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From the Editors**Somehow a vital connection is made**

It's all about connections. That's what they say, isn't it?

So much of life is about bridging the gap between people and places. For Erie, there's one thing in particular that springs to mind these days: The McBride Viaduct.

The passageway has been in the public eye for years. A bridge on our city's east side, it runs alongside the Bayfront Connector, where East Avenue would be, between 12th Street and 19th Street. For years, it's been unsafe for motor vehicles, but remains a viable path for pedestrians. This pathway is much easier to traverse than the sidewalk of the Bayfront Connector, with no thruway to the east for a mile.

It's a helpful bridge, one that's consistently used by local pedestrians. When one of our staff members went out to photograph the viaduct, he walked it, seeing several people utilizing it along the way. It was far from the first time he had been on the bridge, having lived in a house near Erie County Farms for nearly ten years — much of the time without a car. The viaduct wasn't just helpful, it was necessary.

There's something about the viaduct that's more than a bridge though. It's a symbol. For some, it's come to represent the mismanagement of our city's government, with many local organizations requesting a formal city meeting on the issue. On the east side — with its large population of minority residents, it's just another frustrating example of the neglect this part of the city has grown accustomed to. Being recently named the worst American city for African Americans, shouldn't we be trying our best to improve this area?

The Bayfront Connector, for all of its convenience, slices our city apart. The cars cruising down the passageway at highway speeds are a potential danger for anyone hoping to cross by foot. The neighborhoods around the connector get shut off from activity, practically dying on the vine.

Former Erie County Councilman Jay Breneman writes about this topic, describing his greater understanding of the issue as a whole. Newly sworn-in Erie City Councilwoman Liz Allen looks at it from a different perspective, as visions of the neighborhood's past come into focus.

Connections. That's what we need. That's not the only kind of connection out there, however. As Valentine's Day rears its heart-shaped head, it makes single people all around let out a collective groan. If you've been out of the dating scene for a few years, things have changed, and changed big time. While it's certainly still possible to meet someone the old-fashioned way, more and more, we're focusing our search for love to the tiny screen of our phones. Online dating apps like Tinder and Bumble are the way things work nowadays. Get some advice from two of our writers — choosing to remain anonymous — who can tell you war stories directly from the front lines.

It's important that we keep these links and relationships healthy. No one is an island. Eventually, we all need each other, and we can all do our part to keep these pathways safe and clear.

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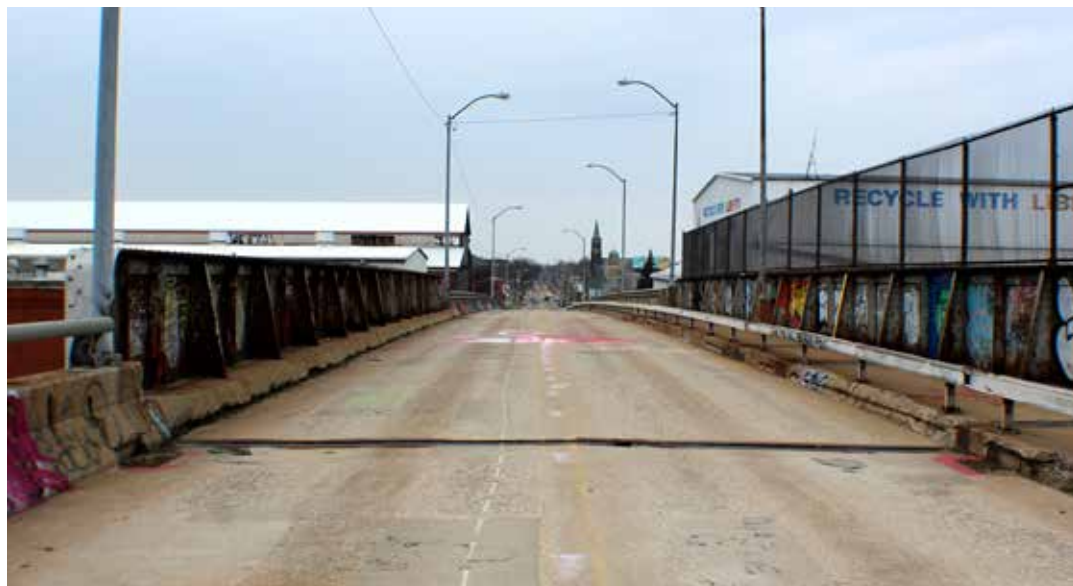
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Finding a New Direction for East Avenue

Viaduct debate reignites conversation, memories of historic street



Longtime city residents recall East Avenue — and the McBride Viaduct linking its two ends together — fondly, as “mama and papa” stores lined the street. Says one resident: “If the McBride viaduct ... were in other progressive cities, it would be embraced.”

for east-side residents?” she wrote.

I’ve listened to the passionate campaign to remake the McBride Viaduct, which closed to vehicles in 2010, into a walkway. But Mary’s comments were the first that sketched out a view for what East Avenue could become — a connection between Erie’s urban east side and tranquil Presque Isle.

In a phone interview, Mary, 76, (whose maiden name is Behan), recounted fond memories of East Avenue and the McBride Viaduct. Her mom actually filmed the opening of the bridge in 1938. “Film, over time, fades,” she says. “It was transferred onto a disc but by that time it had deteriorated, a shadowy glimpse of the ceremony.”

The old film might not be sharp, but Mary’s memories are.

After Sunday Mass at St. Ann’s, her family would stop at Haft’s Bakery at 915 East Ave., next to the rectory. “We always got the apple kuchen,” she says. “They were a really good bakery and they were there for years.”

Older people remember when State Street was Erie’s retail hub and also know that Parade Street was Erie’s original main street, but, “East Avenue was a very busy street for the east side,” she says.

“At 11th and East Avenue, my uncles had two stores — a big corner grocery store and the Avenue Penn, a five-and-dime. Three of my uncles ran the grocery store and my father and another uncle ran the

By: Liz Allen

Green Stamps, scarlet fever, Pio’s pizza and the St. Ann’s Novena.

Those are some images I associate with my occasional but memorable trips to East Avenue from the west side.

Apple kuchen, Willie Stargell, and a hardware shop that resembled a “mini” Kraus Department Store.

Those are some of the memories — more concrete and precise than mine — from Erie folks who have lived and worked on East Avenue.

During the Jan. 16 town hall about the McBride Viaduct at the Jefferson Educational Society, it occurred to me that the community conversation about how to move forward to address serious concerns about Erie’s east side could benefit from a look back at East Avenue.

I scoured my memories to recall the days when my little sisters and I would sit at the dining room table filling up booklets with S & H Green Stamps, the reward for shopping at the A & P. I remembered being excited when my parents saved enough stamps to “buy” aluminum lawn chairs from the Green Stamp Store at 714 East Avenue. The

building now houses a Dollar General.

I borrowed the scarlet fever recollection from my father. After catching the communicable disease at age 12, my dad was quarantined at Lakeview Hospital, in the 100 block of East Avenue. He didn’t like missing his entire summer vacation and being separated from his family. Lakeview became the first building to house what is now the Barber National Institute.

In the mid-2000s, as friends from the Erie Times-News moved to other jobs and other places, we began to meet at Pio’s Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria, 815 East Ave., for great lunches in a cozy setting. Pio’s was close to Rosedale Avenue, where Jeff Pinski, former Morning News managing editor, grew up, and not far from the Romanian neighborhood on Pennsylvania Avenue where our original boss, Larie Pintea, lived as a kid. Pio’s proprietor Louis Nicolia also played violin for the Erie Philharmonic, so Pio’s boasted both character and characters — the perfect setting for journalists to swap stories. Pio’s closed in 2010 but it’s now Empire 13 Pizza, operated by former immigrants.

My Catholic parish has always been St. Andrew’s at West Seventh and Raspberry streets, but every summer, my mother would head to St. Ann’s at 10th and East Avenue for the church’s annual novena, where gifted orators would lead the services. My mom had a special devotion to St. Ann; that’s why all four Allen girls have “Ann” as our middle names. I haven’t been to that church for a while, but last July, the parish celebrated its 98th annual novena. That’s staying power.

St. Ann’s was also the family parish for Mary Glance, a retired teacher and school librarian who read a letter she wrote about the viaduct at the town hall.

“Too often in Erie it’s ‘tear it down.’ Think of the number of old buildings that have been demolished. What gives a city character? If the McBride Viaduct were in Pittsburgh with its many neighborhoods, or other progressive cities, it would be embraced. (Imagine) the McBride Viaduct with a bike path down East Avenue to the bayfront and a ferry near the foot of East Avenue. Cyclists and pedestrians could cross to the peninsula. How great would that be

five-and-dime,” she says.

She remembers trains rumbling along East 10th Street. “They were always loaded with logs going to Hammermill, and back around Downing Avenue, Bacon Street, Hammermill used to have fields full of logs.” If you had wet clothes drying on a line or even if you just stood on a corner when the train stopped, your clothes would be covered in soot. “It was like snowing charcoal,” she recalls.

She took me on a virtual tour of East Avenue — past the novelty shop, the pharmacy, the meat market, the jewelry store, the newsstand, the Avenue Theatre, the barber and beauty shops, the taverns, New York Lunch (still standing), the century-old firehouse and the former Donnelly Hardware store. Donnelly’s was “almost like Kraus,” the iconic department store that still operates at 810 Parade Street, she says.

That’s similar to the way Bernie Veneziano, 88, talked about Donnelly’s. It was like “a mini-Kraus’s,” he says. I liked the way they talked about Donnelly’s, because their words helped me to picture East Avenue when it was lined with family-owned businesses or “mama and papa stores,” as Bernie calls them.

Trained as a cook in the Army, he started working at a restaurant at 818 East Ave. in 1953 and, two years later, bought it with his wife, Dee. He thought about calling it “Bernardo’s,” after his real name, Bernard, but decided that “Barnie’s” fit better, because it served “diner-type” food.

Barnie knew a guy from the nearby Security People’s Bank who was involved with the annual Erie Charity Sports Banquet run by Art Arkelian every winter. Through that connection, Barnie became



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NEWS & VIEWS

friends with Bob Prince, the legendary Pittsburgh Pirates announcer, who would travel to Erie with a star Pirates player for the banquet. Prince, in turn, would bring those stars to eat at Bernie's.

Barnie remembers Willie Stargell making a splash when he walked into Bernie's wearing a "\$10,000 mink coat" to ward off Erie's cold weather. Imagine that! "Pops" Stargell, who was part of the "We Are Family" championship Pirates in 1979, feeling at home on East Avenue.

After Bernie and Dee sold the restaurant in 1987, a plan by the new owner to operate it with Mercyhurst University culinary students failed. But the next owners succeeded in running Bernie's for almost 20 more years, until 2007, when one owner moved out of state.

