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Herman Miller
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The Erie Art Museum Spring Show

Celebrating a momentous milestone
for a local art treasure

SeaWolves: A Howl of an Undertaking

Season preparations a pack effort

A Sit-Down with Joe Schember

Recapping the new mayor's
first 100 days



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From the Editors**Painting a Path**

Religions abound, and with them visions of the afterlife. The debate about exactly what happens after death has raged throughout the entire sliver of eternity that humankind has existed. Regardless of creed or denomination, however, many thinkers over that span have viewed *art* as the passage to immortality. By creating some snapshot of the human condition or the soul at a particular moment in time, one can preserve his or her memory long after the body is extinguished.

If art truly is the distillation of life, then what better time to celebrate it than spring? Since its inception in 1923, the annual "Exhibition of the Artists of Erie," now known as the "Spring Show," has blossomed into a cherished rite of the season. The 95th iteration of the Spring Show opens April 21st. Juror Wendy Maruyama takes our Mary Birdsong through the selection process, and the extreme difficulty she had whittling down 643 submissions to the 102 that will be on display at the Erie Art Museum through July 1. The show is a testament to the supreme talent present both in the city and its surrounding areas and the will to be a part of something larger.

Of course, artistic talent is by no means the only inroad to participating in a grander design. A lasting legacy can be left by positively impacting future generations today. This can happen in our homes, through community outreach, and in our schools. Outside formal classrooms, we can learn about our pasts through local historical societies, helping to enrich our sense of place and our stake in what's to come. Jonathan Burdick explains how to get involved.

No less essential in history's trajectory are local governments and their accountability to their citizens. City of Erie Mayor Joe Schember hopes to guide our town toward a more prosperous tomorrow, by listening to the concerns of the people on the streets and trusting the expertise of his surrounding staff. Contributing editor Ben Spегgen sat down with the mayor to recap his first 100 days in office and discuss how we might best control our destiny. On the state level, the primaries are fast approaching. On April 26, three candidates will argue why they are best qualified to lead Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District at the Jefferson Educational Society.

But let us not forget about enjoying the present. The Erie SeaWolves have been laboring hard all offseason to create moments to remember them by, both in the stands and on the field. Though we may have plans for immortality, there's nothing wrong with putting them on hold for a Smith's hot dog and an ice cold beer. Lack of artistic dedication? Perhaps, but we won't tell.

On this issue's cover:

1. *Sign of Life*. Ken Coon, 2017. Acrylic on panel. Image by JM Sutton.
2. *Affect*. Cappy Counard and Sue Amendolara, 2017. Sterling silver, maple. Image courtesy of the artists.
3. *My Spirit is Broken!*. Carrie Shank, 2018. Digital media and ink-jet print. Image courtesy of the artist.
4. *Bo Sang*. Herman Weber, 2017. Acrylic on canvas. Image by JM Sutton.



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A Sit-Down With Schember

Recapping the new mayor's first 100 days



MATHAM BASHA-AGHA

By: Ben Speggen

On a surprisingly colder-than-usual-for-April day in Erie, I sat down with Erie's new mayor, Joe Schember, for an hour to discuss his first few months in office. We discussed a range of topics, including selfies, new key hires, Erie Refocused, the McBride Viaduct, and community policing, amongst many other things.

Ben Speggen: Let's start at the beginning: When did it set in for you that you are now the Mayor of Erie and you now have nearly 100,000 bosses to answer to?

Joe Schember: It wasn't really until I took office, but there was a lot of planning November through December. I went up to Harvard [a three-day seminar for newly elected mayors at the Institute of Politics at Harvard

University's Kennedy School of Government held in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors], which was very helpful. But still, I had no idea what it was going to be like until I actually got here.

Now, my wife and I go to the grocery store like we always have, and before we leave, anywhere from 10 to 15 people have come to take selfies with me [laughs]. People have been very respectful, but I'm just not used to people coming up to me, just talking to me.

I do have a feeling that from these conversations I'm having that things are changing in Erie. I'm getting a very positive vibe from people in terms of what's going on.

BS: What were some of those preliminary conversations in November and December like?

Erie Mayor Joe Schember has picked up on an overall sense of positivity during his first 100 days in office, but he knows it will mean nothing unless there are things to point to "in terms of making Erie recognizable and attractive, particularly the downtown and the Bayfront."

JS: The biggest thing was staffing. My approach is that I want a good person running each department, and I don't intend to stick my nose in there.

I feel that that's one of the blessings that I've had: the team that's formed around me. I can't say I've recruited them or tried to bring them in. It's a very diverse and very talented and very committed team that's formed around me, and I'm really happy with that.

BS: You made some significant hires and changes at City Hall.

JS: Economic and Community Development, my number-one goal is to bring more family-sustaining jobs to Erie. And it's probably an oversimplification, but I think that in a nutshell would solve all of our problems. More good family-sustaining jobs is a primary function of the Economic and Community Development department, and that's why I was really happy to be able to put Chris Groner [as Director] in that role.

We created two new positions in that department as well. Abby Skinner, we named her grant writer. The city's never had a full-time grant writer before. We felt that was important.

And also, I wanted to have a business development officer with the job to bring more jobs to Erie in three ways. [For that, we hired] Brett Wiler.

Erie Refocused has a very good vision for Erie's future, and we needed a planner to move it forward. Our first step in this process is to get input from the community, from neighbors, and we're planning to go to every neighborhood. We're going to do that in every neighborhood in Erie, but we're starting in the lower east side and the lower west side.

BS: How does your administration go about re-introducing these community meetings, something Charles Buki [Principal Planner, czb., LLC.] was calling for the previous administration to carry out more of?

JS: Community conversations are very important. One of the things I've been doing in the first three months of being in office is being in the community a lot. I want people to view me as open and accessible and transparent as well. I'm not trying to hide anything.

I'm a human being; I know I'm going to make mistakes. And if I do make a mistake, I'm not going to try to cover it up and I'm going to say, 'Hey, that was wrong, we shouldn't have done it that way; going forward, we're going to do it this way.' That's my approach to things.

"Community conversations are very important. One of the things I've been doing in the first three months of being in office is being in the community a lot. I want people to view me as open and accessible and transparent as well. I'm not trying to hide anything."

BS: As you're having these Erie Refocused conversations throughout the 17 neighborhoods outlined in the plan, how are you making sure that the excitement is palpable outside of the downtown core?

JS: A lot of it is communication and talking about it. But also listening.

I know there are sections of the city that feel like they're being ignored because all of the focus is downtown and the east and west Bayfront. Buki encouraged us: You can't spread funding out over everything, or it just disappears. You need to focus on certain areas.

By focusing on these areas, it's going to spread more quickly to these other areas as well. Anyone who wants to take their neighborhood by the collar and start to make it better, we're going to be there helping them any way we can.

BS: What has the dialogue between the city and county been like since you took office and Kathy Dalhkeper began her second term as County

Executive?

JS: We actually have lunch with each other every other week. It's just her and I talking and sharing ideas, and one of the things we've learned is that we're not going to necessarily agree on everything, but we're going to disagree respectfully and try to understand each other's positions and move forward.

We do have slightly different perspectives with her looking at the whole county, but I consider myself a regional thinker as well. I don't like that silo mentality and that turf protection we've seen in the past. So I'm trying to get away from that and build relationships not just with the County Executive but with the surrounding municipalities as well.

BS: The 24/7 Wall St. report labeling Erie as the "worst city for black Americans" — how are you tackling that issue now that Erie's been called out on a national stage for being such an inequitable city?

JS: That's been one of the most embarrassing things so far in my role,

even though I had been elected but wasn't mayor at the time, and that's one of the things I want to change as quickly as I can. I've made an effort to get to African-American churches with Michael Outlaw [Community Liaison to the Mayor].

In America, the color of your skin, your religion, your ethnicity, your sexual preference — all that stuff — it shouldn't matter if you're a good person and you're doing what's best for the community; that's what matters. So, I'm trying to remind everyone of that. I'm trying to treat everyone with respect, and I do feel like we're make some progress in that area.

BS: The New York Times did a piece on the McBride Viaduct. You were quick in your administration to say you were proceeding with the demolition path.

JS: It might've seemed quick that I did that, but remember that I was on Erie City Council when the Viaduct was closed. I looked at it very closely then. At that point, I felt the right thing to do was to tear it down.

There have already been three public hearings where anyone could've spoken. There were letters sent to residents in that area, and there were meetings with the residents in that area. All of that has happened over the last eight or so years, so I feel like we've looked at it closely.

I started studying the Viaduct again in December. I met with everyone from Erie CPR individually, usually an hour and a half, and they showed me slide presentations, they presented their case. My conclusion after talking to them, and then after spending time with PennDOT to understanding the work they've done, it seems like the best course of action to me was to tear it down.

BS: Assuming that everything goes according to, or as close to according to, plan as possible, how does Erie's narrative shift in four years after your administration's been in office?

JS: We better be able to point to some things we've accomplished in terms of making Erie recognizable and attractive, particularly the downtown and

the Bayfront. And there better be a lot more jobs here that we can point to and talk about. And there better be a lot more people, Millennials, living in market-rate apartments downtown. We won't be everywhere we want to be, but we better have a lot more that we can say 'look at this,' 'look at that' now we want to do even more of that going forward.

BS: I've got to ask: Is it easier or harder to be a politician in the age of Trump?

JS: I don't think about Trump at all, to be honest, in terms of what I do, because I have no ambitions beyond being mayor. I'd like to be mayor for three terms and leave a transformed city for future generations. That's my number-one goal.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. For a longer version, please visit www.ErieReader.com.

Ben Speggen can be reached at bspeggen@ErieReader.com and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.

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Three Dems Debate for Erie's New Congressional District

The Jefferson Educational Society will host a debate with Chris Rieger, Robert Multari, and Ron DiNicola



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Chris Rieger, Robert Multari, and Ron DiNicola (from left to right) are the three Democratic candidates vying to be the nominee for Pennsylvania's newly drawn 16th Congressional District, which encompasses all of Erie County.

By: Nick Warren

On Thursday, Apr. 26, three candidates vying for one of our region's most powerful seats will participate in a debate at the Jefferson Educational Society. Three challengers will be on the ballot for this year's May 15 general primary. For registered Democrats in Erie County, the names to watch will be Chris Rieger of Butler County, Dr. Robert Multari of Farrell, and Erie's Ron DiNicola (Brian Skibo, of Hermitage was campaigning in early 2018, but has dropped out of the race and now ardently supports DiNicola).

"Of course we expect a civil debate on the issues, but we also anticipate the candidates delving deeper into

their platforms and illustrating contrasts between themselves and their opponents," said Penn State Behrend's Caitlin Handerhan, who will serve as one of the moderators of the debate. "In a primary, it is important that candidates stand out and give voters a clear sense of who they are and why they are the best (in this case) Democrat for the job."

Getting to this point, however, has been a virtual roller coaster.

On Monday, January 22, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court ruled that the state's gerrymandered voting map was unconstitutional.

After new maps drawn by PA Republicans and Democrat Governor Tom Wolf were subsequently rejected, on

Monday, February 19 (President's Day), the State Supreme Court announced Pennsylvania's remedial map, which will set the stage for the 2018 primary elections.

Erie, formerly known as Pennsylvania's 3rd District, now stands as Pennsylvania's 16th District. While the old district bisected Erie County, PA 16 now sees the county rejoined once again. Republican Mike Kelly, of Butler County, remains the representative for the City of Erie. Republican Glenn Thompson found his territory move eastward, losing control of locations like Summit Township, Harborcreek, Edinboro, North East, Wattsburg, Waterford, Cambridge Springs, Meadville, Union City, and the City of Corry.

"This is the first time since redistricting in 2010 that Northwestern Pennsylvania is united in a single congressional district; the courts ruled that the previous map was gerrymandered, and in the case of Erie County, made the district virtually unwinnable for Democrats," explained Handerhan. "The new map, approved by the State

Supreme Court, still gives a registration advantage to the Republicans, but now the district is more competitive for Democrats."

That competitive nudge comes at a pivotal time. It's midterm season, and to most politicians, the nationwide results of this year's election will act as a reflection of the recently elected presidential administration. This is where the pushback is most evident, and over the past century, this trend has favored the party out of power (aside from situations like the 2002 post-9/11 elections). For Democrats, this could signal another sea change. "Many see this as a viable, winnable race for the Democrats, which makes this primary very important," said Handerhan.

The event will be moderated by Handerhan as well as Ben Spегgen, program director at the Jefferson Educational Society (and *Erie Reader* contributing editor). Each candidate will give an opening and closing statement and the chance to answer questions that we have prepared, in addition to audience questions that can be submitted in writing at the debate." Check out a livestream of the debate on the *Erie Reader's* facebook page.

Thursday, Apr. 26 // 7:00 p.m.
// Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. // free // register online jeserie.org

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - BY B. TOY



The Human Experience

Why local history matters



This political map, dating from 1869, displays the Erie Railway system that once formed the backbone of regional shipping and transportation.

By: Jonathan Burdick

On February 16, 2016, Dr. Joseph Laythe gave his final lecture at Edinboro University. He had been battling cancer for years and, in his own words, wanted one last chance to give back to the university. The history professor who used to shout and pace excitedly through his legendary lectures, crafting voices for each historical figure, was now softly reflecting on his career from his wheelchair — and while his voice had a slight rasp and his disposition was a bit more restrained, his humor, thoughtfulness, and passion were still intact.

“History is the human experience over time,” he told the audience. “We’re really all asking the same question: who are we and where do we fit in?”

