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**ERIE READER**

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# MUNICIPAL PRIMARY RUNDOWN

JUDGES, DISTRICT RACES, AND MORE ON YOUR BALLOT

+ ERIE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CITY COUNCIL NODS

# THE SECURE ERIE ACCELERATOR

WHY STARTUPS LIKE KWEMA STAY IN TOWN

# TITLE X RULE ONE YEAR LATER

PLANNED PARENTHOOD WEIGHS IN ON THE GAG ORDER

# MUSIC FESTIVAL PREVIEW ISSUE

FUN WEEKENDS IN STORE FOR ERIE AND BEYOND

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DOWNTOWN EDINBORO ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL - TOXIC PROM

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### Facing the music

Peace, love, and music — such was the premise of the original Woodstock Music Festival, which ran from Friday, August, 15, 1969 through August 18, 1969 in Bethel, New York. Despite inadequate facilities and sometimes uncooperative weather, roughly 600,000 people partied until the cows came home on Max Yasgur's dairy farm in the shadows of the Catskill Mountains, thanks to an extraordinary lineup comprised of some of the period's greatest talents (including gone-too-soon legends Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix) and a good deal of psychedelic drugs. Excessive? Perhaps, but the first Woodstock is regarded as a pivotal moment in American popular culture nonetheless.

Repeated attempts to replicate the magic of the original have fallen short, most notoriously a very ugly Woodstock '99 marred by violence, fires, and rapes. This year's Woodstock 50, slated for August in Watkins Glen, N.Y., was canceled altogether after a major investor pulled out (although attempts are being made to resuscitate it). Luckily — thanks in no small part to seminal events such as Woodstock — concert-lovers have plenty of other places to go, as the festival scene is teeming in 2019. Both here in Erie and within a short distance, summer music festivals pervade the calendar, catering to nearly every taste and level of investment. In this issue's cover story, Nick Warren breaks it all down for you, with a comprehensive guide to the area fests and the vibes you might expect. Are you ready to rock (or folk, hip-hop, jam, jazz, and/or feel the bass drop)?

Others may or may not be so fortunate. On Wednesday, May 1, the Erie Downtown Development Corporation (EDDC), purchaser of eight North Park Row buildings last September, announced it would not be renewing the leases for three immigrant-owned small businesses: Khao Thai, Tandoori Hut, and Casablanca Hookah Lounge. Their ultimate fate remains to be seen — the EDDC and city officials have pledged to help the owners relocate while the buildings, in many cases underutilized and in varying states of disrepair, are renovated.

Prepping the stage for sweeping changes, such as those laid out by the Erie Refocused, may at times involve harsh feedback. If the show is to go on — and it will — it *must* include some element of audience participation. The EDDC's concert opus cannot proceed as a self-indulgent jam session; it must include at least one chorus everyone can sing along to. "A Better Erie" would be music to our ears — but we all need to know how the song goes. Dissonance is often a part of composition; wrong chords are occasionally struck for what are ultimately the right reasons. But how are they resolved?

Our leadership and our citizenry need to better harmonize — one way to do this is electing candidates that reflect your tastes. Jim Wertz and Ben Speggen preview the upcoming municipal primaries. Often ignored, these highly local elections most affect the pulse of everyday policies. As spring segues into summer, we have long days ahead of us — both in terms of work to be done and fun to be had. Whether you've invested in this town your whole life or just a short while (e.g., the five startups that chose to locate within the Erie Innovation District), we're all hoping for a spectacular encore.



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# Erie At Large: Counting on Candidates

The Erie County Democratic Party weighs in on Erie City Council



**Jasmine Flores, one of six picks for Erie City Council recommended by the Erie County Democratic Party, campaigns for one of three open seats.**

JESSICA HUNTER

By: Jim Wertz

**B**y now you've seen the signs. Literally. It's election time.

On May 21 you will be asked to cast your vote in this year's municipal primary election. If I lost you at "municipal primary," allow me to add some context. This is the election cycle that a majority of registered voters ignore despite the fact that it's the one that has the greatest impact on your daily life.

Worried about the schools? There are 65 school board seats on the ballot across Erie County. Choose wisely.

Worried about your taxes? Or how about those potholes? We're electing county, city, and borough council people, as well as township supervisors.

Worried about the criminal justice system? Judges are on the ballot, too, at the state, county, and district level. I recall Hunter Thompson writing something about people not caring about who was elected sheriff or judge until they found themselves in the hands of a violent fascist. Our sheriff — who is not a violent fascist, for the record — is not on the ballot this year. But the district magistrate who handles arraignments, the district attorney who files the charges, and the Court of Common Pleas judges, before whom you will have to defend yourself, are on the ballot.

Rest easy. There are good candidates running for these seats this year. But it is a primary election which means that you do have choices to make about who will be on the general election ballot in November. And in many cases, the people who win their primary races on May 21 are going to go unopposed in the general election, which makes this cycle all the more important.

If history is any indication of future performance, as it often is in politics, turnout will remain low and those who do show up to vote — the supervoters — trend older and whiter than the general population. Those voters who don't typically vote in municipal elections, but will this year, are going to do so because of personal reasons, not political ones. They're going to vote because a candidate dated a friend's sister in high school, or they grew up in the same neighborhood as a candidate, or because 50 years ago their mom went to the same church as a candidate's family.

All politics is local, right?

And it's this level of locality that leads these elections to be known as "low-information" races. The public doesn't know a lot about the people running for offices like these during election cycles like this because candidates don't have enough money to disseminate their messages broadly and, despite the number of forums and candidate

events at local venues, voters have busy lives with real responsibilities that often prevent them from plugging in.

So this year, for the first time in a very long time, the Erie County Democratic Party vetted candidates for Erie City Council and recommended six of the 11 candidates in that race. It was, essentially, an attempt to help voters with their homework. Three City Council seats are on the ballot this year.

The selection process was approved by the Party's Executive Committee and was overseen by a recommendation committee comprised of the ECDP Executive Officers, City Ward Chairs or their designees, and the chairpersons of the Party's nine constituency caucuses — Young Democrats, Labor Caucus, LGBTQIA+ Caucus, Environmental Caucus, Black Caucus, New American Caucus, Democratic Women's Committee, Progressive Caucus, and the Veterans Caucus.

Candidates for City Council were invited to respond to a questionnaire designed by the recommendation committee, which included questions related to caucus and platform issues as well as city governance. Candidates who completed the questionnaire were interviewed by the committee. Following a review of the questionnaire and participation in the interview process, the six named candidates were selected by the recommendation committee and submitted to the County Committee for final approval at the regular monthly meeting of the Erie County Democratic Party in April.

Ten of the 11 Democratic candidates for City Council participated in the recommendation process. The incumbent, Mel Witherspoon, did not submit a questionnaire and was therefore not considered for a recommendation.

The process was fair and transparent, and unlike other endorsements awarded by political action committees throughout the county, these recommendations were based on candidates' qualifications rather than an ideological litmus test on a particular political issue. The recommended candidates

represent a diverse array of political perspectives and a range of practical personal and professional experiences that support the candidates' desires to serve on City Council.

Therefore, the Erie County Democratic Party recommends the following candidates for Erie City Council: Vanessa Belen, Ed Brzezinski, Jasmine Flores, Michael Keys, Chuck Nelson, and Tom Staszewski.

These candidates were selected because they were able to connect their motivations to run for office with the work of Erie City Council. Not all candidates had an adequate understanding of the job, which disqualified them from the recommendation.

Among the aforementioned characteristics, the recommendation committee also believed that it was important for the recommended candidates to increase the geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of City Council.

Currently, five of the seven members of the at-large City Council reside in Erie's 5th Ward. While three of our recommended candidates also live in the 5th Ward, one candidate resides in the 2nd Ward on Erie's east side and the other two live on Erie's lower west side in the 3rd and 4th wards.

Moreover, the recommended candidates include two Hispanic women, one African-American man, and three white men. One of the candidates has previously served on both the Erie School Board and Erie City Council, one is a pastor at a downtown church that primarily serves homeless and underserved populations, and all have a deep commitment to public service based on their personal and professional experiences in education, healthcare, criminal justice, and life.

We're confident that voters in the city of Erie will choose wisely on May 21. Much is at stake as the city faces tough questions — both social and financial. These three seats could form a voting bloc with the current members of council to shape the future of Erie.

We're counting on it.

*Jim Wertz is a contributing editor and Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Party. Contact him at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com) or follow him on twitter @jim\_wertz.*



# Gem City Playbook: The Secure Erie Accelerator

How startups like Kwema can reach globally and still stay local



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Rebecca Styn

In 2017, the Erie Innovation District took root in downtown Erie.

The organization was created to encourage connections between academia and industry and to develop new knowledge-based businesses — focused on security, intelligence and safety. The intent is to find groundbreaking technologies offering solutions for civilian defense, securing government institutions, and to create a secure and safe city.

In just over two years, the organization has made great strides.

In July 2018, the EID piloted an initiative in partnership with Quantela, a global data analytics company, to remake a section of downtown Erie as a “secure smart city” — equipped with free Wi-Fi, cost-efficient LED lighting, and security cameras. And during that summer, it graduated its first Secure Erie Accelerator (SEA), with a second one slated to start in June 2019.

For those who are not familiar with the SEA, over 10 weeks, the organization hosted (alongside Singularity University) a business boot camp that brought nine tech-focused startups to Erie. Each received a \$50,000 investment from the Innovation District, in addition to intensive training and mentoring. Singularity’s global headquarters are located on the campus of NASA’s Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, and SU offers a variety of programs designed to prepare global leaders and organizations for the future.

Of the nine, five chose to stay in Erie. These companies, in one form or another, chose to lay roots in our Gem City. Those five included: SimpleSense, a company that designed occupancy sensors that generate smart routes in an emergency to direct first responders to victims faster; CityGrows, a system where any government can easily set up and manage permits, licenses, requests, payments, and processes online; Rebric, an organization that provides a machine learning platform, currently focusing on addressing money laundering and transaction fraud; SmartDrive Systems, a safe driving device that establishes a zone around the driver’s seat to limit phone functionality

**Ali Al Jabry, co-founder and COO of Kwema, chose to locate his business within Erie because of its “sense of community” and centrality; on a personal level, he enjoys the abundance of activities available when it’s time “to blow off steam.”**

while driving; and Kwema, a company that developed a discreet and fashionable wearable accessory that has a hidden panic button, and can be integrated to any security protocol.

I had the opportunity to talk to Ali Al Jabry, Co-Founder and COO of Kwema about his business and why he “chose Erie.”

For Ali it was a personal experience that drove him to help create Kwema. “Having nieces and sisters, I am fully aware of how insecure this world can be for women. The figures are alarming. Every 98 seconds a woman in the United States suffers an act of physical or sexual violence. And every day in Mexico, nine women are victims of a femicide [the killing of a woman or girl, in particular by a man and on account of her gender]. Our mission is to support these victims and prevent these atrocities from happening.”

Ali was attending a Smart Cities conference in Cincinnati when he first learned about the SEA. “I met with someone from Singularity University who was interested in our company and what we were doing. It was the connection that afforded me the opportunity to learn about the SEA. We had kept in touch, and about eight months later he reached out to me recommending I apply as he thought we would be a good fit for the program.”

Ali found the program to be invaluable — even during its short 10 week tenure. “I had so many opportunities to meet with fellow founders or mentors over dinner, and being able to share ideas, war stories, problems, and progress was invaluable. Sometimes those sessions went on for hours, but they were highly necessary — and grounding. Today, I make sure to keep that going with fellow entrepreneurs that call Erie home.”

As for why he chose to stay in Erie? “The main reason was the sense of community. Right from the onset, I felt embraced and welcomed by varying groups in both a social and professional perspective.” The location was also ideal. “The size of the city and proximity to both coasts and Mexico made for a perfect launchpad for our company.”

Ali also mirrors what many other transplants feel about our community. “As an entrepreneur, you end up working anywhere from 60-90 hours a week, which means you need to find some time to blow off some steam. The activities that one can do around Erie in a very spontaneous manner are just the perfect answer. From Presque Isle, to watching a Sea-wolves game, to a quick day trip to Cleveland, the activities one can do are quite high for a city that isn’t considered a major city. Did I mention how awesome the summer festivals are?”

Ali’s company also recently won a Silicon Labs

Award at the International Pitch Competition at SXSW. “Out of 50 companies who participated in the pitch competition — we ended up in the top five and received the only Technical Merit award from Silicon Labs.”

Erie doesn’t need to be Silicon Valley to be a thriving start-up scene. Rather, we must leverage our strengths to help shape our own distinctive ecosystems and identities. And we are doing just that. Our community already boasts the academic expertise, the technology drivers and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. We fully recognize where we are — and we are capitalizing on it.

*The SEA is currently accepting applications from companies of manufacturing and defense. Interested in learning more? Go to: [www.erieinnovationdistrict.com](http://www.erieinnovationdistrict.com)*

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




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# Judging the Primary Ballot

Taking a look at some of the names you'll see on May 21



Erie citizen Marissa Romanski speaks with judge candidate Erin Connelly during a recent canvassing.

JESSICA HUNTER

By: Ben Speggen

The primary election cometh. No, not yet the one featuring the return of Joe Biden to the political fray, or the one with “Mayor Pete” on the cover of *Time* with his husband Chasten, or the one that brought Tim Ryan to Erie on May 2, or the one with Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders, Beto O’Rourke, Elizabeth Warren, Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand, or Corey Booker. In numbers rivaling that of Baskin-Robbins, Democrats are vying to garner their party’s nomination to go on to become the nation’s 46th president.

Despite the overwhelming coverage, that election is still many months away, and before all of that, the municipal primary elections cometh for Erie, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, May 21.

