding for preventative family planning services and disproportionately affect the most vulnerable segments of the population.

those with low incomes, and folks in rural areas would be affected most. In fact, Planned Parenthood represents only 13 percent of Title X providers but serves 41 percent of Title X patients. Make no mistake, stripping Title X funding from Planned Parenthood means people will go without care.

In addition to ensuring people have quality, reliable reproductive healthcare regardless of income or whether or not a person has insurance, investing in family planning makes financial sense. Every dollar spent on family planning saves the government \$7 in associated costs.

Attacks on Planned Parenthood are not what the people voted for. Sixteen national polls conducted since 2015 all show strong support for Planned Parenthood. A poll from Hart Research shows that 64 percent of voters oppose attempts to block patients from care at Planned Parenthood, which is exactly what this gag rule would do.

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that 64 percent of voters oppose attempts to block patients from care at Planned Parenthood, which is exactly what this gag rule would do.

Unfortunately, these extreme politicians are not listening to their constituents. In fact, a handful of lawmakers have become vocal champions for the gag rule. Congressman Mike Kelly is among those to sign on to an April 30 letter encouraging HHS Secretary Alex Azar to enact this dangerous policy.

While we are not surprised at Kelly's support of this measure — no one has forgotten the time he compared mandatory coverage of birth control to 9/11 — we are still outraged. Because the gag rule came from HHS, there will be no vote in the House or Senate before it becomes law. Regardless, we cannot overlook Kelly's support for this rule. We need to let him know we will not stand by while thousands in Pennsylvania lose access to vital, life-saving services because of a measure he supported.

Erie deserves better than an absentee politician who consistently votes against the wishes of his constituents. Erie deserves better than a politician who has been in lock-step with the Trump administration since day one. Mike Kelly may hide behind "teletown halls," with pre-screened calls from select constituents to protect his image, just as the formerly gerrymandered Third Congressional District protected his seat, but he and politicians like him will have to answer to those they've harmed. We're organized and we won't forget.

Paige Bosnyak is the Field Organizer for Planned Parenthood PA Advocates in Erie. To join Paige in the fight for reproductive rights, reach her at paige.bosnyak@pppamail.org

By: Paige Bosnyak

We knew a Trump administration and Republican-led Congress would bring unprecedented attacks on women's health and reproductive rights, and we did not need to wait long to see policies specifically designed to restrict access to reproductive healthcare. Early attacks on women's health came in multiple laws and rules that sought to restrict access to birth control and deny federal funding to Planned Parenthood — most notably in the failed attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

While initial attempts from Congress to defund Planned Parenthood failed, largely due to the grassroots efforts of millions of people who called, wrote, and visited their representatives, extremists in Washington — including our own local U.S. Representative Mike Kelly — remain hellbent on finding ways to attack vital family planning services.

On May 22, the Trump administration — through Health and Human Services (HHS), with encouragement from politicians, including Mike Kelly — announced a Title X Gag Rule (read "Title Ten") to attack funding for preventative family planning services where other efforts had failed. Representative Kelly's support of this decision would directly harm women in Pennsylvania and further demonstrates that he, like the Trump administration, do not care about the women they represent.

The Title X Gag Rule would block Title X family planning dollars from going to healthcare providers that provide or refer abortion services. This means healthcare providers who receive Title X funding will not be able to share information about the full range of pregnancy options with patients — and other providers will lose funding entirely. Created in 1970, Title X is a federal program that provides care to 4 million people annually, including services such as

contraception, STI testing and treatment, and other reproductive services. For millions of low-income individuals, Title X is a lifeline to essential, life-saving, preventative care. In 2016, Title X provided nearly 700,000 Pap tests, over 4 million STD tests (including HIV testing), and nearly 1 million breast exams. Because of a law called the Hyde Amendment, no tax dollars (Title X funding) can be or have been used for abortion care since 1976. This latest attack, like previous defunding attempts, only blocks low-income and vulnerable people from accessing preventative care.

Pennsylvania has the third largest share of Title X patients in the nation, with about 210,000 people. Planned Parenthood's health centers in Pennsylvania provide care to almost 90,000 women, men, and young people every year. Nearly 50 percent of Planned Parenthood health centers in Pennsylvania are in medically underserved areas of the state, meaning people of color,

The McBride Viaduct: No Joking Matter

Preservation of bridge crucial for Erie's people of color



For the Rev. Charles E. Mock and many other African-American residents of Erie, the decision to demolish the McBride Viaduct raises not only financial questions, but moral questions as well, specifically as they impact the more marginalized members of the community.

many people in the troubled waters of lies and false reports, reports that are so politicized as to be misleading; thus the only way we can get to the truth is through open and honest discussion of the facts.

Such a discussion cannot take place with any integrity without a public hearing, not to be confused with two or three public meetings. In a public hearing those who testify can be held legally accountable for false information. Not so with public information sharing meetings. Contrary to what others might feel based on what they have heard from experts, remember that in a court of law there are experts on both the plaintiff's and the defendant's sides.

The troubled waters of the McBride Viaduct are not only a matter of truth that necessitates a public hearing, it is also a matter of faith. Genuine faith markets in humane values: values that respect all people, especially the most vulnerable whose needs are often ignored. If the troubled waters are a matter of faith's values, they can be filtered down to a civil rights issue based on racial/ethnic discriminatory state, county and city policy. The salvation of a bridge on behalf of a certain class of

By: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Mock

As a Christian and Black American citizen of Erie I am compelled by the moral mandate of conscience to respond to a view held by a recent writer, David Morrison, Sr. of Erie, Pa. I respond to his view in the May 13th, Sunday edition of the Erie Times-News. His view was captured by the line: "Viaduct lawsuit seems like a bad, misguided joke."

Time will not permit my addressing all his views. One statement to which

I am responding is: "Since when is a dilapidated bridge, if razed, a civil rights violation?" I am certain that his question represents that of others as well and so I offer the following response.

Conversations around town have left many wondering where the truth lies about what can and cannot happen with the McBride Viaduct, as well as the question of why or why not? Newspaper opinions reveal citizens' confusion over various reports. Some people struggle in understanding the big fuss being made over a bridge, especially

when the Bayfront Highway seems, supposedly, a safe choice for pedestrians. I am not sure if I can help those that seriously want an understanding of the leading voice of support for a public hearing — Erie CPR. But I seek to add to previous explanations of the seriousness of this issue. For us it is no laughing matter.

The viaduct bridge is a bridge over "troubled waters." By this, I and others mean, it is an issue connected to truth. In case you haven't noticed, truth is in trouble! Truth is drowning, along with

Just Toyin' Witcha - By B. Toy



people may not be a big deal to some. However, to persons whose skin color prohibits them from seeing this as “troubled waters,” take a walk in Black and Hispanic history.

When a people of color has had to fight, scratch and claw its way to equal treatment under constitutional law, it is no joking matter! How unfortunate that some can only see a “dilapidated bridge,” “an old car fit for a junk yard,” or “a safety hazard” that a Bayfront Highway corrects. I wish I had time to share what George Washington Carver re-purposed from someone’s junk. There is strong evidence that this bridge can be repurposed at a cost far less than the cost of its demolition. Such evidence has a chance to be refuted at a public hearing!

Those who feel this viaduct business is a bad joke, a waste of time, much ado about nothing, etc., I also challenge with this. Come face-to-face with people of color who use this bridge on a continual basis. I am referring to well-researched data spelled out in an affidavit of complaint calling for a public hearing. The affidavit sites people in the East Avenue neighborhoods and census tracts as constituting 91 percent Black Americans and Latinos. I guess when you don’t have to walk the Bayfront because of the privilege of a car, you are spared worry about your clothes being drenched by puddles of water or dirtied by the sludge of melted snow from cars, trucks and tractor-trailers traveling at speeds over 50 mph only inches away. One does not

have to concern oneself with freezing temperatures since one’s car heating system takes care of that. “No big deal” when you don’t have to worry about an extra mile of walking due to the length of the Bayfront — half a mile going and a half mile returning. What’s an extra mile in inclement weather and freezing temperatures? Are these joking matters?

The troubled waters have to do with Erie’s new development focus, given the 24/7 Wall Street report identifying Erie as the worst city in America for Black Americans. No joke! It must mean

These troubled waters have to do with a history of redlining. Redlining is truly nothing to joke about. Redlining is an intentional decision made by those in control of money to not invest in certain areas of any given city. A red line is drawn around a geographical area with no uncertain meaning — no substantive investment in this area. This redlining was or is a part of an infamous “family” that also discriminated by dis-investment in education equality for certain people based purely on the color of their skin. Redlining was a part of the Apartheid “family”

I guess when you don’t have to walk the Bayfront because of the privilege of a car, you are spared worry about your clothes being drenched by puddles of water or dirtied by the sludge of melted snow from cars, trucks and tractor-trailers traveling at speeds over 50 mph only inches away.

something to responsible citizens that even if 40 percent of this report is inaccurate, can we really live with 60 percent accuracy? How will those who we seek to attract to Erie respond to this? We know this report matters! The evidence of Erie’s care was a press conference held at St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church a few months ago in response to this report. Present were stakeholders from business, government, faith communities, education, etc. Mayor Schember and others expressed their deep concerns about the message this report was sending to those they are attracting to Erie.

of South Africa and a part of the Jim Crow “family” in America less than 50 years ago.

Many protesting the demolition of this bridge without a public hearing have a hard time distinguishing this bridge issue from the recent education equity issue on behalf of public education. The Erie School District has fought tooth and nail for education equity in a system that unequally and unfairly distributes our Pa. tax dollars. Thanks to the courageous Erieites that screamed, “Enough is enough: enough of this treatment as if some children don’t matter!” Thanks to the protests

in Harrisburg to government officials, thanks to collective will, and thanks to help from Republicans who saw this as a civil rights issue instead of a partisan issue, Erie received what was needed — fourteen million dollars! What the Erie School District received was not all they deserved, but it was a substantial down payment on what was due from a history of educational discrimination.

The troubled waters have everything to do with economics. When in the city of Erie, \$24 million can be raised in a matter of no time for downtown development, when city improvement grants can be applied for and awarded for making downtown safer and more accessible to tourists walking here and there in search of their destination, when close to a billion dollars can be secured for the revitalization of Erie, it causes us to ask “why?” Why can’t we muster the political will to save a historic bridge that can possibly be saved and repurposed for a certain class of people and people of color? Don’t all peoples’ needs and hopes matter? Don’t diverse and impoverished neighborhoods also matter?

If there is a difference of opinion on the safety or need for this bridge, why not join us in our call for a public hearing? Curious minds want to know for certain whether it can be saved or not, as well as where the truth lies.

Charles Mock is the pastor of Community Baptist Church, 307 E. 10th St. He can be reached at hmb15years@gmail.com or 814-504-5597



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On a Mission

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network reaps positive change where it has sown the seeds of kindness, compassion, and connectedness



NICK WARREN

By: Cara Suppa

A few weeks ago, if you were down at the Bayfront Convention center you might have noticed the brassy sounds of jazz floating through the halls, the smell of mouth-watering cuisine, the clink of glasses and the low, dull roar of conversation, punctuated often by laughter and merriment. That was the 12th Annual Name That Tune Gala, hosted by Tim and Lisa NeCastro and sponsored by and benefiting the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN), one of Erie's most beloved nonprofit organizations and a driving force in the revitalization of the communities it serves. I had the opportunity to dig a little deeper into what SSJNN is all about, by connecting with Gretchen Gallagher Durney, Neighborhood Manager/Marketer for the organization who has been active in this post for the last six years.

A Mission, A Ministry

But first things first. SSJNN has operated in Erie's Little Italy neighborhood for nearly 20 years, and their mission statement reads: "The SSJ Neighborhood Network, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization." Focused roughly by boundaries that run east/west between Cranberry and East Avenue,

and north/south between 12th and 26th, this espoused leadership, advocacy and partnership-building manifests itself in a variety of ways, some of which might surprise even the longest of long-time Erie residents.

"I think people are less familiar with our façade improvement program," Durney said. "Counting the 30 that will be completed this year, we will have completed just shy of 90 façade improvements to homes and businesses. [We have also] worked with businesses to install security cameras."

In addition, SSJNN provides for its community a weekly soup kitchen and emergency assistance, like food and hygiene items, for those in need after a disaster. There are numerous programs for children, like tutoring, basketball, crafting, cooking and mentorship, as well as field trips to local attractions and events. And the SSJNN's urban community gardens, which originally encompassed just one space on West 18th, and now include plots at 17th and Sassafras and 19th and Myrtle, provide much-needed green space, plus the opportunity to learn plant and crop cultivation and winterization techniques, particularly for the city's teenagers.