A few weeks after his lecture, Dr. Laythe died. As I grieved, I opened my copy of his in-

complete, but published book, titled *Haunting the Past: History, Memory, Dreams, and the Reflections of a Dying Historian*. I reread a passage that I had highlighted.

“I want my students and my readers to empathize with people of the past and thereby become more empathetic to their neighbors,” he’d written. “I have an obligation to reach my students to make them better people, not simply warehouses of facts, names and dates.”

History wasn’t learning merely *what* happened, but also how what happened *affected* individuals. For twenty years, Dr. Laythe taught students at Edinboro that understanding this shared history was important, that it mattered — that by digging into the stories of these individuals, we could better ascribe meaning to the present and, quite possibly, to our own lives.

Who are we and where do we fit in?

In recent years, it seems that history has often been elbowed to the sidelines. In public schools, the humanities are often the first to face curriculum cuts. At post-secondary institutions, declining enrollment in undergraduate history programs has been a topic of discussion for years.

Yet, the pendulum may be swinging. At Yale, for instance, history is once again the most popular major for next year’s class. Yale’s director of undergraduate studies recently maintained that “the present historical moment is enticing young people to join the discipline ... [because] economic and political models failed to predict several defining events ... [such as] the 2008 financial crisis and the 2016 presidential election.”

In the Erie region, historians at our local universities are

also seeing a renewed interest in the field and are working hard to restructure their programs to adapt to the changing world.

“We have been very fortunate as a History Department to stay ahead of the curve,” said Dr. John Olszowka, department chair at Mercyhurst University. “I work with a very creative and energetic group of faculty and we as a department have tremendous support from the university’s administration.”

Their history courses are available to all students, not just history majors. “We’re trying to broaden students’ understanding of history,” he added. “We have also created a variety of new courses intended to broaden the skill sets of our students.”

These course offerings include a partnership with the Erie Maritime Museum to offer a three-week credited course sailing the Brig Niagara on Lake Erie. In other courses, students have helped create an African-American History Heritage Trail for the county, photographed and documented Erie’s historic buildings, and conducted original research to create podcasts (called “Hurstories”) in lieu of writing traditional papers. Perhaps the next Stanley Nelson Jr. or Lynn Novick is already sitting in a class on campus, because in the fall semester, the university will be adding a brand-new concentration for history majors: Historical Documentary Filmmaking.

“Students are not only gaining valuable research, writing, and critical thinking skills, they are also developing technological skills that enhance

their marketability to prospective employers,” Olszowka explained.

Dr. Amy Carney, history professor at Penn State Behrend, is equally optimistic.

“[Students] enjoy studying history. It is often one of their favorite subjects,” she said. Still, that wasn’t always reflected in the program’s numbers. “They lament that they cannot major in history because they or their parents believe that there are limited jobs for a history major.”

Her challenge, she believes, is to help change that perception.

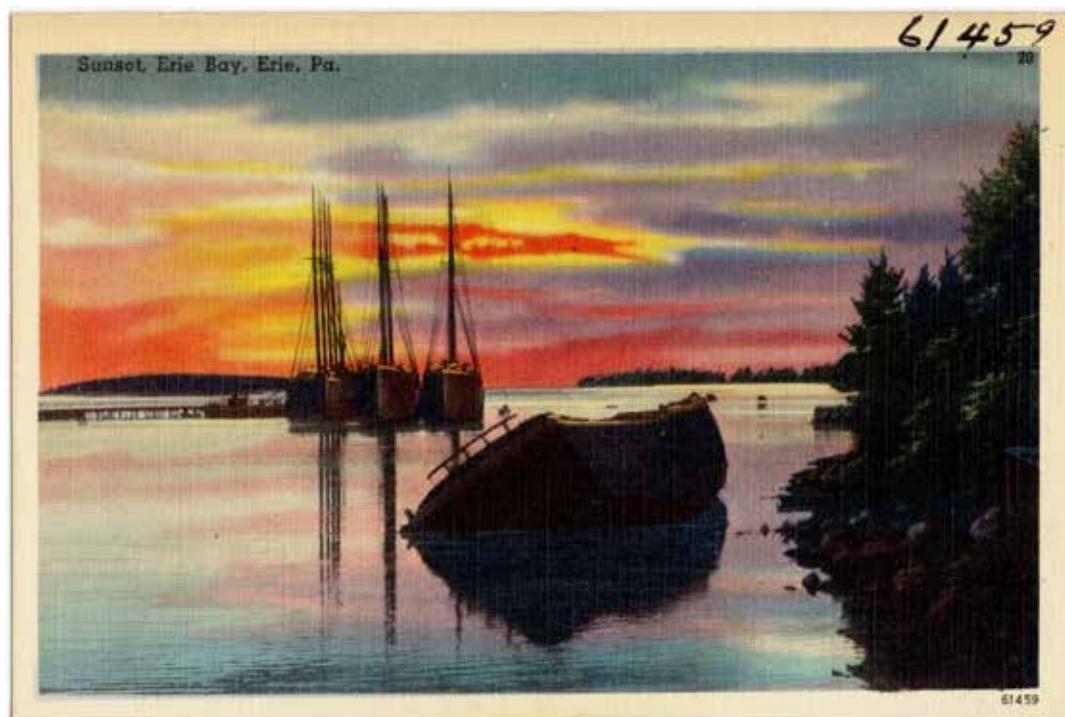
Dr. Olszowka agreed. “I think people are surprised to learn that history majors do everything.” He listed off a few fields that recent graduates are working in: law, policing, government service, and even computer programming.

Dr. Carney also described how learning local history has had a personal impact on her students.

“Back in 1867, Otto von Bismarck, the chancellor of Prussia, was rewarded for his service to the kingdom,” she explained, reciting a story she often tells students. “He used the money that he had been given to purchase an estate ... [near] a paper mill owned by two brothers, Georg and Moritz Behrend. Bismarck purchased a nearby paper mill, but leased it to the Behrend brothers to run. This new mill was called *Hammermühle*, or Hammer Mill. Moritz Behrend used his financial success to finance his sons’ operation here in Erie.”

The three Behrend brothers — Ernst, Otto, and Bernard — founded their paper mill in Erie in 1898, naming it *Hammermill Paper Company* to honor their father.

“I like to share this story because my students are captivated by how something we



One thing that has not changed over the years is the brilliance of our Presque Isle sunsets. This old postcard demonstrates the timeless beauty of Erie's greatest natural resource.

"I think that learning the history of the place you live in provides connection to community and it builds that community," she said. "People who enjoy the past seem to me to be folks who are invested in their community and in people."

When asked what she wished the public knew about the society, she pointed out their programming, but also added, "I wish people knew that everyone is important in building and supporting these institutions. It takes lots of volunteer time and energy to build museum collections and programs."

Mattocks agreed. "We want people to know we're not just a place to research family histories. We're focused on using history to build our community and help move it into the future. There's much one can learn from their local history that applies to the challenges that area might face today."

Becky Weiser, President of the Erie County Historical Society, further echoed these thoughts. She wishes area residents knew more about what they offered to the public.

"My assistant, staff of incredible volunteers, and I are currently in the process of identifying every object [we have] and carefully maintaining those things that tell our history," she said, then offered an example. "We recently found a scarf belonging to [Admiral] Lord Nelson... the hero of Great Britain's greatest naval battle in 1805 [who] knew someone in Erie whom he gave it to."

Danielle Lincoln, who also works at the society, stressed that historical societies and museums are for everyone. "We're not just a bunch of older gentlemen sitting around a book or a painting smoking cigars and talking about war,"

she joked. "We like to laugh. We love to meet new people and we like to have fun ... [and] we're constantly expanding our schedule of events for all ages."

"It's an exciting time to be the curator here," Weiser concluded. "I hope the people of Erie County keep track of what we're up to here, support us, and share the excitement of our local history."

So, if you're interested in getting more involved in the local history scene, in working to move your community forward, what can you do?

Start by simply visiting your local historical societies, museums, and organizations. Ask questions. Donate or volunteer if you're able. Read the work of local historians already out there — in the local history section of the library, in periodicals such as the *Journal of Erie Studies*, or online at sites such as *Old Time Erie*, *Erie Yesterday*, and *Erie's African American History*.

You can even become an amateur historian. Just start by asking yourself: *who am I and where do I fit in?*

Then dive right in. Dig through the local archives. Ask someone from your local historical society for help. Sometimes you'll have to look for the story. Other times, the story will find you, a few words that catch your eye, then won't leave your mind — a random obituary, a snippet from an old newspaper, a long-lost letter.

"It's a lot of fun to be a historian," Dr. Carney said of her profession, "to have the opportunity to sift through the available evidence and to weave a narrative that can help us understand our past."

There's a lot of the Erie region's past left to discover, so many stories left to tell. Let's get to work.

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

are studying in class — the history of Prussia in the 19th century — relates to them today," Dr. Carney added.

Marissa Litzenberg, a freshman history major at Penn State Behrend, was eager to share her enthusiasm for entering the field. "To learn history is to learn about the journey of the world and to gain insight into where it might be heading towards next," she said. "We can use history to create a context to better understand what people were thinking at the time that led them to make one decision versus another."

Dr. Olszowka clearly sees that as part of the attraction to the field. "So much of what happened in the past informs our present day community — politically, economically, and culturally. It also often impacts the decisions we make as a community going forward."

The idea that history and community-building are intertwined is common for those in the field — and outside of academia, there are numerous organizations in the region working to engage the public in local history.

In Erie, one could make a day out of history hopping: visiting the Hagen History Center and the Watson-Curtze

Mansion on West Sixth Street, walking to the Firefighters Historical Museum a block away on Chestnut, then traversing down to the Erie Maritime Museum and the Fort Presque Isle Blockhouse off the bay.

Throughout the rest of northwestern Pennsylvania, there are functioning museums and societies in nearly every town, often staying afloat thanks to donations and generous volunteers.

In Meadville, the Crawford County Historical Society has been doing an impressive job of engaging the public. They recently purchased the Tarr Mansion to renovate (saving the Civil War era building from demolition) and are operating a museum out of the Baldwin-Reynolds House, built in 1843 by Supreme Court Justice Henry Baldwin. They've also embraced social media, promoting events such as their upcoming Millennial Mixer, which combines Voodoo Brewery beers, food, guided tours, and local history trivia.

Josh Sherretts, President of the Crawford County Historical Society, and Vice President Ron Mattocks have a clear vision for the organization's role in the community.

"Learning the history of where one lives allows a person to interact with and feel a part of their surroundings," Sherretts stressed. "Our past has a way of making us feel connected with our environment. We better appreciate our community and often more thoroughly strive to do our part to enrich its future as a result."

Mattocks agreed. "Learning the stories, particularly the personal histories, tends to give people something they can relate to — our shared humanity. It's easy to feel as if your little town is just a tiny blip on a map," he said, "but when you find out that the primary election system originated in Crawford County or that Meadville was the first place to desegregate schools well before the Civil Rights Movement ... then it's a reminder that where you're from is not insignificant."

Titusville, just an hour south of Erie and the birthplace of the oil industry, is another locality that, quite literally, reshaped the world. Dr. Rhonda Clark of the Titusville Historical Society and professor at Clarion University, also recognizes the juxtaposition between history and community.

A Howl of An Undertaking

SeaWolves season preparations a pack effort



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

Reporters interview catcher Jake Rogers on Erie SeaWolves Media Day, which was held Tuesday, April 3. Rogers, the No. 5 prospect in the Detroit Tigers' organization, split time between three single-A squads last year and is expected to be a major contributor for Erie this season.

By: Matt Swansager

Ready or not, the home opener is coming. Nine days before the Erie SeaWolves take the field at UPMC Park for the first time in 2018, gale force winds howl across the concourse, carrying wisps of snow with them. *Take me out to the ballgame.*

Erie SeaWolves Team President Greg Coleman has witnessed this phenomenon a time or two during his eight years with the club. He is utterly unfazed. "We are lucky to get 10 days with running water before the opener." Pumping water into the park's plumbing system too early is a risky venture; if a pipe bursts (due to water expanding as it freezes) "you literally need to take a side of the building off" to address the problem. This is the kind of mess you can't clean up by making a quick call to the bullpen.

The grounds themselves are maintained by Erie Events, who work closely with the SeaWolves throughout the year. When preparing for the home opener, the greatest

obstacle the grounds crew will have to deal with is frost. Snow can be cleared away, but a deep freeze locks moisture into the soil that will begin to rise to the surface as temperatures warm, rendering the field a squishy, sodden occupational hazard. Despite record-breaking snowfalls this year, Coleman is not too worried about field conditions to start the year. "We've not had a lot of good clear, temperate days, but we've had no extremes. A couple of clear days in the 50s and it would green up a bit."

To be fair, UPMC Park, which opened as Jerry Uht Park in June of 1995, was never intended to function in an Erie April. Back then, the SeaWolves were the short season single-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, competing in the New York-Penn League. They played from mid-June through early September, a time when it's easy to love baseball. Since 1999, however, the SeaWolves have been proud members of the double-A Eastern League, which begins its seasons in the depths of "spring." These

are the times that try fans' souls, but Coleman believes they're better for it. "Our fans are not fair-weather; they're all-weather."

For better or worse, 'til delays do us part — that is the charge of Coleman and his operations crew. "It's a lot like planning a wedding," he says. "It's a great time, but it's also a gigantic undertaking. We invite guests, pursue sponsors, book entertainment, shape the ball park experience, plan the menu with our caterer. We put on about 100 weddings a year — about 70 for our games, and 30 for other events." In June, they will draft a preliminary outline for the following season; when the offseason process begins in September, they will flesh out and immediately set about executing those plans.