While there are plenty of elections to pay attention to, the 2019 primary lacks a “big” race, likely to draw a higher voter turnout. And despite 2018’s primary featuring higher billed races — governor, lieutenant governor, congressional bids — less than a quarter of the voting population took to the polls. Primary elections are funny like that: While we have a greater field of options, fewer of us seem to turn up to have a say, waiting until November to make decisions in greater numbers.

## Judging the Judges

A race drawing some attention because of the candidates is the judgeship of the Court of Common Pleas. Five candidates are in the contest for two 10-year appointments on the

nine-member local bench.

A benefit to this race is that candidates are permitted to cross-file, meaning that they appear on both the Democratic and Republican ballots. Members of both parties can select two of the five in the closed primary. Those top two for each ballot — where they may overlap — will head onto the general election.

Of note, Pennsylvania remains one of 14 states — others include Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Wyoming — to feature closed primary elections, in which registered voters may only vote for those in the party to which they are affiliated. While frustrating for Democrats who may want to vote for a Republican and vice versa, it’s even more so for third-party voters, who cannot cast a ballot unless someone of their party makes a bid. And even then, they can only vote along party lines, largely lopped out of this round of decision making.

The judge race is an interesting one because it features names familiar to Erie voters. Both Ed Smith, who has a law firm in Erie and has been practicing law for 35 years, and Erin Connelly, a prosecutor in the Erie County District Attorney’s Office for the past 16 years, sought a spot on the bench in 2015 but were unsuccessful in their bids.

Familiar, too, is Joe Sinnott, former Erie mayor, who left office in early Jan. 2018 because of term limits after successfully winning three elections for

mayor, his second and third uncontested.

What makes the race — one to fill the seats left vacant by the death of Judge Robert A. Sambrook Jr. in March 2017 and the retirement of Judge John Garhart at the end of 2018 — interesting, too, is the impact of the Erie County Bar Association candidate evaluations. Comprised of a jury of their professional peers with 278 out of the association’s 439 active members who returned their ballots, the Bar Association ranked two judge candidates as “highly recommended,” one as “recommended,” one as “not recommended,” and one with no rating.

The highest ranking went to David Ridge, a lawyer for the past 33 years who owns his own practice in Erie, with 82 percent. Ridge also topped his opponents in competence (4.7), integrity (4.7), temperament (4.6), and experience (4.7) — all out of 5, and criteria the association’s members vote on in addition to overall qualifications.

Behind Ridge is Smith with 58 percent in the “highly recommended” category, up from “recommended” during his last bid. Smith also followed Ridge at close second in each of the additional criteria: 4.4, 4.5, 4.4, and 4.2 for competence, integrity, temperament, and experience, respectively.

Pete Sala, a lawyer in private practice in Erie, received a “recommended,” notching a 3.7, 4.1, 3.9, and 3.6 in competence, integrity, temperament, and experience, respectively.

The youngest candidate in the field at 41 to Smith’s 60, Ridge’s 59, Sinnott’s 53 and Sala’s 50, Connelly did not receive a rating. The non-rating is not a non-endorsement, per se; rather, it results because Connelly failed to yield more than 50 percent votes in categories: highly recommended, recommended, or not recommended.

Falling into the latter designation of “not recommended” is Sinnott. Ranking at 2.8, 3.5, 3.4, and 2.3 in competence, integrity, temperament, and experience, respectively, he was last in every category save for temperament where he scored 0.4 higher than Connelly.

The low numbers for Sinnott amongst his peers might be excused for the fact that he has not practiced law for the past 12 years, having governed in City Hall. The name recognition may work in his favor, as he’s received more ink and film reel coverage than the other four combined, both good and bad.

But his peers think that experience doesn’t translate to the seat to which he now seeks. It will be telling to see if voters think the same, potentially casting a decision for his judgeship based on his experience and tenure as mayor.

## City Council Seats

Another interesting race in Erie is the one for Erie City Council, where 11 Democrats are seeking a shot to emerge from the primaries and head to the general for three open seats, and lone Republican Shawn Lyon hopes to do the same. Why so many Dems and just one Republican? The city of Erie leans nearly 3-to-1 in Democratic voter registration edge, making the path to victory markedly more challenging for GOP candidates.

Of the seats, two are vacant: Sonya Arrington and Bob Merski. The other, currently held by Melvin Witherspoon, is up for grabs, as he seeks a third four-year term.

Merski vacated City Council after a successful campaign to take the Pennsylvania House of Representatives District 2 seat previously held by the late Rep. Flo Fabrizio, who had decided not to seek another term and had endorsed Merski in the race.

Arrington, first elected to council in 2015, decided not to run for re-election amidst federal prosecutors charges in 2018 that she used funds from Mothers Against Teen Violence, a nonprofit she founded, to gamble at Presque Isle Downs & Casino. She has pleaded not guilty and her case is pending.

The race for City Council is interesting for two reasons: The diversity in candidates seeking office, and that the Democratic Party of Erie County backed a slate of six candidates out of the 11 [for more information on that process, see Jim Wertz’ op-ed in this issue]

Irrespective of the recommendations, the composition of council stands to change, even if Witherspoon retains his seat. With two new mem-



bers — and Councilwomen Liz Allen and Kathy Schaaf both new to council, serving in their first terms — four of the council's seven faces are fresh (five if Witherspoon is ousted). What's more, if City Councilman Casmir Kwitowski wins his bid for City Treasurer, another vacancy would be created in January 2020.

#### Better Know a District

Aside from the seat on the Court of Common Pleas and Erie City Council, plenty of other races feature notable contests. Amongst them, Erie County Council seats, where it's an "odd" voting year.

For District 1, Democrats Kim Clear, Veronica Rexford, and Terry Scutella look to face off against either Charles Foht or Robert Yates, Republicans, for the seat previously held by Kathy Fatica, who is not seeking re-election after serving out her late husband Phil Fatica's term.

District 3 features only Democrats, with incumbent Fiore Leone facing primary challenges from Freda Tepfer, who unsuccessfully ran for City Council, and former Erie County Library Executive Director Mary Rennie.

District 5 Democratic incumbent Kyle Foust — who is also seeking a bid for County Controller against incumbent Republican Mary Schaaf, who is seeking her third term in the post — does not face primary opposition but will face a challenger in either Republican Joseph Cancilla or Brian Shank.

In District 7, Democrats William Driver and Rita Bishop square off to emerge against a Republican from

the field of Jason Gibbs, Ellen Schaurman, Clayton Schulze, or Fred Wieceke, for the seat previously held by Republican Carol Loll, who is not seeking re-election after nearly 24 years of service.

Similar to Erie City Council, County Council will have fresh faces, at least two in Districts 1 and 7, more if Foust loses his council bid and/or wins his Controller bid and Leone loses to one of his challengers who will march from primary victory to the seat with no November challenger.

With Carl Anderson (District 4) and Scott R. Rastetter (District 6) both new to County Council with the previous election, at least four elected officials will be serving in their first term, maybe more.

But change can only come when candidates file and run for office, for either the first time or beyond if they continue to seek the opportunity to serve and have the support of their constituents; that's the first half.

The other is when voters do their homework, find candidates with policies and ideas they believe in, and then cast their ballots.

If only one-fifth of voters again show up to the polls, let us hope those who sit at home May 21 are fine with the decision of the few rather than the many for a lot of elections that affect a lot of local policy.

*Ben Spегgen can be contacted at [bSpeгgen@ErieReader.com](mailto:bSpeгgen@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeгgen.*



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## NEWS & VIEWS

# Title X Rule One Year Later

New rule to restrict reproductive rights on hold — for now



A year ago, conservatives proposed a Title X “gag” rule, threatening to divest healthcare providers of funding if they provide (or even mention) abortion care as an option to their patients. Planned Parenthood centers, which serve 41 percent of Title X patients in the country, would be particularly vulnerable if the gag rule were to go into effect.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Paige Bosnyak

Almost one year ago, the Trump Administration announced proposed changes to the Title X (read Title Ten) family planning program that would fundamentally alter the way the program operates. The proposed rule would block healthcare providers from receiving Title X dollars if they provide, or even mention, abortion care to their patients. Title X, established in 1970, provides reproductive care to people with low incomes, including those who couldn’t afford healthcare on their own. Title X funds do not — and cannot — pay for abortion services due to the 1976 Hyde Amendment, which bans federal dollars from paying for abortion care.

In its final writing, the new Title X rule — also known as the domestic “gag” rule — would silence, or put a gag, on healthcare providers in the Title X program, making it illegal for them to talk with patients about accessing safe, legal abortion. This prevents patients from getting full and accurate information about all of their health care options. Because Planned Parenthood is dedicated to comprehensive, ethical care that offers complete information to patients, their health centers would no longer be able to take part in the Title X program. This means that individuals covered under the Title X program may face difficulty in accessing care in the future. Planned Parenthood serves 41 percent of Title X patients in the country— about 1.6 million people. Often, Planned Parenthood is the only source for reproductive care, meaning that Title X patients would have nowhere to turn when this rule goes into effect. The gag rule also disproportionately harms people of color, LGBTQ

communities, and those in rural areas, since these groups already face difficulty accessing healthcare due to factors including racism, homophobia, transphobia, and economic barriers.

This rule is not only dangerous, but it is also unpopular. The Title X rule is opposed by 73 percent of the American public, more than 200 members of Congress, 15 governors, and more than 100 public health institutions, just to name a few. Supporters of the rule include Donald Trump, Mike Pence, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, and other appointed officials in the Trump Administration. It is worth emphasizing that one politician also in favor of this rule is Erie’s Congressman Mike Kelly. Last spring, he signed on to a letter to Secretary Azar voicing his support for this rule.

Luckily, the gag rule has been stopped from going into effect for now. In recent weeks, federal judges issued injunctions that would allow providers like Planned Parenthood to continue receiving Title X funds to serve their patients. In addition, the U.S. House of Representatives’ Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations subcommittee included language in the government’s annual budget bill to protect Title X. The bill language makes clear that Congress is in charge of the Title X program and will not fund the Trump-Pence administration’s gag rule. Instead, Congress will only allow this funding to be used to carry out the program as it has been historically run.

We know what happens when governments defund family planning services, because we’ve seen it happen at the state level. In Texas, after Planned Parenthood was eliminated from the state program, pregnancy-related deaths

doubled. Funding cuts in Indiana led to closure of a Planned Parenthood health center in rural Scott County; the clinic was the only provider of HIV testing in the region. Following the closure, Scott County experienced an unprecedented HIV outbreak. When the Planned Parenthood health center closed in Shawano County, Wisconsin after state cuts, chlamydia and gonorrhea infections increased, and former patients faced significant waiting lists to see a doctor at a community health clinic.

Planned Parenthood’s doors will stay open, and we will survive as we have survived previous attempts to strip away reproductive care from millions of Americans. These attacks have built a movement where voters are demanding elected officials stop pursuing dangerous and unpopular legislation that hurts women. In cases where our representatives refuse to listen, we’ve shown that they’ll be challenged. In Erie, we saw a formidable challenger (Ron DiNicola) take on Congressman Kelly, and without the benefit of a district gerrymandered in his favor, the race was actually competitive. Though Representative Kelly ultimately won the seat, he returns to Washington in the minority facing the first ever pro-reproductive rights majority in the House. This change in our House of Representatives, and all of the wins we are seeing across the country, are just the beginning. We are resilient, organized, and ready. In fact, Mike Kelly was one of 43 representatives put “on notice” for 2020 by Emily’s List, a group dedicated to electing pro-choice, Democratic women. We know that reclaiming our rights means reclaiming our government, and 2018 was just the beginning.

*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](mailto:paige.bosnyak@pppamail.org).*



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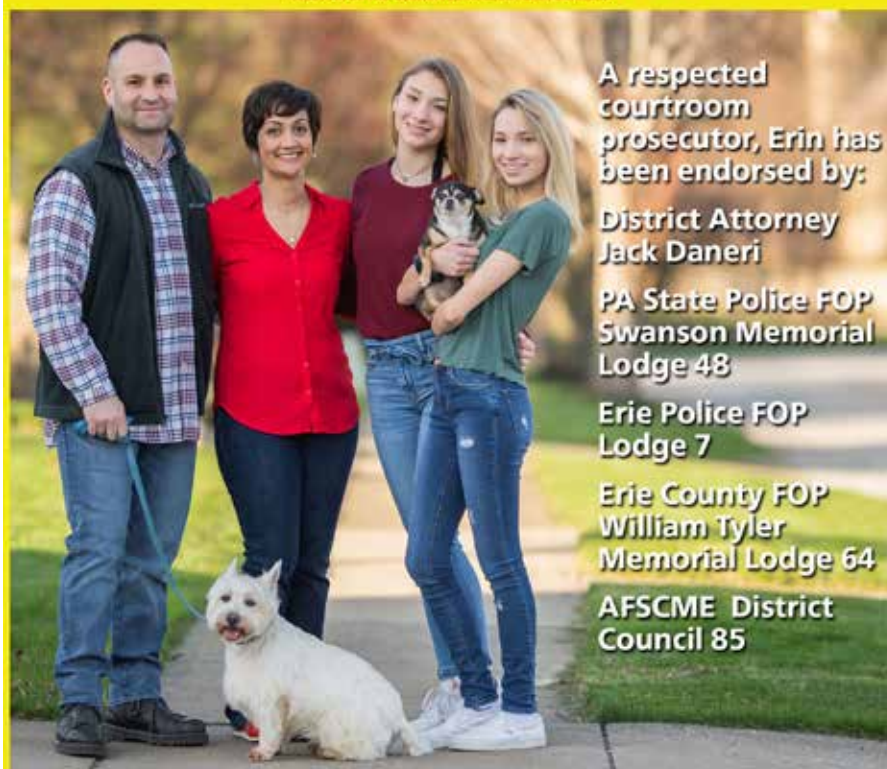
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## Summer Music Festivals to Watch

A sound check for the solstice



NICK WARREN

By: Nick Warren

If you're looking for a weekend filled with great music and unforgettable times, there are plenty of music festivals to check out in our area. In mere minutes, you can escape to a place where the lineups are packed and the vibes are good. Some are more for the hippie-hearted, while others cater to a more lighthearted folkier crowd. Many include easy options for camping and all are less than an hour-and-a-half away from Erie, PA.