In addition, the SSJNN is deeply involved and invested in the revitalization of Erie's Little Italy neighborhood, which is often defined as the space between Sassafras and Liberty, from 16th to 19th streets. These revitalization efforts have been taking place as far back as 2007, and the façade program serves as an example of smaller acts

In the heart of Erie's Little Italy neighborhood, the Sisters of Saint Joseph community gardens add a welcome dash of green, and feature metal sculptures by Evan Everhart and distinctive benches made by Brian Millspaw.

that, when combined and considered as a whole, equal change on a grand scale.

SSJNN did not always offer such a wide variety of services and advocacy. The organization, which was founded in 2000 by Sister Mary Herrmann and Sister Carol Wilcox, "...started with two sisters hearing a call and then hearing from neighbors on what their needs and concerns were," Durney explained. "From those interactions our first ministries of tutoring for children and the soup kitchen started."

Though their beginnings were humble, SSJNN's programs grew in number and scope, with the assistance of the Erie community's financial support. That support comes in many forms (almost two-thirds of their funding comes from contributions and donations), but perhaps the most enjoyable source — for both organization and its supporters — is through fundraisers like the Guess That Tune Gala and Celebrity Bartending at the Nuova Aurora Club in Little Italy. "With the bartending event, it is also a tip of the hat to the club which has been a great supporter and neighbor to us," Durney said, pointing out just one example of how organizations in the community intersect.

Little Italy Farmers Markets

With the official start of the summer just around the corner, SSJNN is gearing up for its big series of neighborhood events: the weekly farmers markets that are now in their sixth year of operation. Most Mondays in the summer and into September are given over to what has become an immensely popular program featuring fresh produce, locally made baked goods, locally sourced dairy and meat products, and, on specially designated occasions known as The Little Italy Farmers Market and more — live music, craft vendors and even local food trucks.

The Little Italy Farmers Markets were "developed in 2012 because of the area being a food desert, and transportation and more standing in the pathway to fresh and healthy food," Durney explained. She was quick to recognize the work of neighborhood supermarket mainstays, like Larry's and Serafin's, which provide quality food products in convenient locations, but also emphasized the significant value, beyond just the food, of a farmers market to the area, which "acts as a community builder and more...It's a space where our teen gardeners can learn as they sell produce from our urban farming program. It's a space where you can meet, question, and directly support the livelihoods of other local farmers. It's a space to congregate, and [it] also draws in people and showcases the many positives of the area."

To make fresh goods more widely available to the Erie community, gen-



NICK WARREN



NICK WARREN

erous sponsors to the markets match both supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, or “food stamps”) and WIC’s farmers market nutrition program (FMNP) vouchers, ensuring that low-income persons who attend the markets receive as much healthy, wholesome food as possible. It is also telling that in the summer of 2016 the farmers market was held in the same location as the Italian festival — the parking lot of St. Paul’s Catholic Church, on 16th Street between Chestnut and Walnut — yet the following year the event had scaled up to such an extent that it had to be moved to its current, more spacious location, at 331 W. 18th Street, an exciting development for Durney, who is personally involved with the event.

“In addition to more farmers this year,” Durney continued, “there’s also a new mural that Tom Ferraro and Ed Grout put up last fall, and some new folks joining us on the [Market and More] days.”

I have been to the markets the past two summers, and I not only walk away with a big bagful of the most impressive zucchini, green beans and big leafy lettuce ever, I’m always delighted by the pleasant, friendly manner of the farmers and sellers, who are eager to talk about their food. There is something to be said about having face-to-face access to a grower who has nothing to hide when it comes to his or her farming practices.

Connecting and Uplifting the Community

This kind of transparency and connectedness is what SSJNN is all about. Recognizing the interconnected nature of a community — how lifting up one underrepresented or marginalized person helps lift up everyone — plays

The clouds of the International Flowers Community Garden mural blend with the summer sky, as the garden’s banner shares the Woodrow Wilson quote “We grow great by dreams.”

a huge role in how Durney approaches her job every single day.

“My parents owned a restaurant when I was little, and I can remember frequently coming into International Bakery [at 18th and Cherry] with them as they’d get certain supplies there,” she said, before she went on to describe how she still patronizes the bakery as an adult and works all around it with SSJNN to improve the conditions of the neighborhood.

Durney maintains a realistic optimism about the future of SSJNN. “We are a small staff, and there are challenges, but we are able to maintain our zeal and accomplish so much with our more than 300 devoted volunteers, as well as many more supporters.” Still, she relayed ruefully the difficulty in being part of a ministry where people could labor 24/7 and it would still never feel like enough.

But SSJNN has made and continues to make an ever-growing positive difference in the lives of so many who dwell in Erie. Thanks to a savvy embrace of social media, the organization can quickly and easily reach more members of the community with updates, thanks to event listings, but it is not surprising that Durney still prefers good old-fashioned face-to-face interactions. After all, a smile, a hello, and a handshake as you greet someone you’ve just met on the sidewalk? That’s the first step in being a good neighbor.

Cara Suppa can be reached at csuppa@eriereader.com



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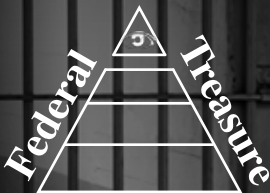
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Reinventing a Town

Cambridge Springs still discovering what's on the other side after blaze claims Riverside



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Jonathan Burdick

What is Cambridge Springs without the Riverside Inn?

When the Victorian-era building burned to the ground in May of 2017, those of us who call Cambridge Springs home have been forced to reckon with this question.

The Riverside Inn had been such an entrenched part of our town's identity for so long, most residents had never reflected on what it would mean to the community if something happened to that beautiful old building at One Fountain Avenue. We had all *thought* about it, of course, but never thought it would *actually* happen.

Nowadays, Cambridge Springs seems quieter than I remember it as a kid — but it's certainly no ghost town. There's the LORD Corporation plant off Grant Street. On the hill once occupied by Alliance College and the massive Rider Hotel is a minimum security correctional facility. In recent years, the National Guard Armory was built right outside the township. There are also many small locally-owned businesses run by engaged and community-driven residents — a scattering of antique shops, an old-fashioned diner, a pizza place, a store of locally-produced chocolate, and even a *Harry Potter*-themed coffee shop and attached boutique. The old Hotel Bartlett is being utilized as senior housing and across the street is an art studio and Laura's Barber Shop. The Lost Lanes bowling alley and its restaurant, the Found Lounge, remains one of the few places left in town to get together with friends over a hot meal

— which, as locals already know, isn't a problem as they have some of the best wings around. Most of the town's old bars — the Iron Horse, Spring Inn, and Crossbow — have closed and sit vacant, the Villa being the lone business district survivor for those in need of a nightcap.

While there are clues if one explores the town closely, it might be difficult for a passerby to believe that this little municipality of 2,500 people was once a bustling resort town. A dozen hotels once stood in Cambridge Springs, serving tourists who came daily by train to indulge in the town's mineral springs, widely known for their supposed healing qualities.

"The water from these fountains is chemically pure, being entirely free from organic matter," one old mineral springs advertisement reads. "It cures Dyspepsia and all Stomach, Liver, Kidney, and Bladder diseases ... [and] is invaluable for Insomnia, Indigestion, Torpid Liver, and loss of Appetite."

"I find a remarkable apathy among American physicians who do not take the trouble to inform themselves as to the powers of these springs," an English doctor was quoted on another ad.

The Riverside Inn and its adjacent spring house were erected in the 1880s as this mineral water craze spread — but as the fad faded away in the first decades of the 20th century (thanks to the passage of the consumer-friendly Pure Food and Drug Act), so did the concept of Cambridge Springs as a resort town.

Most of the other hotels were sold off, demolished, or, in the case of the Rider Hotel, burned to the ground. As the

[left] Until the tragic fire that destroyed it in 2017, the historic Riverside Inn at Cambridge Springs was an iconic sight, greeting visitors to the town. [bottom right] Cambridge Springs got its name from the local mineral springs, which were a popular health craze near the end of the 19th century.

decades passed, the Riverside transformed along with its ownership, but unlike the others, it continued to operate. By 1985, the Riverside was one of the few remaining relics of Cambridge's resort town past. That same year, Mike and Marie Halliday purchased the inn and began the arduous process of room-by-room restoration. They reconstructed the inn once again into a cornerstone of the community, returning it to its glory as a popular tourist destination — a hub for weddings and parties, meals and drinks, music and theater, and reunions among old friends.

In the summer of 1990, Jeremy Ball began working at the inn — a rite of passage among Cambridge youth. Like many newly hired teenagers, he started out washing dishes.

"When I first started, I was mostly dish room," Jeremy said, "but then Mrs. Halliday always felt bad that my glasses would fog up in there and after a couple of months I had been promoted to busboy."

From there, Jeremy was again promoted to help run the Canterbury Feast and overseeing the buffet line — essentially becoming royalty among high school employees at the inn. He then moved on serving tables when he turned eighteen.

These experiences at the Riverside

Inn led Jeremy to pursue a degree in Hotel, Restaurant, & Institutional Management at Penn State University. While doing so, he traveled back home every other weekend to continue working at the inn.

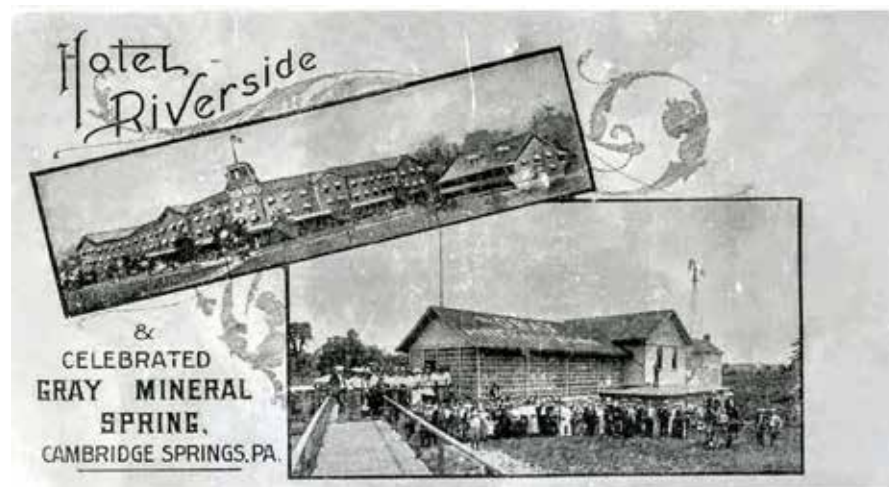
"I'd get home at four and work from Friday night through Sunday evening, working double and sometimes triple shifts and then would make the trek back to [Penn State]," Jeremy recalled.

After graduating in 1997, he managed the American Ale House & Grill in State College for nearly five years before an impulsive summer trip to Philadelphia led to his relocation. He spent the next decade managing numerous high-end restaurants throughout Philly before deciding to move back home in 2014.

"I was ready to move back to the country and be closer to family," Jeremy said. "I was initially nervous trying to find something that would be challenging in this market, but then Marie Halliday found out I was back in town and called me and said, 'We need to talk.'"

She offered him the position of general manager and after so many years, Jeremy was back to where it all began, the place that had instilled in him a passion for the hospitality business. Over the next few years, the Riverside continued to flourish under Jeremy's leadership.

Then, around 1 a.m. on May 2, 2017, Jeremy received a call from an inn employee about what they assumed was a false alarm going off — but when he arrived, the kitchen door was already blazing hot. Twelve guests and three employees were evacuated as dozens



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



[left] A blend of American Shingle StyleJ22

and French Second Empire, the Inn's recognizable facade left an indelible impression on countless people for over 130 years. [bottom] Recently, Guys Mills couple Jason and Deanna Howles purchased the land the inn stood on, with plans to open up the aptly named Riverside Brewing Company.

spent on the porch on a warm summer night, reminiscing with friends over cold beers, the world seeming to have slowed down?

The memories made during the years I had worked there, folding an endless pile of cloth napkins on my first shift at age 16 through my last shift a few years after graduating from college, how I'd taken my wife there countless times while we were dating and then later when we had taken our oldest son, the people I had worked with and met from all over the world, the hijinks amongst the staff — those memories over the course of a single night ceased to have a physical presence, crumbled by an undetermined blaze. I could only wonder how many thousands, how many *tens* of thousands who cherished the Riverside felt similarly upon hearing the news.