A master document is shared between the operations team and is updated continuously throughout the offseason. In this spreadsheet, everything from national anthem singers to who throws out the first pitch to postgame entertainment

(fireworks, etc.) is slotted out.

A week before each home stand, the document will be reviewed to see if everything is still valid. The unexpected can and does happen — a storm system can wipe out an entire series; an unexpected guest or Major Leaguer on rehab assignment may be in town. Like the pitchers and hitters inside the lines, those who conduct the experience outside the lines are constantly reading the situation and making adjustments in real-time.

It regularly demands logging in extra innings at the office. "Folks are fans sometimes of a specific team or a specific player, but people do not know how hard *this* team of people works," says Coleman, who has adapted himself for levels of fuel efficiency on par with a Tesla. "I slept *maybe* four hours last night."

That's important, because rarely do the players on the field boast the sort of "name brand" recognition to generate attendance, despite their undeniable talent (there are very few players that make it to the double-A, the last true development phase before the majors — triple-A rosters often serve as a sort of "extended dugout" for Major League clubs). At points throughout this year, fans can expect to watch the Detroit Tigers' No. 1 (pitcher Franklin Perez), No. 4 (pitcher Beau Burrows), and No. 5 (catcher Jake Rogers) prospects, players that stand a good chance of making it to the big leagues, but the casual

consumer won't necessarily know that (or even care). "So there needs to be other motivation— relaxation, community involvement, pleasant memories. Our focus is on finding the passion points and making our product relevant through those passion points," explains Coleman.

The Business Office, in tandem with its sponsors and partners, design an experience that they feel fans will want to take for a spin. The Game Day staff — those on the frontlines (concession workers, ushers, announcers, sound technicians, mascot C. Wolf and the Wolf Pack entertainment team, etc.) — assemble that experience on the field and try

"It's a lot like planning a wedding. It's a great time, but it's also gigantic undertaking. We invite guests, pursue sponsors, book entertainment, shape the ball park experience, plan the menu with our caterer."

to ignite those passions. One of the most surefire ways to do that, especially at the Minor League level, is through a fun, quirky, or provocative (but not so provocative as to alienate) promotion. As a longtime executive in the Minors, Coleman has either conceived or encountered a number of incredibly creative (and sometimes bizarre) promotions. "There's no such thing as a bad idea; at worst, it's comic relief." One he chuckles at today is the "Vices Night" someone proposed during his time in the independent Golden Baseball League in California — people smoking "whatever they want," boozing out of flasks,

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MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

and gambling in the stands — essentially the antithesis of the “family-friendly” blueprint.

The best promotions are those that are inventive, reflect well on the community and organization, and have reach and mass appeal (it’s a copycat league, no matter what league you’re in, and the ultimate flattery is to have other teams borrow and adapt your wildly original idea). One of the more unique concepts Coleman’s had a hand in is “What Could’ve Been Night,” which won Minor League Baseball’s Promotion of the Year in 2009. The single-A Bowling Green Hot Rods competed as the Bowling Green Cave Shrimp (the runner-up in the fan’s naming contest) for one night, complete with new uniforms, logos, and signage. Many teams have since tinkered with this idea, even in other sports — the NBA G League’s Erie BayHawks recently took the court as the “Erie Pepperoni Balls.” This season, the SeaWolves will play a game as the SnowWolves for the team’s “Christmas in July” promotion (Friday, July 27).

Another award-winning — and briefly controversial — promotion was last season’s “Alternative Facts” night, which Coleman uses to illustrate how ideas evolve organically. The seed was planted with the term “fake news” being bandied about during the 2016 election cycle. When Kellyanne Conway coined the term “alter-

native facts,” Coleman inked it into the promotional schedule. He received a number of angry calls. “People were upset about a promotion we hadn’t finished making up yet.” The uproar, of course, was unwarranted. Yes, the team used a hot-button term to pique interest, but the promotion was nothing but tongue-in-cheek fun in execution, poking fun at the franchise’s lack of on-field success with fake championship banners, memorabilia, and a Game Day staff totally complicit in the ruse (and against the previous year’s actual Eastern League champion Akron RubberDucks, no less).

Again, success as a Minor League club goes beyond on-field performance and wins and losses — those things help, but Minor League rosters are often very fluid and furthermore at the mercy of the parent clubs, whose priority is developing prospects to make *their* teams better. At the end of the day, what matters is that fans take home a memory or impression strong enough to return. For instance, they might launch a stuntman from a cannonball in center field into a net in front of home plate (Tuesday, Aug. 14). They might spike your insulin, if not your adrenaline (Sugar Rush Night on Saturday, June 23). And if those things fail, who could forget a night at the Cowboy Monkey Rodeo (Tuesday, June 19)?

Veteran pitcher Josh Turley, 27, was a 16th round draft pick of the Tigers out of Baylor in 2012. He posted a 3.69 ERA last season in bouncing between three levels of Detroit’s farm system, ending the year with the triple-A Toledo Mud Hens.

It may have been a chilly April so far, but things are indeed warming up at UPMC Park. Opening weekend pits the SeaWolves against the Altoona Curve and kicks off with the Opening Day Bash on Friday, April 13 in the UPMC Park Plaza. Food, entertainment, games, and happy hour drink specials (\$3 select domestic drafts) will precede the first pitch, slated for 6:05 p.m. On Saturday, the SeaWolves will celebrate Erie Day, paying homage to the City of Erie’s birthday (it was incorporated April 14, 1851) with local students and organizations. The team will also recognize a local resident for his or her contributions to the community.

Whether or not the weather cooperates, here’s hoping this SeaWolves City celebrates many more birthdays to come.

Matt Swanseger is a proud former dance-off champion at Jerry Uht Park. For business inquiries or to debate hot dog condiment preferences (always Stadium Mustard, never ketchup), contact mswanseger@eriereader.com



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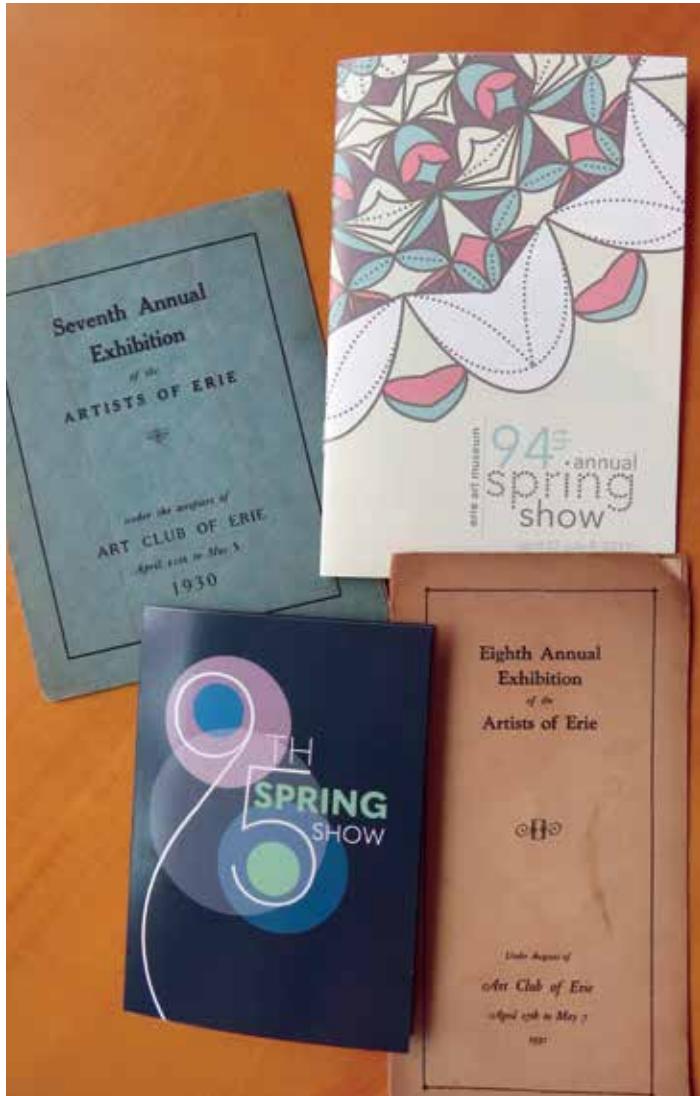


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A Momentous Milestone For a Local Art Treasure

Erie Art Museum's Spring Show celebrates regional talent



MARY BIRDSONG

By: Mary Birdsong

Wendy Maruyama sits in diffused light at the south end of the Hagan Gallery of the Erie Art Museum. Volunteers pad softly around the room providing a soft undercurrent of audible rhythm in the lively but hushed room. Everyone is wearing gloves as they transport works from stacks against the wall toward Maruyama. It is at once a chaotic, but well-organized bustle of activity. The jurying process for the 95th Spring Show is in full swing.

Maruyama, an artist, furniture maker and educator, seems to be enjoying herself as she brings the eyes and

heart of someone with more than 40 years of innovative craftsmanship to bear on the 643 submissions to the show. She leans forward, squinting to examine details, leans back in her chair with folded arms to get a larger view. She asks for titles, knits her brow at one work, and rests her chin in her hands at others. Her ruminations only last a short while with each presentation and then it's "yes," "no," or "maybe."

The volunteers quickly move away, stopping at another table to announce each work's fate to other volunteers and then head in different directions depending on the judgment the work they're holding received.

This efficient procedure has been developed over the past near-century with staff and volunteers alike having honed the jurying process into an art itself. The in-person event is, in fact, part of the revered lore of the Spring Show; most jurying in the art world today is done via computers, with artists sending digital images of their works to jurors for review.

For John Vanco, former Executive Director of the Erie Art Museum, the in-person process held many advantages. "First, it's fairer to the artist and the juror. Details and scale are much more obvious and works in two and three dimensions don't suffer the way they might if the photograph used to present the work is not the best quality. Plus, it's a far more satisfying process and then, once complete, the curator knows exactly what there is to work with."

Susan Barnett, who joined the museum staff as curator last spring when Vanco retired, concurs.

"The in-person jurying makes the local drop-off a community event. Artists may see each other for the first time in a while and the process can discourage those farther out of town from submitting, which gives the show a more local feel." She also thinks that seeing the works in person lets the juror examine the material and craftsmanship in a more realistic way. "The works re-

ally present themselves as objects."

Is she apprehensive about taking the reins from someone who has been curating Spring Shows since 1969? No, not really.

"I am so impressed with the quality of the work that was entered in the show and grateful to Maruyama for making the hard choices. From 643 entries, she chose 102 works for the show, a perfect number to fill the museum's main gallery. We could easily have made three good exhibitions from the work that was entered," says Barnett.

Vanco, who says he won't miss working on the show, has great trust in Barnett. "I

have no qualms about the Spring Show going forward. I'm sure she'll change things but that's a good thing. Fresh insights keep things evolving."

Barnett's fresh eye will build on the work Vanco accomplished in the past 49 years. To really see how the show evolved, a dip into the institutional memory of the organization is in order.

The annual "Exhibition of the Artists of Erie" began in 1923 at the Erie Arts Center, predecessor to the current museum, and was organized by the Art Club of Erie. Catalogs from some of the early years show us that awards were given, and the jurors were a team of local art pa-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

[top left] The Spring Show has come a long way from its origins as the Annual Exhibition of the Artists in Erie, expanding both in scope and radius of eligibility, opening up to artists as far as 250 miles away. [bottom right] Wendy Maruyama, juror of the 95th Spring Show, brings a wealth of experience to the table as an artist, furniture maker, and educator.



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MARY BIRDSONG

Spring Show juror Wendy Maruyama evaluates a painting for the exhibit opening on April 21, sitting alongside Museum curator Susan Barnett. Of 643 total submissions, 102 were chosen for display.

manageable show. “It was a true honor to jury such a significant exhibition ... there were so many stellar submissions that it became an issue of rejecting work not because it was poor, but because the space has limits,” she remarked in an email. “Sometimes I had to really shift the strategy on my evaluation process. For example, if there were three paintings I loved but each had, let’s say, crows, or trees as a central element, it came down to choosing the strongest depiction overall.”

And Maruyama also gives us other peeks into her approach by writing “as a craft person I am mindful of how well things are made, whether it’s painting or sculpture. At the same time I tried to evaluate the use of ‘appropriate’ craftsmanship — work made with found objects have a different patina, so to speak. But if I am distracted by it, then that is how I may come to a decision.”

Her words reveal how the varying approaches or emphases of jurors over the years have shaped the Spring Show in distinctive ways, giving each its own flavor. This, for better or worse, keeps the show fresh and new each year and one that is eagerly awaited in the community.

Erie will get to see the 95th show on April 22, when it opens to the public. Until then, the staff of the museum is busy with post-jurying logistics. Barnett is excited about installing her first Spring Show. “For me, as a new curator and Erie resident, the Spring Show is a fantastic opportunity to get to know the artists and their work. I look forward to laying out the show and exploring

groupings by theme, medium and color until we find relationships that work. I do envision certain very strong works as central elements in various areas of the gallery.”

And she has reason to be excited to be part of the rich and storied tradition that is the Erie Art Museum Spring Show. The show has, in many ways, been the harbinger of spring, a re-awakening of the regional art world, an opportunity for artists to show off what they worked on over the winter.

“The in-person jurying makes the local drop-off a community event. Artists may see each other for the first time in a while and the process can discourage those farther out of town from submitting, which gives the show a more local feel.”