The next owner operated the restaurant for two years but "they couldn't make out," Barnie says. Today, Bernie's is a Metro PCS cellphone store, and Barnie is enjoying retirement after years of working in food service at the Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home and at the Sausage Shack at UPMC Park. Well, he does still work a few hours — as a doorman at a funeral home

He regards East Avenue, once known as "The Polish Broadway," with affection, as he ticks off a list of employers, including Hammermill Paper Co., whose workers packed his restaurant. Hammermill was sold to International Paper in 1986, and IP closed the Erie plant in 2001, but a lot of the businesses he remembers are still operating — and I see it as a good thing with opportunity.

Barnie doesn't get involved in the debate about the McBride Viaduct.

Mary, however, is ready to rally her former grade-school classmates not only to call attention to the viaduct's situation, but also to point out that Erie's east side has been shortchanged for decades.

As a kid, she and her friends would play at the foot of East Avenue, near Lake Erie. "In winter-time, everybody was out on the ice floes — things you shouldn't have been doing," she says. Friends with



LIZ ALLEN

a little boat would row across the lake to the peninsula. "There was a lot of that," she says.

When I was a kid, my five siblings and I would squeeze into our American Rambler station wagon (the kind with a tailgate but no third seat) so Dad could take us to the beach after supper.

Such a trip wasn't routine for east-siders. "It was seven miles on the city side, then seven miles down the peninsula. It was a pretty long trip, always bumper-to-bumper traffic," says Mary.

So did they take a dip in the water at the foot of East Avenue? "We were forbidden," she says, because Hammermill used to dump waste in the lake.

Plans to connect the east side to Presque Isle have come and gone for years. I like her ferry idea because it seems doable and pragmatic.

But I also like the fact that talking to Mary and Barnie prompted me to reread news stories about how a community-led effort saved Fire Station No. 8 at 832 East Ave., which closed in 1989. People signed petitions and lobbied City Council. The Great Lakes Building Trades Council donated \$100,000 worth of labor to fix the sagging floor and make other repairs. The firehouse reopened with a grand neighborhood celebration in 1990 and marked its 100th anniversary in 2005.

I cite the firehouse example with extreme caution, however, because putting resources into that station had other consequences — and a \$100,000 makeover pales next to the millions needed to fix the viaduct.

"People on the east side are not

Fire Station No. 8 (left), located at 832 East Ave., is still standing after more than a century. Locals petitioned to save it in the early 1990s. Beside it is the former home of Donnelly Hardware Store (right).

second-rate citizens, we do not pay second-rate taxes and we do not deserve second-rate fire protection," an East Lake Road resident told City Council at meeting in July 1992, as council debated whether to reduce staffing at Station No. 10 on East Lake Road as a budgetary measure, two years after reopening Station No. 8.

"I urge you to check your politics at the door and do whatever is necessary to keep all fire stations open," urged another resident.

The Marne Road station operated with a part-time crew for a few years, but in 1997, City Council closed it and laid off firefighters and police officers to balance a strapped budget.

The "Erie Refocused" comprehensive plan directs city officials and community leaders to work with city residents to talk about the tough decisions that lie ahead in how we spend money, allocate scarce resources and revitalize struggling neighborhoods.

Before plans become final to take down the McBride Viaduct, I think we could benefit from a bit more learning, talking and listening, to make the right decision.

LIZ ALLEN is a retired journalist and new member of Erie City Council. When she was going door-to-door to run for council, she found respite at the foot of East Avenue, dipping her toes in the lake and talking to beach-glass collectors and fishermen.



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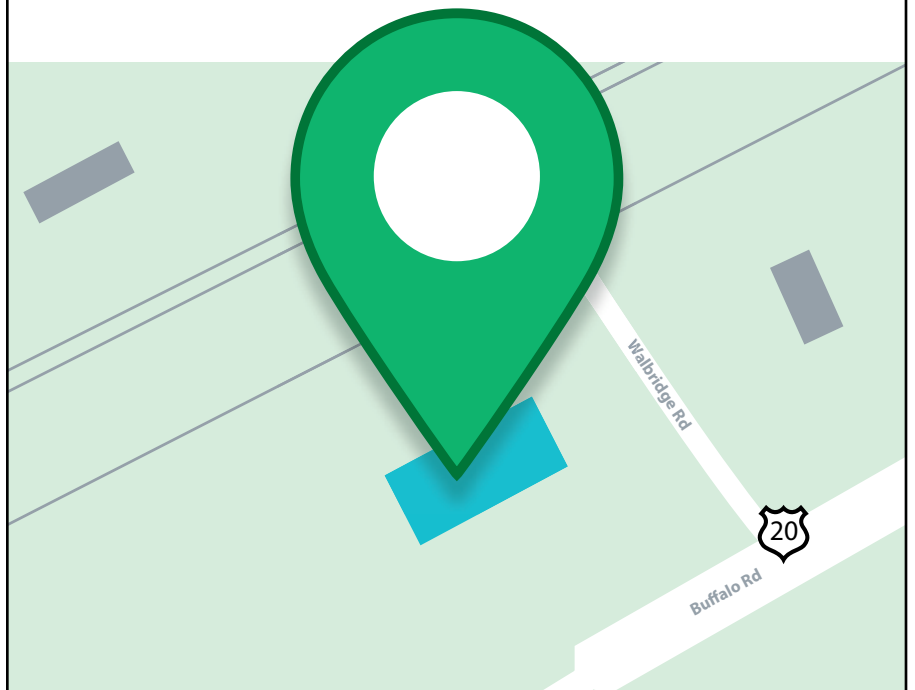
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A Change of Heart

Former councilman implores leaders to account for community's needs in viaduct discussion



NICK WARREN

By: Jay Breneman

I was wrong. I admit it. I stayed neutral on an important matter for far too long.

I'm talking about the McBride Viaduct, that bridge that has been etched in everyone's lexicon for the past seven years.

When the viaduct was first closed to vehicular traffic, I like many others imagined it being repurposed for pedestrian-only use. I watched the public debate unfold about saving it for vehicles or tearing it down, only hearing a small rumbling about the pedestrian-only idea.

Fast-forward to my time in public office, when I ended up partnering (and still am) with a then city councilmember on an envisioned rail-to-trail project not far from the viaduct.

I made a choice at the time to stay neutral on the viaduct for a few reasons:

As a county elected official I didn't want to step too much into city business (a line I ended up crossing the more I got fed up with things like every other taxpayer). I worried

that City Hall would crush my pedestrian-oriented project if I pushed on a project they seemingly had no interest in; and I also worried about the financial feasibility of keeping the viaduct standing

But my feelings regarding the viaduct changed during the 2017 mayoral primary, when I came to appreciate the level of dedication, passion, and research on the issue by one of my opponents, Lisa Austin.

After the last primary debate, at the Jefferson Educational Society, she beamed with pride as she showed me the materials she put together regarding the viaduct and the surrounding neighborhood.

I am thankful to have gained new insights and appreciation for the ideas and passions held by many of my opponents in that race, and felt there was value in bringing them to fruition no matter who won.

I never really questioned why someone like Lisa — who lives on the west side of town — would want to empower and effect positive change in Erie County's poorest census

track, smack dab in the middle of the east side, because as a social worker trained in community development I too had a similar affection for the well-being and future of those neighborhoods.

I, too, heard from many citizens from all parts of town who wished for the viaduct to remain intact — if possible.

During the campaign, my response to voters when asked about the viaduct was that it should be addressed in the same manner that I called for on all place-based issues: through intensive dialogue with the affected neighborhoods, with citizens in the driver seat and empowered by the professionals in City Hall.

This has been my understanding of how best to implement Erie Refocused, the city's idle comprehensive plan. This approach seemed to me to be a natural fit, and this was the advice I offered then candidate Joe Schember and his team in the weeks prior to his winning the general election.

Toward the end of my tenure on County Council, I supported a new revenue stream for bridges and roadways

Former City Councilman and mayoral candidate Jay Breneman encourages dialogue between current leaders and their constituents, and hopes that the McBride Viaduct debate will set a good precedent.

that would raise millions, and could be used to leverage millions more in federal and state funds, knowing it could be used for the viaduct without hurting other projects in the works.

The municipalities were not beating down our door to create this fund. In fact, they had to be dragged into it a bit, but it seemed a wise choice given our city's price tag for implementing Erie Refocused and the growing infrastructure needs in the region, particularly Corry and the inner-ring suburbs.

These, like the funds currently allocated for demolition, could easily be used by City Hall to cost-effectively retain the bridge for pedestrians.

It is a political choice, not one of engineering, and that political choice is made by whoever sits in the mayor's seat on City Hall's fifth floor. No other elected official, bureaucrat or agency official holds that power.

I do not fault Mayor Schember for adopting his predecessor's case for demolition, if in fact that is the best decision for the neighborhood and broader community. But I believe the whole community would be rightfully disappointed if the new mayor did not depart from the old mayor's subpar and downright flagrant opposition to taking the case directly to the community.

Those with leadership experience can attest to the power gained by trusting and empowering those whom you serve to play an active part in

the process.

I even wrote a letter to the editor in the Erie Times-News recently on this very perspective, though they probably went a little too far in sensationalizing the headline.

I am not alone in believing the mayor wouldn't lose any power or public confidence for sharing the case for demolition in full and in a public setting, juxtaposed with the case for pedestrian-oriented preservation.

If it is the right choice, he will win over detractors and those with questions or confusion will gain greater clarity and understanding. This would certainly prevent his remaining tenure in city hall from being marred by disappointment and questions regarding the validity and veracity of such an important decision.

Mayor Schember and mem-

I am not alone in believing the mayor wouldn't lose any power or public confidence for sharing the case for demolition in full and in a public setting, juxtaposed with the case for pedestrian-oriented preservation.

bers of Erie City Council: I implore you to lay out all of the facts on all sides of this matter at a public meeting. Put this issue to rest in a way that will build a bridge — figuratively or literally — instead of tearing down the trust, concerns, and passions of our community.

For you, the reader, I urge you to let them know you feel the same.

Jay Breneman can be reached via email@jaybreneman.org

City Council Ruling First Step to Erasing Cannabis Stigmas

Official Erie Keystone Progress policy statement



ARAM VARTAN

City Council recently passed a measure to decriminalize possession of small amounts of cannabis (30 grams or less), reducing the penalty from a criminal misdemeanor to a summary civil offense (e.g., like a speeding ticket).

By: Dr. Corbin Fowler

On behalf of Erie Keystone Progress, we congratulate Erie City Council for approving a reform in our local drug laws. On the evening of Wednesday, January 17, Council voted to reduce possession of small amounts of marijuana from a criminal misdemeanor offense to a summary civil offense. As a result, persons in Erie found to possess 30 grams or less will be subject to a ticket and a fine, but will not be subject to a jury or indictment. They will not have that civil violation be part of their record. The scarlet letter is removed which prevents good people from employment and entering the armed forces. This step by Erie City Council is a small step in

the right direction.