### The best fests that hit close to home

#### Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival — May 16 - 19, Edinboro, PA (30 minutes away)

Headliners: Donna the Buffalo, Jim Lauderdale, Tiger Maple String Band

Right after graduation, the college town of Edinboro gets ready to host their ever-growing celebration of music and art. A great unofficial start to festival season, this weekend serves up performances spread out over four days and six stages throughout the borough, with folky sounds wafting all around for a family-friendly vibe.

[Edinboroartandmusic.com](#) // Various locations, downtown Edinboro, PA // Free (no camping)

#### Cambridge Springs Music Festival — June 6 - 8, Cambridge Springs, PA (42 minutes away)

Headliners: Erie All-Stars present Tom

Petty, Chestnut Grove, Erin Harpe and the Delta Swingers

The sophomore effort brought to you by the Cambridge Springs Fire Department carries on the legacy of the long-running festival at the historic Riverside Inn, which was lost to a fire in 2017. Catch acts on multiple stages over three days, filled with some of the best regional talent around playing rock, blues, indie, folk, and more.

[CambridgeSpringsMusicFestival.com](#) // Various locations, Cambridge Springs, PA // Free (no camping option)

#### Great Blue Heron — July 5 - 7, Sherman, NY (42 minutes away)

Headliners: The Wailers, Donna the Buffalo, 10,000 Maniacs

Since 1992, the Great Blue Heron has grown to become a can't-miss weekend for thousands of new and dedicated fans each year. This gorgeous location (home to an organic farm) has evolved to be perfectly designed for the festival experience, with covered forests, scenic views, and well-kept stages and facilities. The Heron is unmatched, the best destination for folk, Americana, and roots music for a weekend camping experience. With its unique and unforgettable family-friendly atmosphere, it's easy to have a "happy heron" here.

[Greatblueheron.com](#) // 2361 Wait Corners Rd, Sherman, NY // \$130 gate, \$100 early bird (plus camping fees) // Youth options available

[top left] Crowds gather to watch Town Pants' performance at last year's Great Blue Heron Festival. [bottom right] Night Lights, a groove-oriented late summer festival that takes place on the same site as the Heron, was headlined last year by jam bands such as Aqueous (joined here by guitarist Chuck Garvey of Moe.)

#### Roar on the Shore — July 17 - 21, Erie, PA

Headliners: Lita Ford, Night Ranger, Stryper

Voted Erie's Best Festival in the Erie Reader's Best of Erie awards in 2018, Roar on the Shore is an epic celebration of the motorcycle life. This year's grand marshal, Kim Coates of Sons of Anarchy, will lead the parade on Thursday, with concerts going on all weekend on two stages, and special rides happening throughout Erie County. The sound of revving engines and sight of leather and chrome will fill downtown Erie for the weekend, as thousands of riders visit the city for the festivities.

[Roarontheshore.com](#) // Various locations, downtown Erie // concerts free, offering a premium viewing option (no camping), charges and registration apply for selected events

#### Whirlybird Music Festival — July 18 - 20, Jamestown, NY (52 minutes away)

Headliners: Tropidelic, Ilespecial, After Funk

Now in its second year, Whirlybird has grown from one day to three. Located in the heart of downtown Jamestown, the festival helps to raise money for the Infinity & YMCA Camp Onyahsa music and scholarship programs. The lineup of high-energy, danceable bands is a

well-curated assortment from Western New York and beyond. Spread out over different locations, more than half of the performances are free and family-friendly, though some are for guests 21 and over only.

[whirlybirdmusicfestival.com](#) // Various locations, downtown Jamestown, NY // \$45, single, single venue tickets available (no camping)

#### Discover Presque Isle — July 26 - 28, Erie, PA

Headliners: TBA

Presque Isle State Park – voted Best of Erie for "Best Tourist Attraction" and "Best Place for a First Date" in the Erie Reader – is an essential site to take in. During Discover Presque Isle, The Presque Isle Partnership makes sure that the weekend is packed with dozens of different vendors and activities dotting the gorgeous peninsula. With a can't-miss Arts and Crafts show and live music throughout the weekend, the natural beauty of the park will host a fun-filled event for all ages.

[Discoverpi.com](#) // 301 Peninsula Dr, Erie, PA // Free (no overnight camping)

#### The Gathering at Chaffee's — July 26 - 27, Girard, PA (28 minutes away)

Headliners: Spiritual Rez, Magic Beans, Mungion

As one of the longest-running music festivals in the United States, the Gathering at Chaffee's is set for its 39th year. Few weekends bring together this many talented Erie musicians and have such a strong sense of family as Chaffee's. Serv-



NICK WARREN





Claire Stuczynski and her band perform on the side stage at 2018's Gathering at Chaffee's. The long-running festival, set in Girard, is entering its 39th year.

longest running brewpub and restaurant, located in an eye-catching former train station. Arts & Drafts is a biannual event featuring more than 70 local artists and 14 different musical acts. The fall edition utilizes the trackside stage as well as the first-floor pub (the March version takes place entirely indoors), with full bands in the outdoor environment. A wide offering of craft beer and hundreds of pieces of art will be for sale in one of the defining moments of the season.

*Brewerie.com // 123 W 14th St., Erie // Free, \$3 after 8 p.m. (no camping)*

**Resonance Music and Arts Festival — Sept 19 - 22, Slippery Rock, PA (1 hour 21 minutes away)**

Headliners: Tycho, Papadosio, Keller Williams

Now in its sixth year of existence, Resonance Music Festival has found a new, much closer home. This year's event will take place at the lovely Cooper's Lake Event Venue and Campground, a 450-acre space alongside I-79, and a popular destination for medieval reenactments. Featuring an impressive lineup of top-tier, nationally recognized jam and electronica bands, this event merges visual arts as well for a one-of-a-kind closer to festival season, with what will likely prove to be the biggest of its kind in the region for a new generation.

*resonancemusicfest.com // 205 Currie Rd, Slippery Rock, PA // \$160 (plus camping fees) // VIP options available*

**Fests worth the trek, and other honorable mentions**

**LaureLive —June 9, 10, Russell Township, OH (1 hour 39 minutes away)**

Headliners: Hozier, Sheryl Crow, Dirty Heads

*\$125, \$85 single day (no camping option) // VIP options available // LaureLive.com*

**Cobblestone Live —Aug 2, 3**

Buffalo, NY (1 hour 41 minutes away)  
Headliners: Joywave, Langhorne Slim, Aqueous

*\$35 - 45, single day passes available // buffaloironworks.com*

**Dome Festival — May 16 - 18, Masontown, WV (3 hours 19 minutes away)**

Headliners: Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, Aqueous, Magic Beans  
*\$135 (plus camping fees), RV options available // domefestival.com*

**Nelsonville Music Festival —June 6 - 9, Nelsonville, OH (4 hours 38 minutes away)**

Headliners: Death Cab for Cutie, Mavis Staples, The Breeders

*\$165, single day options (plus camping fees) // VIP options available // NelsonvilleFest.org*

**Three Rivers Arts Festival — June 7 - 16, Pittsburgh, PA (2 hours 5 minutes away)**

Headliners: India.Arie, J Roddy Walston and the Business, Lucius

*Free (no camping option) // TRAF.trustarts.org*

**Big Dub — July 24 - 28, Artemas, PA (4 hours 10 minutes away)**

Headliners: Black Tiger Sex Machine, Boogie T, Caspa

*\$59 - 225, based on duration (plus camping fees) // bigdubfestival.com/lineup*

**MO POP —July 27 - 28, Detroit, MI (4 hours 1 minute away)**

Headliners: Tame Impala, Vampire Weekend, Lizzo

*\$129.50 (no camping option) // mopop-festival.com*

**Veld Music Festival — August 3 - 4, Toronto, ON (3 hours 17 minutes away)**

Headliners: Cardi B, Kygo, Skrillex  
*\$189.50 CAD (no camping option) // VIP options available // Veldmusicfestival.com*

**The Freakstomp Music Festival — August 9 - 11, Medina, OH (2 hours 16 minutes away)**

Headliners: Tropidelic, Too Many Zooz, Bumpin' Uglies

*\$75 (camping included) // thefreakstomp.com*

**Borderland Music Festival — Sept 21, 22, Knox Farm State Park, NY (1 hour 41 minutes away)**

Headliners: Gov't Mule, Greensky Bluegrass, Shakey Graves

*437 Buffalo Rd, East Aurora, NY // \$110 (plus off-site camping fees) // VIP options available // Borderlandfestival.com*

Nick Warren can be reached at [nwarren@eriereader.com](mailto:nwarren@eriereader.com)

ing up a free-spirited, welcoming, and colorful vibe, with acres of woods and three stages, this is the quintessential camping festival for the Erie community.

*TheGatheringatChaffees.com // 8296 Mill St., Girard, PA // \$80 gate, \$70 advance (camping included, RV options available)*

**Erie's Blues & Jazz Festival —August 2 - 4, Erie, PA**

Headliners: TBA

In its 28th year overall, Erie's Blues and Jazz Festival still continues to evolve. Long known as the Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival, this can't-miss weekend is now being spearheaded by Erie Arts and Culture for the second time around and has teamed up with Lake Erie Cyclefest. Continuing the tradition of excellence, all of Erie is welcome at the free Frontier Park event for a memorable, and rightfully well-loved experience. Catch the blues on Saturday, jazz on Sunday, with special all-ages and performance arts events preceding the music on Friday.

*erieartsandculture.org/bluesand-jazzfest // 1501 W 6th St, Erie // Free (no overnight camping option)*

**Celebrate Erie —August 15 - 18, Erie, PA**

Headliners: TBA

An Erie institution that began in the mid-'70s, Celebrate Erie is a free event located in the heart of downtown. Organized by the city government, it ties

together local music, food, and culture for a truly local experience. The family-friendly environment has plenty of interactive activities stretching for blocks on northern State Street and Perry Square. Past lineups have boasted nationally known headlining acts like Sugar Ray, Kool & the Gang, and Three Doors Down, with the best local talent filling out the event's multiple stages.

*Celebrateerie.com // Various locations, downtown Erie // Free (no camping options)*

**Night Lights —August 22 - 24, Sherman, NY (42 minutes away)**

Headliners: TBA

Get one last weekend in at the picturesque Heron grounds for Night Lights, a festival that lives up to its name. With multiple colors illuminating the forest backdrop, set up camp, and party to your heart's content to groove-based jams that run late into the night. Past music alumni include Aqueous, Dopopod, and Lotus. It's a psychedelic adventure that continues to gather steam, with new guests and returning attendees alike.

*NightLightsFest.com // 2361 Wait Corners Rd, Sherman, NY // \$99 (camping included).*

**Arts & Drafts Festival —Sept. 5 - 7, Erie, PA**

Headliners: Cult Classics, This American Song, Falling Hollywood

The Brewerie at Union Station is Erie's





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The final deadline to nominate someone for Erie's 40 Under 40 honors is Thursday, May 16.  
To nominate, fill out the form at [eriereader.com/40under40nomination](http://eriereader.com/40under40nomination)

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## Something Soulful to Ponder



STEVE LEITZINGER

"Opening up for Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People will be an honor. She is an incredible artist, and it will be a pleasure being on the same stage as her that night," says lead vocalist of The LEC Jonny Evans.

Ponder, a Rochester, N.Y. native, and her talented band members are known for their fusion of funk, soul and jazz. Ponder illuminates the stage with her seductive and riveting vocals as she states, "soul music is something you feel...it gives you goosebumps."

Though Ponder is well-regarded for her empowering vocals, she is also a passionate activist and speaker, and has been a defense attorney for over 15 years. She has worked on a variety of issues from educational funding, women's rights, and even created a 2017 multimedia show titled "For the Love of Justice," which uses powerful lyrics and visuals to shine a light on the criminal justice system. The group has opened for acts such as George Clinton and The Roots, and has also completed two successful European tours. After drawing comparisons to influential artists such as Nina Simone

and Lauryn Hill, now it's Ponder's time to shine.

Setting the tone for the evening, The LEC will perform all original music comprised from elements of hip-hop, funk, rock, soul and blues. The group has been together for about seven years now, performing at local festivals such as The Gathering at Chaffee's and Night Lights. Evans states, "The King's Rook Club is always a great place to play. The atmosphere is top notch, and the sound and lightning which is controlled by Sam Edwards is always on point and brings the best out of the bands that perform there."

Prepare for an uplifting night as the mix of these two bands on stage is sure to awaken the mind with good vibes and amazing music. — Symone Crockett

FRIDAY, MAY 10

**H**op aboard the soul train as it makes a stop at the King's Rook Club with the powerhouse vocals of Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People, along with "hippie hop" Erie natives, The LEC.

10 p.m. // King's Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // \$7 for current 2019 members, \$12 for non-current members (2019 membership included), ticket sales at the door on the day of the show, cash only // 21+ // [daniellepondermusic.com](http://daniellepondermusic.com)

## Keep Your Binoculars Handy: 2019 Festival of the Birds



PRESQUEISLEAUDUBON.ORG

FRIDAY, MAY 10 — 12

**T**his little area of Pennsylvania is renowned for its bird-watching, with people "flocking" to Presque Isle every year, all year round, to see our winged friends.