But as Barnett wisely points out, the Spring Show is “more than just an exhibition or a contest, the Spring Show brings artists together in Erie and the region. Artists of all ages and backgrounds stop by during the drop-off period to see one another’s work and offer support. The reception is a reunion for artists and a celebration that connects them to the community.”

So, as an interesting and rewarding Spring Show is at hand, let’s celebrate the Erie Art Museum as it reaches this remarkable milestone. And let’s all look forward to the 100th and many more after that from what is clearly a local treasure. Erie would be far poorer without it.

Mary Birdsong can be reached at mbirdsong@eriereader.com

trons.

In a fascinating tidbit, the 1931 catalog, the eighth annual show, reveals that Catherine Burns Plavcan bests her much more famous husband, Joseph Plavcan with a “First Award.” He received a First Honorable Mention that year.

Of course, Vanco didn’t arrive on the scene until 1969, but he saw the first “May Show” in 1968 when he was working as a journalist for the Erie Daily Times. “I reviewed it, and I remember that it had some controversy as it contained a painting of a nude man in a bathtub.”

By the following year, the Erie Art Center had hired Vanco to be the first director. He renamed the May Show the Spring Show because he wanted to open it earlier, in April. He also expanded the radius of miles from which artists could contribute from

75 miles to 250, despite initial protests from locals. This brought in a wider diversity of talent to the show and as the years progressed, the Spring Show had developed a reputation for attracting quality work.

What also helped grow the quality of the show was recruiting the luminaries of the art world to jury the show. One, Marcia Tucker, was founder and director of the New Museum of Contemporary Art when she juried in 1983.

Jurors often came in skeptical according to Vanco. In fact one, gallery owner and dealer Bernice Steinbaum, said to him that she had high standards and remarked, “You might only end up with one work.” It turned out she was pleasantly surprised, as most others were as well.

Having jurors from larger communities and markets

gave the museum an opportunity to showcase regional talent to a wider world and gave staff the opportunity to work with notable professionals in the field. “There have been many great jurors,” says Vanco. “Recently Sergei Isupov and William Wegman were great jurors and wonderful to work with.”

Another innovation that spurred interest by artists was the instituting of a purchase patrons’ program where collectors agree to acquire a work from the show. This year that means \$12,500 in guaranteed purchases. An additional \$15,000 in cash prizes, including one from the Northwest Pennsylvania Artists Association, will also be awarded.

Some of those prizes will go to works chosen by Maruyama, who had a difficult task of winnowing down the collected works into a

Clybourne Park at Erie Playhouse Tackles Debate of Urban Development



FRIDAY, APR. 13

The next show at the Erie Playhouse tackles issues like gentrification, race, and the impact of housing in a given community. Set in 1959 and 2009 Chicago, this play spans 50 years over the course of two acts. When asked what she hoped audiences would take away from the performance, Marketing Director for the Erie Playhouse Carolin Lynn spoke of these themes at length. "My hope is that audience members see that issues like "white flight" and "gentrification" — terms NOT used in the show but very much topics in the air — have human faces." Lynn anticipates that some audience members may walk out of the show due to profanities, but those who stay will witness the mirroring of the first and second acts. While not the first time this show has been performed in Erie, this is the first time *Clybourne Park* has been fully staged — giving the Erie Playhouse an opportunity to showcase their typical aptitude for spectacle. "The house in this show is a major character. It's a modest living space in the '50s and it has gone through some major decline in the en-

suating 50 years. That change has to happen in the space of the intermission. The original design was created by our scenic designer, Christine Daugherty, but she went on maternity leave at the pivotal moment of execution, so the actual construction has been taken over by Julie Lokahi, who will also be the stage manager in charge of making the transformation happen each night. She has a larger-than-usual crew for this show to assist her, as the changes go all the way down to the walls and floors. The transformation process will happen in full view of the audience, so I think they will appreciate how major a change it will be," said Lynn. The Erie Playhouse is also partnering with the Jefferson Educational Society for a series of lectures, the first one being "How Theater Can Teach Us: What Erie can Learn from *Clybourne Park*." More information about this event can be found on the JES website. — Michael Haas

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. // Dates, showtimes, and prices available online at erieplayhouse.org

Barber Art Show Brings Together Hundreds of Artists



FRIDAY, APR. 13

The Barber National Institute will host an art show and sale featuring work from nearly 500 artists from all over our region. The 11th annual event is sponsored by physicians and supporters of the arts Jay and Mona Kang.

To kick everything off, there will be a special unveiling of a public sculpture entitled "Timeless Possibilities." At 11 a.m., a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the work at the Institute's main entrance along East Avenue. The

15-foot-tall metal sculpture with nautical and temporal elements was designed and fabricated by students and faculty from the George Junior Republic. The base of the sculpture features a tiled mosaic designed by Frank Fecko, created by eight adults in the Institute's Fine Arts Program.

The art show will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday with a wine and cheese reception starting at 5 p.m., and run until Monday evening. With over 200 works by young artists, in addition to many familiar regional, professional names on the walls, the show promises to span myriad styles and subjects, with the title of this year's show fittingly asking the viewer to be "celebrating the possibilities." — Nick Warren

Friday, Apr. 13 to Monday, Apr. 16 // Barber National Institute, 100 Barber Place // barberinstitute.org/artshow

Memorable Messes in Dramashop's *The Clean House*

FRIDAY, APR. 13



Obtaining a clean house is no small matter, and it can be particularly challenging when your Brazilian housekeeper prefers writing comedy to dusting anything.

This is the set-up of Sarah Ruhl's Susan Smith Blackburn Prize-winning play *The Clean House*, a witty, wise

and romantic foray into the lives of a married couple, both doctors, who hire someone to keep tabs on the mess within, while it seems no one can control the messes without. These include both an eccentric sister with an abiding love of house cleaning (and meddling), as well as a troubling new romance between surgeon and patient. Relationships are tested and forged as the play's emotional layers build one upon the other to a heartfelt conclusion for this humorous, whimsical comedy, opening for an extremely limited run at the Dramashop. — Cara Suppa

8 p.m. // 1001 State Street, Suite 210 // Pay what you can // dramashop.org/the-clean-house

MUSIC

Open Mic Night

Apr. 11 — 7 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Rhythms of Life: Rhythm Future Quartet

Apr. 12 — noon to 1 p.m.
The gypsy jazz four-piece combines the sound of Django Reinhardt with modern influences.
Penn State Behrend, 4701

College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Brian K. Chase

Apr. 13 — 6 to 9 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St, North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Tomkat Black

Apr. 13 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

The Groove

Apr. 13 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Erie's nine-piece band takes you to funky places while you

enjoy covers of Bruno Mars, Michael Jackson, and more.
Big Bar, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Big Mean Sound Machine and Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People

Apr. 13 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Broke Boland, Paper Matches, Drednecks and Bootjack

Apr. 13 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State

St. facebook.com.

Paoello & Gone, Jonathan Nolan, and Acoustic In The Lounge

Apr. 13 — 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Both featuring guitar and bass duos, the former serve up Rust Belt blues, while the latter specializes in fingerstyle fretwork.

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

Acoustic Ear Candy

Apr. 14 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co.,

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

Radio Age

Apr. 14 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Big Bar, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Candide in Concert

Apr. 14 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

DNCE

Apr. 14 — 9 to 11:30 p.m.
Gannon University's Hammermill Center, 620 Peach St. dnce.com.

Eric Brewer & Friends

Apr. 14 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Erie's favorite virtuoso guitarist is joined onstage by the region's best instrumentalists for fun progressive fusion and plenty of expert improvisation.
Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Sophistafunk and The LEC

Apr. 14 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Hollywood

Apr. 14 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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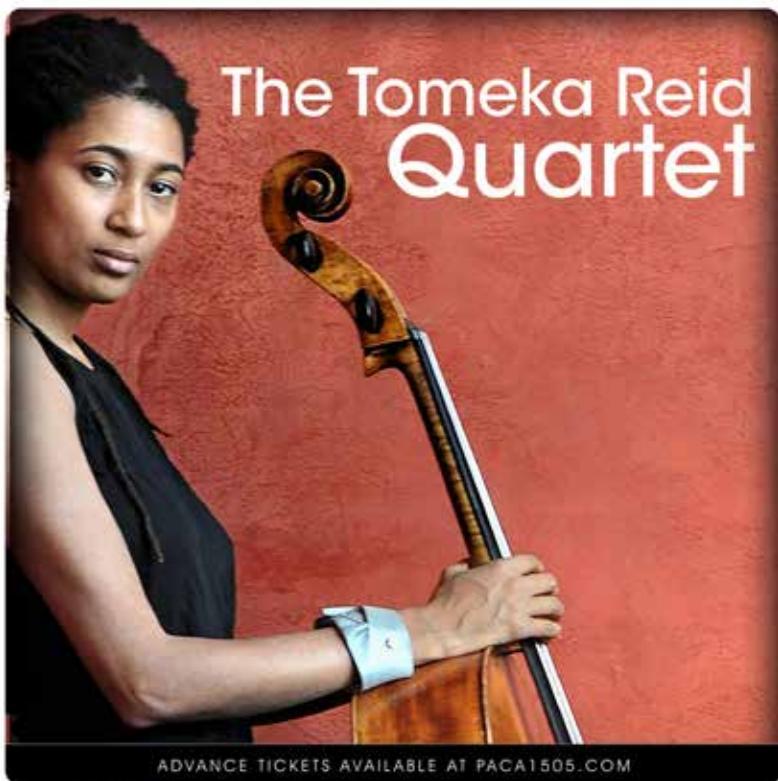
New York Times bestselling author Jonathan Eig
From Hated to Greatest:
The Life of Muhammad Ali
Tuesday, April 17 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

John Vanco, Kathy Dahlkemper, & Joseph Schember
Addressing Climate Change at the Community Level
Tuesday, April 24 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

PA-16th Dist. Congressional Debate
Featuring the Democratic candidates
Thursday, April 26 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information – including the full speaker lineup and details on how to register – visit www.JESErie.org or call us at 814.459.8000!

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The Big Mean Sounds of Tomorrow



FRIDAY, APR. 13

Two powerhouse groups are about to fill the downstairs of the King's Rook Club with sound. Ithaca, New York's Big Mean Sound Machine and Rochester's Danielle Ponder and the Tomorrow People will be splitting the bill.

The latter features the spectacular vocal abilities of diva frontwoman Danielle Ponder. At her first appearance in

Erie, audiences watched, spellbound by her amazing voice, as her backing band pumped out original soul tunes. This will be her first time in the larger downstairs complex.

The headliners are a big band with a big sound — after all, it's right there in the name. Big Mean Sound Machine is a afro-funk party band with a lineup between eight and thirteen members, depending on the performance. With a full horn section and plenty of percussion, the band brings a danceable, infectious groove that invites audiences to the dance floor, and released their fourth full-length album last year, titled *Runnin for the Ghost*. — Nick Warren

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

Maple Festival Offers Sweet Family Fun



SATURDAY, APR. 14

The 42nd Asbury Woods Maple Festival promises to be sweet.

The festival, which annually attracts more than 1,000 guests, will feature maple syrup production tours and plenty of opportunities to sample the syrup and pancakes, too.

Guided 45-minute historical tours will take place throughout the day, and a shorter 15-minute, friendly-for-all-ages version will also be available.

People can further explore maple syrup production at the kid's "Discovery Zone," where you can watch demonstrations and taste the goods.

Live animal shows are also scheduled throughout Saturday and Sunday. Guests can also help name Asbury Woods' new ferret by voting for their favorite option with a donation towards the care of the animal and its habitat. The name that raises the most money will win.

Maple Festival tickets will be available at the door. — Tracy Geibel

Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. // \$5 for Asbury Woods members, \$7 for non-members, free for age 3 & under // 835-5356 // asburywoods.org

Jack Stauber to Release Third Solo Album *HiLo* at Basement Transmissions

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

McKean native and wildly unique avant-pop musician Jack Stauber is set to release his third full-length solo album *HiLo*, a follow-up to 2017's *Pop Food* at Basement Transmissions. Joining him for this evening of fun will be a slew of equally entertaining acts such as Spish, Green Fingers, Teddy Rankin and Joose, which Stauber also fronts.

Stauber currently lives in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh where he attends the University of Pittsburgh for marketing and advertising. He actively uses these

skills to his advantage with his unique VHS-style music videos and content that are equally as strange as his music.

If you're a fan of wholeheartedly original and off-the-beaten-path pop music, you'd be remiss to miss the show. With Stauber's current track record, one can only ponder what sort of musical menagerie of fun is in store for his ever-growing audiences. — Roman Sabella

6:30 p.m. // 145 W 11th St // \$8 // facebook.com/basement.transmissions

Celebrate Bernstein's Legacy with 'Candide in Concert'



SATURDAY, APR. 14TH

Earlier this winter, a collaboration between the Erie Playhouse, the Erie Philharmonic, and PACA (Erie's Performing Arts Collective Alliance) was announced in an effort to recognize "the uniqueness of the Erie theater and art scene." While "Candide in Concert" is not an explicit addition to this series, it is clear that the partnership opened further doors for collaboration between the organizations as the special event is presented in equal parts by the Erie Playhouse and the Erie Philharmonic.

"We are incredibly excited for the chance to work side by side with the Erie Playhouse again, this time with Bernstein's legendary *Candide*," says Steven Weiser, executive director of the Erie Philharmonic. "The music will really put the orchestra on display while the

all-star cast from the Playhouse will not disappoint. This is a rare show to see live, and we are very honored for the chance to bring it to the Warner Theatre stage. This is definitely a night not to be missed!"