This is one of the early steps that need to be taken to stop the reefer madness.

Marijuana is not a gateway drug to other drugs, and there never has been empirical evidence to support this fear. Remember, correlation does not imply causation. The use of marijuana for recreation does not carry the same dangers or health-threatening effects that the use of alcoholic beverages does. Marijuana is not associated with violence as the use of alcohol is. Nine out of 10 recreational marijuana users are happy folks who simply love to laugh and eat. I used marijuana regularly for four years in my college days, but ceased using it in favor of my preferred drug, red wine. I know people of all ages from

teens to seniors who use marijuana safely and responsibly — to relax, socialize, and have fun.

Pennsylvania has already joined the national trend in our country to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. Eight states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for recreational use. These states include West Coast states like Alaska and Washington, and East Coast states like Maine and Massachusetts. It includes Colorado where Denver remains the “Mile High City.” There are municipalities that have instructed their police not to arrest people for the possession or use of marijuana. In Pennsylvania, the cities of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia have passed laws which decriminalize marijuana possession in varying degrees.

Decriminalizing marijuana will not only save good, non-violent Pennsylvanians from paying huge fines or go-

ing to jail, but it will be a boost to our economy. It will likely create thousands of full and part-time jobs, as it already has in the places here where it has been decriminalized. One study by Leafly determined that 150,000 jobs have already been created in the U.S. by the legal marijuana production-sales industry. Legal marijuana will fill state tax revenue coffers, help our legislators balance the state budget, and find needed money for public education and environmental protection.

Are there any hazards to using marijuana? Sure. If you use large amounts of it chronically, you are likely to suffer attention deficit issues and a lack of motivation. If you drive a vehicle while intoxicated, you are not a safe driver and are a danger to others. Inhaling smoke of any kind, especially regularly over a long time, can put you at risk for lung damage. Compare this risk of overusing marijuana with the risks of excessive alcohol use: becoming an alcoholic, liver damage, kidney damage, drunk & reckless driving fatalities, anger management issues, etc.

We can and should have age-appropriate drug laws for

marijuana use as we do for alcohol. Let there be a legal age limit (18 or 21). We urge our state legislature to wholly decriminalize not only the possession, but the production, sale, and use of marijuana.

We tried prohibition of a popular drug before for in our country, for 13 years in the early 20th century. It did not work, but did create the violence of organized-crime bosses like Al Capone. Prohibition did not work for alcohol, and it will not work for marijuana. It only turns otherwise decent citizens into criminals and fills our jails with non-violent offenders.

As Thomas Jefferson penned long ago, let us honor the human heart’s desire for the pursuit of happiness. Let us allow people living in the America the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Simply put, ingesting marijuana makes many people happy.

Dr. Corbin Fowler is an active member of Keystone Progress and a professor of philosophy at Edinboro University. He can be reached at cfowler@edinboro.edu

<https://www.leafly.com/news/politics/cannabis-jobs-count-legal-marijuana-supports-149304-americans>





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Swipe Right For Erie

Confessions from the dither of digital dating



By: Rico (Sometimes) Suave and Juliet Capu-Let's-Stop-with-the-D-Pics-Guys

It's Friday night; another workweek has ended and you are ready to "turn up." You broadcast your intentions to get it poppin'/bumpin'/twerkulatin' — and are greeted with only the sound of white noise and baby monitor feedback in return. Disheartened, you plunge your silly straw proboscis into a pouch of Franzia (Capri Sun-style) as the *Best of Luther Vandross* blares in the background, alternately inhaling Flamin' Hot Cheetos and weeping feebly into a dachshund throw pillow.

Perhaps it's time to try online dating?

A Pew Research Center study published in early 2016 found that 15 percent of American adults have subscribed to an online dating site and upwards of 40 percent utilized a mobile dating app. In 2005, 44 percent of Americans agreed that online dating was a good way to meet people. In 2015, that number had risen to 59 per-

cent. In that same time frame, the number of pundits who claimed online dating is the dominion of desperate losers dropped from 29 percent to 23 percent. Likewise, brownie consumption per capita has decreased by one half sheet over the past decade.

Changing attitudes toward technologically-aided dating (as well as technology itself) have given rise to a host of new apps, each with their own twist or gimmick. For example, Hinge limits matches to those with whom you share mutual Facebook friends. Tastebuds uses musical tastes as the basis of its matchmaking algorithm. Happn (somewhat creepily) pairs you up with people you've actually been in close physical proximity throughout the day — who happen to be fellow Happn users, of course.

Despite the novelty of these approaches, the simple dichotomy of swipe left or swipe right continues to reign supreme. Tinder ranks in the top 10 grossing apps all-time on both the iOS and Android platforms.

Bumble, which relies on the same mechanic (with the very notable difference that the female user must send the first message in heterosexual pairings), has eclipsed established apps such as PlentyofFish and OKCupid for second place in the virtual dating arena. Having garnered such popularity and lacking a cost of admission — while also being relatively non-committal — Tinder and Bumble are common deployment points for fresh recruits to this strange (and often savage) new world.

If love is a battlefield, finding it is a war in itself. For many singles of the new millennium, the theater has shifted from the bar, club, or tavern to the smartphone, laptop, or tablet. For better or worse, dating apps have seized the position of power in modern romance, and we must either learn the rules of engagement or be left behind, egos bruised and hearts bleeding. Even Colonel Strong Vincent or Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry would balk at such carnage. But do not

You may frequently say hello to rejection in your digital dating journeys, but never wave goodbye to your resolve.

give up the ship; do not sink into a bay of misery — at least until you commiserate with us first.

Rico (Sometimes) Suave, 30/M, Net nuzzling neophyte

Where I've been: Rigid in my determination to meet someone the "old-fashioned" way, I long stood as a bulwark against the riptide of peer pressure, refusing to be swept into the online dating pool. However, the older I've become, the harder it's been to meet anyone organically. Tinder seemed more promising than, say, canvassing local pinocle and bridge clubs for leads on single granddaughters. Or asking the people that clean my office at night: "Hey, any cute janitor friends you could set me up with?" My mistake.

After my initial travails with Tinder, I turned to Bumble. Then, at the behest of my brother and his fiancée, I signed up for eHarmony, praying to encounter an option even the slightest bit less flaky than the 2 for \$4 Croissanwich deal at Burger King. But the fact that I stash Burger King coupons may suggest I'm not ready to walk/waddle down the aisle with anyone just yet.

What I've seen: The scattered bones and shattered hopes of all those who've come before me. In my experience, your standard Tinder match brings to mind the killer bunny rabbit from the movie *Monty Python & The Holy Grail* — sure, she may look cute, but before approaching you'd better pack a holy hand grenade of an intro or you're history. Once you get that far, you must traverse the tightrope of flirty-yet-respectful conversation, neither with-

holding too much nor giving too much away. Truth is, if she doesn't look like the hind end of a lowland gorilla, she's probably *broverloaded* with suitors. She's only as unforgiving as a Soviet ballet instructor because she has to be.

Bumble, while producing far fewer matches, has generally led to more fruitful conversation. Since it empowers females to make the first move, and that first move is usually a "hi" or "hey," the conversations tend to resemble regular, healthy human interaction. eHarmony will ignite a new passion for giving and receiving personality surveys, if that's not something you already inherently possess. "In the past month, how much have you thought about commending yourself to a monastery? On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being 'minimally' and 5 being 'I've already shaved my head.'" Four.

Thoughts and prayers for the women of online dating: On behalf of my fellow man, I apologize for the recycled jokes, the flat and lifeless personalities — and, most of all — any picture, illustration, or daguerreotype of genitalia that you never asked to behold. I'm equally appalled. While I get the impression that a good many of you derive a sort of deranged glee from watching our comedy of errors unfold, I also know that as many or more sincerely want to meet that special someone that you'll never once have to call the cops on.

What's the 814 got to do with it, got to do with it: It may seem as if the only thing bred from dating apps is cynicism, but that is not entirely the case. You can meet fascinating, beautiful women here in Erie — and I have. Even foreign women from exotic locales such as New York State (!).

The education and health-care fields both have an established presence here and attract a disproportionate

VENIMO / MODIFIED BY NICK WARREN

number of females, so there are candidates to research. If you can swim, there are even more (the apps are GPS-based and do not account for Lake Erie, so prepare to swipe through plenty of Ontarians).

In general, yes, the process is so shallow you could wade through it. But there's nothing to lose by keeping every bridge of communication open. Who knows? Ms. Perfect may come stepping over that McBride Viaduct and into your heart (and/or bedroom, if that's what the two of you are after). Don't knock it down before you try it.

Juliet Capu-Let's-Stop-with-the-D-Pics-Guys, 32/F, Wearing Web-dating Wise-woman

Where i've been: Oh boy. You name it, I've tried it. From my early days as an

undergrad in a bigger city, when I met a college boyfriend through Myspace (don't judge me or my advanced age, I'm a Millennial, dammit!), the past decade-and-a-half-or-so has been an interesting dating adventure. I moved back to the Erie area in 2004, and since then I have tried: Plenty of Fish, OkCupid, Craigslist personals, Tinder, Bumble and even Whisper, in order to broaden my horizons and meet new guys.

What i've seen: If there is one thing that I've learned from all of this, it's that dating profiles are a double-edged sword. On the one hand, you do get a decent amount of information about what this person is like before you meet them. On the other, it tends to reach you through a heavy-handed self-applied filter that often leaves out some important or deal-breaking personality

quirks. For example, no dating site was specific enough to inform me ahead of time about the guy who left his beige socks on every time we hooked up. First of all...beige. Second of all...socks. I wonder, was beige an effort to camouflage his socks from anti-socks-during-sex partners? "Ha-HA, she'll never notice!"

Thoughts and prayers for the men of online dating: From what I have seen of the online dating scene in Erie, the guys have it rough, generally speaking. I can guess three reasons for this: 1. Women tend to put up barriers and micro-analyze all interactions because we're just trying to keep ourselves as safe as possible; 2. A lot of men don't seem to know how to talk to women in a way that is appealing to us (and don't care); and 3. Those guys wear us women down and make us

less responsive to the men who are really trying.

Now, don't get me wrong, I have received a surprising number of pleasant, interesting and respectful messages via all of the sites/apps I mentioned; however, for every one of those, there are probably 10 or more messages that clutter the inbox with their one line (in some cases, one word: "Hi" — and nothing else), their creepiness ("Are you a big eater?") or their out-of-left-field verbal abuse (who hurt you, USAUSA_69?).