The month of May — though we've only just begun to enjoy actual spring-like weather — is when songbird migration through our region tends to peak, and it is no coincidence that the Presque Isle Audubon Society has once again planned their Festival of the Birds for this beautiful, blooming season.

With only 150 spots available for reservation, Presque Isle Audubon and their collaborators, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), will ensure that watchers have plenty of elbow room both on their field trips and at their workshops, which will

take place in locations such as the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and the Rotary Pavilion.

Workshops and field trips include Birding for Beginners, Seated Yoga for Birders, and (new this year) kayaking bird trips, among many other opportunities. This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for the festival, as special guest and keynote speaker Yve Morrell will be on hand to present "800 is the new 700," detailing her big year's goals and results (the figures refer to the number of species she sighted in 2017). — Cara Suppa

May 10-12 (see website for full schedule details) // 301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 8 // Full weekend adult: \$130; Friday/Saturday adult: \$110 (see website for full pricing details) // [presqueisleaudubon.org](http://presqueisleaudubon.org)

## I'm Just Here: Will Baldauf Brings Contemporary Art to Erie



BRADLEY FORD

**Painter Will Baldauf embraces the subjectivity of art to the fullest in his abstract works, which will be on display at the Erie Art Gallery on May 10.**

Exactly *what* I paint, I like to leave that up to the viewer to decide," explains Baldauf. "There's no comprehensible focus to my work, I create for creation's sake. I don't see it as my place to attach any sort of meaning or emotion to my work, the viewer

FRIDAY, MAY 10

**B**eauty is in the eye of the beholder. Similar to this idea, art is what the viewer makes of it. We all see the world and everything in it differently. No two people are exactly alike. If everything or everyone was the same, it's safe to say we'd live a very boring existence.

In similar fashion, local artist Will Baldauf is bringing something different to Erie in the form of monochromatic triptychs — abstract paintings in high contrast black-and-white. His first ever solo exhibition is one you don't want to miss. When asked what he's most anticipating about his upcoming show, Baldauf informs, "This is my first solo exhibition so that's reason enough for me to be excited. I guess I'm most looking forward to people's reaction to the show and my work."

Are you curious about what to expect at his exhibition? You should be. "I paint.

will always see what the viewer wants to see."

We all have different experiences, and those experiences are what shape us. Baldauf is using his experiences and how he views the world to create his work. In response to what speaks to Baldauf, he enlightens: "Everything and nothing. My work is a reaction to the world around me and my experiences. Specific to artistic technique, I think color and composition make a great painting. At this point in history, I think subject matter is completely irrelevant."

Still trying to imagine what Baldauf's work looks like? I'd say it's fair to quote Baldauf here. "I think to really understand what I'm doing you should come to the gallery and see for yourself." — Kalli Oberlander

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. // Erie Art Gallery, 24 W. 8th St. // [facebook.com/erieartgallery](http://facebook.com/erieartgallery)



## Gordon Lightfoot: 80 Years Strong Tour Comes to Erie



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

There are milestone birthdays and then there are legendary events, and the surprisingly spry Gordon Lightfoot celebrated his 80th birthday this year with — rather aptly — a tour commemorating his life, work, music, and, naturally, all his fans and their support. Dubbed “80 Years Strong,” the tour stops off in Erie at the Warner Theater.

Lightfoot is from Ontario — our Lake Erie neighbor to the north — and is stopping by Erie on this cross-country tour of the U.S. He aims to play a blend

of the big hits, personal favorites, and more obscure tracks from his extensive back-catalog — he has recorded 20 albums and has five Grammy nominations under his belt.

Famous hits include “If You Could Read My Mind,” “Ribbon of Darkness” (a chart-topping hit on the U.S. country charts) “Rainy Day People,” “Song for A Winter’s Night” (check it out, *Game of Thrones* fans), and a true tale set on the Great Lakes, “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.”

Some consider Lightfoot to be a Canadian folk legend, having played an integral part in establishing the 1960s and 1970s folk-pop sound. In fact, he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in June of 2012 for his efforts and influence.

It isn’t often that a sonic genius and iconic musician swings through Erie, so if you have any interest in the man known as “Canada’s greatest songwriter,” or you’re already a die-hard Lightfoot fan, then this concert is not to be missed. — Miriam Lamey

9 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State Street  
// \$48 - \$58 // [gordonlightfoot.com](http://gordonlightfoot.com)

## Poetry Takes Stage At Erie Playhouse



SUVAN CHOWDHURY

### TUESDAY, MAY 14

Poetry in the City of Erie has been undergoing a strong revival with no sign of fading to black. Post-Poet’s Hall (the international family of poets and spoken word artists) at the Avalon, the art form has been promoted consistently through establishments such as Calamari’s Squid Row and local coffee shops such as Topsy Bean and Ember + Forge, with certain nights during the week providing opportunities for novice and veteran wordsmiths to read their works to the public.

Seasoned writers Bigg Wash and Cee Williams have made their way through the revolving door of local radio show Fazed Cookies to push and preserve the culture. The momentum of this agenda continues to accelerate as the

Erie County Poet Laureate Initiative, a non-profit collective based on finding and presenting poets throughout the region, hosts a showcase at the Erie Playhouse on Tuesday, May 14. Open to the public, the event’s proceeds will go towards promoting more poetry events throughout the region. Books will be available for purchase during the intermission, to fuel fans’ love language long after they exit.

The showcase also honors its own history with all six Erie County laureates in attendance, to get you up to speed on the who’s who of the regional scene. Community-based artists Monica Igras and Sean Thomas Dougherty will share material to spark your brain, while Buffalo’s Eve Williams Wilson will take the stage as well. With so much art manifesting in the Erie area, providing artists with a platform and spectators with a show to feast their imagination on, the Poetry Showcase is determined to play its role in contributing to our ever-evolving scene. — Charles Brown

7 p.m. // Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. // \$15 // [facebook.com/ErieCoPoetLaureate](https://facebook.com/ErieCoPoetLaureate)

## MUSIC

### Dave VanAmburg & Friends

May 8, 10, 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. [belaireclarion.com](http://belaireclarion.com).

### Stoner Rock Night: Fog Giant, Bowels, Ether Coven

May 8 — 8:30 p.m.  
The tunes will be loud, heavy, and doomy as Erie’s Fog Giant is joined by Louisville’s Bowels and Ft. Lauderdale’s Ether Coven, the night’s headliner. Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### MVP

May 9, 16 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Dickey’s BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### The Rooftop Project

May 9 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
The second installment of the Erie Art Museum’s new weekly May music series features the skilled, genre-blending local quartet. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Division St. Machine

May 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [skunkandgoattavern.com](http://skunkandgoattavern.com).

### Tony Kellogg

May 9 — 6:30 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

### Blasco Concert Series: Fairy Tales

May 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [events.erieilibrary.org](https://events.erieilibrary.org).

### Geeks Unplugged

May 10 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Churchill’s Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### JazzErie Next Generation Concert

May 10 — 6 p.m.  
General McLane HS, 11761 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro, PA 16412 [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

### Flight

May 10 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. [bigbar.net](http://bigbar.net).

### The Highlife

May 10 — 6:30 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

### One Stringular Sensation

May 10 — 7 p.m.  
Featuring the internationally acclaimed soloist Yang Liu, who will be performing works by Vivaldi, Warlock, Kreisler, and Tchaikovsky on a 1741 Guarneri ‘del Gesù’ Violin. First Alliance Church, 2939 Zimmerly Rd. [yadostars.org](http://yadostars.org).

### Open Mic Night

May 10, 17 — 7 p.m.  
Topsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. [tipsybean.cafe](http://tipsybean.cafe).

### Claire Stuczynski

May 10 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill’s Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### Charlie Meyer

May 10 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. [cork1794.com](http://cork1794.com).

### Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People

May 10 — 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Cee Brown’s Variety Show 3

May 10 — 10 p.m.  
Voted Erie’s Best Emcee, Cee Brown performs and hosts his third unique installment, bringing together hip-hop, singer-songwriters, spoken-word performers, and more. Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Jack Stevenson

May 11 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Churchill’s Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### Daytona Beach 2000

May 11 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
Playing hits by bands like Blink

182, Fall Out Boy, and other pop-punk favorites, this local trio brings a high energy show filled with nostalgia and singalongs. BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. [bigbar.net](http://bigbar.net).

### Justin Moyer

May 11 — 6:30 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

### Six Year Stretch

May 11 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill’s Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### Doug Phillips Trio feat. Eric Brewer and Jim Dowds

May 11 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
Room 33, 1033 State St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### The Untouchables

May 11 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
Quincy Cellars, 10606 W. Main St., Ripley, NY 14775 [ripleylibrary.org](http://ripleylibrary.org).

### Laurie Hitts

May 11 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. [cork1794.com](http://cork1794.com).

### Gordon Lightfoot

May 11 — 8 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [lightfoot.ca](http://lightfoot.ca).

### Pure Dawg

May 11 — 10 p.m.  
The Northeast Ohio power trio blend improvisational

elements with genres like funk, jazz, and hard rock. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Save Yourself, Shiver, Joe Nameless

May 11 — 10 p.m.  
Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Rooftop Project

May 12, 19 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. [cork1794.com](http://cork1794.com).

### The Chumps

May 12 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com).

### Brooke Surgener

May 12 — 6:30 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

### Even Twice, Detroit Red, Living Room

May 12 — 8 p.m.  
The hard-hitting bass and drum duo from NYC, Even Twice, joins forces with Living Room and local rockers Detroit Red. Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Johnny Major

May 13 — 6 p.m.  
Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Blasco Concert Series: Presque Isle Flute Choir

May 13 — 7 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [events.erieilibrary.org](https://events.erieilibrary.org).

### Open Mic Night

May 14 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [events.erieilibrary.org](https://events.erieilibrary.org).

### Matty B & 57 Pickup

May 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. [belaireclarion.com](http://belaireclarion.com).

### Trash Boat

May 15 — 7 to 11 p.m.  
Sold out: The British punk quintet to play a packed house at the Performing Arts Collective Alliance. PACA, 1505 State St. [paca1505.org](http://paca1505.org).

### Open Mic

May 15, 22 — 10 p.m.  
Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Monica Lewis

May 16 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Whiskey for Three

May 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [skunkandgoattavern.com](http://skunkandgoattavern.com).

### Seann P. Clark



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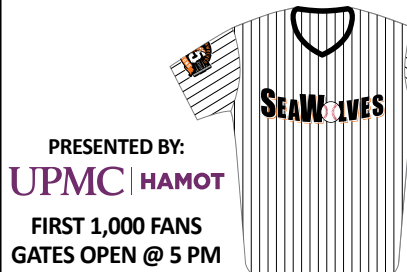
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STEVE LEITZINGER

Guitarist **Jeb Puryear** and drummer **Mark Raudabaugh** of **Donna and the Buffalo** perform during last year's **Downtown Edinboro Art and Music Festival**.

MAY 16 - 19

We'll soon be coming upon the third weekend of May. That means, like it always does, that — raining, or shining, or whatever it may be — summer's about to drop in to spend its first real visit: A free-and-easy longish weekend, when and where art and music, rooted and rich and colorful and cool, abound.

Like it always has, the Downtown Edinboro Art and Music Festival — a big little one, to be sure, deep-steeped and well-simmered in the fine,

conditions — will, for its 15th year, breezily usher in the summer music season in and around our getting-ever-greener region.

Now, I've been here and there for most of the Downtown Edinboro Art and Music fests over the course of that decade-and-a-half — sunny Edinboro's where I call home, you know.

One of the coolest things, I've always found, is that no matter where you go (and it's a pretty good-and-sizable gathering, one that may attract some thousands over that three-day stretch), it feels small and inti-

mate, unhurried and always of-the-heart.

And that's something, alright. Tiger Maple String Band's Fred Parker — one of the free festival's chief organizers, promoters, and performers — put it perfectly when he said this during an interview leading into the fest's milestone 10th year:

Along with a cornucopia of culture, he said, "you're gonna run into a lotta good people, all there for the same reason — to celebrate music, art and hangin' out with each other. The whole thing's just about having a good time, and generating a feeling of community. That can enrich our town, our society ... I dunno, maybe even our world."

It's the kind of festival where everything — tons of live music, open workshops, and a whole lot more — is happening all over the place, all the time, making for celebrations within celebrations, happenings within the happening-at-large.

We — and a whole lot of other people — love that about it. Al-

ways have, and always will.

The fest kicks off with an opening set by Claire Stuczynski followed by its traditional first-night headliner performance by area jam mainstays Donna the Buffalo (long considered by many to be masters and among the first in the herd of the modern roots-rock-groove revolution) Thursday night at Culbertson Hills.

And, from there, for a good few days, it just sorta doesn't stop.

Headquartered by day at the lush and beautiful Goodell Gardens and by night at different venues and locales, indoors and out, in and all around downtown Edinboro, this year's festival also features performances by the local, regional, and national likes of Jakob's Ferry Stragglers, Jim Avett, Eric Brewer & Friends, Tiger Maple, Jim Donovan & Sun King Warriors, Company Townes, Dangerbird, TK Blues Co., Fred Oakman and the Flood, Ron Yarosz and the Vehicle, Salmon Frank, and plenty of other bands and performers

— and lots of worthwhile music, arts, and crafts workshop presenters, too.

And it's all free. That's right — free. A real good time that, besides whatever you may want to spend once you're there, doesn't have to cost you a dime (though, you know, supporting local artists with some of your spending coin is never unappreciated).