"Candide in Concert" is a one-night-only production being presented in celebration of renowned American composer, conductor and pianist Leonard Bernstein, just in time for what would have been his 100th birthday. The operetta, based on a 1759 novella of the same name by Voltaire, tells the uplifting adventure of a man (played by Michael Valentine) who travels the world after losing his fiancée (played by Devon Lavinia Yates), encountering "dueling sultans" and "countless con artists" along the way. Despite originally being met with "unenthusiastic reactions" upon its 1959 opening, this wildly popular production has now become a cult classic of sorts and is sure to stir a great deal of excitement within Erie's dedicated theater community. — Aaron Mook

7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 23 West 10th Street // Tickets start at \$25

Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Just Dance
Apr. 14 — 9:30 p.m. to midnight
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Ron Yarman & Friends
Apr. 15 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

Spring Choir Concert
Apr. 15 -- 5 to 7 p.m.
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psu.edu.

Latin Jazz Concert: Mambo
Apr. 16 — 7 to 9:30 p.m.
As the name implies, these talented local musicians combine Latin, jazz, salsa, and merengue into a potent recipe.
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psu.edu.

Troll 2, Cult Classics, and Shadow Tribe
Apr. 18 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Pains and Church Tongue
Apr. 19 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

ElectroFLUX

Experimental Series
Apr. 19 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Gov't Mule
Apr. 19 — 7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. mule.net.

Small Town Revolution
Apr. 20 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Featuring a lead male and lead female singer, the much-loved local country six piece is able to cover all the bases.
Big Bar, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Light It Up
Apr. 20 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Jim Avett
Apr. 20 — 8 to 9:30 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Theory of Evolution
Apr. 21 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Aqueous and Backup Planet
Apr. 20 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Noise Creep

Apr. 20 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Breaking Solace and Brotherhood of the Jam
Apr. 20 — 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Syracuse's Breaking the Solace joins forces with local metal bands Brotherhood of the Jam and Craw for a night of shredding and heavy breakdowns.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Whisky for Three
Apr. 21 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Jackson Station
Apr. 21 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

Victory Highway
Apr. 21 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Big Bar, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Hoodie Allen
Apr. 21 — 8 p.m.
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psu.edu.

Jimmy Burns
Apr. 21 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

The Tomeka Reid Quartet

Get Ready to DNCE at Gannon University



SATURDAY, APR. 14TH

Spring concerts are an interesting phenomenon in the context of local college life. Traditionally taking place every other year to save for expenses, there's a healthy sense of competition between Erie's universities to see who can conjure the biggest name, drawing in not only students and staff but the public as well. This year, Gannon University has given the competition a run for their money as they prepare to host funk-pop stars DNCE at their very own Hammermill Center.

Formed in 2015, DNCE is most notable for being fronted by Joe Jonas, current Jonas brother and former member of The Jonas Brothers. The band worked quickly to release their debut EP, *Swaay*, in October of the same year, featuring

the two radio smash hits that would go on to define the current era, "Cake By the Ocean" and "Toothbrush." The singles would eventually be included on the band's first full length record, *DNCE*, released just a year later on November 18, 2016. Reactions to DNCE and their early work have been positive, with many critics noting the band's diverse style and lighthearted, dance-centric songwriting.

"At the end of the school year, when students are most stressed about finals and graduation, we really need something fun like this concert to keep morale high," says sophomore Teddy Rankin. "It's a great way for the university to connect with its student community and allows for us to blow off some steam."

Many Gannon students have been vocal about their surprise and excitement regarding the university's ability to bring an artist as popular as DNCE to Erie. For them, the spring concert presents a much-needed opportunity to let loose toward the end of the second semester. — Aaron Mook

8 p.m. // 620 Peach Street // Student tickets start at \$10, public tickets start at \$25

Gov't Mule Unwinds at the Warner

Popular jam band makes pit stop in Erie



THURSDAY, APR. 19

Music — at least music that which has anything to say — could not exist without tension. Blues music, in particular, would be a figment in its absence; a bluesman relies on tension to make his guitar strings sound and tension in his soul to sing lyrics that resonate. Gov't Mule just so happened to begin recording its tenth studio album *Revolution Come, Revolution Go* with tension at (or near) an all-time high: Election Day 2016. The push-pull between Democrat and Republican, majority and minority, traditional and progressive, globalism or isolationism, regulation or deregulation (and seemingly anything one might conceivably take sides on) had seldom felt so pronounced. This environment cultivated the band's most critically acclaimed release since 2001's *The Deep End*, which was written in the wake of founding member and bassist Allen Woody's passing (grief, of course = tension).

Lead guitarist, singer, and principal

songwriter Warren Haynes developed a kinship with Woody when they joined the legendary Allman Bros. Band in 1989. Five years later, the two recruited drummer Matt Abts and recorded Gov't Mule's self-titled debut. Since then, the band has expanded from a power trio to a quartet, consisting of Haynes, Abts, Danny Louis (guitar, keys, and backup vocals), and Jorgen Carlsson (bass). At the core of

the Gov't Mule's sound are Haynes' gritty electric blues riffs and commanding vocals, but the group also draws from gospel, soul, jazz, funk, and country to create a varied repertoire. They are also known to splice a well-placed cover or two into their sets, whether it be The Beatles (check out their great interpretation of "She Said, She Said"), Pink Floyd, or (naturally) the Allman Bros.

Like the Allmans, the band is well-regarded for their ability to improvise during their live shows, several of which have been recorded and are cherished by fans as much as, if not more so, than their studio albums. You'll be able treasure their upcoming concert at the Warner Theatre (although you won't be able to take home a copy), with metal-tinged Southern rockers Black Stone Cherry opening. Even if the music comes from being wound-up, listening is about unwinding. — Matt Swanseger

7:30 p.m. // 811 State St. // \$36.75-\$44 // erieevents.com/events/govt-mule/

Experience the Classic Comedy of *One Man, Two Guvnors* at Gannon University

THURSDAY, APR. 19TH

This month, Gannon University's Schuster Theatre will be unveiling their latest show of the current season, Richard Bean's *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Directed by Gannon alumna and theatre professor Alaina Manchester, this English adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's beloved Italian comedy, *The Servant of Two Masters*, follows Francis Henshall, one man with two peculiar bosses that he must keep from interacting in 1960s-era Brighton. *One Man, Two Guv-*

nors originally premiered in May 2011 to widespread critical acclaim, including a five star review from The Guardian proclaiming it "a triumph of visual and verbal comedy." Schuster Theatre's performance will star students Luke Frawley, Petra Shearer, and Seamus Clerkin as lead Francis Henshall. — Aaron Mook

8 p.m. to 9 p.m. // 620 Sassafras Street // General Admission \$7, Gannon Students and Staff \$5

Apr. 21 — 8 to 11 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St.
paca1505.com.

Mushroomhead and Unsaid Fate

Apr. 21 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St.
facebook.com.

Victory At The Crossroads, Revelation, and Green Fingers

Apr. 21 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St.
facebook.com.

Funktional Flow

Apr. 21 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
The Buffalo quintet ties together their titular funk with rock and reggae in what's always a lively performance.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St.
facebook.com.

Blasco Concert Series: Edinboro Chamber Players

Apr. 23 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.
erielibrary.org.

Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert

Apr. 24 -- 8 to 9:30 p.m.
Penn State Behrend,

4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu. Dance

Mercyhurst Dance Department: Water Dance

Apr. 14 — 4 p.m.
Dobbins Landing, 1 State St.
miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Champions of Dance

Apr. 15 — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier
championcheercentral.com.

Mercyhurst Dance Department: Raw Edges XX

Apr. 20 — 7 p.m. & Apr. 21 — 2 & 7 p.m. & Apr. 22 — 2 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St.
miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert

Apr. 24 -- 8 to 9:30 p.m.
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

FOOD & DRINK

Healthy Cooking with Instapot

Apr. 12 — 2 to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St. lifeworkserie.org.

Downtown Erie Food Tour

Apr. 14 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Like My Thai, 827 State St.
eriefoodtours.com.

Maple Festival

Apr. 14, 15 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.
asburywoods.org.

Erie County Dairy Princess Tea

Apr. 15 — 2 p.m.
Mound Grove Golf Course, 10760 Donation Rd. Waterford, PA 16441
facebook.com.

All About Tea

Apr. 16 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd.
erielibrary.org.

2018 Erie County Democratic Party Spring Dinner

Apr. 19 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
The Erie County Democratic Party will showcase their candidates and elected officials just in time for May's primaries.
Concourse of Union Station,

SUMMER FUN STARTS NOW!



SEASON TICKETS



YOUTH PARTIES



SUMMER PICNICS



APRIL 13-15 vs. ALTOONA (PIT)
APRIL 16-19 vs. TRENTON (NYY)
BUCK NIGHT: MON, 4/16 @ 6:05 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 13
GATES: 4 PM • GAME: 6:05 PM
LIVE MUSIC ON THE PLAZA: 4-6 PM
\$2 BUD LIGHTS IN THE BUD LIGHT BEER GARDEN UNTIL GAME TIME



GET DETAILS & TICKETS AT
SEAWOLVES.com

McDowell Center for Performing Arts
Presents



Disney
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

April 12, 13 & 14 at 7 p.m.
 April 14 & 15 at 2 p.m.

McDowell Little Theater
 3320 Caughey Road, Erie

For tickets and information
 Call (814) 836-6925

WQLN
 PUBLIC MEDIA
 TV 54.1 • Radio 91.3FM • WQLN Education • O-Media
 Schedule Highlights

Pennsylvania Gubernatorial Primary Debate Republican Candidates



Laura Ellsworth



Paul Mango



Scott Wagner

April 12 at 8pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1



FROM THE ANCIENT TO THE MODERN



ART AND CULTURE DEFINE WHO WE ARE



CIVILIZATIONS

April 17 at 8pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1



LET'S GET MUDDY!

Run-A-Muck Mud Run • Sat. June 2

A MUDtastic event for kids and the entire family includes a 1.5-mile course and 20 unique obstacles all designed to get you wet and muddy.



Post Party Features:

- Food for purchase from Sticks & Bricks
- Northern Scoop Craft Ice Cream
- Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe

\$25/participant includes official t-shirt or \$35/participant day of registration (no shirt)
 Eastside Family Y • 2101 Nagle Road
 ymcaerie.org • 899-9622

Erie County Human Relations Commission 12th ANNUAL FAIR HOUSING SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 25th, 2018
 (9AM – 5PM)

Pre-Registration is requested

- Deconstruction: A Strategy for Jobs Creation
- Updates on PHARE grant program
- America's Fist Sustainable Urban Agrihood
- Erie Refocused: Putting the plan into Action
- Ethics – Real Estate
- Growing Communities
- Energy Efficiency – Commitment Leads to Action
- Transgender housing updates

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 Registration begins at 8:15 AM
 @ Blasco Library- Hirt Auditorium

\$10 Cost includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Find out more at www.eriecountypa.gov/HRC
 Email: cscalise@eriecountypa.gov or call 814-451- 7021

HOODIE ALLEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

8:00 p.m. • Junker Center



PennState
Behrend

Tickets at behrend.psu.edu/concert

DRAMASHOP
THEATER IN PROCESS

THE CLEAN HOUSE
BY SARAH RUHL

PART OF OUR
Erie Arts & Culture
STAGED READING SERIES

APRIL 13 & 20, 2018 @ 8PM

DRAMASHOP
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FREE ADMISSION /
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Kings Rook

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

BIG MEAN SOUND MACHINE

+ DANIELLE PONDER &
THE TOMORROW PEOPLE
[DOWNSTAIRS]

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

SOPHISTAFUNK

+ THE LEC
[DOWNSTAIRS]

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

AQUEOUS

[DOWNSTAIRS]

DOORS 8PM | MUSIC 10PM

OPEN THURS-SAT @ 8PM

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS 8PM-12AM

FREE POOL, SHUFFLEBOARD, & GAMES ALWAYS!

1921 PEACH ST - FIND US ON FACEBOOK

OPEN MIC NITE

THURSDAY @ 10PM!

THIRSTY THURSDAY DRINK SPECIALS!

+ \$2 WELLS & ALL DOMESTICS (8PM-11PM)

+ \$3 ALL CRAFTS (8PM-11PM)

+ \$2 FIREBALL (9PM-10PM)

+ \$3.50 LONG ISLANDS (9PM-10PM)

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FOR DETAILS!

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EXCEPT SPECIAL EVENTS****

SAT 04/21
FUNCTIONAL FLOW

FRI 04/27

ART THE BAND

SAT 04/28

CHESTNUT GROVE

+ WILD ADRIATIC

+ THE BOOM

SHAKALAKAS

FRI 05/04

FOLKFACES

SAT 05/05

WANYAMA

FRI 05/11

WAVE TRAILS

+ MIRES

+ BARLOW

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PLYMOUTH
FOR
KBS
Tapping &
Founders Sampling
4:20 p.m.
on 4/20/2018



At the Plymouth Tavern
1109 State St, Erie, PA 16501
814.453.6454

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Park

April 13-14, 19-22, 25-29

*Adult language/situations

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**LECOM STAGE AT
THE PLAYHOUSE**

Hurts So Good: Pains and Church Tongue at Basement Transmissions

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Basement Transmissions is bringing the pain with one of the heaviest hardcore shows to come to Erie in months.

Pains, on tour from Chicago, unleashes devastating fury on their five track EP, *Drown the Earth*, one of the angriest releases I've heard in some time. Each track fades into the next, almost making the full EP feel as if it were just one long hardcore song. If it were, the song's breakdown would be the track "The Mouth," by far the heaviest song on the album.