What's the 814 got to do with it, got to do with it?: The number of warm bodies in the city of Erie is shrinking, and with it the population of dateable people. When you start with the number of single people, then narrow it down further based on personal preferences, you are left with a rather

small pool. On the plus side, I would venture that most single, dateable people in this area use, or have tried, online dating sites. The downside is that certain social circles are pretty small and contained, so if you're an outsider joining one of these friend groups by way of a Tinder match or an OkCupid meet-up, you could be entering a whole world of history and drama that you didn't ask to be a part of.

I personally have had more luck meeting men the old-fashioned way — by going about my life and having chance meetings, whether it's in grad school classes or while grabbing beers at Lavery with friends. But, in a city like ours where the population belies the saying, "There are plenty of fish in the sea," it never hurts to keep your options — and your mind — wide open.



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Neuroscience of Learning: How Studying the Brain Can Improve the Way We Teach

Timothy Kieran O'Mahony, Ph.D.
Monday, February 12 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



People as Commodities: The Global Impact of Human Trafficking in Kenya and Beyond

Sharon Barang'a, B.A.
Wednesday, February 28 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.



Examining Cancer Cells through the Lens of a Developing Organ

Justin Lathia, Ph.D.
Tuesday, March 6 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For the full list of events, please visit www.JESErie.org or call us at 814.459.8000.
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Jan. 31 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Motherhood in the Digital Age
Feb. 1 / 7-8:30 p.m.	The Story of the Blues
Feb. 6 / 7-8:30 p.m.	Jesus the Warrior
Feb. 14/ 4-5:30 p.m.	Remarkable Women: Bette Davis

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Spotlight on Erie

January 31 – February 13, 2018

Thursday, Feb. 1

Dancing Under the Clock

Come support the Erie Contemporary Ballet on Feb 1 at the Boston Store for a sweet soiree dubbed Dancing Under the Clock. Be sure to dress for the elegant occasion — that means it's time to head to the dry cleaners — and enjoy an array of delectable hors d'oeuvres by Sabella's, an open bar, and dreamy performances from talented dancers. — Miriam Lamey

7 p.m. // 716-728 State St. // \$40-\$70

Friday, Feb. 2

Local Hip-Hop showcase at Basement Transmissions

Featuring over a dozen emcees from all over the Erie area, this show, dubbed "Mid Winter Heat" is sure to be one of the best showcases for local hip-hop talent you could ask for. The show will be hosted by Basement Transmissions founder Robert Jensen and Dezzy Call, who released his album *Slightly Above Average* in August of 2017. Performers include Call, Dankin, Johnny Twuft, Nary, Fla\$h-mob, Sharpshooter, PGB Keef, Kobi, Elijah Rizzo, Lil Retro, Koda Allen, and HB Stacks. — Nick Warren

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$5

Friday, Feb. 2

An evening of Mystery, Intrigue and (gasp!) Murder



For the eighth year in a row, All An Act Theater will be opening its season with an Agatha Christie thriller. This year, the troupe selected *Murder on the Nile* to kick things off, and performances of the play riddled with mystery and intrigue start on Feb 2. "The Agatha Christie plays are always one of the most attended productions we put on and I expect *Murder on the Nile* to be very well-received," says All An Act managing director and

co-owner Larry Lewis.

The plot is simple: A privileged young lass marries and heads on her honeymoon with her new husband. They take a trip down the Nile, and all is well and good until someone is murdered. Who was the killer? What was their motive? Well, you'll just have to grab a ticket to *Murder on the Nile* to see how events unfold. — Miriam Lamey

7:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., various dates in February // 652 West 17th Street // \$5-\$12 // allanact.net

Friday, Feb. 2

Reflect On Yourself With Dramashop's Circle Mirror Transformation



For years now, Dramashop has acted as an outlet for contemporary theater in Erie, including some very bold alternative projects. And by the sounds of it, their production of Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation* will be no different.

"I had never heard of *Circle Mirror Transformation* until [Dramashop artistic director] Zach Flock mentioned it to me a few weeks ago," says director Kathleen Cahill. "At first I was somewhat apprehensive about the script because it's such a physical piece, but then I realized what a challenge it could be and felt up to the task to bring a physical piece to a staged reading."

Described as "a beautifully crafted diorama ... with hilarious detail and clarity," the story follows a group of four who enroll in a six-week community center drama class, during which a series of revelations begin to reveal the deeper relationships between them. The piece received an OBIE Award for Best New American Play and received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Play.

This unconventional production

seems like the kind of experimental success story only veterans of Dramashop could handle. But Cahill is confident that the themes behind *Circle* are universal enough to resonate with audience members from all walks of life.

"*Circle Mirror Transformation* is raw," concludes Cahill. "It's heart-breaking sometimes and has its own charm to it when you really listen. Humor comes into play a little bit. I think audiences will either leave super confused as to what they just saw, or will have been given a mirror to hold up to themselves. Everyone will be able to relate to one of these characters at some point in their story. They are real people and their stories have the strange ability to bring up a memory or two for anyone who loves theater." — Aaron Mook

8 p.m., Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 // 1001 State Street #210 // Pay what you can // dramashop.org

Friday, Feb. 2

Boogie With The Broke Boland Band, GabbaGhoulies and Paper Matches At Kings Rook



Those familiar with Matt Boland are likely more familiar with his solo moniker, Matty B. A high-energy local who never stops writing or performing, there's a good chance Boland has played every venue in Erie that features live music at least once. On February 2nd, Boland will return in not one, but two bands to perform at the beloved Kings Rook Club.

"I like playing at Kings Rook because it's a guaranteed fun crowd," says Boland. "Unfortunately, our music

scene is in a sad state as far as venues go. There's only a few left, especially for rock and roll. But I feel happy that we're fortunate enough to have a strong venue like the Rook to help keep our live music scene intact."

And if there's anything Boland (and the Kings Rook) knows (about), it's rock and roll music, which appears to be the unifying element between the three wildly different acts on the bill.

"The [Broke Boland] Band is basically a three-piece version of my songs," says Boland. "It's very high energy. But it's kind of multi-genre with elements of rockabilly, folk and blues mixed in. I really don't know how else to describe it...kind of like if the Ramones wrote folk songs!"

Switching from lead singer/songwriter to bass player, Boland continues to detail his work with Bob Kellogg's GabbaGhoulies.

"I like the horror-punk style and I really appreciate Bob Kellogg's songs and everything he has done for our music scene over the past 20 years," says Boland, alluding to Kellogg's long work with the Coffin Bangers and My 3 Scum. "As far as Paper Matches go, I recorded an acoustic album for Johnny Major, lead singer and songwriter, and was blown away. The kid's got a great voice and great songs and I can't wait to see what his band brings to the table."

When asked if he had any parting words, Boland had this to add:

"Keep going out there and listening to live music. Don't worry about where everybody's at. Worry about the quality of what you're hearing. There is an amazing amount of talent in this town as far as music goes. And some incredible bands. But the thing that keeps these bands moving and productive is playing in front of people. So please get out and support local music!" — Aaron Mook

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach Street // Free For Members // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday, Feb. 3

It's a Snow Day: A flurry of winter fun awaits at Presque Isle

While some Erieites have had their fill of white stuff and shovels, a day of winter fun can still be alluring. The fourth annual Snow Day at Pr-



esque Isle State Park, on Saturday, Feb. 3, organized by the Presque Isle Partnership, is again offering up a (mostly free) day at the park, both indoors and out filled with seasonal activities, and yes, hot cocoa.

Outside are sled dog demonstrations, family ice fishing (equipment provided and no license needed), winter geocaching, an outdoor cooking demonstration and a snowshoe hike (first come, first served). You might also run into Joe Root, who is sure to spin a few yarns (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), or learn about outdoor cooking at the open-air fireplace at the Rotary Pavilion.

If you want to up your game, cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals (fees vary) and horse drawn wagon rides (\$8 per person, children under 2 free) are available at a cost, with the latter requiring pre-registration at the Presque Isle Partnership website.

Indoors at the Rotary and nearby cabins will be kids' crafts, a visit with Erie Zoo animals, a chance to meet Smokey Bear (noon and 2 p.m.), auction baskets and a winter gear demonstration by Field & Stream and Off-Road Express. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard will also be there to talk about their work.

Snow Day buttons will be available and five lucky button holders will win prizes.

So, bundle up, enjoy the fresh winter air and don't bring your shovel. — Mary Birdsong

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. // Waterworks area at Presque Isle State Park // discoverpi.com

Saturday, Feb. 3

Enter a World of Pure Imagination with *La Belle*

The internationally-acclaimed Imago Theatre troupe brings their mystical, magical, and downright imaginative production, *La Belle* to the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University on Feb 3. Grab your ticket to another world, created with stunning visuals, professional performances, and masks, music and movement; you'll forget you ever started your evening in Erie, Pa.

La Belle tells the story of *Beauty and*



the Beast using puppetry, shadow theater and song. Actors will be enrobed in enchanted costumes and use masks as part of the show; they tell the story through a combination of media, including interpretive dance. Brett Johnson, Director of Mercyhurst Theater Program explains, "The dazzling visual imagery of *La Belle* will keep young ones engaged while taking older audience members on a visceral and romantic journey." The show can be a great night for all members of the family — but leave those under four at home.

Also described as "a giant art work of a play," *La Belle* has over 100 moving parts and animation every 30 seconds. The production was developed over the course of three years and is the effort of over 40 dedicated individuals. For those who want a taste of what to expect, Johnson says "think *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*."

The set is a giant ship with revolving water wheels, pumps, steam whistles, and automata, or clockwork puppets."

Imago Theatre was established in 1979 by Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad and since its inception, the group have performed in Asia, Europe, China and here in the U.S. The troupe is based out of Portland, Oregon, and took their shows *Frogz* and *ZooZoo* to Broadway's New Victory Theater.

Give your imagination some exercise this winter and enjoy a thoroughly engaging evening in a magical realm this February with Imago Theater. — Miriam Lamey

2 p.m. // 501 East 38th Street // \$10-\$15 // miac.mercyhurst.edu

Saturday, Feb. 3

Surf Rock and Martinis

Pop over to Scotty's Martini Lounge for an expertly-made martini, and let your cares fade away sipping and listening to Elektra Kings and Green Fingers' talents on Feb 3. The Kings will bring a blend of surf rock and psychedelic to the lounge; Green Fingers will add their electronic, experimental stylings to a night of some pretty interesting music. More than one martini is optional, of course. — Miriam Lamey

9:30 p.m. // 301 German St. // Free

MUSIC

Me and the Boy

Feb. 2 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Mid Winter Heat

Feb. 2 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Gabba Ghoulies, Broke Boland Band and Paper Matches

Feb. 2 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.com.