It's really close by, and genuinely family-friendly, too, so, if other, unrelated plans for your weekend aren't already pre-set in motion, there's really no reason not to go check it out.

For the full lineup, directions to performance/exhibit venues and other locales in and about town, and other details about this year's festival, visit [edinboroartandmusic.com](http://edinboroartandmusic.com).

And we'll see you somewhere there. — Ryan Smith

Ryan Smith can be contacted at [rSmith@ErieReader.com](mailto:rSmith@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @RyanSmithPlens.

May 16 — 6:30 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

**SASS Acoustics w Jen Kerr**  
May 17 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

**Bootleggers Bible Club**  
May 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. [belaireclarion.com](http://belaireclarion.com).

**Refuge**  
May 17 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. [bigbar.net](http://bigbar.net).

**Doug Phillips Acoustic Grateful Dead Night**  
May 17 — 7 p.m.  
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Osborn Nash**  
May 17 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

**Acoustic Adelaide**  
May 17 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. [cork1794.com](http://cork1794.com).

**Barefoot Fishermen**  
May 17 — 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach

St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Grand Marquee, Insult to Injury, Aria and the Voiceless**  
May 17 — 10 p.m.  
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**The Lettermen Benefit Concert**  
May 18 — 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.  
Mercyhurst Prep Auditorium, 538 E. Grandview Blvd. [tableofgrace.net](http://tableofgrace.net).

**Toxic Prom**  
May 18 — 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**The Earthquakers**  
May 18 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. [bigbar.net](http://bigbar.net).

**Mark Morris**  
May 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

**May Coffee House**  
May 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
The Little Church on the Hill, 10410 High St., Albion, PA 16401 [sites.google.com](http://sites.google.com).

**Hang Tight, Mess**  
May 18 — 7:30 p.m.  
The Ballet Haus, 1020 Hol-

land St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**The Music of Queen**  
May 18 — 8 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [eriephil.org](http://eriephil.org).

**Personal Blend**  
May 18 — 10 p.m.  
The seven-piece reggae-rock band out of Rochester, NY brings their smooth, sun-drenched concoction of dub to the upstairs stage.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Chris Ehrich's Singer Songwriter Night**  
May 18 — 10 p.m.  
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Toxic Prom Til Dawn**  
May 18 — 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**SASS Acoustics feat. Kayti Stadler**  
May 19 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [skunkandgoattavern.com](http://skunkandgoattavern.com).

**Jesse James Weston**  
May 19 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com).

**Sunday Sesh: Division Street Machine**  
May 19 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 [fiveand20.com](http://fiveand20.com).

**A Musical Tribute to Tall Ships**  
May 19 — 3 to 5 p.m.  
Bay Front Brass, the five piece group perform a one-hour set filled with themed pieces and historical presentations and sailing history.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [events.erialibrary.org](http://events.erialibrary.org).

**The Last Ten Seconds of Life**  
May 19 — 6 p.m.  
The PA Deathcore band plays with Menstrual Parasite (VA thrash Punk), local punks Mala Sangre, Olean, NY's Axed and Smashed, Western PA's Black Squirrel Run, Pittsburgh deathcore band Windchimes, and locals Detroit Red.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Rachel Short**  
May 19 — 6:30 p.m.  
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro,

PA 16412 [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

**Showtune Singers Night**  
May 21 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Blasco Concert Series: Gem City Jazz Ensemble**  
May 22 — 7 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [events.erialibrary.org](http://events.erialibrary.org).

FOOD & DRINK

**Happy Appy Food Tour**  
May 8,15, 22 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
Bolero, 16 W. 10th St. [eriefoodtours.com](http://eriefoodtours.com).

**Cocktails and Clay**  
May 10, 14, 16 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. [erieclayspace.com](http://erieclayspace.com).

**Mother's Day Brunch (Goodell)**  
May 11, 12 — 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. OR 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Featuring a menu from Cali's West Catering, desserts by Cambridge Sprinkles, and mimosas in the events barn, treat mom to a brunch in scenic floral surroundings.  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412

[goodellgardens.org/mothersday](http://goodellgardens.org/mothersday)

**Flagship Trolley Wine Tours**  
May 11 — noon to 6 p.m.  
Millcreek Mall (east of Towne-Place Suites at Home), 5800 Peach St. 814-453-4666

**Tacos Are The Answer**  
May 11 — 1 p.m.  
Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300 [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Mother's Day Brunch (Peak)**  
May 12 — 10:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Voted Erie's Best Brunch in 2018.  
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 [pknpk.com](http://pknpk.com).

**The Winifred Watson Mother's Day Tea**  
May 12 — 2 to 4 p.m.  
Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Yoga and Cocktails w Kelly**  
May 12, 19 — 4:30 p.m.  
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach St. [tippybean.cafe](http://tippybean.cafe).

**Pint Night**  
May 16 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 [fiveand20.com](http://fiveand20.com).

**A Charming Weekend in**



The Crowd Booze: American Craft Beer Week in Erie



JEFF MCCULLOR

THURSDAY, MAY 16 - 19

If we’re being honest, these days it feels like every week is craft beer week in the Gem City, which is understandable given the quality and quantity of our local craft brews. Celebrating American Craft Beer Week (ACBW) via the events below, most of which fall along the Lake Erie Ale Trail, ensures that you are supporting truly local craft breweries who are doing what they do because it brings them — and their thirsty patrons — joy year-round.

Meet the Brewers at Erie Ale Works - Thursday, May 16

It would be kind of weird if you went to Erie Ale Works and *didn’t* meet the owners (either Steve Anthony or Jeff McCullor are typically working the taps, if not both), but who is anyone to argue with a reason to visit, chat these guys up and grab some Que Abides food truck deliciousness on a Thursday night? *5 p.m. to 8 p.m. // 416 W. 12th St.*

3rd Annual 0.01K at Erie Ale Works - Friday, May 17

Every jaunt down State Street with a beer in hand has provided elite train-

ing that leads to this singular moment: EAW’s third annual 0.01K. The \$5 suggested donation benefits the Erie Humane Society, and the Que Abides will be on hand again to serve food from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The first heart-pounding race kicks off at 6:30 p.m. — don’t miss it! *6 p.m. to 8 p.m. // 416 W. 12th St.*

Beer Coaster at Waldameer Park - Saturday, May 18

Rain or shine, folks, this year’s Beer Coaster — a craft beer and gourmet hot dog celebration that takes place at our own Waldameer Park — will have chills (ice cold brews) and thrills (live music, delectable wieners and, oh yeah, tons of rides!). With proceeds benefiting the Lake Erie Ale Trail, a \$25 ticket gets you food and drink, while a \$45 ticket also includes a Ride-A-Rama pass (which at \$20 is just over \$10 below the gate admission). *All day // 220 Peninsula Dr.*

Sunday Sesh at Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing - Sunday, May 19

Featuring live music from The Division Street Machine, finish off your ACBW in beautiful Westfield, N.Y. at the Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing winery/distillery/brewery. Yes, there is something for everyone, including rustic grub from Bird’s innovative menu. *1 p.m. to 4 p.m. // 8398 W. Main St., Westfield, NY 14787 — Cara Suppa*

*For more information, visit lakeeriealetrail.com*

It’ll be the ‘Bomb’: Bombshells and Brews 2019



PENNY SHAUT/PIN UP ERIE

FRIDAY, MAY 17

What better time than during the course of American Craft Beer Week to observe the second annual Bombshells and Brews at the Brewererie at Union Station?

Speaking to how their event is benefiting the Women In Combat (WINC) organization, the president of Great Lakes Bombshells, Quinn Biscoff, said, “Veterans and pin-ups obviously share a healthy history, and we are thrilled to support the women who dedicate their lives to serve and protect.”

The Great Lakes Bombshells, in case you didn’t know, are a self-described “social group of like-minded women who enjoy all things pin-up and retro,” who are “dedicated to empowering our community locally and globally, with a focus on women’s causes,” Biscoff said.

And their retro spin on a brewery event is going to be the bee’s knees of pin-up

your high heels and stockings (perhaps a pre-party trip to Pointe Fouré is in order?).

Now if getting around town in style is your thing, you won’t want to miss the opportunity to win the raffle drawing for a pair (yes, two) of Margaritaville Beach Cruiser Bicycles. Consider how that would be the perfect way to tour Presque Isle this summer.

So curl up your hair, apply that ruby red lipstick that makes you feel like Marilyn and slip into “something more comfortable,” as Jean Harlow famously purred, because Bombshells and Brews is bringing the sassy glam to your Friday night and to the Erie community at large — all for an amazing cause. — Cara Suppa

*6 p.m. to 10 p.m. // The Brewererie at Union Station, 123 West 14th Street // \$10 at the door (21+ only) // facebook.com/GreatLakesBombshells*

Lake Erie Wine Country

May 17, 18, 19  
Arrowhead Wine Cellars, Lakeview Wine Cellars, Penn Shore Vineyards, Willow Creek Winery, Silver Creek, South Shore Wine Company, and Sparkling Ponds Winery host a series of lunches featuring summer-themed wine charms. *Various locations lakeeriewinecountry.org.*

Food Truck Friday

May 17 — 5 p.m.  
*Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300 facebook.com.*

BBQ & Brew

May 17 — 5 p.m.  
*Voodoo Brewery Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. facebook.com.*

Downtown Erie Food Tour

May 18 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
*Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.*

Cupcakes with Rosé Sec

May 18 — noon to 2 p.m.  
*Icing on the Lake, 940 W. Erie Plaza Dr. piwine.com.*

3rd Annual Beer Coaster

May 18 — 4 to 8 p.m.  
*Waldameer Park & Water World, 200 Peninsula Dr. lakeeriealetrail.com.*

Mind, Body, Beer

May 21 — 7:30 p.m.  
*Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.*

MOVIES

Free Solo

May 8 — 6 p.m.  
The Film Grain: Dinner & a Movie series shows the 2018 Academy Award-winning documentary on Alex Honnold and his free solo climb of Yosemite’s El Capitan, directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin. *Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.*

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

May 15 — 6 p.m.  
The Film Grain: Dinner & a Movie series runs the 1969 classic western starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford, regarded my many – including the American Film Institute – as one of the greatest movies of all time. *Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.*

Manry at Sea: In the Wake of a Dream

May 19 — 4 to 7 p.m.  
In 1965, Robert Manry sailed across the Atlantic Ocean by himself on at 13 and a half foot sloop. Using recently developed footage shot by Manry himself, director Steve Wystrach assembled a compelling documentary *Manry at Sea: In the Wake of a Dream*. On site will be Wystrach, along with Manry’s children Howard and Doug, along with Howard Rice,

himself a small boat solo sailing pioneer. A restored replica of *Tinkerbelle*, Manry’s ship used in the journey will be christened by the Manrys and will be launched at the Bayfront Maritime Center. *Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. bayfrontcenter.org.*

Resilience

May 21 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Erie Insurance Auditorium, 100 Erie Insurance Pl. trauma-aware-erie.ticketleap.com.*

Volcanoes: The Fires of Creation

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

Turtle Odyssey

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

Backyard Wilderness

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

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

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

VISUAL ARTS

Design Your Own Stein

May 8 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
*Voodoo Brewery Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. facebook.com.*

Painting on the Promenade

May 8 — 7 p.m.  
*Collegiate Academy, 2825 State St. eriesd.org/npca.*

Hands-On: S.M.S. Portfolio

May 10 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
The ongoing series lets attendees get a first-hand, up close look at

works in the museum’s collection. This time around it’s work from the “Sh\*t Must Stop” portfolio, a movement spearheaded by artists such as Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, Roy Lichtenstein, and John Cage. *Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.*

Paint for Paws

May 11 — 2 p.m.  
*Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.*

Potted Planters

May 11 — 2 to 4 p.m.  
*Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.*

Mother’s Day Tandem Throwing

May 12 — noon to 2:30 p.m.  
*Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.*

Second Sundays: Memories for Mom





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The Russian Orthodox  
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# TROIKA

## Russian Festival

Friday, May 24 - 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, May 25 - Noon - 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 26 - Noon - 8:00 pm

Church of the Nativity Community Center  
109 German Street Erie, PA 16507



Russian Food • Ice Bar • Children's Area • & More

### Russian Breakfast

Sunday, May 26th at 10am to Noon

### Tea Room is Back

Now Offering Champagne

### Bob Uleck Polka Band

Friday Night • 5:30-8:30

### Benefits

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[www.churchofthenativity.net/troika](http://www.churchofthenativity.net/troika)

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## Hang Loose with Hang Tight, Mess, and Special Guests at The Ballet Haus



STARS AND SCARS

### SATURDAY, MAY 18TH

New Jersey-based pop-punkers Hang Tight will be headlining a stacked show at The Ballet Haus. Joining them are Kansas City emotional indie-rock band Mess, Bloomington, Indiana-based alt-rockers Whale Bones, and hometown hero Teddy Rankin. Also performing is Erie’s own One Wing, a young alt-rock act that takes influence from artists like Paramore, Flyleaf, and Halestorm.

“One Wing always brings high energy to the stage, hence why they are on the bill with Hang Tight, a punchy pop-punk band from New Jersey,” says Elvis Maryshine, manager at the Andromeda Agency. “Mess sold out their debut record release show this past month, and vocalist Allison Gliesman will send chills through you with her utterly raw lyrics. Whale Bones is an absolutely haunting four-piece and their performance is infused with every honest emotion. Teddy Rankin ties it all together being the best-suited solo artist.”

Supporting the show is the quickly growing clothing company Melancholy, whose brand is rooted in “self-love and embracing mental illness.” The show is set to take place at the pop-up style venue The Ballet Haus, a portion of the Lake Erie Ballet building Maryshine says she is “overwhelmingly grateful for” and a venue she feels will help turn Erie “back into the entertainment epicenter it used to be.”