"It was an iconic building that was so much more than a hotel, restaurant and dinner theatre," Jeremy told me. "It had a life and a personality and just drew people in with its charm, history and warm atmosphere. So many people worked there, made memories there, and became families there. It was a symbol of coming home — the gathering place. As we all know, people would visit once and just fall in love with the inn. It was such a special place."

Wilma Webster was one of the first people I met when I started working at the Riverside — and having done just about every job that could be done at the inn since she first worked there in 1965, she knew every inch of the building.

"I worked [there] in my junior and senior years and the summer after I graduated," Webster said. "It seemed to me that they catered to wealthy people and their families [back then]. When we were training on proper serving to guests it was very formal."

She's kept in close touch with all of those she worked with over the years, including the Hallidays. "I will miss the people who came, some for the very first time, and fell in love with the grand old lady," she added. "Then

they came back again and again. All the weddings, the dinner theaters, the fantastic staff."

Brenda Evans, who worked at the Riverside since the '80s and ran the inn for a number of years, felt similarly. "I miss the people who used to migrate back every so often like they were being called to come home. It was always about the people we met there — customers and workers."

I asked Jeremy what he thinks will stand out the most in his mind in 10 or 20 years when he thinks of the Riverside.

"Having the opportunity to run the hotel that I started working at as a kid," he said. "The trust and faith the Hallidays put in me. Being trusted with such a monumental operation of a 130-year-old hotel was the most amazing opportunity I had ever experienced."

This spring, a grassy field emerged on the vacant property where the Riverside had stood only a year earlier. Until this past May, a sole surviving brick fireplace still stood defiantly.

Despite the pain, residents of Cambridge Springs are optimistic for the town's future. Last fall, the Hallidays sold the property to Deanna and Jason Howles, a couple from Guys Mills. They are in the process of repurposing a historic barn on the land in order to open a new brewpub for their newly established (and aptly named) Riverside Brewing Company. Construction began in May and on Thursdays throughout this summer, they will be operating "growler hours" from 5 to 8 p.m. to introduce the community to their beers, food, and maple products. Other area businesses have equally stepped up to fill the void left by the Riverside's absence.

What is Cambridge Springs without the Riverside Inn? It's a town that moves forward. For a town that has had to reinvent itself many times already — it may be amid a reinvention once again.

"Let's make this tragedy a reminder to always have hope," Jeremy said. "This situation helps show us how strong we all are both as individuals and collectively as a community. Hope is being able to see the light despite all of the darkness. Our lights will shine again."

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

of fire stations from all over North-western Pennsylvania were alerted of the impending disaster.

As this was occurring, I was awake on my living room couch, now residing in Millcreek. My infant son, not yet three weeks old, was having a bottle before being rocked back to sleep. I was in that delirious phase of parenting a newborn, mechanically aware in my motions, but unmistakably fatigued.

When he was back asleep, I reflexively checked Facebook. A live stream was being shared by Kenny Watkins, someone who I had gone to school with back in Cambridge. The video was dark and the picture difficult to make out at first, but at center was a blazing orange and yellow, an unmistakable fire.

Somehow, I knew immediately.

"I listened to it on that scanner [and] when I heard the fire sirens go off and I heard they were on their way to Riverside, I was like, 'okay, I'm going down there,'" Kenny told me.

He arrived at the inn even before the fire trucks and saw people running in and out of the building frantically. "I wish I would have just ran in there and

helped, because I feel that if they had help stopping it at that point, there would have been a chance," Kenny said. "I started the video once I saw the flames come up over that edge from the back."

He knew he was about the witness the Riverside's demise. "This was the night it was going," he remembered thinking. "It was like a matchbook."

I watched his live stream until it cut out quite some time later. At that point, Kenny said it seemed like the whole town was there watching as the firefighters worked heroically to salvage any part of the inn. From my couch, I'm not sure that I had even completely processed what was happening, but I remember staring at the wall for a while. I fell asleep at some point. When morning came, I checked my phone again, assuming it had been some sleep-deprived nightmare.

My mother was watching my older son at the time, so I dressed for work and drove him into Cambridge Springs to drop him off. I had to take a slight detour, but drove close enough to see the devastation, the smoke, the firefighters still at work to tame the remaining flames.

The next day when I came into town, I parked my car and walked towards the still smoldering remains. I couldn't hold back my tears.

What would Cambridge Springs be without the Riverside Inn?

It was our town's living museum. For everyone who visited, everyone who worked there, everyone in the community, the pain seemed akin to a death. I wondered how many vows had been exchanged there over the years? How many first dates? Shows attended? Proms held? How many evenings were





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Camelot Classic to Take the Mainstage Throughout June



HANNAH McDONALD

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

A grand, mythical and castled city and center of the Kingdom of Logres (said to be located in Great Britain), Camelot was where King Arthur held court. And according to Arthurian legends, the city became home to a roundtable that held 150 knights. Though this story is many centuries old, the tale is coming to life this month on the mainstage of The Erie Playhouse.

Camelot, drawn from T. H. White's epic novel *The Once and Future King*, is a "majestic piece of musical theater that centers on the romantic triangle that develops between King Arthur, Guinev-

ere and Sir Lancelot," said Susan Lechner, the show's director.

With themes of conflict and the human heart at its center, the legend continues to capture audiences. The show is paired with an enchanting musical score complete with pageantry and abundant melodies.

Described as "stellar" by Lechner, The Playhouse production will star Brendan Daugherty as King Arthur, Hannah Ridgewell as Guinevere, and Mathew E. Anderson as Lancelot. Other supporting roles are held by Mitchel McVeigh (Mordred), Richard Davis (Merlyn) and Teni Siano (Morgan Le Fey).

Of the production, Lechner said: "It's wonderful to watch the actors grow into their roles and find the nuances that bring their characters to life. We have a strong vocal ensemble backing the principle characters. The cast, coupled with dazzling costumes, beautiful sets, intricate lighting and full orchestra, is sure to have audiences on their feet at the end of the show." — Hannah McDonald

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. // Dates, showtimes, and prices available online at erieplayhouse.org or by calling the box office at (814) 454-4852.

Explore the Dynamic Works of ARTrageous at the Erie Art Museum



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH

On the Erie Art Museum's website, you'll find that the tagline for their upcoming ARTrageous event is, simply, "an event that lives up to its name!" And as you scroll further down the page, it will soon become clear from the event's mere description that it would be near-impossible for the event *not* to. Already danced your way through the disco party with DJ Shineomite? Perhaps Pan African rhythms with the storied One World Tribe should be your next destination. You say you're finished taking in the Food Artist Group's "intricate and beautiful" melon carving? Why not give the Sovereign Ballet's dramatic living sculptures a chance?

On a fundamental level, ARTrageous is designed to have something for lovers

of all kinds of art, from an interactive video exhibit courtesy of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania to painting on demand with Bryan Toy. In addition to the jazz-pop stylings of HelioDuo and traditional Himalayan music by Gyan Ghising, craft brews by the Erie Beer Company will be paired with selected artworks around the museum as well as "artisanal confections" courtesy of Romolo Chocolates.

The museum's annual ARTrageous event follows the very recent announcement of their new executive director, Joshua R. Helmer. Having obtained degrees first at Hartwick College and then Syracuse University, Helmer arrives with an impressive background in art history. He joins the Erie Art Museum following four years as Assistant Director of Interpretation at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. As Helmer has already made of point of reaching out to the community and discussing the museum's future, this year's ARTrageous event should serve as a fitting introduction to the Erie Art Museum's newest staffer. — Aaron Mook

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 411 State Street // \$100 // erieartmuseum.org

MUSIC

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Jun. 6 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

McBrier, VanAmburg, Papatnik and Friends

Jun. 7 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Jay Baumgardner

Jun. 7 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Guru

Jun. 7 — 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. gurumusic.wixsite.com.

Karaoke Nite with Brooke

Jun. 7 — 9 to 11 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Acoustic Summer Kick Off Show

Jun. 8 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

The Highlife

Jun. 8 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Crusin Band

Jun. 8 — 7 to 11 p.m. to midnight
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

AJ Woods, Cult Classics and Brent Knight

Jun. 8 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.
9th & State Beer Cafe, 832 State St. facebook.com.

Claire Stuczynski

Jun. 8 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Ruby Port Band

Jun. 9 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Bay City Bash

Jun. 9 — 2 p.m.
Bay City Tattoo Company, 759 E. 12th St. facebook.com.

Summer Kick Off

Jun. 9 — 5 to 10:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Duke Sherman Band

Jun. 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Spring Concert Series

Jun. 9, 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 Singer Rd. North East, PA 16428

lakeviewwinecellars.com.

Dionisio and Colette Bone

Jun. 9 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Leeanna Golembiewski

Jun. 9 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Henge featuring Lisa Rhodes, Redds and Trotts

Jun. 9 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Shady Side

Jun. 10 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Clever Norman

Jun. 10 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Marbin

Jun. 10 — 7 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Monday Music in the Woods

Jun. 11 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Greyhaven

Jun. 12 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Philharmonic String Quartet

Jun. 13 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Brenna Bone & Sean Clark and Abbey Road

Jun. 13 — 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Tyler Smilo

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

Mike & Dave's Acoustic Wonder Emporium

Jun. 14 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Scarlett Ledbetter

Jun. 15 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Summer Concert Series: Celtic Hooligans

Jun. 15 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Lordran, Ghost Embryo

and Fog Giant

Jun. 15 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Malpractice

Jun. 15 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

Jesse James Weston

Jun. 15 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Punch Drunk Tagalongs, The Standby and Cult Classics

Jun. 15 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Brooke Surgener

Jun. 16 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Lydia Marks with the Bruce Johnstone Trio

Jun. 16 — 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
9th & State Beer Cafe, 832 State St. lydiamarksjazz.com.

Zack & Adam, DJ Voto and Hekate

Jun. 16 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Drednecks

Jun. 16 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301

Good Feelings Flow at Cambridge Springs Music Festival

A year after Riverside there’s still plenty of atmosphere and events abounding at this inaugural event.



CLEVER NORMAN

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

This year marks the first incarnation of the Cambridge Springs Music Festival. If it seems familiar, there’s a reason. Over the years, the Riverside Music Festival grew to become the region’s unofficial kickoff to festival season. Sure, sometimes there was snow during the April dates, but the atmosphere was undeniably welcoming. “I think it broadened the scope of what ‘community’ was at the festival,” said Justin Moyar, one

of the principal organizers of the festival. “It encompassed the essence of what a music festival is by letting music become the atmosphere.” After the loss of the historic Riverside Inn, that all changed. While the picturesque hotel itself is gone, the memories remain, and it’s up to us to create plenty of new ones. Evolving and adapting to the circumstances, Moyar along with the Cambridge Springs Fire Department have launched a new free celebration of local

music. With performances all weekend long happening on multiple stages, there will be plenty to see and hear. Seeking to recreate the welcoming spirit the festival always instilled, Moyar admitted that “the one thing I hope is that the tradition of people playing music throughout the event continues.” With hopes that the feeling will reach well beyond the grounds of the inn, he explained that “the other thing I hope is that they will have a chance to visit and experience more of Cambridge Springs. With so many new businesses going into town and other ones that exist now, my hope is that people have a great experience and want to come back and visit again before the next festival.” The main stage (named the B.I.G. Stage after the Bush Investment Group) will be on the Fireman Carnival Grounds, a few short blocks from the site of the Inn, on the same northern side of French Creek. The Broke Boland Band will kick things off at 5 p.m. on Friday, with the Sil-

ver String Band closing things out at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Nineteen different local vendors will be on hand at the festival marketplace, with crafts, food, and more to take in. There will also be a beer garden featuring an array of tempting ales and lagers, including the wares of Hardwaters Brewing and Riverside Brewing — who are slated to open their new site on the former grounds of the Riverside Inn. In addition, guests will be welcome to bring their own instruments and play together on the open jam stage — a wonderfully common sight that would wrap around the porches. Across the creek will be the Park Stage, where the gazebo will house 18 locally beloved acoustic-based acts playing throughout the weekend, including Clever Norman, Tommy Link, and Claire Stuczynski. The Villa will be the site of the Rock Cabal Stage, featuring 27 bands from Friday to Saturday night, for fans of the harder stuff — ranging from alternative (Detroit Red, This American Song),

metal (Sudden Frost, Slaughter in the Meridian), to punk rock (the Gabba Ghoulies, Submachine). The BBQ and Brews stage will cater to 13 different bands all weekend, spotlighting blues, jazz, and rock acts like Dionisio, the Tony Grey Galactic Duo: featuring Ian Maciak and Sean Patrick & the Newgrass Revolution. There will also be a instructional workshop center made possible by World of Music, a Story Walk courtesy of the Cambridge Springs Public Library, a Crazy Kid Monkey Zone with activities and inflatable rides, and a shuttle service provided by the Lake Erie Ale Trail to take festival-goers from place to place. A designated camping area (on a first-come-first-serve basis) will come in handy for those hoping to stay overnight. — Nick Warren

For full list of times and locations, visit cambridgespringsmusicfestival.com.