Dueling Pianos

Feb. 3 — 8 p.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Electra Kings and Green Fingers

Feb. 3 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

The Honest Mistakes

Feb. 3 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
The Erie née Baltimore powerpop outfit, The Honest Mistakes, will be joined by local rockers 40 Rust and Detroit Red, as well as the crossover thrash

quintet Maniacal Device.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.com.

Rankin & Schell

Feb. 4 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Marigold

Feb. 4 — 6:30 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Rick and the Roadhouse Rockers

Feb. 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Glenn Strother Project

Feb. 9 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
The well-loved Pittsburgh guitarist (of Jazzam, Arkesh, and The ChopShop) brings his funky group to the Rook for a healthy dose of jazz fusion and wild sonic excursions.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.com.

Drowning, Eternal War and XRepresentX

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

Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II

Feb. 10 — 8 to 10 p.m. & Feb. 11 — 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Exposing generations to a myriad of classical pieces, several iconic Warner Brothers cartoons will be featured on a movie-sized screen while the Erie Philharmonic provides the appropriate background music. The Saturday performance is sold out, but a special Sunday matinee showing has been added.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Broccoli Samurai, Stereosphere and DJ Voto

Feb. 10 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
The Cleveland jamtronica quartet will be cutting into the Rook once again, featuring their extended, danceable improvisations. They'll be joined by Tuscarawas County, Ohio band Stereosphere with their inventive prog-jam style.

The Paulsibilities and Battalion of Cloudships

Feb. 10 — 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Jesse James Weston

Feb. 11 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Matt Texter and Sandra Schuschu

Feb. 11 — 7 p.m. to midnight
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Blasco Concert Series: Edinboro Chamber Players

Feb. 12 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Rhythms of Life: Black Umfolosi

Feb. 13 — noon to 1 p.m.
The acapella quintet from Zimbabwe, who have been together for over 35 years, will blend traditional dance and music for a spirited performance.

Fossil Youth, Rarity and Unturned

Feb. 14 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

DANCE

Director's Choice:

Dancing Under the Clock

Feb. 1 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Boston Store, 100 Boston Store Pl. facebook.com.

Valentine's Dinner and Dance

Feb. 14 — 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

FOOD & DRINK

International Gruit Day

Feb. 1 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Millcreek Brewing Co. joins locations nationwide in celebrating gruit, which foregoes hops in favor of herbs and spices, with a batch of I Am Gruit beer.

Annual Robert Burns Supper

Feb. 3 — 5:45 to 11 p.m.
Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 W. Bay Rd. facebook.com.

Ales for Sails

Feb. 9 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. bayfrontcenter.org.

Dos Equis & Heineken Party

Feb. 10 — 2 to 10 p.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

The Great Gatsby g Dinner

Feb. 10 — 6 p.m.
The Women's Club of Erie will become West Egg for a night, with a 1920s menu, including a peach and champagne punch.

Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. eriewomansclub.com.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Feb. 10 — 6 to 10 p.m.
The whodunnit dinner event, titled "Till Death Do Us Part: Must Love Cats and Dogs" features a four-course meal and will benefit the Humane Society of NWPA.

Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Fat Tuesday

Feb. 13 — 5 p.m.
For the Mardi Gras celebration, the new "Big Easy" Belgian Ale will be tapped, and there will be music by the Dixie Doodlers, along with cajun cuisine on hand, and guest bartending to benefit the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The Brewerier at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerier.com.

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CALENDAR

Each comedy — *Sure Thing; Words, Words, Words; The Universal Language; Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread; The Philadelphia*; and *Variations on the Death of Trotsky* — contains enough entertainment for an entire evening, but when performed back-to-back they'll leave even the grumpiest curmudgeon grinning ear to ear.

The shows are directed by Owen Hitt, Sarah Krempasky, Abby Larimore, Ashley Poletto, Rosie Pregler and Kathryn Schmitt. — Tracy Geibel

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. // Mercyhurst University's Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. // \$15 adults, \$10 seniors & students, \$5 Mercyhurst University students // miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/all-in-the-timing

Friday, Feb. 9

Ales for Sails to hold annual fundraiser

Eat, drink, and raise money for a good cause. Guests can sample craft beers from ten local breweries and snack on appetizers at the Bayfront Maritime Center's sixth annual Ales for Sails fundraiser, which helps finance the facility's hands-on programming.

Participating breweries include Erie Ale Works, Erie Brewing, Lavery Brewing, Blue Canoe, Timber Creek, 5 & 20 Spirits and Brewing, The Brewerie, Millcreek Brewing Company, Voodoo and Arundel Cellars & Brewing Company. Everyone will be asked to vote for their favorite.

The event will also feature music, a photo booth and basket raffles. — Tracy Geibel

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. // Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. // \$40 (pre-event only) // bayfrontcenter.org/events/ales-for-sails/

Friday, Feb. 9

Erie Playhouse presents *Deathtrap*



The Erie Playhouse's rendition of *Deathtrap* will capture audiences from beginning to end.

Written as a play within a play, Ira Levin's *Deathtrap* will keep the crowd on the edge of their seats with its surprising combination of comedy and suspense.

Playwright Sidney Bruhl is down on his luck and seems willing to do anything to get back on his feet. So when his student Clifford Anderson writes a promising script and Sidney jokes that he may kill Clifford to take credit for the work, the audience questions the authenticity of Sidney's sarcasm — especially when he invites that student over to discuss the play, also called *Deathtrap*.

The audience is left wondering what will happen next and what version of *Deathtrap* (the play or the play inside the play) each scene is taking place in. — Tracy Geibel

7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 9 through Sunday, Feb. 25 (11 performances) // Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. // \$12-\$20.25 // for tickets and full schedule: erieplayhouse.org

Saturday, Feb. 10

xRepresentx Hardcore at Basement Transmissions



TAYLOR RAMBO

Heel Heat Productions is hosting another hardcore show at Basement Transmissions, bringing bands from all walks of the genre to Erie.

One of the heaviest and fastest growing bands in the beatdown scene,

Drowning are making their first trip to Erie from their home in Chicago. Having played in Cleveland numerous times and gained a following, the band is looking to extend their reach to the east.

While exciting things are happening for Drowning, the main excitement of the evening is Erie Straight Edge hardcore legends, xRepresentx, celebrating their 15 year anniversary — a feat of longevity not attained by many bands of their genre.

"When I came up with the vision for xRepresentx, I never thought it was going to pan out into something that would last almost half of my life," says vocalist Derek Ski. "But, when you have a group of people who enjoy playing and spreading the ideals, it makes the band rewarding to the point that not playing in it wouldn't make sense. Though we have had an exorbitant amount of members, each had a place in making xRepresentx what it is today, despite whatever caused them to move on. It's been a wild ride, and I don't see a reason to not have fun with it more."

xRepresentx have been a staple of Erie hardcore since 2003, and are the last living relic of what many would consider the glory days of the local scene. While members of older bands have formed new ones, xRepresentx has remained constant, and their reach has extended far beyond Erie. Type their name into YouTube and you're likely to come across bands as far away as Indonesia covering their songs.

"As for the scene, in Erie and all over,

Emily Chivers Yochim, Ph.D., this presentation explores online media from a modern female perspective.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Gardening Workshops

Jan. 31 & Feb. 7 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Moonlight

Jan. 31 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Tots in Nature Class: My Many Colored Day

Feb. 1, 5, 8, 12 — 9 to 10 a.m.

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

VITA Free Tax Preparation

Feb. 1 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Family Storytime

Feb. 1, 8 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Preschool Nature Discovery Class - All the Colors of the Rainbows

Feb. 1, 5, 8, 12 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Erie Auto Show

Feb. 1, 2 — noon to 8 p.m. & Feb. 3 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Feb. 4 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dozens of local car dealerships will display their latest models, filling the Bayfront Convention Center for the 11th annual event.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepromotions.com.

American Short Stories

Feb. 1, 8 — 4 to 6 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Yoga Class for Kids

Feb. 1, 8 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tumble 84, 4504 W. Ridge Rd. apluseventsforkids.com.

The Story of the Blues

Feb. 1 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Drew Hastings

Feb. 2, 3 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

The often irreverent Mayor of Hillsboro, Ohio and frequent Bob & Tom guest will perform four shows over the weekend.

Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Library Speaker Series

Feb. 17, 24 — 10 a.m.

McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St. mccordlibrary.org.

Corry Winterfest

Feb. 3 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Taking place in Mead Park, the day will be full of wintertime activities like sleigh rides, ice sculpting, and snowmobiling.

Mead Park, 974 Mead Ave., Corry, PA corrypa.com/winterfest

Master Builders

Feb. 3 — 2 to 3 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Cross Country Ski Clinics

Feb. 3, 10 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Presque Isle Snow Day

Feb. 3 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Mindfulness and Snowshoeing

Feb. 3 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

asburywoods.org.

Family Storytime

Feb. 5, 12 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Presque Isle History Series

Feb. 5, 12 — 6 to 7 p.m.

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

Business Startup Mentorship with Brian Slawin

Feb. 6, 13 — 2 to 3 p.m.

Get advice from the Ben Franklin Technology Partners advisor, with sessions all day for business startups and new entrepreneurs, occurring every Tuesday until Feb. 27

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

Great Books

Feb. 6, 13 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Board Game Event: Game On

Feb. 6 — 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Jesus the Warrior

Feb. 6 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Tiny Trees Yoga

Feb. 7, 14 — 10 to 10:35 a.m.

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

Erie RV Show

Feb. 8 — 2 to 8 p.m. & Feb. 9 — noon to 8 p.m. & Feb. 10 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Feb. 11 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gear up for summer by checking out specially priced campers and new recreational vehicles at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepromotions.com.