Touring with Pains are Church Tongue, from Indianapolis. Church Tongue's 2016 full-length album *Heart Failure* touches on many different subgenres of hardcore, at times sounding melodic, other times sounding like mid-2000's metalcore, with beatdown and mosh riffs sprinkled everywhere in between.

Local opening acts include Erie hardcore young bucks, Livid Life, Erie metalcore band, Of Shadows, and Narwhal Bloodbath. So come out to Basement Transmissions to support the bands and mosh your socks off. — Tommy Shannon

7 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$10 Advance, \$13 Doors // facebook.com/basement.transmissions

"All An Act Cast Reprise Roles for Comedic Sequel"

FRIDAY, APR. 20

If you're looking to escape to 1936 Paris while still in Erie, look no further than All An Act's production of *Comedy of Tenors*. This play by Ken Ludwig, a two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright, is a show a year in the making for "A3." Director David Mitchell said that the *Comedy of Tenors*, a sequel to *Lend Me A Tenor*, contains the same gut-busting comedy that will leave audiences in stitches. "A3" produced the prequel to *Comedy of Tenors* during their last season and the cast from that production will be reprising their roles in this piece. Mitchell went on to say that working

with an ensemble cast allows the comedic elements to develop more organically and that audiences will be sure to notice their rapport. All An Act is known for their attention to detail in set design, and this show is no exception. The set has been developed by Mitchell, a man who wears many hats during the process of *Comedy of Tenors*. This comedy is "PG-13" according to Mitchell, and will run until May 13. — Michael Haas

7:30 p.m. (see website for full schedule) // 652 W. 17th St. // \$12 Adults; \$10 Seniors and Students (cash-only at the door) // allanact.net

Jim Avett: Same Space, New Stage in Downtown Erie



was one of the first people I reached out to when I knew we were getting ready to open."

Situated along the State Street corridor in a plum location midway between Jekyll and Hyde's and The Plymouth, speakeasy lounge Room 33 is the perfect venue for Avett to make his return to the Erie area — after all, a "generation" ago, Styn's stylishly rendered space

FRIDAY, APR. 20

Music, when it comes from the heart and uplifts the soul, has a way of being handed down from generation to generation like a prized family heirloom. Jim Avett's own father, a preacher who filled his family's life with song, bequeathed it upon his son; Jim, in his turn, passed it onto his sons, Scott and Seth, better known as The Avett Brothers, as well as a daughter, Bonnie.

Erie might not have any blood ties to Avett, but that doesn't make the gift of his music to the generations who come to hear him at Room 33 any less intimate or profound.

"When I heard Jim Avett years ago, he brought the house down," said Rebecca Styn, proprietor at Room 33. "His music is so engaging and uplifting...He

served as the Erie Ale House, and the very spot where Avett made his first appearance in the Gem City.

Now, this Navy veteran, farmer and welder-by-trade, whose music career blossomed late in life after the dual responsibilities of work and family no longer confined music to a mere hobby, will return to the stage for what Styn calls "an opportunity to experience musicians that [audiences] may not otherwise have access to." Consider it a royal complement to the many talented local acts in the area, from a father and grandfather who looks forward to every family dinner with the grandkids back home in North Carolina. — Cara Suppa

8 p.m. // 1033 State Street // General Admission \$10 // facebook.com/room33speakeasy

121 W. 14th St. facebook.com.

Wine & Cheese Weekend

Apr. 20 — 5 p.m. & Apr. 21, 22 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Various Locations, la-keeriewinecountry.org.

North East Food Tour

Apr. 22 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Bean Coffee Shop, 12 S. Lake St, North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com.

Mind, Body, Beer

Apr. 24 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Happy-Appy Food Tour

Apr. 25 — 5 to 7 p.m. Room 33, 1033 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

MOVIES

Aircraft Carrier

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr.

biggreenscreen.com.

Prehistoric Planet

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

Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Call Me By Your Name

Apr. 11 — 5:30 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

20000 Leagues Under the Sea (1916)

Apr. 12 — 8 to 10 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

The Met: Live in HD - Luisa Miller

Apr. 14 — 12:30 p.m. Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

The Post

Apr. 18 — 5:30 p.m.

The Oscar-nominated film stars screen icons Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in a real-life story of the Washington Post's involvement with the Pentagon Papers. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Reefer Madness (1936)

Apr. 20 — 8 to 10 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

VISUAL ARTS

Annual Student Show, Juried by Susan Barnett

Ongoing through Apr. 15 Doane Hall of Art at Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. Meadville, PA 16335 allegheny.edu.

Teenage Kicks

Ongoing through Apr. 21 Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St, Edinboro,

PA 16444 brucegallery.info.

Patricia S. Yahn Student Art Show

Ongoing through Apr. 27 John M. Lilley Library at Penn State Behrend, 4951 Behrend College Dr. sites.psu.edu.

Urban Chatter: Textile Art by Sharon Kerry-Harlan

Ongoing through Apr. 29 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Senior Art Thesis Exhibition

Ongoing through May 13 Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Gary Spinoso: Divine Instinct

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

James McMurray: Faces and Paces

Ongoing through June 10, 2019

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Jay & Mona Kang Art Show and Sale

Apr. 13 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Apr. 14, 15 — noon to 3 p.m. & Apr. 16 — 1 to 6 p.m. Barber National Institute, 100 Barber Place barberinstitute.org.

Diane Grguras, "Mysterious Vapors" & Ryan Burke, Jade Sculptures

Apr. 13 through May 15 (Reception Apr. 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.) Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

95th Annual Spring Show

Apr. 21 through Jul. 1 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Spring Show 2018: Public Opening

Apr. 22 — 1 to 3 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Senior Projects

Apr. 24 through May 5 (Reception Apr. 24 — 7 to 8 p.m.) Doane Hall of Art at Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St. Meadville, PA 16335 allegheny.edu.

THEATER

Til Beth Do Us Part

Apr. 11, 24, 25 — noon & Apr. 14, 21 — 5:30 p.m. & Apr. 15 — 2:30 p.m. & Apr. 20 — 7 p.m. Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Beauty and the Beast

Apr. 12, 13, 14 — 7 p.m. & Apr. 14, 15 — 2 p.m. McDowell Intermediate High School Little Theater, 3320 Caughy Rd. mcd-performingarts.org.

Mercyhurst Theatre Program: Doña Rosita the Spinster

Apr. 12, 13, 14 — 7:30 p.m. & Apr. 15 — 2 p.m. Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Aqueous Expects More Highs for the Rook on 4/20

Plus a Q&A with guitarist Mike Gantzer and bassist Evan McPhaden



FRIDAY, APR. 20

By: Ryan Smith

In this bright, shining era — when live, jam-based music has been made Great Again — I'm excited all the time. Excited for all the shows I get to make it to. Excited for all the shows I get to write about. Excited, even, for all the ones I don't.

But I've come to realize that few bands get me in full-on groove mode more consistently and more genuinely (just, more) these days than Aqueous.

And man, I'm not alone swimming in those waters.

Now, don't get me wrong: Wherever they've gone, the Buffalo-based prog-jam powerhouse has been non-stop melting the minds right outta showgoers for a good handful of years now. But

more recently, it seems, the flow of the waters they've been running has really picked up with unrelenting speed and awesomeness. And now ... well, now, Aqueous is on fire.

They're a huge part — a feather in the hat, let's say, or an arrow in the quiver — of a vibrant, ever-changing, healthy, friendly live music culture that's been born both regionally and nationally in recent years. That's thanks in large part to a whole bunch of different, amazing and amazingly different bands, and to all the different and amazing people who come out to support them and feel the grooves they're gifting.

It's a give-and-take that, once you've experienced it, you just get it. And with Aqueous, you get it quick.

Almost from their start, Erie's gotten Aqueous, and has given them plenty of

friendly ears — and they've returned the favor in kind many times — making the Gem City a home-away-from-home for the Empire State born-and-bred quartet.

They'll be making their way back to their local home-base, the King's Rook Club, for the first time in 2018 on Friday, April 20, so mark the date (just so you don't, um, space on it) for what's sure to be one for the books.

I caught up with half of Aqueous — guitarist/vocalist Mike Gantzer and bassist Evan McPhaden — on the fly recently for a quick little question-and-answer session, where they touched on stuff like their new album in the works, their recent bid for a spot on National Public Radio's Tiny Desk Concert series, the coming summer music festival season, and what's been on their personal playlists.

Here's what they had to say:

Ryan Smith: So, tell me just a bit about the Tiny Desk.

Evan McPhaden: The Tiny Desk (submission) video was another idea we've always wanted to do. We shortened our song "Underlyer" a bit, and kinda just went for it. We love slimming down our approach to our tunes, in terms of less pedals and making them bare bones, which you can see in that video or our *Paste Magazine* session.

RS: What's some of the stuff you're listening to most these days?

Mike Gantzer: Recently, I've really been in love with Fleet Foxes! I've also been listening to some cool jazz-influenced

hip-hop, particularly an artist out of Chicago called noname. There's also a band called Mild High Club that I've been digging on, and also some Bill Withers, CKY, Metallica, and The Strokes. It's been an eclectic month for my listening tastes!

RS: Word is no one should ever miss an Erie show. Word? And elaborate, please.

EM: That's a good piece of advice! Erie has become sort of second home for us. It's probably the first area outside western New York where we saw people come out to shows and show support. We usually try to throw some surprises into those sets as well. But, overall, we feel comfortable, which brings out great improv, vibes and energy.

RS: Anything else you'd like to add on any and all things Aqueous?

EM: The future looks great right now! We're entering festival season where we're playing some awesome fests including Electric Forest, SummerCamp, Peach Fest, Cobblestone Live and Night Lights. We're also gonna be putting out a new album this fall with a big tour behind it. This album had a different approach for us, which was fun. Generally, we wrote tunes, played and tested them live, then recorded it, but for this album, we wrote songs thinking in a studio setting. There's a bunch of new tunes that have never been played live yet that we can't wait to dig into!

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach Street // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Rent
Apr. 12 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
A student cast brings alive the iconic musical about young bohemian artists in NYC at the dawn of the AIDS crisis.
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

Detroit
Apr. 12, 13, 14 — 8 p.m. & Apr. 15 — 2:30 p.m.
Allegheny College, 520 N. Main St, Meadville, PA 16335 allegheny.edu.

The Clean House
Apr. 13, 20 — 8 p.m.
Dramashop, 1001 State St. Suite 210, dramashop.org.

Clybourne Park
Apr. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 25 — 7:30 p.m. & Apr. 22 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

One Man, Two Guvnors

Apr. 19, 20, 21 — 8 p.m.
Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.

A Comedy of Tenors
Apr. 20, 21 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Apr. 22 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.
All An Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

The Fantasticks
Apr. 21 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
The world's longest-running musical finds a home at Edinboro, as students bring the traditionally streamlined hit alive.
Edinboro University's Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St, Edinboro, PA 16444 events.edinboro.edu.

SPORTS

Erie Tip-Off Classic
Apr. 13, 14, 15

Various Locations, ohio-basketball.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs Altoona Curve
Apr. 13 — 6:05 p.m. & Apr. 14, 15 — 1:35 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. milb.com.

NPC Great Lakes Championships & Dave Chaffee Arms Classic
Apr. 14 — 8 a.m.
Bookended by bodybuilding competitions, palms lock and battles of the biceps ensue in the Dave Chaffee Arm Wrestling tournaments.
Presque Isle Downs and Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs Trenton Thunder
Apr. 16, 17, 18 — 6:05 p.m. & Apr. 19 — 12:05 p.m.

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

Great Lakes Bodybuilding Competition
Apr. 21 — 1 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier naturalmuscle.com.

COMMUNITY

Great Lakes Shipwreck Exhibition
Ongoing through Apr. 13
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Family Storytime
Apr. 11, 18, 25 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

The Birds Have Returned
Apr. 11 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St. lifeworkserie.org.

Adult Art Classes
Apr. 11, 19 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog
Apr. 11 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. & Apr. 23 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St, Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Milton Hershey School Informational
Apr. 11 — 6 p.m.
Golden Corral, 7500 Peach St. mhskids.org.

Presque Isle State Park After Dark: Long Pond Trail
Apr. 11 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
East Pier Parking Lot in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Tots in Nature Class:

My One Little Cloud
Apr. 12, 16, 19 — 9 to 10 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Celebrate Spring Bag Sale
Apr. 12, 13 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Mercy Center for Women, 1039 E. 27th St. mcwerie.org.

Family Storytime
Apr. 12, 19 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Preschool Nature Discovery Class: Tall Tall Grass, Small Small Pond
Apr. 12, 16, 19 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

American Short Stories
Apr. 12, 19 — 4 to 6 p.m.

Hoodie Allen: Living Up to *The Hype*



board charts for both Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums and Top Rap Albums. In 2016, his sophomore album, the aforementioned *Happy Camper* reached number one on the Rap charts.

Despite his techy pedigree, Allen's work doesn't fall in the "nerd-core" camp. With uptempo beats that mix together an ultimately joyous, easygoing R&B feel, his albums have struck a chord with many fans. The overall tone is lighthearted, with an honest touch. Throughout his catalog, the listener discovers that Allen isn't trying to be someone that he's not, and his genuine

love for making music shines through, fans forming a veritable friendship with the charismatic entertainer. In 2014 he gained an even larger following thanks to a team-up with Ed Sheeran for the single and accompanying video for "All About It," which features the two in spacesuits and superhero costumes.