Cocktails and Color

Jun. 6 — 7:30 p.m.
Voodoo Brewery, 101 Boston Store Pl. voo doobrewery.com.

Picnic in the Park

Jun. 7, 14 — 11:30 a.m.
Gibson Park, North East, PA 16428 ne chamber.org.

Downtown Erie Food Tour

Jun. 8, 15, 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Stop & Smell the Tacos

Jun. 8 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12 St. facebook.com.

Grape Blossom Festival

Jun. 9 — 1 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

North East Food Tour

Jun. 10 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Bean Coffee Shop, 12 S. Lake St, North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com.

Cocktails 101: The Golden Age

Jun. 11 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Happy-Appy Food Tour

Jun. 13 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Yo Quiero Cats & Dogs

Jun. 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott Erie Bayfront, 2 Sassafras Pier. humanesocietyofnwpacom.

MOVIES

Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Earthflight

Ongoing — noon & 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

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

Aircraft Carrier

Ongoing — 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental

Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

The Death of Stalin

Jun. 6 — 5:30 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle

Jun. 7 — 9 p.m.
Porreco College, 2951 W. 38th St. edinboro.edu.

Splice Film Fest

Jun. 8 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. & Jun. 9 — 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. & Jun. 10 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. splicefilmfest.com.

Coco

Jun. 11 — 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Jun. 13 — 5:30 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Coco

Jun. 14 — 9 p.m.
Porreco College, 2951 W. 38th St. edinboro.edu.

Annihilation

Jun. 20 — 5:30 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

VISUAL ARTS

95th Annual Spring Show

Ongoing through Jul. 1
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Kate Nash, Paintings

Ongoing through Jul. 3
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Sr. Angelica Cummings

Ongoing through Aug. 10
Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Vintage Neon: Images by Chuck Biddle

Ongoing through Sept. 9
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Gary Spinosa: Divine Instinct

Ongoing through Jan. 6, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

James McMurray: Faces and Paces

Ongoing through June 10, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

ARTrageous

Jun. 9 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Second Sundays

Jun. 10 — 1 to 5 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Archiving Ephemeral Beauty

Jun. 15 through Sept. 15
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATER

Things My Mother Taught Me

Jun. 6, 13, 19, 20 — noon & Jun. 10, 17 — 2:30 p.m. & Jun. 16 — 5:30 p.m.
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. cantlyburyfeast.com.

Alice Through the Looking Glass

Jun. 8, 9 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Jun. 10 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.
All An Act Theatre, 652 W.

17th St. allanact.net.

Camelot

Jun. 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 — 7:30 p.m. & Jun. 17 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

Jun. 8, 9, 15, 16 — 8 p.m.
Dramashop, 1001 State St. Suite 210, dramashop.org.

The Wrecking Crew, Bloopers and All

Jun. 9 — 7 p.m.
New Life and Spirit Revival Center, 315 E. 9th St. facebook.com.

Equus by Peter Shaffer

Jun. 13, 14, 20 — 8 to 11 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. facebook.com.

SPORTS

Erie SeaWolves vs Hartford Yard Goats

Jun. 6, 7 — 7:05 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. milb.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs Reading Fightin Phils

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Jefferson — The Next 10 Years

Reservoir still full for ‘Erie’s Think Tank for Community Progress’



Authors and lecturers Bruce Katz (left) and Jeremy Nowak (right) are experts in urban development and will share their observations about Erie as the Jefferson Educational Society celebrates its first 10 years at the Bayfront Convention Center.

is excited to hear from Katz and Nowak because “what they’ve written reinforces the role Jefferson wants to play in this community — to present ideas for improvement.”

In regards to their own self-improvement, the Jefferson is planning to make at least 50 percent of future programming free and open to the public, as well as establishing satellite chapters around the region (including Corry, North East, Fairview, and downtown) to improve outreach and accessibility. After all, it takes an audience to mobilize progress. In addition, Jefferson will launch the Scholars-in-Residence program, wherein senior experts in various fields will be called upon to author essays and offer advice on how to make Erie a better place to be. Of course, the Global Summit series will carry on into its 10th iteration, with many of the key speakers already locked in for appearances.

While we could all do better in some aspect of our lives, you could do worse than attend what’s shaping up to be an enlightening evening. — Matt Swanseger

6 p.m. to 11 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // \$25 // jeserie.org

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

The Jefferson Educational Society has from the beginning been a work in progress. JES President Dr. Ferki Ferati is eager to disabuse folks of the notion that the organization, which he’s been involved with from the get-go in 2008, is merely a “history-based type of institution.” Of course, engaging with our past is important and yields valuable lessons, but it should be viewed as part of an educational continuum that informs the present, and in turn, the future. He echoes the organizational motto: “We are Erie’s think tank for community progress.”

In its first 10 years of existence, the Jefferson has hosted 1,000 programs, established the Civic Leadership Academy (with nearly 80 graduates so far), and opened a publication division (books, essays, and journalistic studies) to build a corpus of knowledge and re-

sources for Erie to draw from as it plots a course forward. Along the way, they’ve also partnered with power players in the community such as Erie Insurance and LECOM with influence and cachet to affect change. That’s without mentioning Perry 200 in 2013, which raised \$2 million and was the most comprehensive commemoration of the War of 1812 in the country. In short, they’ve done some things thus far.

In the spirit of continuing on that trajectory, they will look ahead to the next decade with a gala event at the Bayfront Convention Center. Jefferson — The Next 10 Years will feature a presentation from the JES, a lecture from urban experts Bruce Katz and Jeremy Nowak, authors of *The New Localism*, a surf-and-turf dinner (vegetarian options available), an open bar (before and after the presentations), and music from Steppin’ Pappy (purveyors of honky-tonk, rock, blues, and soul). Ferati

Jun. 8, 9 — 7:05 p.m. & Jun. 10 — 11:35 p.m.
UPMCPark.com, 110 E. 10th St. milb.com.

Shoot the Rock: Future Stars Classic
Jun. 9, 10
[Gannon University](http://GannonUniversity.com), 130 W. 4th St. eriesportscommission.com.

Into The Woods 5-miler Trail Race
Jun. 9 — 8 a.m.
[Asbury Woods Nature Center](http://AsburyWoodsNatureCenter.com), 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

11th Annual Art & Sole 5k Run/Walk
Jun. 9 — 9 to 11 a.m.
[Neighborhood Art House](http://NeighborhoodArtHouse.com), 201 E. 10th St. nah.eriebenedictines.org.

Erie Commodores vs Greater Binghamton
Jun. 10 — 2 p.m.

[Gannon University](http://GannonUniversity.com), 200 W. 4th St. eriecommadores.com.

Volleyball Doubles League
Jun. 12, 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.
[Beach 6 Volleyball Courts](http://Beach6VolleyballCourts.com) at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Atlantic Coast Baseball Tournament
Jun. 15, 16, 17
[Mercyhurst University](http://MercyhurstUniversity.com), 501 E. 38th St. playacbaseball.com.

Erie Commodores vs Fort Pitt Regiment
Jun. 15 — 7 p.m.
[Gannon University](http://GannonUniversity.com), 200 W. 4th St. eriecommadores.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs New Hampshire Fisher Cats
Jun. 18, 19 — 7:05 p.m. & Jun. 20 — 12:05 p.m.

UPMCPark.com, 110 E. 10th St. milb.com.

COMMUNITY

Walking Wednesdays
Jun. 6, 13, 20 — 6 a.m.
[Asbury Woods Nature Center](http://AsburyWoodsNatureCenter.com), 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Lagoon by Pontoon
Jun. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 — 10 a.m.
[Lagoon Boat Launch](http://LagoonBoatLaunch.com) in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Plastic Pollution Solution: One Small Change
Jun. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
[Tom Ridge Environmental Center](http://TomRidgeEnvironmentalCenter.com), 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Summer Clay for Kids: Elementary Hand Building

Jun. 6, 13, 20 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
[Erie Clayspace](http://ErieClayspace.com), 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Summer Clay for Kids: Elementary Wheel Throwing
Jun. 6, 13, 20 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
[Erie Clayspace](http://ErieClayspace.com), 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Plasha Mixed Level Yoga at Liberty Park
Jun. 6 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
[Liberty Park](http://LibertyPark.com), 200 Lawrence Pier. plashayoga.com.

Presque Isle Lighthouse Guest Speaker: Jack Graham
Jun. 6 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
[Tom Ridge Environmental Center](http://TomRidgeEnvironmentalCenter.com), 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Arundel Trivia Night
Jun. 6 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
[Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co.](http://ArundelCellars.com),



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Experience the Experimental Punch Drunk Tagalongs at Scotty's Martini Lounge



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRIDAY, JUNE 15TH

Next weekend, Cleveland's Punch Drunk Tagalongs return to Erie alongside locals The Standby and Cult Classics for a night of crunchy guitars and hypnotic harmonies at Scotty's Martini Lounge. Punch Drunk Tagalongs arrive fresh off the release of their first full-length album, *Hazy*, which was released just this past April. *Hazy*

was recorded with Jim Wirt, a producer whose credits include bands such as Incubus, Hoobastank, Something Corporate, and Jack's Mannequin.

Delivering indie rock influenced by the '90s grunge and Riot Grrl eras, the band's live shows have been described as "a whirlwind of energy and emotion." Due to the diverse musical tastes and influences of their band members, Punch Drunk Tagalongs also happen to be known to flirt with elements of psychedelia and garage-rock. They are joined by psychedelic-grunge trio The Standby, who released a new single titled "Galavant" last summer, as well as the emotionally poignant and ever-popular indie-folk of Cult Classics, who released a three-song self-titled EP earlier in the year. — Aaron Mook

9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. // 301 German Street // Free // 21+

Jazz Quartet Livens Up 9th & State



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

A truly formidable quartet of musicians will be dropping into one of Erie's newest venues for live music. The 9th and State Beer Cafe will welcome Bruce Johnstone, with Vinny Stefanelli, Chris Von, and Lydia Marks. Johnstone is one of the world's foremost baritone saxophone players, holding the #3 spot

on the *Downbeat* readers' poll for over a decade. Always a lively standout soloist, his work with the Maynard Ferguson band in the 1970s helped put him on the radar for jazz lovers everywhere. Stefanelli is a multifaceted talent on guitar, blending inventive jazz playing with a slightly classical distinction, and helps to run "Music for Veterans." Bassist Chris Von Volkenburg is an instructor at both Asbury Elementary and Mercyhurst University and plays with the Misery Bay Big Band, the Presque Isle Jazz Orchestra, and Delaware Gap. Lydia Marks' captivating voice will front the band, having opened up for the likes of Jerry Seinfeld and Tom Jones in Las Vegas venues. The band will go through standard and much-loved tunes, as the new venue tries something welcomingly different. — Nick Warren

7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. // 832 State Street // Free Show // 21+

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

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

Jun. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Lagoon Boat Launch in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Early Morning Pontoon Ride

Jun. 7 — 8 to 9:15 a.m.

Pontoon Boat Station in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Adult Art Classes

June 7 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Beginner Calligraphy

Jun. 7, 14 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Ceramics Class: Wheel and Hand-built Techniques

Jun. 7, 14 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Erie Clayspace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Plasha Beyond Beginners Yoga on the Beach

Jun. 7 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Barracks Beach at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. plashayoga.com.

Fitness Fridays

Jun. 8, 15 — 7 a.m.

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

Singing Bowls

Jun. 8 — 1 to 2 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manches-

ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Charity Garage Sale Presque Isle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Jun. 9 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Daughters of the American Revolution, 4017 Sierra Dr. pssdar.org.

Adopt A Beach Program at Presque Isle

Jun. 9 — 9 a.m. to noon

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

Coloring for Grown-Ups

Jun. 9, 16 — 10 a.m. to noon

Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

The Erie TailGreat

Jun. 9 — 3 to 7 p.m.

Inner City Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. tailgreat.org.

Block Party

Jun. 7 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Griswold Park, 150 W. 14th St. eriedowntown.com.