ALUMINUM BOTTLE SPECIALS

- 21 Hampton \$2.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
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- Bruce's Pub & Grub \$3.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
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- Coachs \$3.00 16oz. Bud light Aluminum Bottles
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- Eduardos \$2.50 16oz. Bud light Aluminum Bottles
- Falcons (on East 3rd) \$2.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
- Fox and Hound \$2.50 16oz. Bud light Aluminum Bottles
- Knights of St. George \$2.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
- Last Shot \$3.00 16oz. Bud light Aluminum Bottles
- MC's Bar & Grill \$3.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
- Mound Grove \$2.50 16oz. Bud light Aluminum Bottles
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- Red Fox Inn \$2.75 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
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- Star Club \$2.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles
- Wesleyville Athletic Club \$2.00 16oz. Bud Light Aluminum Bottles

BOTTLES & CANS SPECIAL

- 9th & State \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Alibi Bar \$2.75 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- American Legion (North East) 6 for \$5.00 Bud Light 7oz. Bottles
- Chico's \$2.50 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Colony Pub \$11.00 Buckets of Bud Light
- CYS Club 5 for \$5.00 Bud Light 10oz. Cans
- Dan's Route 8 Boardwalk \$2.50 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Fulton Club \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Holy Trinity .25 OFF Bud Light 12oz. Cans
- Huzar Club \$1.75 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- JJ's Pub \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Molly Brannigan's \$2.50 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Moniuszko Club \$2.25 16oz. Bud Light Cans
- North East Athletic Club \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Polish Sharpshooters \$1.75 Bud Light Cans
- Pulaski Club \$1.75 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Sacred Heart Ushers Club \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Siebenbuerger Club \$1.95 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Speed'eez \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Speed'eez on the 6 (Corry) \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Sportsman A.C. \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- St. Joe's Club \$1.75 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- That Place \$2.25 12oz. Bud Light Bottles 6PM-10PM
- The Vine Bar & Grill 5 for \$11.25 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- TK'S Tavern \$2.70 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Treehouse Tavern \$2.50 12oz. Bud Light Bottles
- Wall Street Express \$2.00 12oz. Bud Light Bottles



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- Applebee's West \$2.50 Bud Light Brewtus Drafts
- Buffalo Wild Wings \$3.75 Tall Bud Light Drafts
- Clancy's \$2.00 Bud Light Pints
- East Erie Moose Club \$1.50 Bud Light Drafts
- Foresters \$2.00 Bud Light Drafts
- Hooch & Blotto's \$3.25 22oz. Bud Light Drafts
- Lawrence Park A.C. \$1.00 Bud Light 11oz. Drafts
- Marty's \$2.00 Bud Light 16oz. Drafts
- McKean Tavern \$2.00 Bud Light Drafts
- Moose Club (North East) \$1.50 Bud Light 16oz. Drafts
- Nuova Aurora .75 Bud Light Drafts
- Odis12 \$2.00 16oz. Bud Light Drafts
- Pete's Pub \$2.50 Bud Light 22oz. Drafts
- Quaker Steak & Lube \$3.00 22oz. Bud Light Drafts

PITCHER SPECIALS

- Chestnut Street Pub \$5.00 Bud Light Pitchers
- The Cornerstone \$5.00 Bud Light Pitchers
- Falcons (on East 19th) \$3.00 Bud Light 32oz. Pitchers
- Fiddle Inn \$7.00 Bud Light Pitchers
- Irish Cousins \$5.00 Bud Light Pitchers
- Nunzi's \$4.00 Bud Light Personal Pitchers
- Plymouth \$8.00 Bud Light Pitchers



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CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb. 11

Erie to celebrate the season with 13th annual Winterfest

Erie residents know the best way to get through winter is to embrace it. The 13th annual Winterfest aims to do just that.

The family-friendly event features a homemade sled race, as well as horse drawn wagon rides, an ice slide and a duckie race on Cascade Creek.

Prizes are given for the homemade sled that goes the furthest and uses the greatest variety of recycled material in two age groups. The judging takes place at 2:30 p.m.

Other activities include a winter scavenger hunt, snow painting and ice carving and ice fishing demonstrations. — Tracy Geibel

Noon to 3:30 p.m. // Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St.

it's changed a lot," Ski comments on the state of hardcore. "But hardcore was always a revolving door type place, where kids would come and show up for 5 months then disappear, and some would stick around permanently. Straight Edge doesn't have the limelight like it did a decade ago, but even that has its peaks and valleys. I'd like to think that we had an overall positive effect on inviting people into the scene, and introducing hardcore and straight edge over the years. And we are going to keep doing it. As long as someone books us and a few people will come out, why not?"

Supporting acts on the bill are Eternal War from New York, featuring former members of Meth Mouth, Lake Effect hardcore newcomers Livid Life, and WWE-themed old-school 1980's style hardcore punk from Clarion, Heel Turn. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$12 Advance, \$14 Doors

Single Voice Reading Series Features

Writer B.J. Hollars

Feb. 8 — 7 p.m.

Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

The History of Gerrymandering and Its Impact on Pennsylvania

Feb. 8 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Adult Yoga Classes

Feb. 8 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Make and Animal Track T-Shirt

Feb. 9 — 10 a.m. to noon

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

Michael Yo

Feb. 9, 10 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

The energetic, Emmy-nominated comedian and former Insider host — who has hosted his own SiriusXM show — brings his unique perspective to the stage, discussing his black and Korean heritage and more.

Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Paws For A Cause

Feb. 10 — noon to 5 p.m.

The benefit for the Erie Animal Network will feature Chinese auctions and more.

Polish Falcons Club, 431 E. 3rd St. facebook.com.

Snowshoe Clinics

Feb. 10 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.

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

Valentines Program: Partner Yoga and Thai Yoga Massage for Couples

Feb. 10 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Plasha Yoga, 3330 W. 26th St. plashayoga.com.

Board Game Event: Game On!

Feb. 10 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Winterfest

Feb. 11 — noon to 3:30 p.m.

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

National Salute to Veterans Week

Feb. 12 through Feb. 16

Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E. 38th St. erie.va.gov.

2018 Arts Marketing and Audience Engagement Session

Feb. 12 — 10 a.m.

Nonprofit Partnership, 609 Walnut St. artsu.americansforthearts.org.

Little Leaves

Feb. 12 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.

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

Refreshing Salt Scrubs

Feb. 12 — 2 to 3 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Master Builders

Feb. 12 — 6 to 7 p.m.

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

Neuroscience in Learning: How Studying the Brain can Improve the Way We Teach

Feb. 12 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Timothy Kieran O'Mahony, Ph.D. will detail how modern advancements in neuroscience will have pedagogical benefits.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Feb. 13 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Erie Talent Share

Feb. 13 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. facebook.com.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Feb. 14 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Remarkable Women: Bette Davis

Feb. 14 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

The Stars are Ours

Feb. 14 — 7 p.m.

Edinboro University Planetarium, 230 Scotland Rd. edinboro.edu.



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Local Original Valentines in Erie Mix

An indie rock LOVE mixtape for the lovelorn



[left] Selections from this year's Valentine's Day mixtape include (clockwise from top left) Jovial Cacophony's "Flanders Field" (*Beach*), Flower Crown's "Pls" (*Glow*), The Standby's "Ladykiller" (*Passiflora*), Mallory Run's "Reaction" (*Mallory Run*), Maddock's "sea-sick" (*bye, bye, bye*), and pocketmouse's "green pt 1" (*be ok*).

[bottom right]: Additional heartrending tracks culled from these albums (clockwise from top left): Eric Oliver's *i wrote these songs this year*, Wave Trails' *Backwards Face* demo, One If By Land's *No Wants to Leave*, and Teddy Rankin's *Special Someone*

By: Nick Warren

Music and love are often intertwined, but music and heartbreak are inseparable. This Saint Valentine's day, it's okay to get a little dark, and maybe a little emotional. After all, being emotional is a prerequisite for being in love, isn't it?

Let's look at these different tracks like a twisted "Twelve Days of Christmas" — where your true love gave to you something heavy to ruminate on, as opposed to a lot of birds. Artists from Erie and the surrounding areas, including Meadville, Edinboro, and Corry are ready to share their stories of love and regret with you.

There are moments of beauty, and of desperation. Of spurned anger, and callous indifference. It may not be the most optimistic way to head into Valentine's Day, but it certainly sounds as sweet and slightly bitter as any dark chocolate treats you might open up.

To hear all of these tracks, check out ErieReader.com

Jovial Cacophony

"Flanders Field"

Beach

With a vintage echo, Erie native Jack Rys weaves a distantly melancholy tale, insisting that he'll "endure it for you." In a tone that's part summer twang, and part winter clang, the track has a retro simplicity that fuses with modern sensibilities.

The title borrows its name from World War I battlefields along the border between Belgium and France.

Flower Crown

"Pls"

Glow

For their successful dream pop collaboration, Richie Colosimo and Aaron Mook have crafted a cinematically lush soundscape. The climbing melodies of the song's latter half tear at your heartstrings in a yearning musical narrative that would make *Twin Peaks* composer Angelo Badalamenti proud.

Smilo & the Ghost

"Virginia"

Previously Unreleased

Erie's very own master of folk, Tyler Smilo, arrives with the first record of the gorgeous string band Smilo & the Ghost. Featuring an intoxicating blend of viola, mandolin, steel guitar and more, the tone sweeps the listener away, with Smilo's gruff, passionate voice wavering above, warning that the state in question "is for lovers, but it holds no love for me."

The Standby

"Ladykiller"

Passiflora

With cavernous reverberating tones and a radiating chorus of vocals, The Standby craft an honest post-rock plea. Asking their love to stay, they lay out past flaws, explaining that "your love, it's hatred, it hates things

I've done." The track closes out their 2017 EP, released on Valentine's Day.

pocketmouse

"green pt 1"

be ok

In a heart-achingly beautiful recording, Julia Haight — under the moniker pocketmouse — does more with a single acoustic take than most can do with a month of studio time. The immediacy strikes the listener just as quickly as her lyric metaphors, beginning that "green is all that I want to be, all that I want to see. Just you and me, a couple of tangled weeds, we line the streets."

Maddock

"Sea-sick"

bye bye bye

In their swan song EP, Erie trio Maddock once again offers up fantastic tracks of remarkable density. With a light toe-tapping tempo and dark, jazz-inspired chord-work, the band navigates a wavering, hypnotic journey that the title implies, explaining that "it is more than misty dreams that make you sick of me."

Jesse Michael

"Flutter"

Previously Unreleased

With a hard-picked acoustic attack, Jesse Michael's perfectly stripped down recording lays his soul bare almost immediately. His voice breaking up, he eases between a breathy clean delivery and gritty growl to illustrate his points perfectly, letting

the "butterfly fall to the floor."

Mallory Run

"Reaction"

Mallory Run

An intense burst erupts with nearly every beat as this Edinboro quintet comes in strong. Passionate emo melodies rise and fall, with echoey breakdowns and memorable choruses, building on thick harmonic orchestration. Using a metaphor that's easy to empathize with, they detail a feeling of being "buried in the snow, I'm frozen to the bone, left out in the cold."

Eric Oliver

"Sometimes"

i wrote these songs this year

With a delicate, minimalist approach, Corry's Eric Oliver finds a steady footing in sad, simple songs. With a dark, melodically-picked acoustic backdrop, he laments a broken relationship, perfectly illustrating the somber state one might find themselves in, reflecting that "sometimes you spend all of your time trying to change your mind, you know she won't."

Wave Trails

"Blanket"

Wave Trails

With a sharp, piercing guitar introduction, Wave Trails builds to a fuzzy, lo-fi swell over the course of two minutes. "I

remember hearing you, your vibrations were strange," the band sings together, in a wonderfully unsteady gallop of psychedelic chaos. Charging to a frenzied clip, the song rushes by like a static-clogged fever dream.