On Saturday, April 21, he'll be performing at Penn State Behrend's Junker Center for the school's spring concert. Students — and well, anyone who needs it — can take a welcome respite from classes, catching an artist that promises to deliver just the kind of atmosphere they need to relax and have a little fun. — Nick Warren

8 p.m. // Penn State Behrend Junker Center, 5103 Station Rd. // \$10 for the public, \$5 for Penn State Behrend Students // behrend.psu.edu/concert

SATURDAY, APR. 21

Steven Adam Markowitz, better known to the world as Hoodie Allen, has a bit of an unconventional story. After graduating from the Ivy League University of Pennsylvania, the Long Island native started working at Google in their AdWords department in California. During that same time, his hip-hop career was gaining traction. Between making music and working a full-time job at the Googleplex, his fan base continued to grow and grow. In 2011, he left the company to focus on his hip-hop work full time, and suffice it to say, he's been one *Happy Camper*.

The next year, he released his first EP, *All American*, which debuted at number one on the iTunes top albums chart. His 2014 debut full length, *People Keep Talking* reached number two on the Bill-

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

Understanding Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias

Apr. 12 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Home Instead Senior Care Office, 3816 W. Lake Rd. homeinstead.com.

Memories of WWI

Apr. 12 — 7 p.m.
Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

Chris Bliss

Apr. 12 — 7 p.m. & Apr. 13, 14 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.
Delivering intelligent satire, the comedian is a proponent of the Bill of Rights and juggling. *Jr's Last Laugh*, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

The Life and Times of a Western PA Militia Musket

and Its Erie Connection

Apr. 12 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Qigong Classes

Apr. 13, 20 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

Cathedral: The Flight to Save the Ancient Hemlocks of Cooks Forest

Apr. 13 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

First Day of Trout

Apr. 14 — 8 a.m. to noon
East Waterworks Pond in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Peek'n Peak Spring Job Fair

Apr. 14 — 9 a.m. to noon
Peek'n Peak Resort,

1405 Olde Rd. Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com.

Erie County Master Gardener Spring Seminar

Apr. 14 — 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Reed Union Auditorium at Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. extension.psu.edu.

Little Leaves

Apr. 14 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Writing & Self-Publishing

Apr. 14 — 10 a.m. to noon
Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

Coloring for Grown-Ups

Apr. 14, 21 — 10 a.m. to noon
Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

Home Buying/Selling



ARE YOU A TECH SAVVY GIRL?

You will be after a day of hands-on fun with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics!

ARE YOU READY?

Who: Girls in grades 6-9
Where: Edinboro University
Date: Saturday, May 5, 2018
Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Cost: \$10 per girl, \$15 with adult

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

TO REGISTER: AAUWERIE.ORG



PA 16 DIST. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Erie's Downtown Debate Series
FREE EVENT

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES



Chris Rieger, Ronald DiNicola & Robert Multari
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.
April 26 / 7 to 8:30 p.m.

PRESENTED BY



REGISTER TODAY: JESerie.org/events

Open the door to your future

Spring Open House

See how our proud past
is shaping our future

Saturday, April 14, 2018
9 a.m. to Noon

- Tour the Campus
- Visit with Faculty
- Meet with Admissions
- Talk to Residence Life
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Innovative Sounds: Tomeka Reid Quartet to Perform at PACA



SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Chicago-based cellist, composer, and educator Tomeka Reid will lead an impressive collection of musicians in The Tomeka Reid Quartet as part of Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA) Jazz Night on Saturday, April 21.

Reid, who has been described as “a remarkably versatile player” by Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune, will be playing alongside several other impressive artists, including world-renowned jazz guitarist Mary Halvorson, double bassist Jason Roebke and drummer To-

mas Fujiwara. As an educator, Reid has led string improvisation workshops in Italy and the U.S.

Halvorson has visited Erie a few times in recent years and returns this time as the recent winner of four categories of the *Downbeat* Critics Poll, including world’s best jazz guitarist. NPR’s Lars Gotrich has stated she is “the most forward-thinking guitarist working right now,” which will make for quite the show when combined with the talents of the rest of the quartet.

The Tomeka Reid Quartet will treat crowds to their avant-jazz stylings that show equal parts experimentation and improvisation with an overall love for groove. You won’t want to miss what is sure to be night of purely magical jazz chemistry as these talented and celebrated musicians take the stage. — Roman Sabella

8 p.m. // 1505 State St. // \$15 // paca1505.com

Workshop

Apr. 14 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Lowe’s, 1930 Keystone Dr.
howardhanna.com.

**Veterans Miracle Center
Erie Live Auction**

Apr. 14 — 3 to 7 p.m.
Lake Erie Church, 1565 W.
38th St. vmcenter.org.

Ladies Night Make N Take

Apr. 14 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Presque Isle Wine Cellars,
9440 W. Main Rd, North
East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

Raptor Experience

Apr. 15 — noon to 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental
Center, 301 Penin-
sula Dr. treppi.org.

**Harborcreek Youth
Services Designer
Purse Bingo**

Apr. 15 — noon to 5 p.m.
Our Lady of Mercy Church,
837 Bartlett Rd, Harborcreek,
PA 16421 facebook.com.

Tree Observation Hike

Apr. 15 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Erie Bluffs State Park,
10990 W. Lake Rd, Lake
City, PA 16423 treppi.org.

Family Storytime

Apr. 16, 23 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Edinboro Branch Library,
413 W. Plum St, Edinboro,
PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

STREAM Studio

Apr. 16 — 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center

Library, 1255 Manches-
ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Family Storytime

Apr. 17, 24 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Iroquois Avenue Branch
Library, 4212 Iroquois
Ave. erielibrary.org.

Great Books

Apr. 17, 24 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

The World at Night

Apr. 17 — 6 p.m.
Planetarium director Dr. David
Hurd guides stargazers for an
illuminating view of the night
sky from an animal’s eyes.
Edinboro University Planetar-
ium, 230 Scotland Rd. Edinboro,
PA 16412 edinboro.edu.

**Adult Beginner Mountain
Dulcimer Class**

Apr. 17 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Lakewood United Meth-
odist Church, 3856 W.
10th St. facebook.com.

**From Hated to Greatest:
The Life of Muhammad Ali**

Apr. 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**April Work Day for
Operation Christmas Child**

Apr. 18 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb
Rd. samaritanspurse.org.

**Taps: 24 Notes of History
and Erie County’s**

Oliver Norton

Apr. 18 — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,
3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Therapy Dogs United

Apr. 18 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library,
413 W. Plum St, Edinboro,
PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Lifeworks Erie Open House

Apr. 18 — 4 to 6 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach
St. lifeworkserie.org.

Silent Peace Walk

Apr. 18 — 7 to 7:30 p.m.
Lake Erie Arboretum at
Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th
St. eriebenedictines.org.

**Halfway to Halloween
Haunted History Tours**

Apr. 18, 25 — 7:30 p.m. &
April 20, 27 — 7 & 9:30 p.m.
Halfway to Halloween, hops
and barley combine with
the building’s spirits for a
real spectre-tour sport.
The Brewerie at Union Station,
123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

**Gannon Writing Awards
featuring Professor
Berwyn Moore**

Apr. 18 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Gannon University’s Yehl
Alumni Room, 109 Univer-
sity Sq. gannon.edu.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Apr. 19 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Li-
brary, 2088 Interchange

Earth Day in the Time of Trump

Climate, conservation and citizen activism topic of lecture



MONDAY, APR. 23

Scott Pruitt’s efforts to dismantle the Environmental Protection Agency, the agency he was tabbed by Trump to lead, have not yet eliminated Earth Day, but once he finds out the day was designated in 1970 to celebrate clean air, land, and water, it, too, could disappear along with regulations designed to protect the planet.

All the more reason to attend the timely Climate Reality March in Perry Square this Earth Day, Sunday, April 22, from 4 to 5 p.m., and the latest Charlene M. Tanner Series lecture at Mercyhurst University, Monday, April 23, at 7 p.m.

Lois Gibbs, a pioneering advocate for environmental health and justice, will issue a call to action at both events as she shares her personal story, from Love Canal to the present.

If anyone can bring hope for change in challenging times, it is Gibbs. Forty years ago, the then-27-year-old housewife discovered that her child was attending an elementary school built on top of a 20,000 ton, toxic-chemical dump in Niagara Falls, New York. Out of desperation, she organized her neighbors into the Love Canal Homeowners Association and struggled for more than two years for its relocation. Opposing the group’s efforts were the chemical manufacturer, Occidental Petroleum, and local, state, and federal government officials who insisted that the leaking toxic chemicals were not the cause of high rates of birth defects, miscarriages, cancers, and other health problems. Finally President Jimmy

Carter delivered an Emergency Declaration, which moved 900 families from this hazardous area, a victory for the grassroots environmental movement.

Once families were relocated from Love Canal, Lois’s life was changed forever. She founded the non-profit Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste in 1981, renamed the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice (CHEJ), to help train and support local activists with their environmental work. Today she continues to help communities like Flint, Michigan, battle environmental threats to their health and well-being.

“One place I always tell people to get involved is locally,” she told an audience last fall in Medford, Massachusetts. “We are not big enough to deal with climate change on a grand scale, but if everybody worked from where they are” they would “create a beautiful, green, clean community,” a place that is “eco-friendly and where people want to live.”

A 2017 HBO documentary, *Atomic Homefront*, follows the unfolding crisis in St. Louis, Missouri, a major metropolitan area that lies dangerously close to a large landfill containing radioactive uranium waste and an escalating underground fire. Gibbs is working with a group of moms-turned-advocates as they confront the EPA and local and state officials and fight for testing and remediation.

Lois has appeared on *60 Minutes*, *20/20*, *Oprah Winfrey*, *Good Morning America*, *The Morning Show* and *The Today Show*. CBS produced a two-hour, prime-time movie about Lois’s life entitled *Lois Gibbs: The Love Canal Story* starring Marsha Mason. The 2012 documentary *A Fierce Green Fire* toured nationwide after it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Gibbs Erie lecture is part of the Charlene M. Tanner Speaker Series endowed by Doris Cipolla and co-sponsored by the Mercyhurst University Sustainability Office and the Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics and Society.

If I were Scott Pruitt, faced with citizen activists mobilized by Gibbs, I’d be shaking in my boots.

— Lisa Gensheimer

7 p.m. // Taylor Little Theatre,
Mercyhurst University, 501 East 38th
Street // free and open to the public
// sbennett@mercyhurst.edu for info

An Accordion of Comedy: A Brian Regan Q & A

Checking in with the venerable stand-up about the craft of comedy



FRIEDMAN BERGMAN

By: Nick Warren

Brian Regan is a master comedian. Whether by personal observations or dog barks, he's able to cull authentic laughs from audiences all over the country. His upcoming appearance at the Warner Theatre on Thursday, Apr. 26 will mark his seventh time in Erie. We checked in with him to get some personal views on his craft and see what he's got in the works.

Nick Warren: It seems like you've gotten approval from 'alt' guys and 'road dogs' alike. They seem to appreciate the craftsmanship of the jokes you do. Do you think you're able to tap into the fundamentals of humor? Not to get too abstract immediately.

Brian Regan: That's what's always intriguing about comedy, there's the funny side of it, and there's the math and science side of it, which I do love talking about, but it feels weird talking about something that makes people laugh. I enjoy the craft

of comedy. I enjoy coming up with an idea, and I enjoy trying to figure out the best words and the best beats to convey that as clearly as possible. It's a constant quest, because if you get it too lean and mean then you take the heart out of it, so you do have to have enough in there to give it reality. It's always a tightrope, you're always trying to find how much brevity to have involved, how much exposition. I consider it like playing an accordion, sometimes you feel like stretching your act out to get as much funny in there as possible, and sometimes you're squeezing it together and getting rid of all the fat.

NW: Working clean and working with general observations, it seems like you can make comedy out of virtually anything. Do you find that true?

BR: I think there's humor in everything. Not every comedian is going to find it in everything. I might look at something and say 'I don't see anything there' and then the next comedian

will look at the same exact thing and say 'I just thought of five minutes of jokes.' That's what's fun about the world of comedy. Sometimes you'll hear another comedian do something and you'll think to yourself 'how did I not think that?' You'll tip your hat to these people because they found something there that I didn't. So the topics themselves to me are almost incidental. If you can make someone laugh about an awning on a building, that's just as cool as making someone laugh about politics.

NW: In the new special, you have bits where you use phrases like 'biddledee bum bumbawaybay.' Now — I tried to phonetically spell this out — but aside from 'schtee peepeeedeede peedeede,' why did you name your newest special *Nunchucks and Flame-throwers*?

BR: That's a hard tee shirt for me to sell [laughs]. I don't even know how to spell out what my dad said growing up. Biddle ee-baum bumba waybay.

NW: [laughs] There's just a certain ring to it.

BR: Yea. Bick bick bickadee bang. These are things my dad actually used to say, so I have them clearly in my head. I don't expect other people to say them as clearly as mine.

I was grappling with the title. The title for a while was *I Don't Know What It Is*. That was when

I messed up a line in the special and then we used it as an out-take. I fumbled [saying] 'I don't know what it is' and said 'well that'll be a good title,' because it also is what life is all about. And then they said *I Don't Know What It Is* is too long, so we changed it to *I Don't Know*, and then I thought I don't want to undercut myself as a comedian. The role of a comedian is to see things and point them out, so if the title is *I Don't Know*, then I'm not serving myself as a comedian. So I decided I didn't want that to be the title, and then they were like 'the show's going to go streaming in three minutes' [laughs]. I'm exaggerating, but I was on the clock. So I thought, 'what pops out here?' and I jotted down a number of punchlines, and I thought nunchucks and flamethrowers are weapons, and so you could — metaphorically and hopefully — add that as a connotation, like I'm doing comedy as weapons. It's a very tenuous reason [laughs], but it's something hopefully people would remember.