Pilates Fusion with Michele Curtze and the Erie County YMCA

Jun. 10, 17 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Free Kids Haircuts Day

Jun. 10 — noon to 5:30 p.m.

Elle's Hair Studio, 117 ½ High St, Waterford, PA 16441 facebook.com.

Great American Book Sale

Jun. 10 — noon to 8 p.m. & Jun. 11, 12, 13, 14 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Jun. 15 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

McDowell Intermediate High School, 3320 Caughey Rd. erielibrary.org.

Four-Week Daytime Wheel and Hand-building

Jun. 11, 18 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Erie Clayspace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Fall Cattle Call Auditions

Jun. 11, 12 — 6 p.m.

Erie Playhouse Rehearsal Hall, 1158 E. 21st St. erieplayhouse.org.

Board Game Event: Game On

Jun. 11 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

Tall Ship Summer Camp Open House

Jun. 11 — 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Gentle Yoga & Meditation: Level 1

Jun. 11 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Insect Safari

Jun. 12, 19 — 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Rainwater Harvesting

Jun. 12 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Gospel Hill Garden Club

Jun. 12 — 1 p.m.

Wesleyville Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Rd. greeneriepa.org.

Goodell Gardens Farmers Market

Jun. 13, 20 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Read to a Therapy Dog

Jun. 13 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Healing Through Nutrition

Jun. 14 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tech Toolbox

Jun. 14 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manches-ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

94th Annual Lake City Fire Company Carnival

Jun. 14, 15, 16 — 5 to 10 p.m.

Lake city Fire Company, 2232 Rice Ave, Lake City, PA 16423 facebook.com.

Getting to Know You

Jun. 14 — 7 p.m.

Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

Qi Gong Class

Jun. 15 — 10 to 11 a.m.

Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

Jefferson: The Next 10 Years

Jun. 15 — 6 to 11 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier jeserie.org.

Annual Fishing Derby & Community Day

Jun. 16 — 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

YMCA Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd, Lake City, PA 16423 ymcaerie.org.

Introduction to Map and Compass

Jun. 16 — 10 a.m. to noon

Rotary Pavilion in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Bicycle Tour

Jun. 16 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cookhouse Pavilion in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Board Game Event: Game On

Jun. 16 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manches-ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Hero Equipment Day

Jun. 16 — 3 to 6 p.m.

Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Father's Day Pontoon Ride

Jun. 17 — 9 to 10 a.m.

Pontoon Boat Station in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Dad's Swim Free Father's Day

Jun. 17 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach

St. splashlagoon.com.

All An Act Auditions

Jun. 17, 18 — 7 p.m.

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

Tall Ship Summer Camp

Jun. 18 though Aug. 17 — 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Little Leaves

Jun. 18 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. to noon

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Board Game Event: Game On

Jun. 18 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

Recycling 101

Jun. 19 — 3 to 3:30 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manches-ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Active Apples Jun. 20 — 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Oak Island Mystery

Jun. 20 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Silent Peace Walk

Jun. 20 — 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Bayfront Promenade, 6101 E. Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16511 eriebenedictines.org.



Father's Day Brunch

In Bolero, Located in the Avalon Hotel
Sunday, June 17, 2018 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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THURS JUNE 14: Mike & Dave's Acoustic Wonder Emporium @ 8PM
FOOD BY SorcERIE Food Truck
FRI JUNE 15: Jessee James Weston + Friday Nite Nitro @ 8PM
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On The Beach, Off The Grid

Frampton, Steve Miller Band come alive for Best Summer Night 2018



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

This is a story, about 2014 and 2-0-1-2 — two beach concerts, with little room left to improve. “Going into this year, we knew that topping the previous two concerts [Steely Dan four years ago and Crosby, Stills, and Nash two years prior to that] was going to be a challenge. So when the opportunity to book two rock-’n’-roll legends presented itself, it was obvious that Peter Frampton and Steve Miller Band together could easily meet or exceed the expectations of our guests,” said Jon DeMarco, Presque Isle Partnership executive director and organizer of Best Summer Nights.

Best Summer Night 2018, like the two events before it, will take place on Beach 11 at Presque Isle State Park, with all the proceeds benefiting the Presque Isle Partnership, whose mission is “to enhance the visitor experience while protecting the natural environment.” While DeMarco concedes that attendees might pay significantly less at the more typical amphitheater or arena, he argues “the atmosphere at Beach 11 delivers so much more ... toes in the sand, [being] under the stars and at the water’s edge.”

Bringing that experience to fruition is no easy feat, as an entire venue must be “created from scratch in a way that is practical and economical.” Unique accessibility and logistical challenges also come with inviting an arena audience (and the traffic) to the peninsula, so organizers hope that attendees will carpool and utilize the shuttles provided before and after the performances.

In the off chance you haven’t gotten to know the performers, let me show you the way (just in case) to acquaint yourselves. Both Peter Frampton and Steve Miller are proficient guitarists who broke through in the late ‘60s, becoming veritable hit factories throughout the ‘70s and staples of classic rock radio today. Frampton, a former teen idol and a native of Kent, England, achieved mass appeal through a combination of good looks, tight songwriting, and use of the talk box (an effects pedal with an attached plastic tube, allowing the performer to shape instrument tones into “words”) — a fixture in some of his most recognizable tunes, including “Do You Feel Like We Do” and “Show Me The Way.” Miller was a Bay Area bluesman-turned-pop sensation with the Steve Miller Band, his

Classic rock icons Peter Frampton (left) and Steve Miller (right) will share the stage at this year’s Best Summer Night on Beach 11 at Presque Isle State Park, the first such event since 2014.

songs laden with irresistible hooks and a winking, often self-referential sense of humor. A sampling of hits you’ll hear include: “Rock’n Me” “Fly Like An Eagle,” “Take The Money And Run,” “The Joker,” “Jet Airliner,” and “Abracadabra.”

You’ll want to “reach out and grab ya” self a ticket to this rare and unique concert event while supplies last. Parking is first come, first served with VIP ticketholders getting dibs on the nearer parking areas (Beach 11 and 10). No alcohol/tailgating, chairs, cameras, coolers, or backpacks are permitted on-site (lest you be “tied to the stake”). Join DeMarco in helping to leave “the park in a better condition than when we arrived.” — Matt Swanseger

7:30 p.m., pre-party with beer, wine and hors d’oeuvres at 5:30 (V.I.P. ticketholders only) // Beach 11, Presque Isle State Park // reserved tickets \$100 or \$125, V.I.P. tickets \$175 // bestsummernight.com

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Eric Brewer & Friends Open Mid-Day Art Break Series at EAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

If you happen to find yourself downtown on a Wednesday afternoon during the summer, you might hear something pretty catchy coming from the direction of the Erie Art Museum. If you were so inclined to go investigate, you'd discover what has become one of their most popular programs, the Highmark Mid-Day Art Break, which kicks off on June 6 and runs through August 29, always taking place on the sunny Fifth Street Patio.

For over a decade, this series has been a welcome reprieve for just about everyone, whether it's any number of employees working in the downtown area who want to brighten their lunch hour with an artist's passion and talent, harried parents who need an afternoon activity for the kids that won't cost an arm and a leg, or our retired population, with that sweet feeling of "nothing planned except relaxing." Even better, once you're there, you can enjoy "pay-what-you-like"

admission to the museum.

The incredible variety of acts the Erie Art Museum books further opens the events to a wider audience, with rock-ing-and-rolling Eric Brewer & Friends opening the series, the Erie Phil's String Quartet to follow, bluegrass from Mountain Thyme Ramblers in July, and Americana/roots from Bootlegger's Bible Club or brassy big band sounds from the Gem City Jazz Band in August.

The newly minted Whole Foods Co-op and Bakery counter lies within, perfect for grabbing a Zone wrap or perhaps the sandwich feature of the month, but guests are also more than welcome to bring their own lunch — perfect if you work in the area, packed your mid-day meal and have time to meander over for something a bit more substantial than your coworkers' ceaseless break-room gossip. — Cara Suppa

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. // 20 East Fifth Street // Free // erieartmuseum.org

Porreco College Holds Summer Movie Nights



THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Edinboro University's Porreco College will host four movie nights this summer.

The annual Porreco Under the Stars Series kicks off Thursday, June 7 with the movie *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* and continues throughout the month with *Coco* on June 14, *Thor: Ragnarok* on June 21 and *Beauty and the Beast: Sing-A-Long Version* on June 28.

"We look for family-friendly films and

what's current and popular," said director of operations Janet Bowker.

She likened the experience to the drive-in without a car. People often arrive as early as 7:30 p.m. with blankets and lawn chairs to save a spot.

Guests are welcome to bring soccer balls and Frisbees to pass time, and occasionally, the college arranges activities related to the movie.

Food trucks will be present and plan to donate 10 percent of their profits to the Oasis Project (a new farmer's market that will be located at 914 State St.)

The movie series started several years ago on Edinboro's main campus and Porreco College. This summer, movies will only be shown at Porreco. — Tracy Geibel

9 p.m., subject to weather // Porreco College 2951 W. 38th St. // Free // (814) 836-1955 // Only service dogs allowed // edinboro.edu/porreco-college/special-events

Block Parties Bringing Local Hits of Summer to Five Erie Locations



THURSDAY, JUNE 7

One of Erie's most anticipated summer celebrations will continue its mission to bring life, local flavor and sounds of the city to the streets and parks this coming season. Rain or shine, the ever-popular block parties will be held in five venues across Erie throughout the summer.

Coming hot off their bike night show at Buffalo Wild Wings on June 6, Erie rock band Twisted Lid will headline the first block party on June 7. Starting at 6:30 p.m. Griswold Park will be filled with timeless rock-'n'-roll favorites, along with the soulful musical versatility that The Breeze Band — who will also perform at the event — brings to their shows.

The Vendettas perform for a Block Party crowd on Aug. 10, 2017. This year's series, like last year's, will be held in parks and other venues as opposed to on city streets.

Just a fortnight following, Dobbins Landing on lower State Street will have its first opportunity to host a block party. June 21 will feature local restaurant specials and musical entertainment from Money Shot 2.0 and Key West Express.

The first block party of the following month will take place in UPMC park on Thursday, July 5. Residents of the Flagship City will hear country music from Erie bands Crooked Creek Brothers and REFUGE.

August will host the final two block parties of the season, the first taking place on Aug. 5 and the last on Aug. 30,

deep in the dog days. Cosmic Rhythm — runner-up for Erie's Best Jam Band of 2014 — and Eric Brewer & Friends, some of the area's favorite progressive improvisers, will take the stage at Perry Square on Aug. 5. Erie family band East Ave. will help close out the season on Aug. 30 at Griswold Park when they perform alongside soul band The Groove.

All block party events are free to attend and will run from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at their designated locations. Partial proceeds from sales at the parties will go to Erie's C.A.R.E. Fund which works to improve the downtown area. — Hannah McDonald

6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. // June 7 & 21, July 5, Aug. 5 & 30 // Various Locations // Free // eriedowntown.com



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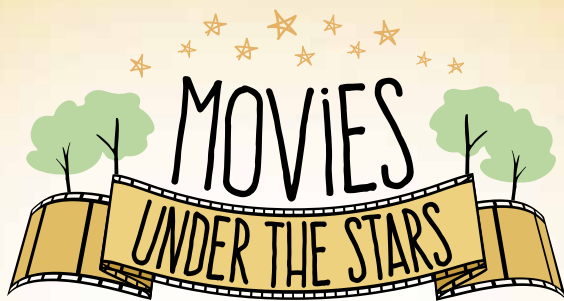
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Enjoy summer evenings under the stars while watching movies hosted by *The Community's College*. **Admission and parking are free!** Just bring your blankets and lawn chairs and relax outdoors on the beautiful Porreco College campus. Food trucks will also be on location.

All movies Thursday nights at 9pm:

June 7: **Jumanji - Welcome to the Jungle**

June 14: **CoCo**

June 21: **Thor Ragnarok**

June 28: **Beauty and the Beast**
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June 15 at 8:30pm
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TICKETS & MORE: filmsocietynwpa.org | 814-580-6608

North East Chamber of Commerce Welcomes Summer with Picnics in The Park



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Historic and shady Gibson Park is kicking off the summer season with the first Picnic in The Park event of the year on June 7.

The picnic is kid-friendly and free to attend. Beginning at 11:30 a.m., it will include food provided by the Rusty Wheel restaurant and live entertainment by the local Hultman & Barb Duo. Both mem-

bers sing and play the guitar and banjo. These skills allow them to play a broad range of American classics from Johnny Cash, Carole King, Jimmy Buffett and more.