“These are the shows that help grow the local music community and help garner attention to Erie because we keep having fantastic turnouts for smaller level bands, helping turn Erie into a destination market for larger acts,” continues Maryshine. “It’s the idea [that] if the kids come out for the small stuff, people will come out for the big stuff. It helps assure agents and managers of bigger acts that Erie isn’t a mistake or a waste of time to stop in.”

The Andromeda Agency continues to be at the forefront of bringing outside talent into Erie, making it possible for local talents (like our good friend Teddy Rankin) to shine — and you’d be hard-pressed to find a better gig to showcase that. — Aaron Mook

7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 1020 Holland Street // \$10 Pre-sale, \$12 Doors // All Ages, BYOB with 21+ ID

## All Mad Here: BT’s Toxic Prom



JESSI SZCZESNY

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

It’s time again for Basement Transmissions’ Toxic Prom, with this year’s theme being a psychedelic trip down the rabbit hole, a la *Alice in Wonderland*.

As is custom with the Toxic Prom, attendees are encouraged to dress in costume related to the theme (lest they face judgment from the Queen of Hearts), with a Toxic King and Queen being crowned at the end of the night.

In addition to focusing on local music, the sixth annual Toxic Prom is also putting a focus on local artists. “This year we have BT’s Art Club involved in the decoration process, so visually it’s going to be way better than ever before,” says Bob Jensen, the venue’s owner. “Plus, I have them making the Toxic Treats, so they will be better than ever too,”

The headliner for Toxic Prom, Wave Trails, with their experimental, psychedelic rock stylings, is a perfect fit for the night’s theme. “Those dudes are not only my favorite band from the area cur-

rently, but they will take these kids further down the rabbit hole than anyone else could,” Jensen says.

Erie’s heavy music scene has lacked representation at Toxic Prom in previous years, but this year Human Delusion (previously known as Primal Scream Therapy) and Shattered Utopia are holding it down for Erie metal and hardcore music, respectively. Human Delusion released their debut album *Depravity*, this past January, while Shattered Utopia is currently recording their debut release.

The rest of the bill is a faithful and well-rounded representation of the overall music scene in Erie. Some of the best acts in each genre will take the stage, including the alt-rock/pop stylings of First to Eleven, the blues-inspired punk rock of Paper Matches, the pirate-themed, swashbuckling folk punk of The Storm-along Scoundrels, and Erie’s youngest hard rock band, Fill in the Blank.

The second stage will feature acoustic and hip-hop acts, including Killer Clinton and All Gore, Georgia Buchner, Dezzy Call, Lil Avril, and Dagger.

Pittsburgh pop-punk band Lotus Kid will headline Toxic Prom ‘til Dawn, starting at midnight for attendees age 21 and up. — Tommy Shannon

4:30 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$12 advance, \$15 doors // All Ages, 21+ after midnight

May 12 — 2 to 4 p.m.

This installment of the monthly interactive series for children lets kids take a Polaroid with their favorite piece of art and construct a hand-made frame as a Mother’s Day gift.

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Discover Your Inner Artist: Pastels Workshop (Four Sessions)

May 14, 15, 16, 17 — 2 to 4 p.m. Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. [neighborhoodarthouse.org](http://neighborhoodarthouse.org).

### Jane Davis: Recent Paintings

Ongoing through May 14 Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. [glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).

### Photography for Beginners: Composition

May 16 — 6 to 7 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

### Helen Tullio: Something Serendipitous

May 17 — 6 to 9 p.m. Time listed is for artist reception; ongoing through Jun. 18 thereafter

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

### Functional Stoneware Ceramics

May 18 — 10 to 11:30 a.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [registrationdesk.asburywoods.org](http://registrationdesk.asburywoods.org).

### Plein Air Painting

May 21 — 6 to 8 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [registrationdesk.asburywoods.org](http://registrationdesk.asburywoods.org).

### Cocktails & Color at Voodoo Brewery Erie

May 22 — 6 p.m. Voodoo Brewery Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Natural Impressions Student Art Competition

Ongoing through May 27 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### James McMurray: Faces and Paces

Ongoing through June 10 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Bill Brady

Ongoing through Aug. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### Brian Pardini

Ongoing through Aug. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

## THEATER

### Backbeard: The Musical

May 10, 11, 17, 18 — 7 p.m. & May 11, 12, 18, 19 — 2 p.m.

As part of the Erie Playhouse’s Youtheatre series, this show is based on the book by Matthew McElligott, and this production is one of the five since the award-winning show’s debut in 2016. Telling the tale of the “hairiest pirate to ever live” (played by Shane Work), the colorful story is one of acceptance and self-identity, all set against colorful costumes and clever songs. Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

### 70s Flashback Reunion

May 10 — 7 p.m. & May 11, 18 — 5:30 p.m. & May 14 — noon & May 19 — 2:30 p.m.

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [canterburyfeast.com](http://canterburyfeast.com).

### Squabbles

May 10, 11, 17, 18 — 7:30 p.m. & May 12, 19 — 3 p.m. All An Act, 652 W. 17th St. [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).

### An American Daughter

May 10, 11 — 8 p.m. PACA, 1505 State St. (2nd Fl.) [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com).

### Auditions: Crimes of the Heart

May 12 — 7 p.m. All An Act, 652 W. 17th St. [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).

### Mainstage Auditions: Spring Awakening & 42nd Street

May 13, 14 — 6:30 p.m. Erie Playhouse Rehearsal Hall, 1158 E. 12th St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

## COMEDY

### Artlore Studio Comedy Night

May 10 — 8 p.m. Headliner Mark Viola is joined by Trevor Austin (Pittsburgh, PA), Paul Clemente (Jamestown, NY), Jeremy Little (Jamestown, NY), and local comic Will

Ayers, with host Dan Brady. Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### FUBAR Comedy Presents: JT Habersaat & Kristen Becker

May 15 — 7 to 10 p.m. Habersaat, an Austin, TX punk rocker, and Becker, the Buffalo, NY Dykes of Hazard creator are joined by Casey Kuftic and host Evan Mullin. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### FUBAR Comedy Presents: Tom Paciaffi

May 18 — 8:30 p.m. The headliner drops in at a new location, along with Jackknife Taylor (aka Tim Ross), Pittsburgh’s Johnny Smith, Erie’s Kyle Harris, FUBAR co-founder Dan Brady, and host Will Ayers. Bison Beer, 13782 US-19, Waterford, PA 16441 [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

## SPORTS

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks

May 8 — 6 p.m. & May 9 — 10:30 a.m.

UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. [milb.com](http://milb.com).

### Erie Spring Basketball Classic

May 10, 11, 12 Various locations [ohio-basketball.com](http://ohio-basketball.com).

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

May 13, 14 — 6 p.m. & May 15 — 10:30 a.m. UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. [milb.com](http://milb.com).

### Tell No Tales Rugby Tournament

May 18 ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Terrain Race 5K

May 18 — 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 [terrainrace.com](http://terrainrace.com).

### Women’s Care Center 5K Run and Walk

May 18 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presque Isle State Park (Rotary Pavilion), 1 Peninsula Dr. [wccerie.com](http://wccerie.com).

### Bayfront Brawl 7

May 18 — 7 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier bayfront-conventioncenter.com.



CALENDAR

The Lettermen to Delight at Mercyhurst Prep

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Having traveled the world and seen firsthand the success of their close-harmony pop hits, the Lettermen are making a stop here in Erie.

With five Grammy nominations, 18 Gold Albums worldwide, as well as 32 consecutive Billboard chart albums, The Lettermen are no strangers to high achievements. Formed in 1959, the trio continues to remain popular and inspire new generations. Their hits have a sense of timelessness to them. After all, what has more significance in a good musical number than love itself?

Tony Butala, Bobby Poynton, and Donovan Tea are the three charismatic men that currently make up The Lettermen. While Butala may be the only member who's been a Letterman since the beginning, it's important to note that Tea has been a Letterman since 1984, and Poynton has been a Letterman for over 10 years.

They may not always don their signature letter sweaters, but their harmony cannot be denied. Their theme is simple — the love song. Valentine's Day may have already come and gone, though wouldn't it be nice to celebrate your significant other or a loved one all over again? — Kalli Oberlander

7:30 p.m. // Mercyhurst Preparatory School, 538 E Grandview Blvd. // \$30, \$50 preferred seating // All concert proceeds benefit Children's Bedroom Makeover Ministry at Table of Grace Church for children without an adequate sleeping environment // thelettermen.com

Wake Up, Engage: BoySetsFire, onlinedrawing frontmen at Jekyll & Hyde's



WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Nathan Gray, singer of BoySetsFire, will be performing at Jekyll & Hyde's, along with another pillar of the indie world, Jonah Matranga. For music fans of a particular age, now mostly in their 30s, this is great news. Growing up in the 2000s, there were certain indie bands that were special to you and your friends and certain albums that everybody seemed to know. Personally speaking, one of those bands was unquestionably BoySetsFire. The Delaware post-hardcore band had a visceral

energy to them, fueled by a politically progressive mindset that was immediately evident in their lyrics, with Gray's soaring vocals combining melodic singing and gritty screams. Before the band's hiatus in 2006, they released four albums and nine EPs and split bills with bands like Snapcase and Coalesce.

Known chiefly for his work as onlinedrawing, Matranga is a relatively prolific songwriter, with numerous releases under his own name. In the '90s he helped lead the alternative band Far, releasing four albums during that decade, being a highly formative band for the emo sound of the early 2000s. The band reunited in 2008 before disbanding for good in 2011. In 2000, he formed the emo super-group New End Original with members of Texas is the Reason and Chamberlain for a harder, fuller take on his solo material (the band name itself being an anagram for onlinedrawing). Joining the singer-songwriters that evening will be the first appearance of No Comply, an exciting new local band made up of members of This American Song, Knifefight the World, and Isadora, who grew up with these certain songs as well.— Nick Warren

Doors at 6 p.m., show at 8 p.m. // Jekyll & Hyde's, 8 E. 10th St. // \$5 // brownpapertickets.com/event/4221500

Beast in the East Tournament

May 18, 19  
ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eteamz.com.

16th Annual Attorneys & Kids Together 5K Run/Walk

May 19 — 9 a.m.  
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriebar.com.

COMMUNITY

The Layered Garden by David L. Culp

May 8 — 6:30 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Auditorium, 100 Erie Insurance Pl. carriet-watsonsgardenclub.com.

Grants for Artists, Educators, and Students

May 8 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.eriellibrary.org.

Made in Erie Pt. 2

May 8 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
The Fairview Area Historical Society, 4302 Avonia St., Fairview, PA 16365 jeserie.org.

Spring Book Sale

May 9 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. & May 10 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & May 11 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. eriellibrary.org.

Eat Better For Less

May 9, 17 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412

events.eriellibrary.org.

Spring into Erie...DAWN

May 9 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Bel-Aire by Wyndham, 2800 W. 8th St. eriedawn.org.

Intro to Files & Folders

May 9 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.eriellibrary.org.

Grow-Up Meeting

May 9 — 6 p.m.  
The local cooperative invites gardeners of all skill levels to an informational session about producing food for the community.  
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

NETx Series: Women Veterans' Community

May 9 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.eriellibrary.org.

Colonial Pennsylvania and Native Americans

May 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Festival of the Birds

May 10, 11, 12  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Fairytale Friday

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

JazzErie Members' Party

May 10 — 7 p.m.  
Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. jazzerie.com.

Masters Gardeners of Erie County Plant Sale

May 11 — 9 a.m. to noon  
Penn St. Behrend (Wilson Picnic Grove), 4701 College Dr. extension.psu.edu.

Scout Day

May 11 — 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Little Leaves

May 11 — 10 a.m. to noon  
Following a storytime session about seeds and flowers, children will paint a pot and plant a flower in it as a potential Mother's Day gift.  
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Block Party

May 11 — 10 a.m. to noon & May 20 — 4:30 to 6 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m.  
Multiple library locations  
events.eriellibrary.org.

Little Mates Discovery Day

May 11 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

Spring Community Craft Fair

May 11 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Realife Assembly, 3902 W. 38th St. facebook.com.

Create Your Own Toad House

May 11 — 10:30 a.m. to noon

Participants will craft a small home for their garden's often overlooked amphibian guests.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

All About Plants

May 11 — 11 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Pet Blessing

May 11 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Trinity United Methodist Church, 3952 Pine Ave. erietumc.org.

Super Science Saturday

May 11 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Card Gatherer's Guild

May 11 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
events.eriellibrary.org.

Scott Longert: Author Talk & Book Signing

May 11 — 2 to 4 p.m.  
Baseball historian and Cleveland resident Scott Longert discusses his latest book *Bad Boys, Bad Times, The Cleveland Indians and Baseball in the Prewar years 1937-1941*, with signings following.  
Room 33, 1033 State St. scottlongert.com.

Catholic Charities Club CC Night

May 11 — 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier clubccnight.com.

Demystifying Insurance Products

May 13 — 11 a.m. to noon  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.eriellibrary.org.

EA&C Placemaking Speaker Series: Barbara Goldstein

May 13 — 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Goldstein, author of *Public Art by the Book*, discusses the creation of public art spaces in creative new ways, detailing how to sustain them, and charting their positive impact on communities.  
Erie Insurance Innovation Center, 717 State St. erieartsandculture.org.

Family STEM Program Jelly Bean Structures

May 13 — 5 to 6 p.m.  
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.eriellibrary.org.

D&D Group

May 13, 20 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 mccordlibrary.org.

Adult Pendant Making

May 13 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
events.eriellibrary.org.