Teddy Rankin

"Special Someone"

Special Someone

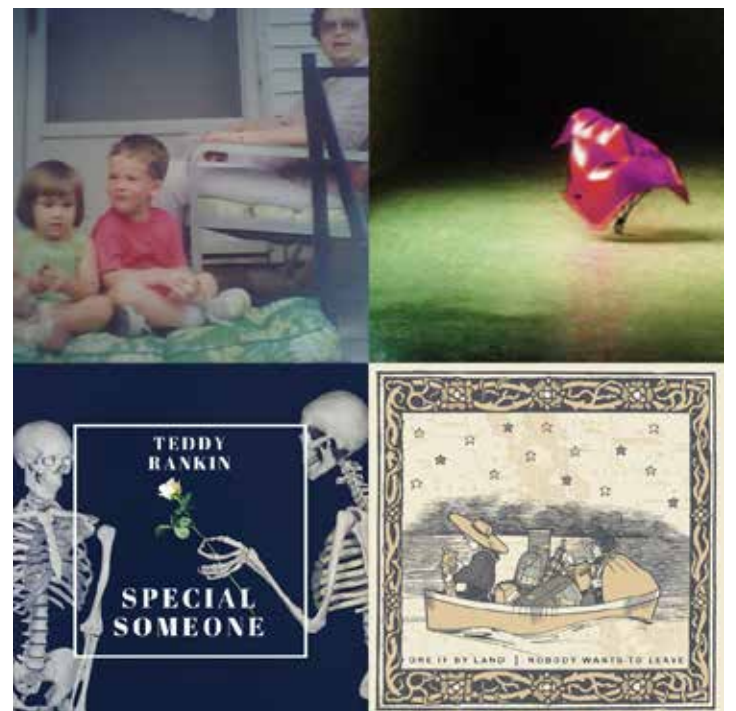
In easily the most superficially sweet track on the list, Teddy Rankin runs through a laundry list of promises he's seemingly eager to do for a hypothetical love. The combination of Rankin's tenor and falsetto vocals blends with an endearing layer of ukulele. In an incredibly catchy melody, he winkingly admits: "I'm willing to change, I'll work every day, to be whoever she needs me to be."

One If By Land

"Living Rooms and Basements"

No One Wants to Leave

The closing track to their spectacular 2016 album, *No One Wants to Leave*, "Living Rooms and Basements" offers a perfect cathartic release, starting with a measured intensity that builds into a heavy chorus that hears singer Fred Oakman repeating "sorry if when I come I'm not the same." An acoustic guitar chimes in to lighten the denouement; the song resolves, lifting towards an honest admission.



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MOVIE REVIEWS

Phantom Thread

A master class in passive aggression

★★★★

In what should automatically qualify as a winning combination, the big names behind *There Will Be Blood* are paired up again, as actor Daniel Day-Lewis joins director Paul Thomas Anderson. Two of the most respected names in film, both adored by critics and self-proclaimed movie buffs alike, team up for what is reportedly Lewis' cinema swan song. There's an inescapable weight when you're watching the only actor ever to win three Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscars. He's up for it again this year for *Phantom Thread* — his sixth nomination overall. The film is also in the running for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Original Score (courtesy of Radiohead guitarist and keyboardist Jonny Greenwood). The nomination that the movie deserves to win the most, however, is Best Costume Design (Mark Bridges). Wardrobe is almost literally the name of the game in this film, as it features Lewis as a well-respected clothing designer in 1950s London, Reynolds Woodcock. Despite sharing the lead character's name with a 2007 Billy Bob Thornton vehicle, the entire film is bathed in European elegance, sophistication, and subtlety, thanks to things like its long takes and gorgeous mid-century scenery. Nearly every part of this work makes it seem like it premiered with a pre-stamped Criterion Collection logo. The story starts slowly, as Lewis meets Alma, played by Vicky Krieps. She becomes his muse and eventually their relationship begins to break down. The two play against each other, settling into an almost sadomasochistic give-and-take by the end of the film. Somewhat similar to Anderson's 2012 film *The Master*, it's an understated movie, full of tiny details, free of any showy flourishes, but swarming with tension. — Nick Warren



FOCUS FEATURES

Written and Directed by: Paul Thomas Anderson // Starring: Vicky Krieps, Daniel Day-Lewis, Lesley Manville // 130 minutes

Call Me by Your Name

A beautiful, sensual experience

★★★★★

Luca Guadagnino's (*I am Love*, *A Bigger Splash*) film *Call Me by Your Name* is a love story that isn't too common anymore; it's intimate without being explicit, sexy but not pornographic, and obsessed in equal measure with tiny details as well as grand romantic gestures. As a result, the film's story and characters achieve a timeless quality that will cause it to live on long after other, similar stories are long forgotten.

The film follows 17-year-old Elio (Timothée Chalamet) who is spending his summer in Italy with his family, when his vacation is complicated by the arrival of impossibly handsome doctoral student Oliver (Armie Hammer) who's staying with Elio's father while working on a book. As he spends more time with Oliver, Elio begins feeling a strong attraction for the young man; an attraction that eventually turns into romance.

Under Guadagnino's direction, the film is filled with a kind of quiet sensuality, with nearly every shot creating either an intense sense of longing or intimacy between the protagonists. Although it meanders a bit too much in the middle, *Call Me by Your Name* has enough beautiful photography and wonderful, natural performances to make one of the most affecting love stories in years. — Forest Taylor



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Directed by: Luca Guadagnino // Written by: James Ivory (based on the novel by Andre Aciman) // Starring: Timothée Chalamet, Armie Hammer, Michael Stuhlbarg, Amira Casar, Esther Garrel, Victorie Du Bois and Vanda Capriolo // 132 minutes

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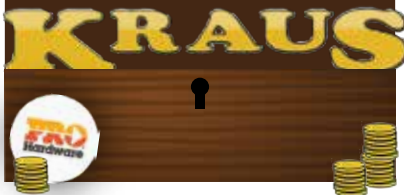
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Dance

Tuesday, February 13
Noon
Reed Union Building

Music at Noon: The Logan Series

ZOFO

Piano Duet
Wednesday, February 21
Noon
Reed Union Building

Finance Speakers Series

MARK LUSCHINI

Regular CNBC Contributor
Wednesday, February 21
7:00 p.m.
Jack Burke Research and
Economic Development Center

Speaker Series

DR. CHARLIE MILLER AND
CHRIS VALASEK

"Automotive Security: A Hacker's
Eye View"

Thursday, February 22
7:30 p.m.
Reed Union Building

All events are free and open to
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behrend.psu.edu



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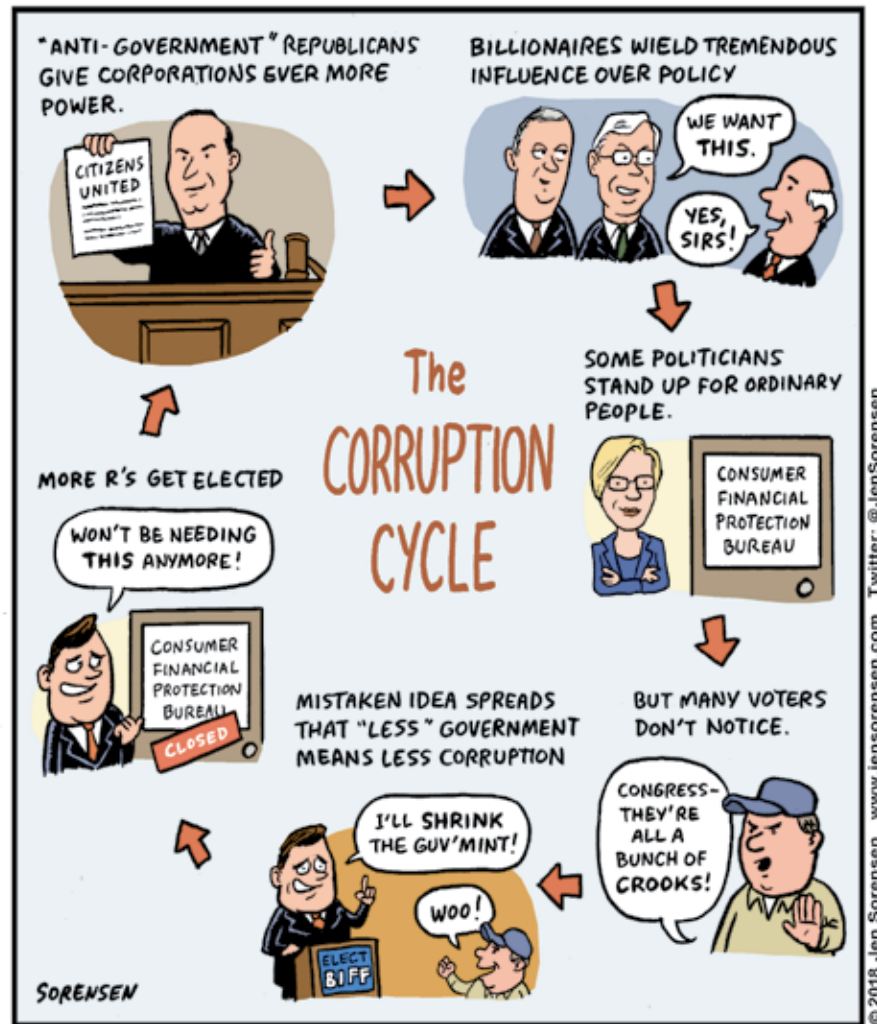