Picnics in The Park will continue every other Thursday throughout the summer, each with unique food and entertainment, sponsored by Widget Financial and brought to North East by the North East Area Chamber of Commerce and the North East Arts Council.

Gibson Park is located just off Main Street in North East and public parking is available. In the event of rain, the picnic will be held at the First Baptist Church on South Lake Street. — Hannah McDonald

11:30 a.m. // Gibson Park, North East, PA 16428 // Free // nechamber.org/picnic-in-the-park/

"Sunday Sesh" and Summer Sounds from Local Musicians

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

While Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing will be filling your glass, original music from Erie-area bands will be filling a seven-part concert series in Westfield, New York. Good for Nuthin' String Band, Charity Nurse and DangerBird are just some of the groups that will keep you company these summer afternoons.

"Our Sunday Sesh visitors can expect to enjoy a variety of music throughout the summer in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere, where it's not strange to see friends casually playing cornhole with a drink in hand, or kiddos drawing with sidewalk chalk on the patio," Mario Mazza, General Manager at Mazza Wines and Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, said.

On seven Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. from June 10 to Sept. 9, music lovers of all ages are invited to bring a blanket, folding chair or whatever they deem most comfortable for a free outdoor afternoon concert. Although no outside drinks or snacks are permitted (except those for children who may be in attendance), food and beverages — both alcoholic and not — are available for purchase at the event. — Hannah McDonald

1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Jun. 10 and 17, Jul. 1 and 22, Aug. 5 and 12, Sep. 9 // Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/ Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing // 8398 W. Main St., Westfield NY // Free // www.fiveand20.com

Shining a Light in the Basement

Let loose at Basement Transmissions Summer Kickoff Weekend



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Like A Plan welcome beside them a group of fresh new bands to the Erie music scene: Red Creek, Canary Band, and Match, as well as Atomic Karl, making a comeback after an eight year hiatus. Come get your summer fix of rock-'n'-roll, ice cream, and water balloon fights all for just \$10.

"We always try to showcase as many new bands as possible to keep things fresh for summer and we have a bunch of new bands I can't wait to see," says Basement Transmissions owner Bob Jensen about the upcoming weekend. "[Summer] is a time when people reconnect because weather and school doesn't prohibit it. We also have some of our scenes best bands and solo artists on these bills. So it's a very important set of shows for artists to connect."

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

After the frozen hell that was this record-breaking winter, summer couldn't have come soon enough. Along with everything else that summer entails, it also means show season at Basement Transmissions is finally in full swing, and what better way to kick it off than with a weekend chock full of performances.

Starting things off softly for round one of the BT Summer Kickoff is an acoustic and solo artist showcase on Friday, June 8. This widely varied show features incredibly talented local artists such as Jesse Michael, with his looping guitar effects accompanied by his trumpet, a rare coupling of hip-hop and acoustic guitar in the band Unsung Zeros, acoustic duo Doctor Worn featuring members of The Wildeyes, and additional solo acts including James Jackson III, Teddy Rankin, Georgia Buchner, Andrew Henderson, and Aria Alexander. Door price is \$8, but only \$5 if you bring a friend, so bring someone along and save some money for refreshments!

Round two of the BT Summer Kickoff on Saturday, June 9 cranks the volume up more than a few notches. Well established local bands The Filthy Casuals, Primal Scream Therapy, and Sounds

Closing out the weekend on Sunday, June 10, Erie welcomes Chicago progressive jazz group Marbin to Basement Transmission alongside the Tony Grey Galactic Duo and The Plausibilities for \$15 at the door or \$10 advance tickets.

But wait, there's more! Kentucky based post-hardcore outfit Greyhaven make their way to Erie with local metalheads Of Shadows and local rap-rock and hip hop artists Revolutionibus and NARY for one last shindig a few days after the weekend on Tuesday, June 12. Tickets are \$8 at the door or \$5 if you pick them up ahead of time..

Stay tuned for more great shows, music, and fun to come all summer long. — Tommy Shannon

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



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CALENDAR

Sunset Music Series Rising



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

What could be better than music and the beach? If it was free, of course. Once again this year, Erieites will be in luck as the beloved Sunset Music Series returns for another go-round. Every Wednesday, for six weeks in June and July, there will be a free concert at Beach 1 of Presque Isle State Park. Headlining the kickoff show will be the area’s favorite Beatles tribute band, Abbey Road. Featuring a lineup of dedicated musicians with decades of experience, they lovingly present all the songs you’ve come to know and love from the lads from Liverpool. Starting

off the show will be Brenna Bone and Seann Clark. The fire-and-ice combination of Bone’s sweet vocals against Clark’s raspy grit make for wonderful rock results. The following week will feature the soulful, danceable sounds of The Groove, with the classic rock duo of Rankin & Schell opening up the show. From the City of Erie Parks and Recreation portable stage, the crowd is sure to stretch well into the distance. Guests can make themselves comfortable with blankets and beach chairs until the concert concludes near sunset. This year will also feature at least three food trucks on-site each week, with Atacolyse, The Big Cheese, and The Juice Jar food trucks the first week as well as J’s Mainstreet and Connie’s Ice Cream. Each week will also feature Hula Hoop Playshops with Jennifer Dennehy. As if the beautiful outdoor ambiance of Presque Isle in the summer sun and air of twilight wasn’t enough. — Nick Warren

5:30 p.m. // Presque Isle
Beach 1, Peninsula Drive //
discoverpi.com or 838.5138

Lake City Park to Host Erie Bands



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

For nearly 80 years the Lake Erie Community Park (LECP) in Lake City has been a beautiful lakeside spot to gather, enjoy the company of neighbors, and now local music as part of the Music in the Park summer concert series. Rain or shine, each Wednesday evening from mid-June to the second week of August is designated for a wide range of musical performances such as Sam Hyman, Smoke and Mirrors and Tom Beam. In addition to these artists, the park will welcome The Fugitives, Erie Heights Brass Ensemble, The Loose

Change Band, Mark Morris, DangerBird, Steppin’ Pappy, and The Mountain Thyme Ramblers. Last year, the events had upwards of 200 attendees each night with the most popular show being Matty B. & the Dirty Pickles, which attracted over 300 listeners, said Sandra Anderson of Girard Township Planning.

Those interested in the series this year are welcome to make themselves at home. “You can bring your dinner with you or other snacks; we have an ice cream truck there,” Anderson said. Due to local sponsorship, the concert series is free to attend. Seating is provided in the form of a grassy park lawn, but those looking for something a little more cozy are invited to bring folding chairs or blankets to the show. — Hannah McDonald
Every Wednesday through Aug. 15, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. // LECP, West Lake Road Lake City, PA 10192 // Free

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CALENDAR

Celtic Hooligans Kick Off Goodell Gardens Summer Music Series



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Goodell Gardens assistant director.

The annual series runs from June to August with a lineup of mostly local talent. Performances include the Tiger Maple String Band on June 29, Salmon Frank on July 20, Patchouli & Terra Guitarra on Aug. 3 and Seann Clark, Colette Bone & Friends on Aug. 17.

Gates open at 6:45 p.m. Food trucks will be on site.

People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Goodell Gardens receives grant funding from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to offset the cost of the concerts. — Tracy Geibel

7 p.m. // Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. // \$5 adults, \$3 seniors (55+), \$2 age 5-11, free for members, Edinboro University students & anyone under age 5 // 734-6699 // theceltichooligans.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Goodell Gardens in Edinboro will kick off its summer music series Friday, June 15 with a performance by The Celtic Hooligans.

Formed in 2009, the regional band quickly became known for its traditional Irish tunes and folk songs. The group has performed at dozens of festivals in Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York.

"Edinboro is named after a town in Scotland, so I think the Celtic Hooligans are a good fit," said Amber Wellington,

Summer Happenings

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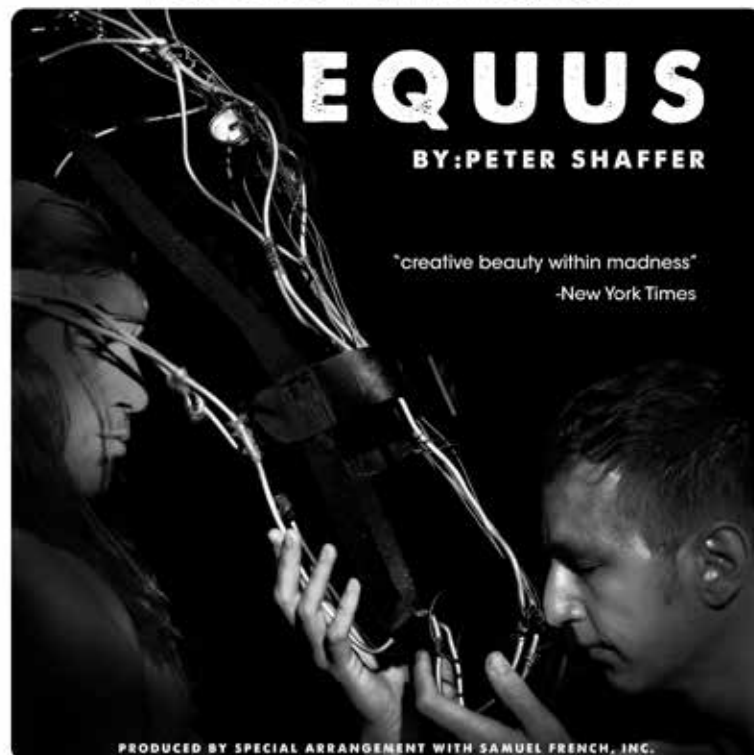
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Bake a Heart Like You Would Roast Beef

Practical Advice for 19th Century Erieites



Laura C. Sterrett, whose father-in-law Joseph M. Sterrett founded the Erie Gazette in 1820, got into the publishing business herself with *The Erie Cookbook*. While antiquated to sometimes comical effect, it nonetheless provides a fascinating glimpse into the lifestyle of late 19th century upper-class Erieites.

By 1890, it eclipsed 40,000 residents. By this point, the city had over a hundred established industries. Most roads had been cobblestoned or stone blocked. For those with leisure time, there was plenty to do downtown, including a theater, a music hall, three beer gardens, and city parks.

Laura’s book provides an even deeper look into the everyday lives of many Erie residents during this transformative time — although, of course, it still includes plenty of savory and surprising recipes.

“Most of the recipes in this book have been tested by myself or friends,” Laura wrote in the preface. “I feel safe in saying that no one will be disappointed in any of them.”

There are familiar staples: soups and salads, cakes and pastries, pickles and preserves. There are likewise plenty of recipes not so familiar to our modern palates: beef tongue served with rice, squirrel and pigeon pies, calves foot jelly, and baked lamb’s heart.

“Bake a heart as you would roast beef,” Laura advised. “It is very nice for dinner.”

There’s other practical food-related advice. Spoiled milk? It can be “rendered fit” again by “stirring in a little soda.” Rancid butter? That’s easily fixed with “fifteen drops of chloride of lime to a pint of cold water.”

Many locals contributed their own recipes. A.J. Foster, president of the Erie Boot and Shoe Company, provided his catsup recipe: a standard tomato-base seasoned with cinnamon, allspice, celery seed, and black and red pepper. Mrs. Saltsman revealed her recipe for chicken croquettes while Mrs. Hastings explained how to pickle 100 large oysters properly.

By: Jonathan Burdick

The cookbook is unremarkable at first glance: bare text, no photographs. The pages are weathered and yellowed with age. Its title is comically long, sprawled across the cover page in all caps in an old serif font: *THE ERIE COOK BOOK, CONTAINING A LARGE COLLECTION OF RECIPES FOR DOMESTIC COOKERY, COOKING FOR THE SICK, CARE OF WARDROBE, LAUNDRY AND HOUSE PLANTS, BILLS OF FARE FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTIES, RULES GOVERNING SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENTS, AND OTHER VALUABLE INFORMATION*. It was published in 1881 on a modest steam press run by William P. Atkinson. Atkinson was a Civil War veteran — having survived the Battles of Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Antietam — and business manager for the Erie Evening Herald. The collection itself was “compiled and arranged” by a family friend, an Erie woman named Laura C. Sterrett. Most who are familiar with Erie history will recognize the surname. Robert and James Sterrett were two of the Erie area’s first non-native permanent residents in the early 19th-century. The local road name “Sterrettania” derives from James’s wife Anna, an amalgamation of “Sterrett” and “Anna.” Even more well-known though was James and Anna’s son, Joseph M. Ster-

rett. He was the newspaperman who founded the Erie Gazette in 1820 and went on to become one of Erie’s most prominent residents: county commissioner, state senator, judge, and postmaster. He also happened to be Laura’s father-in-law. Born Laura McCalmont in 1843, she married the judge’s son, Joseph Ritner Sterrett. The younger Joseph worked for his father’s Erie Gazette, while being involved in numerous other ventures, which included operations at the Park Place Hotel and assisting with local census collection. They had three children together: Alfred, Cora Belle, and Anna May. When *The Erie Cook Book* was published, they were living on West Seventh Street with their teenage daughters. It’s difficult to gauge how many copies actually circulated throughout the city. As the full title suggests though, what appears to be this rather ordinary 19th century cookbook turns out to be much more than pages of old recipes. Its pages are filled with Laura’s commentary, often wittily so, and provides modern readers with a notable glimpse of not only her personality, but also the culture and social atmosphere of Erie’s 19th century elite. Erie transformed during the 1880s. Increased connectivity by rail and road coupled with the dramatic growth of industrial jobs spiked the city’s population from around 10,000 at the onset of the Civil War to nearly 28,000 in 1880.