Throwback Game Night

May 13, 20 — 6 p.m.

Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Monday Makers: Beginner Soldering

May 13 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.eriellibrary.org.

Teen Zone Craft: Duct Tape Art

May 13 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.eriellibrary.org.

Services for Veterans

May 13 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events.eriellibrary.org.

Geocaching for Beginners

May 14 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
This workshop details the GPS-based worldwide scavenger hunts, walking through the nature site to find some caches along the way.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog

May 14 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. & May 16 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Multiple library locations  
events.eriellibrary.org.

Beyond Your Comfort Zone

May 14 — 6 p.m.  
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

Square Foot Gardening

May 14 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.



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Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Theology Pub & Cafe**  
May 14, 21 — 7 p.m.  
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach St.  
[tipsybean.cafe](http://tipsybean.cafe).

**Small Business & Democracy: Interdependence or Independence**  
May 14 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Bruce Kibler, Ph.D. discusses the interrelationships between independent enterprises and the government on both a national and local scale.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.  
[jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**National Public Gardens Week**  
May 15, 16, 17, 18, 19  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
[facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**Packing Party Work Day for Operation Christmas Child**  
May 15 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd., McKean, PA 16426  
[samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org).

**Spectacular Sights Appearing in a Sky Near You**  
May 15 — 12:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St.  
[LifeWorksErie.org](http://LifeWorksErie.org).

**The Save-an-Eye Game: An 81-year Erie Tradition**  
May 15 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.  
[jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival**  
May 16, 17, 18, 19  
Various locations, Edinboro, PA 16412  
[edinboroartandmusic.com](http://edinboroartandmusic.com).

**Lawrence Park Garden Club Flower Fair**  
May 16, 17 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. & May 18 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Lawrence Park Fire Hall, 4102 Main St.  
814-440-7082

**Eating Disorders**  
May 16 — 6 p.m.  
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St.  
[wfcerie.coop](http://wfcerie.coop).

**The Shattering of 'The American Story'**  
May 16 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
In the first of a multi-part series, Andy Roth, Ph.D. explains the events of 1968 and their many impacts on America.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.  
[jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**North East Community Yard Sale**  
May 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Various locations, North East, PA 16428  
[facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**Gospel Hill Garden Club Annual Plant Sale**  
May 17 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. & May 18 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Wesleyville Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Rd.  
814-899-5982

**Intro to Mail Merge**  
May 17 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Active Apples**  
May 17, 18 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.  
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St.  
[leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org).

**Her View From Above The Glass Ceiling**  
May 17 — 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Conference Center, 2800 W. 8th St.  
[eriewomansclub.com](http://eriewomansclub.com).

**3rd Annual 0.01K**  
May 17 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St.  
[eriealeworks.com](http://eriealeworks.com).

**All-American Trunk Sale**  
May 18 — 9 a.m. to noon  
Greene Twp. Municipal Bldg., 9333 Tate Rd.  
[www.mygreenetownship.com](http://www.mygreenetownship.com).

**Erie Animal Network Plant Sale**  
May 18 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Burhenn's Pharmacy, 861 E. 38th St.  
[erieanimalnetwork.com](http://erieanimalnetwork.com).

**Edinboro Art & Music Fest Yoga**  
May 18 — 10 a.m.  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
[facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**Erie Zoo Parade**  
May 18 — 10 a.m. to noon  
Kicking off the official begin-

ning of the Zoo's season, this parade – complete with a few animal friends – will march from 18th Street to South Park Row. 18th & State  
[eriezoo.org](http://eriezoo.org).

**Motive Matters**  
May 18 — 10 a.m. to noon  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Sixolve Family Day Fun/ Adult Recess Fun**  
May 18 — 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Waldameer Park, 220 Waldameer Park Rd.  
[sixolve.com](http://sixolve.com).

**What Lives in a Pond?**  
May 18 — 11 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.  
[registrationdesk.asburywoods.org](http://registrationdesk.asburywoods.org).

**Spring into Summer**  
May 18 — 11 a.m. to noon  
The Little Church on the Hill, 10410 High St., Albion, PA 16401  
[sites.google.com](https://sites.google.com).

**Game Day**  
May 18 — noon to 2 p.m.  
Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Basic Car Maintenance**  
May 18 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Tree and Shrub Planting**  
May 18 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.  
[registrationdesk.asburywoods.org](http://registrationdesk.asburywoods.org).

**Vinyl Cutter Open Lab**  
May 18 — 2 to 3 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**ServErie Spring Soiree**  
May 18 — 7 to 11 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St.  
[serverie.com](http://serverie.com).

**Remarkable American Women: Jeannette Rankin**  
May 20 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Corrine Egan, B.A. details the life of Rep. Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to U.S. Congress, representing Montana in 1916.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.  
[jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**DNA and Genealogy**  
May 20 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Intro to Excel I**  
May 21 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Dog Days of Summer**  
May 21 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.  
[registrationdesk.asburywoods.org](http://registrationdesk.asburywoods.org).

**Monday Makers: Open Drawing Sessions**  
May 20 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Hands All Around Erie Quilt Guild**

May 20 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd.  
[facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

**The Thyroid**  
May 21 — 6 p.m.  
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St.  
[wfcerie.coop](http://wfcerie.coop).

**How to Save Up for Retirement**  
May 21 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave.  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Intro to Fasting for Health**  
May 21 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412  
[events.erielibrary.org](http://events.erielibrary.org).

**Story of 'Niagara 4'**  
May 21 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Capt. William Sabatini gives attendees an insider look at the current U.S. Brig Niagara, which is scheduled for extensive improvements.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.  
[jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**The Berlin Wall 30 Years Later: Legacies & Lessons**  
May 22 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.  
[jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**BIG MONTH Birding Competition**  
Ongoing through May 31  
Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr.  
[events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).



# ERIE NEWS NOW

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**AMANDA POST**

**GARY DRAPCHO**

I just tattooed my name on my face. Are you impressed?

meh.

I just got pierced with a Phineas Gage. Are you impressed?

meh.

I just permanently pixelated myself. Are you impressed?

meh.

I just perfected my recipe for cream cheese frosting. Are you impressed?

HELLZ yeah!

MSHIMEK2019

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March 7

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April 4

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**Rodgers & Hammerstein**  
March 21

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*\* Matinee and evening performances available*



## MOVIE REVIEWS

### This is the End, My Friend: *Avengers: Endgame* is a Long and Satisfying Victory Lap

★★★★

The Marvel films had all been building up to last year's *Infinity War*, but now one question remains: where do you go after the finale? Fortunately, the new film *Avengers: Endgame* has some interesting answers to that question, which unfortunately get bogged down in standard spectacle. But it was a satisfying journey all the same.



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

The film begins immediately after the infamous "snap heard around the universe" and then takes us five years into the future as Earth's Mightiest Heroes come to terms with losing their ultimate battle. However, some unexpected allies reveal to the Avengers that a time loophole may be possible to correct the damage that Thanos has created. The Avengers now find themselves reliving their past adventures in order to save the future.

At a punishing 181 minutes, it could almost be two films in one. The first third is the strongest as we see superheroes dealing with the tragedy of what happens when they don't save the day. The second third, thanks to the power of time travel, almost becomes a greatest hits compilation as the Avengers relive some of their most perilous adventures. Finally, we get an initially exhilarating climax that quickly gets bogged down in endless superhero spectacle punctuated by some truly atrocious editing. The film is at its worst when trying to tell a traditional superhero story but at its best when focusing on the quieter, character-driven moments. It's fitting that after all the chaos and explosions of the finale, we end the film with just characters talking, culminating in what is easily the most perfect final scene of any of these films. *Endgame* is clunky and uneven but ultimately emotionally resonant, which really makes it the most fitting ending to this entire series. — Forest Taylor

*Directed by: Joe and Anthony Russo // Written by: Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely // Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Paul Rudd, Don Cheadle, Bradley Cooper, Karen Gillan, Gwyneth Paltrow, Zoe Saldana, Tessa Thompson, Brie Larson, and Josh Brolin // 181 minutes // Rated PG-13*

### Middle of the Road: *Long Shot* is Muddled, Overlong but Surprisingly Likable

★★★★

It seems that politics have permeated every facet of our lives at this point. Spend enough time among any group or activity and it's only a matter of time before discussions turn political. Before Jonathan Levine's (50/50, *Warm Bodies*) new film *Long Shot* was released, I would have joked that soon we'll see politics enter our harmless romantic comedies. That joke is now a reality because here's *Long Shot*, a romantic comedy that attempts to marry Seth Rogan's stoner humor with grim discussions about the political realities of our world. The result is jarring, but the film is held up by the charming leads.



LIONSGATE

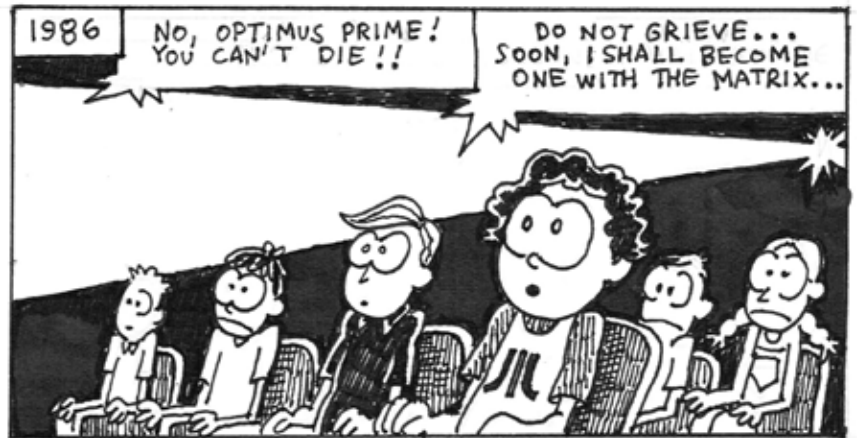
The film concerns Charlotte Field (Charlize Theron), the Secretary of State who is tapped by the President to be his successor. During this time, she runs into an old childhood friend, recently unemployed journalist Fred Flarsky (Rogan), who she hires as her speechwriter. As they work together, the two begin to fall in love, much to the chagrin of her campaign managers who believe this may ruin her Presidential run.

The film makes a noble attempt to balance slacker comedy moments with moments of intense social and political issues, but the result can be disjointed. The film also has pacing issues and a fair amount of the jokes fall flat. However, Theron and Rogan have a chemistry that elevates the film above its flaws, and it can be an interesting look at a role reversal of the classic "overworked professional falling in love with assistant" trope. *Long Shot* isn't great, but its leads make it watchable. — Forest Taylor

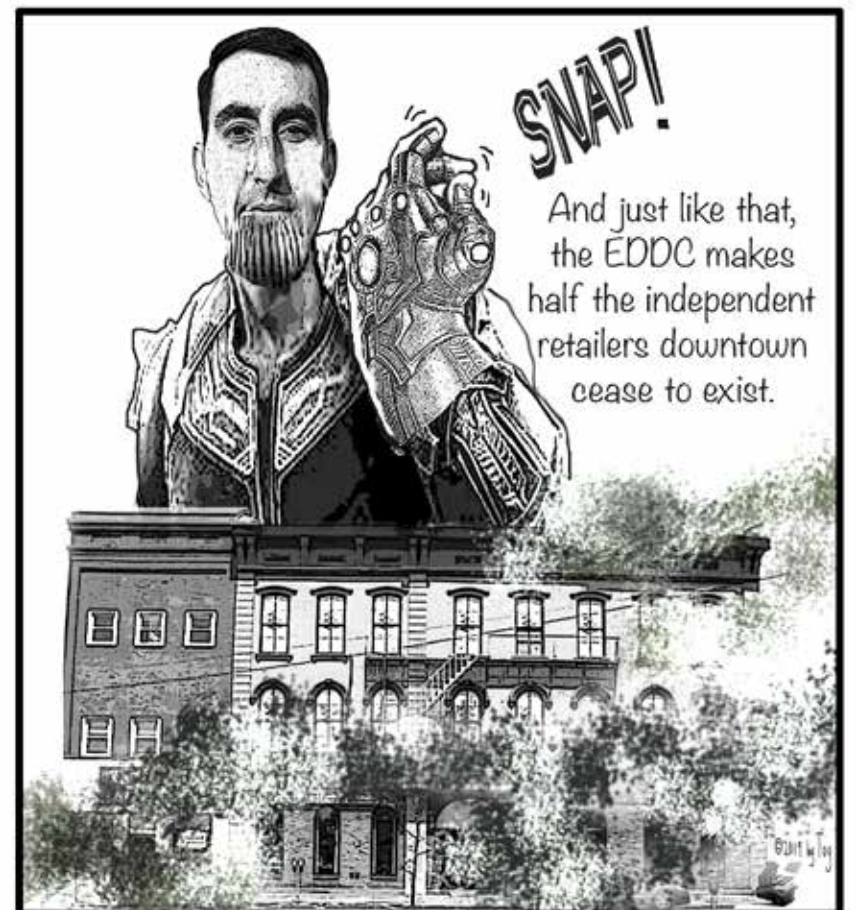
*Directed by: Jonathan Levine // Written by: Dan Sterling and Liz Hannah // Starring: Charlize Theron, Seth Rogan, O'Shea Jackson Jr., June Diane Rapheal, Ravi Patel, Bob Odenkirk, Andy Serkis, and Alexander Skarsgård // 125 minutes // Rated R*

## GENERATIONAL DEPRESSION BY BRAD PATTULLO

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## JUST TOYIN' WITCHA — BY B. TOY