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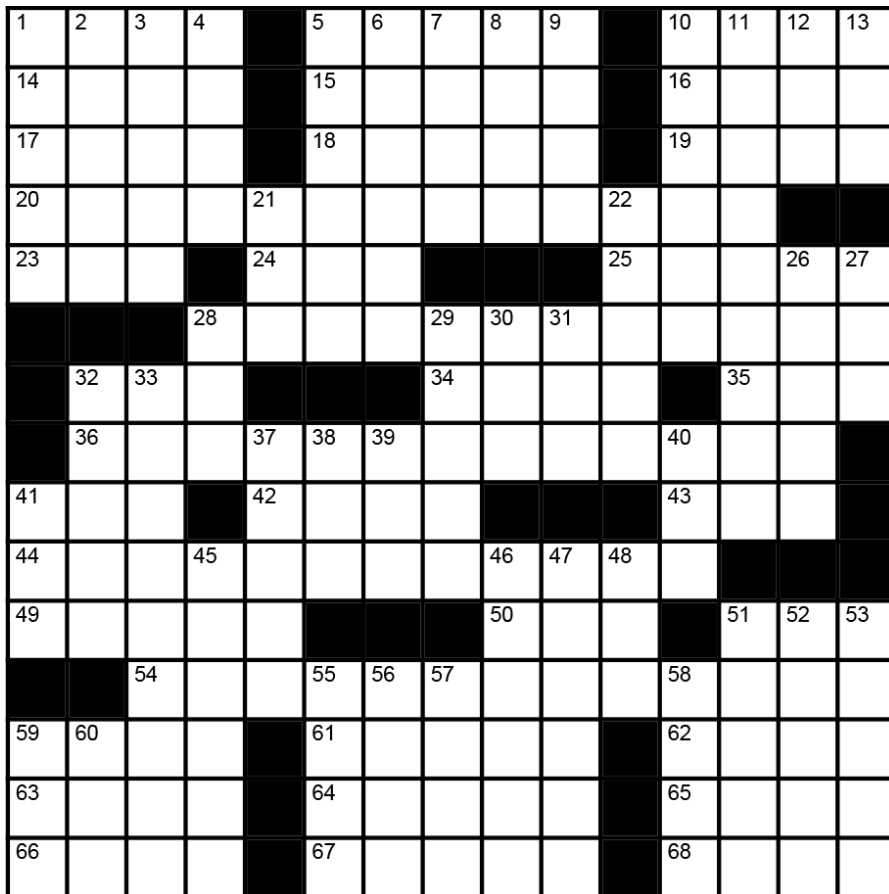
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Answers to last issue's puzzle

I	V	E	S		E	S	L		G	M	C	O	R	P
M	A	C	E		G	A	I		A	I	R	I	E	R
O	D	O	M		G	R	E		R	K	E	L	L	Y
F	E	L	I	Z	N	A	V	I	D	A	D			
F	R	I		E	O	N		G	E	D		G	S	T
			A	V	G		S	E	N	O	R	I	T	A
S	P	A	G	O		M	A	T	E		A	J	A	R
L	I	V	I	N	L	A	V	I	D	A	L	O	C	A
O	D	O	R		A	N	E	T		R	E	E	K	S
B	A	I	L	A	M	O	S		L	O	S			
S	Y	D		V	E	L		M	O	N		E	M	T
			I	A	D	O	R	E	M	I	A	M	O	R
S	H	O	R	T	U		A	G	E		N	O	V	A
T	A	R	M	A	C		F	Y	I		D	J	E	D
E	M	B	A	R	K		A	N	N		S	I	R	E

CROSSWORD



Across

1. One calling the shots
5. Louvre pyramid architect
10. "No need to wake me!"
14. A penny is a small one
15. Erin of "Happy Days"
16. Break
17. Figure in academia
18. Of ____ (somewhat)
19. 1960s civil rights leader ____ Brown
20. St ____
23. "Treasure Island" monogram
24. Italy's equivalent of the BBC
25. "____ your style"
28. FI ____ co
32. Pro
34. Auditioner's hope
35. Loki or Thor
36. R ____
41. Notorious 2008 bail-out recipient, for short
42. "... ____ saw Elba"
43. Question
44. L ____ t
49. Cuisinart setting
50. Female in a pasture
51. HBO competitor
54. "Who agrees with me?" (or this crossword solver's cry while deciphering the clues for 20-, 28-, 36- and 44-Across)
59. Cumming of "The

Down

1. Negative attention from the press, briefly
2. He's @SHAQ on Twitter
3. There are five on China's flag
4. Transmitted
5. "Your work is wonderful"
6. Tile art
7. Grad student's mentor
8. Rank below marquis
9. Fascinated by
10. Aid after a computer crash, say
11. "They say ____ are made in heaven. But so is thunder and lightning": Clint Eastwood
12. Actress Thurman
13. Oomph
21. British singer/actress Rita
22. Smartened (up)
26. Mall stand
27. Squash or squelch

28. ____ Plains, Illinois
29. Singer of a famous bath time song
30. Tic-tac-toe winner
31. ____ Rida ("My House" rapper)
32. "Goodbye, mon ami!"
33. Cuban's home?
37. Hunt in Hollywood
38. Suffix with deposit
39. "Oh, ____ cryin' out loud!"
40. Back muscle, informally
41. Artist Jean who pioneered in Dadaism
45. Use for support
46. 2017 Jordan Peele horror film
47. Where primatologist Dian Fossey worked
48. It was a dark period for Poe
51. Most common surname in the U.S. in 1990, 2000 and 2010, according to the U.S. Census
52. Painter Matisse
53. Start
55. Kids' road trip game
56. Richard of "American Gigolo"
57. George Orwell's alma mater
58. Some
59. Crank (up)
60. Fib

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Fall Out Boy

MANIA

Island Records 3.5/5 stars



A common thread has emerged any time Fall Out Boy announces a new album. After what some believed to be a lackluster return to music with 2013's *Save Rock and Roll*, many fans adjusted and grew to appreciate the band as newly crowned kings of stadium-pop. And just as many were thrown off by the title track of 2015's *American Beauty/American Psycho*, many (including myself) worried by the ugly EDM sounds of lead single "Young and Menace." But as always, Fall Out Boy managed to subvert expectations while crafting yet another unique addition to their polarizing pop-punk legacy. *MANIA* retains the, well, manic disposition of its predecessor while simultaneously taking a lesson from the pure pop songwriting that made up *Save Rock and Roll*. The key word here is "groovy," with rolling basslines dominating the experimental Burna Boy collaboration "Sunshine Riptide" and confrontational opener "Stay Frosty Royal Milk Tea." Lyricist Pete Wentz even returns to the one-liners that made the band away message stars, with frontman Patrick Stump wondering "if your therapist knows everything about me" on "The Last of the Real Ones." *MANIA* is not a perfect album, but it is Fall Out Boy's boldest release in a decade. — Aaron Mook



Ty Segall

Freedom's Goblin

Drag City 4/5 stars



Ty Segall is a man of many personalities. In just 10 years, he's released 10 solo albums (not including his work with the Ty Segall Band or Fuzz), so perhaps it's fitting that his tenth, *Freedom's Goblin*, is a sprawling, contradictory journey throughout his entire catalog. *Freedom's Goblin* sits at a lofty 73 minutes, and like most albums over an hour long, there are moments that probably could have used an editor. But that's also the appeal of the double-album: the guarantee of an unfiltered vision, this one in particular coming from one of the decade's most thrilling voices in psychedelic rock. Interestingly enough, the influence Segall seems to return to most here is The Beatles, with familiar piano melodies and acoustic arrangements ("Rain" and "My Lady's On Fire," respectively) interspersed between fuzzy rock and roll monoliths (album centerpiece "She"), taking cues from both 2016's lighthearted *Ty Segall* and 2012's Stooges-worshipping *Slaughterhouse*. No matter what your poison, there should be more than enough to please any kind of Segall fan here, but newcomers may have an easier time rolling through Segall's Apple Music Essentials playlist than diving headfirst into the daunting and kaleidoscopic masterstroke that is *Freedom's Goblin*. — Aaron Mook



The Spook School

Could It Be Different?

Slumberland 4 Stars



Full of biting humor and honesty, *Could It Be Different?* is one of those albums that's addictive to listen to. That jangly, indie pop sound is welcomingly reminiscent of the likes of Welsh band Los Campesinos! There's something so instantly charming about that sound from the outer reaches of the United Kingdom, as this Scottish quartet proves. The quick tempos and steady, thumping rhythms make this an easy album to appreciate, even on a surface level — it's definitely happy sounding music. Beyond that though, you'd have to make a decided effort to ignore some of the amazing lyrical content of the record. The band is fronted by Nye Todd, a trans man. They aren't afraid to be known as the "trans band" though, and Todd is upfront about his journey, charting his voice after taking testosterone, and being lyrically upfront, especially in songs like the anthemic "Body" as he admits "I still hate my body but I'm learning to love what it can do." Tracks like "Bad Year" are emotionally cathartic and resonant, while the opening track "Still Alive" loudly takes a confident stand to open of the record. The band's third record finds them in an important place, with the warmly welcoming sound they've perfected. — Nick Warren



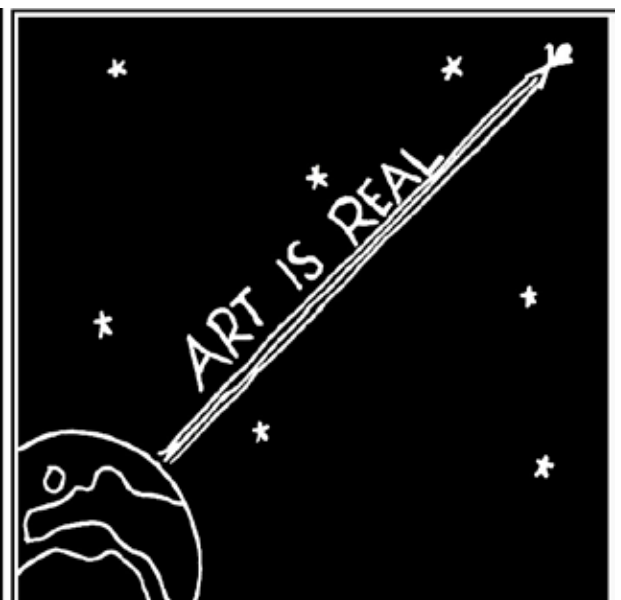
Dream Wife

Dream Wife

Lucky Number 3.5 Stars



Incendiary and infectious, *Dream Wife's* debut hits the ground running. This is an effectively rocking album that harkens back to early 2000s Swedish female-fronted bands like The Sounds and The Sahara Hot-nights. There's a bite there that's more raw though, one brightened by the riot grrl sound, a visceral punk ethos — albeit one that's grounded in garage-pop, almost radio-friendly sensibilities. Filled with handclaps and overdriven riffs, nearly every song is an anthem unto itself. The trio, headquartered in London, is comprised of vocalist Rakel Mjöll, bassist Bella Podpavec, and guitarist Alice Go. Remarkably enough, the band began almost as a joke, in a mockumentary film project similar to *This Is Spinal Tap*. It turned out to be a self-fulfilling prophecy, however, as the real-life band quickly began to take shape. One of the strangest parts of everything though, is how sincere the actual music ends up being. The album begins with a simple, party-inducing request of "Let's Make Out" and doubles down on the band's reclaimed sexuality with the repeated lines in "Somebody" (you were a cute girl standing backstage. It was bound to happen.) Catchy standout tracks include "Hey Heartbreaker," "Act My Age," and "Kids." — Nick Warren





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February 8 - Dueling
Pianos

February 2 - Mark & Jack
February 3 - Mark & Dan
February 9 - Jesse James Weston
February 10 - Jeffrey Glover

February 2 - The Division
Street Machine
February 3 - The Breeze Band
February 9 - The I-90's
February 10 - The Jeff
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