Even a recipe for cologne is included, a concoction of alcohol and the oils of rosemary, lavender, rose, lemon, and bergamot orange. Laura closed these chapters with a few dire warnings for those looking to retain their youthfulness. “Strong coffee, hot bread and butter, heated grease, highly spiced soups, meats or game, hot drinks, alcoholic liquors, [and] fat meats all are damaging to the beauty,” she concluded, adding that strong teas make one’s skin leathery and eating supper late will cause pimples. The rest of the book functions as an intermingling of snake-oil antidotes and self-help counsel. There are remedies for just about any ailment. If you’re sick, try beef tea, rice water, or an uncooked egg mixed with brandy and milk. If you need to stop bleeding, apply a paste made from vinegar and flour or wet some tea leaves to use as a bandage. A colicky baby? Try catnip. A rusty nail wound? Pork fat and turpentine is the cure-all. Frostbite? Rubbing a salted onion on it should do the trick. Her “Hints for the Well” read as the sort of mystical advice our grandparents regularly shared with us as kids. “Cleanliness is next to godliness,” wrote Laura. “Always rest before and after a hearty meal. ... Eat in pure air and in pleasant company; light conversation and gentle exercise promote digestion.” And surely, don’t ever sleep in the clothing you wore during the day. “Three pints of moisture, filled with the waste of the body, are given off every twenty-four hours, and mostly absorbed by the clothing,” she explained. A nosed wiped too often will end up deformed, the softness of hands should be preserved with gloves, and feet should be “frequently and thoroughly washed ... [or] the poisons given off are taken back into the system. She even dedicated a section to freckles. “Grate horse-radish fine; let it stand a few hours in buttermilk, then strain and use the wash,” she recommended. “Freckles indicate defective digestion.” Perhaps the most amusing glance into late-19th century life in Erie is *The Erie Cook Book*’s chapter on social entertainments, describing events common for upper-class Erie residents during this time.

A *kettle-drum* was the term for when a group of women gathered for tea-drinking, sandwiches, and cake.

"The hostess, of course, is ready to receive her friends at the hour named," wrote Laura, "and welcoming each one with a cordial greeting, must have general supervision of her guests, although it is impossible to pay much individual attention and few introductions can be made. The hostess cannot be entirely responsible for the enjoyment of her guests."

Unlike the French or English, Laura clarified, American women lacked the *savoir faire* which makes each guest feel at ease with her neighbor."

Luncheon parties differed from kettle-drums in that gentlemen were also invited. She described these as less solemn and "devoid of restraint" with dishes "which best please the palate."

Meats, desserts, and candies were required. "Have plenty of pickles or olives," she added, along with, "oysters in all styles [and] peas and hot potato chips."

If dancing was to take place at a

party with gentlemen though, Laura emphasized restraint: "A young lady should never attend dancing company unchaperoned." Furthermore, a young lady was "never [to] accept the escort home of anyone but an intimate friend."

The Erie Cook Book by no accounts tells the story of all Erie residents during the 1880s — but it does provide a unique lens through which modern readers can collectively understand what it was like to live in Erie through a segment of the population's cuisine and customs.

As for the recipes? It's an extraordinary collection — and frankly, you can learn a lot about a place's history through its food. So, find yourself a copy of *The Erie Cook Book* and make yourself some calves foot jelly... or, if you're not feeling so adventurous, stick with the beef stew.

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

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Courtney Barnett
Tell Me How You Really Feel
Mom + Pop

★★★★★

The follow-up record to 2015's captivating *Sometimes I Sit and Think and Sometimes I Just Sit* (named the #1 album that year by this publication), *Tell Me How You Really Feel* has a great deal to live up to. Upon first listen, it's a much more forgettable record. The overall pacing is flatter, without the attention-grabbing aggression that the first half of her debut had. When you cleave away that almost punk rock energy you're left with something entirely more mundane. This isn't to say that the album isn't worth visiting or revisiting, far from it. Barnett has not made a mediocre album just yet. Starting off with perhaps too slow of a burn ("Hopelessness"), multiple listens let the tracks sink in, and Barnett's lyrical ability is still in the upper echelon of songwriting at large. The lovable, prickly Australian seems to be diving into her own identity with increased transparency, exploring gender dynamics bluntly and poetically ("Nameless, Faceless"), with plenty to unpack. Instrumentally, the garage rock/'90s alt sound is hard at work. Fans of her 2017 collaboration with Kurt Vile will no doubt be pleased, as the overall tone has carried over quite nicely. — Nick Warren



Deeper
Deeper
Self-released

★★★★★

The eponymous debut album from Chicago's Deeper is refreshing, anxious, and entrancing all at once. Beginning with the sharp guitar chimes of "Pink Shower," the album promises a newly interpreted take on something slightly familiar, coated with a subtle vibrato warble impersonating warped vinyl playback. With angular post-punk throwback sounds perfect for fans of Preoccupations (especially in their Viet Cong days), or Cymbals Eat Guitars, this is a band to be on the lookout for, easily rising above the countless swaths of new indie rock bands. The quartet from the Windy City is fronted by singer and guitarist Nic Gohl, whose lyrics showcase a measured anxiety that's echoed by his vocal delivery. Songs have a jaunty, mid-tempo feeling of passive aggression, intelligent and biting when in the right circles. The trebly guitar chimes that begin the record remain omnipresent for the entirety of the short album's nine tracks, far more cohesive than repetitive. Beginning in 2014 as a surf-inspired band with female backups, their new sound is certainly an improved one. And while this album in particular may be difficult to Google, it's worth checking out. — Nick Warren



Pusha-T
DAYTONA
G.O.O.D Music

★★★★★

DAYTONA, formerly titled *King Push*, is a sleek, seven-track album steeped in mythology. Not only is it Pusha-T's (president of G.O.O.D Music) long-awaited follow-up to 2015's *Darkest Before Dawn: The Prelude*, but also the first project in executive producer Kanye West's Wyoming project, a five-album G.O.O.D music run slated throughout June (featuring projects from himself, Kid Cudi, Teyana Taylor, and Nas). Paired with West's most recent controversial statements, *DAYTONA* arrives under immense pressure — the only explanation for its instant classic, diamond-like sheen. In the days before its release, Pusha described the album as having no filler, a promise delivered on here (and hopefully on each artist's seven-track project). West's production is in top form, recalling at times the synth-laden hooks of *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* and the soul samples that built his career, while Pusha delivers verse after verse reflecting on a life of crime becoming a life of luxury and taking shots at anyone who questions him (read: Drake). If you're looking for highlights, look no further than "The Games We Play," which transforms an obscure guitar riff into DAYTONA's standout track. — Aaron Mook



A\$AP Rocky
Testing
RCA Records

★★★★★

Testing, the third studio album from Harlem-based rapper Rakim Mayers — better known as A\$AP Rocky — is a largely experimental project that arrives after nearly three years of work. It may be overshadowed by other hip-hop releases this season, but it is absolutely worth visiting in its own right; Rocky does his best to cover an array of new territory, from the grimy noise of the album's opening track, "Distorted Records," to the Frank Ocean-influenced crooning (who later appears on *Testing*'s closing track, "Purity"). Rocky makes it his priority to not just dabble in these different sonic spaces, but to envelop himself within them, and for the most part, he's successful. Perhaps the most thrilling part of the project is the guests he's brought along with him; outside of an ill-advised Kodak Black cameo (complete with a disheartening plea to "Free Kodak"), the features here are skillfully placed, from Moby, T.I. and Kid Cudi on the second track (the energetic single "A\$AP Forever"), to FKA Twigs just a couple tracks later. *Testing* is the product of an artist confidently stepping outside of their comfort zone, and in that respect, it's absolutely refreshing to hear. — Aaron Mook



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



MOVIE REVIEWS

"Boring Conversation Anyway...": *Solo* is a Fun, Pulpy Adventure Story

★★★★

For a while it seemed that all anyone was talking about for the "Han Solo Standalone Film" was the movie's troubled production. From problems with the lead actor, to switching directors well into production, to the fact that Disney ended up re-shooting over 90 percent of the film, it seemed that the film was going to be a huge disaster. Now that *Solo: A Star Wars Story* has come out, I can say without hyperbole that it was the most fun I had watching a *Star Wars* movie since watching the original trilogy at six years old!

As advertised, the film follows the life of a young Han Solo (Alden Ehrenreich) as he escapes from his impoverished planet, gets involved in the smuggling life, befriends Chewbacca, meets his friend/rival Lando Calrissian (a scene-stealing Donald Glover) and together they pull off an elaborate heist for a galactic crime lord.

It's a simple story and that's exactly what it needs to be. Director Ron Howard seems to understand what *Star Wars* has always been at heart: a *Flash Gordon* serial crossed with a Western; and with its poker games, train robberies and showdowns at high noon, this is every bit a Western. Also, there's finally a nice dash of romance in this one which is a relief since Disney has been turning the series frustratingly chaste as of late.

With no planet-destroying super-weapon or talks about balance in the Force, this is a *Star Wars* film where you can just sit back and enjoy the adventure. And there is quite a lot of adventure to enjoy! — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Ron Howard // Written by: Lawrence Kasdan and Jon Kasdan // Starring: Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover, Joonas Suotamo, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Thandie Newton and Paul Bettany // Rated PG-13 // 135 minutes



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Who Wants a Piece of the Action?: *Action Point* is a Surprisingly Joyless Affair

★★

The modern world seems to be obsessed with safety. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but in this land of helicopter parenting and extra padding everywhere, sometimes I'd like to see a return to the days when we'd walk away from a summer outing with a few harmless cuts and bruises. Johnny Knoxville obviously feels the same way, and his new film *Action Point* — while a love letter to those halcyon days — is in the end result, sadly bland.

Unbelievably based on the true story of "Action Park," the world's most dangerous amusement park, the film stars Knoxville as the owner of the rough-and-tumble venue who suddenly must compete with a new amusement park focusing on "safety," "responsibility" and all that other boring stuff. In order to compete, our hero cuts back on the rules and increases the insanity of his attractions, quickly turning his park into the most popular destination in the city and earning the ire of city officials.