MUSIC REVIEWS

ScHoolboy Q

Crash Talk  
Top Dawg Entertainment



ScHoolboy Q is a rapper for the people. From an impressive debut (2014's *Oxymoron*) to guest verses with labelmate Kendrick Lamar and beyond, the Los Angeles-based rapper refuses to be tied to any one sub-genre or sound. This has perhaps never been more apparent than on *Crash Talk*, an album that feels truly constructed for fans of all kinds of hip-hop. While it may not be ScHoolboy Q's most focused release (an honor that belongs to 2016's stunning *Blank Face LP*), it plays closer to a confident victory lap that showcases the rapper's chameleon-like abilities. While it never truly reaches groundbreaking heights, it's hard not to compare *Crash Talk* to Lamar's most recent opus, *DAMN*. Only a rapper like ScHoolboy Q or Kendrick Lamar have what it takes to deliver flawless gangsta rap and braggadocio ("Gang Gang," "Tales") and sequence it to flow seamlessly into a modern trap hit like "Chopstix." The album also offers a smörgåsbord of guest stars, featuring big-name talents like Kid Cudi, 21 Savage, and Travis Scott on the aforementioned single. *Crash Talk* may occasionally reflect the slapdash technique of the folks who made it, but it often leads to electrifying results. — Aaron Mook



King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard

Fishing for Fishies  
Flightless Records



To call King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard a novelty act would be a hell of an understatement. While the majority of the Australian psych-rockers' discography (including a five-album run in 2017 alone) does lean on a number of impressive gimmicks, the tricks were always second to the band's ambitions and impressive technical skill, which leads us to wonder what exactly happened with *Fishing for Fishies*. The band's return from their 2017 run may be their first truly failed experiment, although to be fair, the musicianship is still at the forefront of this uneven record. There's not really any large leaps taken here; while King Gizzard and company do explore a deeper, more traditional brand of blues here than usual, it's a pie the band has always had their fingers in to some degree. While new instrumentation (including plenty of harmonica) is welcome, it's also never truly utilized, leading to an album that sounds like nine extended takes of the *Roseanne* theme song. By the time we reach the album's plodding conclusion ("Acarine" into "Cyboogie"), we're treated to the same regurgitated pseudo-futuristic technobabble that's present (and more pleasant) on past releases. — Aaron Mook



The Mountain Goats

In League With Dragons  
Merge Records



For more than a decade now, the Mountain Goats (tMG) have been my favorite band. Songwriter John Darnielle is a magnetic personality, with an unflinching openness that's perhaps one of his most alluring qualities. He's also one of the world's most acclaimed lyricists. Despite what that title alludes to, this tMG record doesn't have the magic of previous releases. There are plenty of impressive musical moments: the insanely talented Matt Douglas' superb saxophone solo at the end of "Younger," the frenetic guitar solo of "Cadaver Sniffing Dog," and the flower-child jangle of "Passaic 1975." There's the country touches, the pedal steel of the titular track, and the subtle twangy lead of "Doc Gooden," leading to the cartoonish pastiche of "Waylon Jennings Live!" The problem here is that this record is instantly forgettable. As Darnielle tries to legitimize the music of tMG to keep pace with the lyrics, he loses sight of what made tMG so special years ago — unrelenting passion filled with imperfections and a stripped-down sound even as a full band. This album comes off more like a riff on Steely Dan or The Moody Blues — commendable and adroit, yet woefully uninspired. — Nick Warren



Craig Finn

I Need A New War  
Partisan Records



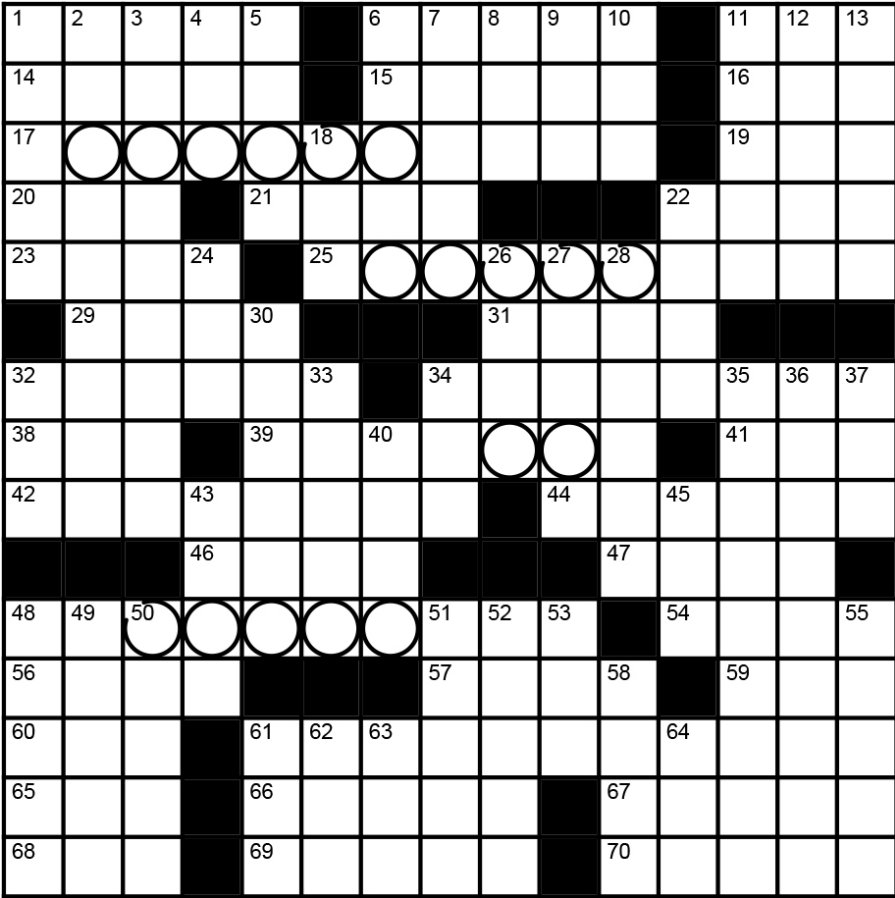
In what can be seen as a bit of a spiritual book-end release with the most recent Mountain Goats album, Craig Finn, mastermind of The Hold Steady (THS), gives us *I Need A New War*. During the 2000s THS were a bastion of densely literate rock that seemed to strike a nerve, particularly with aging white males, former punk rockers who wished for a new musical plateau. They were glorious times — particularly the first four albums — and years later Finn has barely skipped a beat. For fans of Finn that will come as no surprise at all, as his solo output following THS' dormancy has been relatively rewarding. This album is arguably his best in more than a decade, and deserves more attention outside of his built-in audience. Finn has been perfecting a storytelling style of talk-singing over the span of his career, and when he hits his stride it's just perfect. The warm, inquisitive tales he weaves against an easy-going indie rock backdrop are potent. Just listen to "Grant and Galena" as the album's title is repeated and get lost swaying in the hypnotic, anthemic singalongs, and the upbeat pop of "Something To Hope For." Finn is doing what he is best at, and it's wonderful. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK







Across

1. Stirred up, as memories  
6. Jeweler's unit  
11. Ruler divs.  
14. Ogre with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame  
15. "The Goldbergs" daughter  
16. Bread for a Reuben sandwich  
17. "Slumdog Millionaire" studio  
19. "Come as you \_\_\_\_"  
20. "Prince Valiant" son  
21. River to the Seine  
22. Nickname of the singer of 2007's "Umbrella"  
23. \_\_\_\_ Millions (multi-state lottery)  
25. Charles Lindbergh's feat across the Atlantic  
29. \_\_\_\_ Ewbank, 1969 Super Bowl-winning coach  
31. One of the friends on "Friends"  
32. Muzzle-loading tool  
34. Costs of fighting?  
38. Network showing "Suits" and "Mr. Robot"  
39. Expresses boredom with  
41. "Of course!"  
42. Small version of a popular cookie  
44. "And when we got to the village they \_\_\_\_ us ashore": "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"  
46. Actor Sharif

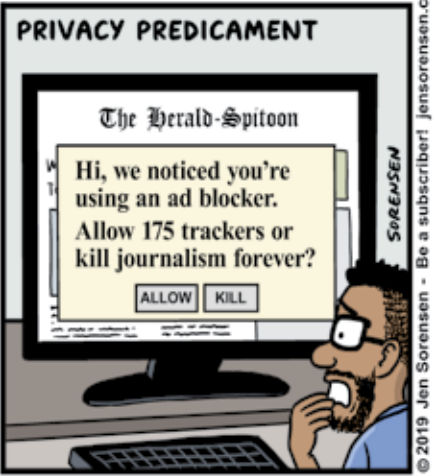
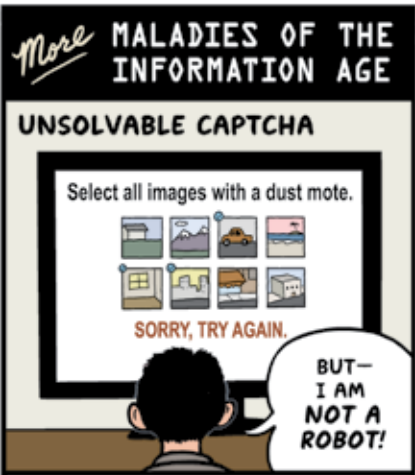
47. "\_\_\_\_ bing!"

48. Year "Rosemary's Baby" came out, in short  
54. "American Gigolo" star  
56. Sarah McLachlan hit that begins "\_\_\_\_, I do believe I failed you"  
57. Jacket  
59. Knee injury initials  
60. Triumph  
61. On the horizon, maybe ... or a description of this puzzle's circled letters  
65. Get dolled (up)  
66. Alternatives to Nikes  
67. Kind of diet replicating that of early humans  
68. Mantra chants  
69. Marriott alternative  
70. Sirius XM radio star

Down

1. Indian state known for its tea  
2. Words after a digression  
3. Carmelo Anthony, when he played college ball at Syracuse  
4. Prefix with plunk or plop  
5. Big name in kitchen-ware  
6. Kutcher's character on "That '70s Show"  
7. "The Little Mermaid" mermaid  
8. Word after big or oil  
9. German's "Oh my!"  
10. Tit for \_\_\_\_  
11. Bond portrayer after

- Brosnan  
12. Gift in a Nativity scene  
13. "Try to \_\_\_\_ my way ..."  
18. That dude's  
22. Climb  
24. \_\_\_\_ Lingus  
26. "\_\_\_\_ I like to call it ..."  
27. Initial venture  
28. Small item dropped at Woodstock  
30. Buxom  
32. Ingredient in a Dark 'n' Stormy  
33. Another name for the Furies  
34. "\_\_\_\_ knew?"  
35. Great Seal image  
36. Sagittarius  
37. Crestfallen  
40. Spice Girl Halliwell  
43. Scintilla  
45. What dogs' tails do  
48. Dealt with  
49. "Piece of cake" or "easy as pie"  
50. Places for pedestrians to be alert, informally  
51. Onetime alternative to Facebook Messenger  
52. Give a lift  
53. Get some sun  
55. John who sang "Ben-nie and the Jets"  
58. Sugar and spice amts. (1964 #1 hit)  
61. "Do \_\_\_\_ Diddy Diddy" (1964 #1 hit)  
62. Poison \_\_\_\_  
63. One in la familia  
64. "Am \_\_\_\_ risk?"



Answers to last puzzle







**LIVE RACING**  
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS AND CASINO

RACING  
SCHEDULE

May 13-June 27 Monday - Thursday  
September 2 - October 17 Monday - Thursday  
July 1 - August 29 Sunday - Thursday

## Live Racing Opening Night

**Monday, May 13 Post Time 5:25pm**

- First 500 fans through the gates at 4:30 will receive a free Smith's hot dog
- First 500 adult fans will receive a free 2019 race season t-shirt
- The first 500 kids will receive a free ice cream!

Join us at the Winner Circle after each race for Jockey Toss - PLUSH PONIES and BASEBALL CAPS will be tossed after each race!



## Family Night at the Races

Beginning

**Wednesday, May 15**

In the Buffet

5pm - 8pm

- 1/3 lb Cheeseburger w/ Fries \$4
- 1/3 lb Hamburger w/ Fries \$3
- Pulled Pork Sandwich w/ Fries \$3
- Smith's Jumbo Hot Dog \$2
- Smith's Hot Dog \$1
- French Fries \$1

# KISS-A-PIG

## 5K Run/Walk

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 7:30AM  
REGISTER ONLINE AT RUNSIGNUP.COM

**Brunch | 9:30am-12:30pm**

\$12 - Brunch Only

**Fun Run | 9am**

\$10 - Fun Run Only | \$15 - Includes a T-shirt  
\$25 - Includes a T-shirt & Brunch

**5k Race | 9:30am**

\$20 - Includes a T-shirt  
\$30 - Includes a T-shirt & Brunch



OVER \$6,000 IN  
CASH AND PRIZES!

Benefiting



Boys & Girls Club  
of Erie

**\$10,000**  
**1 MINUTE**  
**MADNESS**  
GONE MAD FOR CASH

**Sundays**  
**May 19 & 26, 2019**  
**3:00pm - 4:39pm**  
**One \$100 Cash winner**  
**every minute for**  
**100 minutes.**



**SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019**

11am - 3pm

All moms are invited to  
participate in a special hot  
seat just for you!

Just use your card from  
11am - 3pm and two lucky ladies  
will be selected every 15 minutes  
to win up to \$500 Cash!

**\$14.99 Mother's Day Brunch**  
**Buffet 12pm-6pm!**

I-90 Exit 27, Erie PA  
presqueisledowns.com  
1.866.ERIE.FUN



presque isle  
downs & casino

If You or Someone You Know  
Has a Gambling Problem,  
Help is Available.  
Call 1-800-GAMBLER.