The film is clearly trying to hearken back to the anarchic, "snobs vs. slobs" style comedies that were so popular in the 1980s and I welcome the attempt as my love for *Caddyshack*-style craziness knows no bounds. Unfortunately, the film is bizarrely paced with flat, uninteresting characters and most surprisingly, never fully commits to the wild, zany stunts it promised in the trailer. It definitely never reaches the bizarre heights of the real Action Park. The end result is a film that feels only half-complete, leaving the audience hungry for all of this "action" that was promised but never delivered. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Tim Kirkby // Screenplay by: John Altschuler and Dave Krinsky // Starring: Johnny Knoxville, Eleanor Worthington-Cox, Aidan Whytock, Joe Vaz, Leon Clingman, Chris Pontius, Camilla Wolfson, Matthew Peterson, Joshua Hoover and Brigitte Lundy-Paine // Rated R // 85 minutes



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The Summer Soirée

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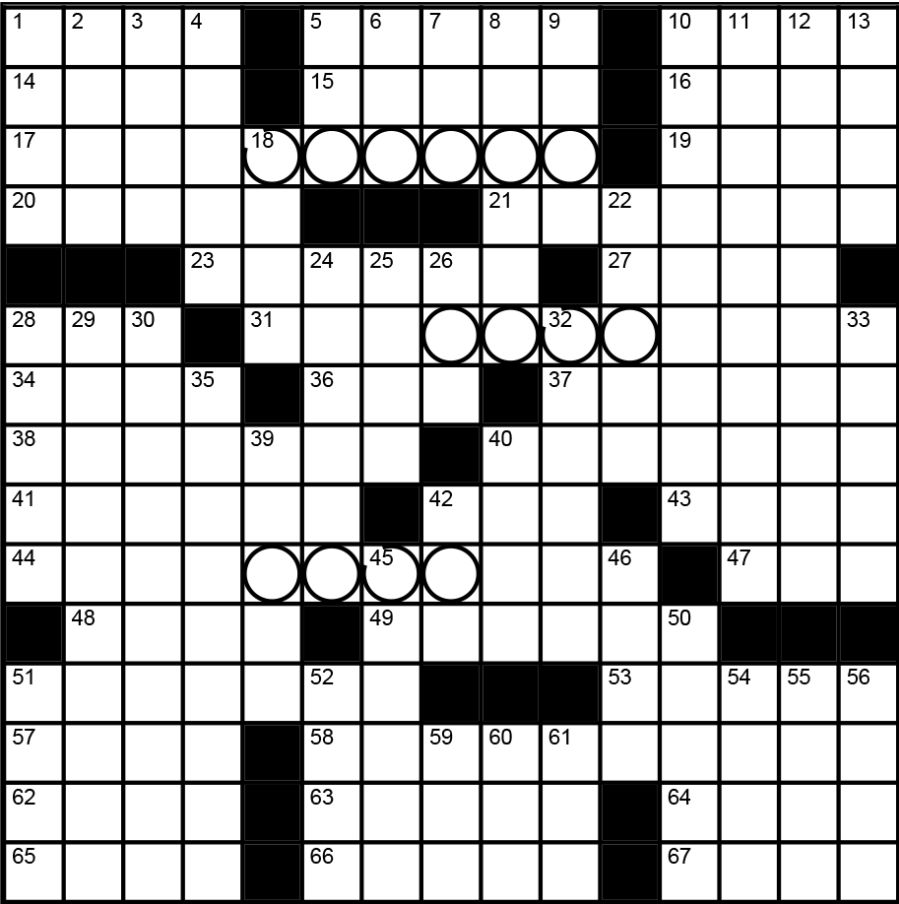


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Across

1. Deutsche Bank rival
5. Italian apology
10. Vivaldi's "___ Domini-
nus"
14. "Here comes trouble!"
15. Babe and Baby
16. "I get it" cries
17. A 1950-'60s titular
sitcom character seen on
a present-day TV screen?
19. Equal
20. Do a shepherd's task
21. Late, as a library book
23. Typewriter feature
27. Daly of "Cagney &
Lacey"
28. When many celebs
tweet baby pictures of
themselves, for short
31. Asian capital's ladies'
man?
34. "Whose woods these
___ think ...": Frost
36. "To Kill a Mockingbird"
author
37. Fortify with vitamins,
e.g.
38. Retiring group?
40. Leading
41. One nodding his head
42. Midpoint: Abbr.
43. NBA star Anthony, to
fans
44. Pretty obvious direc-
tion on a bottle of Prell?
47. From ___ Z
48. "___ she blows!"

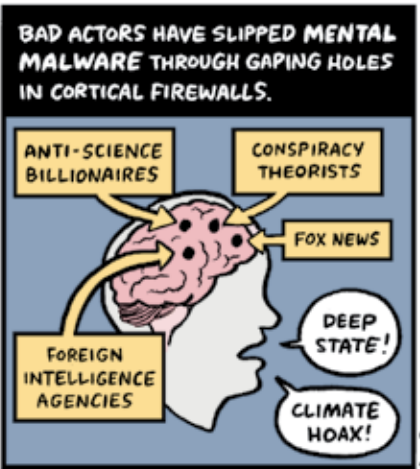
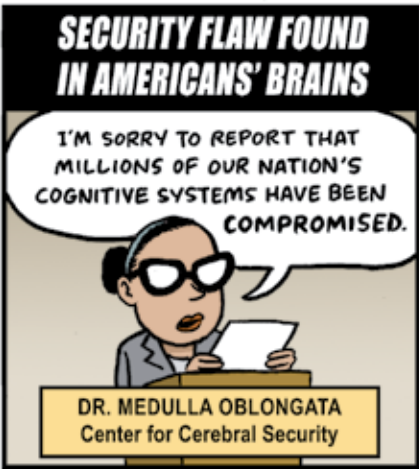
49. Watched a season of
"Stranger Things" in one
sitting, say
51. Look through blinds,
say
53. Prove suitable for
57. "The Neverending
Story" author Michael
58. Evidenced by its
name, what a national toy
retailer offers customers
a chance to do ... or what
you do in 17-, 31- and
44-Across
62. Run smoothly
63. Spanish 101 verb
64. Nevada's so-called
"Biggest Little City in the
World"
65. Restful resorts
66. Harvests
67. PGA part: Abbr.

Down

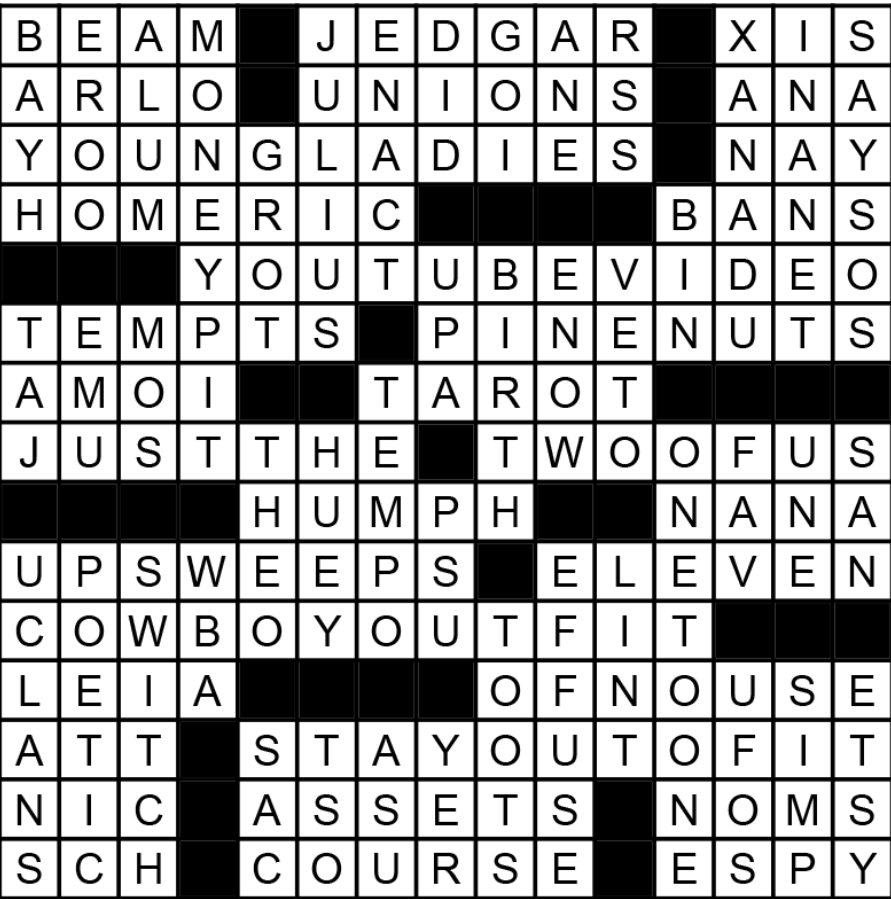
1. Confused responses
2. ___ Tzu (toy dog)
3. Portend
4. Have an affair
5. Above capacity, for
short
6. Slangy response to
"Why?"
7. Big name in chips and
pretzels
8. UPS label phrase
9. On the briny
10. Hurtful email, e.g.
11. "That's news to me!"

12. The U.S. Army bought
1,000 of his revolvers
during the Mexican-Amer-
ican War
13. "That makes sense"
18. ___ party
22. Children's writer R. L.

24. "10" music
25. Distort
26. CBS logo
28. ___ bar
29. "Don't look so glum!"
30. Pyramids with four
equal sides
32. He's second to Jeter
among the New York Yan-
kees' all-time hit leaders
33. Granny's "Darn it!"
35. Source of some cubes
39. Not an original
40. ___ impasse
42. Home of the Cubs, for
short
45. Slow to catch on
46. Country's McEntire
50. Winger of "Urban
Cowboy"
51. Fires (up)
52. Lyft competitor
54. Bank charges
55. McEwan and McKel-
len
56. Jeff Bridges sci-fi
classic
59. "Give ___ whirl!"
60. Pass on a track
61. OBs, e.g.



Answers to last issue's puzzle



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PEOPLE & PLACES

Maitham's Corner

Bassam Dabbah, Owner of Sham Market and Micro-Enterprise Program Coordinator



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Maitham Basha-Agha: Bassam, how did you end up in Erie?

Bassam: I came to Erie in 2009 through a refugee program from Jordan. I arrived here with my wife and two kids.

MB: What do you remember from being in Jordan?

BD: Jordan was an okay place but we had issues due to me and my wife's backgrounds. My wife is from Israel and she had an Israeli passport at the time while I had a Syrian passport. We were not allowed to marry because of the two countries' differences. Each time my wife gave birth, she had to go to Nazareth. If she had given birth in Jordan, our kids would not have a nationality. We were not even allowed to have residence or citizenship there.

MB: What do you do in Erie?

BD: Better question is what I don't do [laughs]. I work for the Erie International Institute as a Micro-Enterprise Coordinator; we give out loans to refu-

gees who have a business background. I help them develop a business plan to get them started. This loan must be paid within two years.

MB: Please tell us more about the refugee and immigrant population of Erie.

BD: Those people are very excited to start their new lives here in Erie due to the low cost of living. Many come here not knowing the English language but Erie is not overwhelming for them like big cities. Erie is also safe and there are opportunities for them.

MB: Recently you opened Sham Market. What is it?

BD: Erie has more than 70 Syrian families. I was encouraged by those families to start Sham Market. I put up a business plan and this particular shop on 12th and Wayne was born. Sham is the second name to Damascus [Syria]. Sham is a store that provides foods that are not in chain stores. We have figs, halal meat, spices, and grilled Middle Eastern food.

MB: We hear so much about the situation in Syria, can you tell us your perspective on what's going on?

BD: Good question. Today, the media has its own agenda. What I'm seeing now is the Syrian citizens are the victims of the war. It's unfair. Big countries are fighting on Syrian land [America, Iran, Russia, and Turkey]. The people had no choice but to flee. Many have lost their jobs, properties, family members, and much more.

MB: What does the future hold for Syria?

BD: Honestly, nobody knows. We hope and pray for everything to be fine but what we are seeing today is a tragedy. The young generation is suffering the most. Many are witnessing war, starvation, and hurt.

MB: The travel ban blocked your parents from entering America in 2017. Can you tell me what you were going through?

BD: I had to wait five years to get my citizenship so I could petition for my parents to come to America. My father has health issues so I wanted him to be treated here. I worked on their visa and both were accepted under the Refugee Visa Program. In 2017, the new administration put up the "Muslim Ban" which prevented my parents from coming here at the time. Our dreams of being together were crushed. There were a lot of tears and I was scared for them. A few months later, the travel ban was lifted and I was able to reunite with my parents.

"We work here and our kids go to school here. We tried to relocate to big cities but we just kept coming back. There is this attachment we have to Erie and it feels like home."

MB: Are you happy to be in Erie?

BD: We work here and our kids go to school here. We tried to relocate to big cities but we just kept coming back. There is this attachment we have to Erie and it feels like home.

Maitham Basha-Agha can be reached at maitham@eriereader.com



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LIVE RACING

Now-June 14
Monday-Thursday

June 17-October 4
Sunday-Thursday

Post Time 5:25pm

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE RACES

Every Live Racing Day in June
at the Buffet

Now-June 14

Monday-Thursday

*June 17-June 28

Sunday-Thursday

5pm-8pm

\$2 Cheeseburgers
\$1 Smith's Hot Dogs
\$1 French Fries

and more!

*Sunday, June 17 - watch for
a tent on the patio.

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THURSDAYS • 8:30PM

June 7 - Guru

June 14 - Piano Paul

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 5PM-7PM

June 8 - Claire Stuczynski

June 9 - **NO HAPPY HOUR - BELMONT**

June 15 - Doug Phillips Acoustic

June 16 - Matt Gavula

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 9PM

June 8 - The Groove

June 9 - SuperBand

June 15 - Black Widow

June 16 - Under Arrest



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