NW: Anything else coming up on the horizon?

BR: I'm doing *The Tonight Show* next week [scheduled to air Friday, Apr. 13]. I'm also on a TV series called *Loudermilk*. It's not my comedic vision, Peter Farrelly and Bobby Mort are the creators. He [Farrelly] saw me do stand up, asked if I wanted

to be in this TV series and the next thing I knew, I was in it! It's a rare experience for someone in show business, where somebody has said something and followed up with it. [laughs] So, it's kind of a departure for me. It's me acting, and it's me in a role that isn't necessarily clean. The whole show is kind of gritty, and my character is kind of gritty. I'm proud of it. And if people want to see clean stuff, maybe they shouldn't watch, but if they're into good solid comedy, I recommend they check it out.

NW: Yea, you're somewhat of an anomaly. If you look at your IMDB credits, it's all 'Brian Regan as himself.' And then in *Loudermilk* you're playing 'Mugsy.'

BR: What's weird is that you have a lot of comedians who can be really down and dirty in their act, and then they do a voiceover in a wholesome Disney movie, while I do the opposite [laughs]. My act is completely clean, and then I was in Chris Rock's movie [Top 5], and now *Loudermilk*, and both of those are on the dirtier side of the track. So I guess I do everything opposite of everybody else.

7:30 p.m. // 811 State St.
// Tickets are \$38.50 each and can be purchased at the Erie Insurance Arena box office, online at eriewarnertheatre.com, or by calling (814) 452-4857.

Rd.erialibrary.org]

Kountry Wayne

Apr. 19 — 7 p.m. & Apr. 20, 21 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

Hailing from Millen, Georgia and active in Atlanta, "Kountry Wayne" Colley boasts an online following of 3.5 million fans of his small town approach to big city life.

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

American Fascism: Examining the Rise of Extreme Views on Both the Left and the Right

Apr. 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,

3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Voodoo Comedy Night III

Apr. 19 — 9 p.m.

For its third edition, the eclectic brewery will feature New York's Josh Accardo, known for his collaborations with Artie Lange and his Youtube series *Dating On Set*.
Voodoo Meadville, 215 Arch St, Meadville, PA 16335
voodooobrewery.com.

Global Youth Service Day

Apr. 21 — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
East Middle School, 1001 Atkins St. ylierie.org.

Vendor Fair & Basket Party

Apr. 21 — 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 2800 W. 8th St. erialibrary.org.

Breath Awareness

Apr. 21 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erialibrary.org.

Master Builders

Apr. 21 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St, Edinboro, PA 16412 erialibrary.org.

Earth Friendly Crafts

Apr. 21 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trempi.org.

Board Game Event: Game On!

Apr. 21 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erialibrary.org.

Build Your Own Rain Barrel

Apr. 21 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Brown's Farm, 5774 Sterrettania Rd, Fairview, PA 16415 asburywoods.org.

Erie Earth Day Summit

Apr. 22 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Hammermill Center, 620 Peach St. facebook.com.

Intro To The Healing Arts

Apr. 22 — 3 to 9 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Erie Times News

Career Fair 2018

Apr. 23 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier customerservice.goerie.com.

Stick It To Cancer Charity Event

Apr. 23 — 4:30 p.m.
Gus Anderson Field at McDowell, 3580 W. 38th St. trojanlacrosse.org.

STREAM Studio

Apr. 23 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erialibrary.org.

Earth Day Lecture: 'Love Canal: 40 Years Later'

Apr. 23 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Start Your Own Book Club

Apr. 24 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St, Edinboro, PA 16412 erialibrary.org.

Addressing Climate Change at the Community Level

Apr. 24 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

To be Young: Adolescence, Impulsivity, and Drugs

Apr. 25 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Speechless: *A Quiet Place* is a Familiar Story Told in a Clever New Way

★★★★★

I don't think I'm bragging when I say I'm something of a horror movie connoisseur. I've seen so many horror flicks that it takes quite a bit to genuinely surprise me and with that being said, I can happily say that John Krasinski's film *A Quiet Place* was a pleasant little surprise.

The film follows the day-to-day lives of a family trying to survive after the world has been ravaged by sightless creatures who hunt by sound. Due to the creatures' super sensitive hearing, the family is forced to live in near complete silence. They can only communicate via sign language and must be extra cautious of where they walk and what they do because the slightest loud noise could mean their doom.

It goes without saying that the real star of this film is the incredible sound mixing. Often filled with long stretches of silence, the slightest ambient noise is enough to create a world of suspense for the audience. I would go so far as to say that the first 30 to 40 minutes of the film is a near perfect example of tension building. Krasinski has a lot of fun scaring the audience with what we hear and what we don't hear. Sadly when the creatures actually show up in the later half, it turns into a more cliched (though well-made) monster movie fare, trying to scare through special effects set pieces rather than good old creeping tension. That being said, *A Quiet Place* has enough nerve-wracking sequences to leave any horror fan speechless. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: John Krasinski // Written by: Krasinski, Bryan Wood and Scott Beck // Starring: Emily Blunt, John Krasinski, Millicent Simmonds and Noah Jupe // 90 minutes

Hey, Remember the '80s?: *Ready Player One* is a Smart, Fun Nostalgia Overload

★★★★★

Steven Spielberg became a household name by producing and directing films whose imagery became iconic for entire generations of viewers. So it's natural that he directed *Ready Player One*; a movie that enthusiastically celebrates those same pop cultural artifacts.

Set in the year 2045, the film gives us a world ravaged by overpopulation and poverty. However, the people escape their dreary existence by immersing themselves in the Oasis, a virtual reality world where people can be or do anything they want. And apparently most people want to be popular fictional characters from the '80s, '90s and 2000s. But when the creator of the Oasis dies, a contest is created for a chance to win ownership of his creation and everyone jumps at that opportunity.

As I said before, the film celebrates nostalgia but it also smartly undercuts that celebration by showing the stultifying effects of living one's life devoted to pop culture. These characters live fantastic lives in the Oasis but their real lives are spent in isolation with huge corporations taking more and more of their freedoms away. It was a welcome decision for the movie to focus the climax less on the competition and more on a kind of citizens' uprising against the forces of greed and corruption. Sure it's all an escapist fantasy, but in this age when the Internet (our own Oasis) is at risk of falling into the hands of the corporate elite, watching the little guys fight back against oppression is the kind of escapism I think we all need right now. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Steven Spielberg // Written by: Zak Penn and Ernest Cline (based on the novel by Cline) // Starring: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn, Lena Waithe, T. J. Miller, Philip Zhao, Win Morisaki, Simon Pegg and Mark Rylance // 140 min.



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MUSIC REVIEWS

The Republic of Wolves

Shrine
Self-Released



When talking about the Long Island quintet, The Republic of Wolves, there's an elephant in the room. That elephant 1) is an iconic emo band hailing from the same location noted to have a similar sound, and 2) was recently outed for almost a decade of abusive behavior. Yes, there is no tangible connection between Brand New and The Republic of Wolves, but following years of influence and sonic comparison, it's hard not to hear just a little bit of the former in everything the latter creates. And that's okay. For all intents and purposes, *Shrine* picks up where Brand New's disgraced legacy left off, delivering a career's worth of menacing post-hardcore riffage and religious symbolism in just 48 minutes. "It's hard, hard work having a soul," vocalist Mason Maggio sings on opening track "The Canyon" just moments before second track "Bask" opens up with the life-affirming gang vocal, "So let's get to work!" A well-worn genre for some, *Shrine* fails to push many new boundaries, but will scratch an itch for many fans of Thrive and Manchester Orchestra and, most importantly, fill the void that one of the most significant acts in emo history left late last year. — Aaron Mook



Unknown Mortal Orchestra

Sex & Food
Jagjaguwar



Unknown Mortal Orchestra leading man Ruban Nielson taps into listeners' primal pleasure centers with *Sex & Food*, the experimental pop band's fourth album. Much like contemporaries Tame Impala, UMO draws heavily from the psychedelic rock and pop music of the 1960s and 1970s, in terms of production, instrumentation, and sound. The album's best asset might be in its dynamics; the ebbs and flows in mood and intensity, like those primitive urges after which it is titled. Take for instance the record's opening sequence: "Major League Chemicals" gets things off to a rollicking start, with a swell of high gain guitars, vintage electric piano, and an acrobatic bassline. Nielson proceeds to slow things down with the haunting "Ministry of Alienation," before starting to build things back up with "Hunnybee," sporting a sunny mid-tempo groove that will leave you with the warm fuzzies. Lest you be lulled into complacency with that and the counterintuitively soothing "Chronos Feasts On His Children," the fierce and gritty proto-metal of "American Guilt" comes along to tip you out of your rocking chair. *Sex & Food* simultaneously satisfies and unsettles, but is welcoming enough to invite you back for seconds. — Matt Swanseger



Kraus

Path
Terrible Records



Kraus is the latest in a line of nearly inescapable Bandcamp recommendations, and for good reason. *Path* is an otherworldly shoegaze experience that can be both relentlessly aggressive and exceedingly calm, like Sigur Ros playing through a whole lot of distortion pedals. The album's opening and closing tracks ("Figure" and "Mostly," respectively) almost mirror each other with a *Kid A*-level of ambience, but it's what's packed in between that has more in common with various Deftones projects than, say, "Motion Picture Soundtrack." Second track "Bum" is a melodic thrasher that takes noise-rock to stratospheric highs as vocalist (and project mastermind) Will Kraus lends a breathy pseudo-whisper above the grainy track. It's a high point in energy that *Path* never truly loses — one that only simmers and fizzles along the way. Though *Path* may be an acquired taste for some, it is liable to bend the minds of lo-fi musicians everywhere as every soaring piece and deafening detail was recorded in Kraus' bedroom. If Kraus truly has become inescapable, it's likely because this incredible and unexpected recording demands to not be overlooked. — Aaron Mook



Kacey Musgraves

Golden Hour
Mercury Records

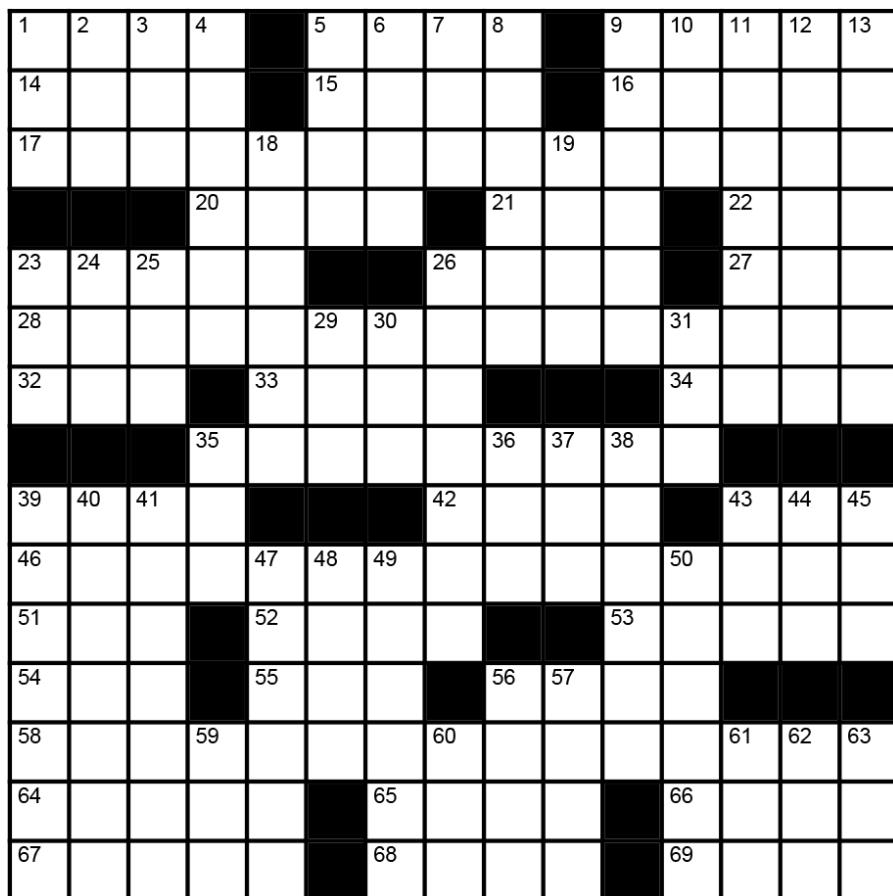


It's easy to write off a pop-country record. *Golden Hour* though, is a masterpiece — being exactly what it seeks out to be. The emotional purity on display in this record is elemental, containing deceptively simple building blocks of successful songwriting. For her third album proper, she's somehow able to outdo herself again — even after two crossover successes with indie critics and country fans across America. *Golden Hour* pushes the boundaries of what can really be considered country. The 29-year-old's Texas twang is omnipresent, as is her Western lyrical motifs at play in songs like "Space Cowboy," "Velvet Elvis," and "High Horse." The timbre and instrumentation of the record is almost completely in the indie pop vein, with reverberating guitar, spacious keyboard tones, and sequenced drum parts. Tonally, the record fits better with the underrated women of mid-90s pop — The Cardigans, Lisa Loeb, Sixpence None the Richer, or Natalie Imbruglia. Perhaps the best example of the album might be around the midpoint, with "Happy & Sad," an emo pop ballad. It's lighthearted enough to not be truly depressing, a sugar-coated treat that still isn't afraid to hide its bitterness. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK





Across

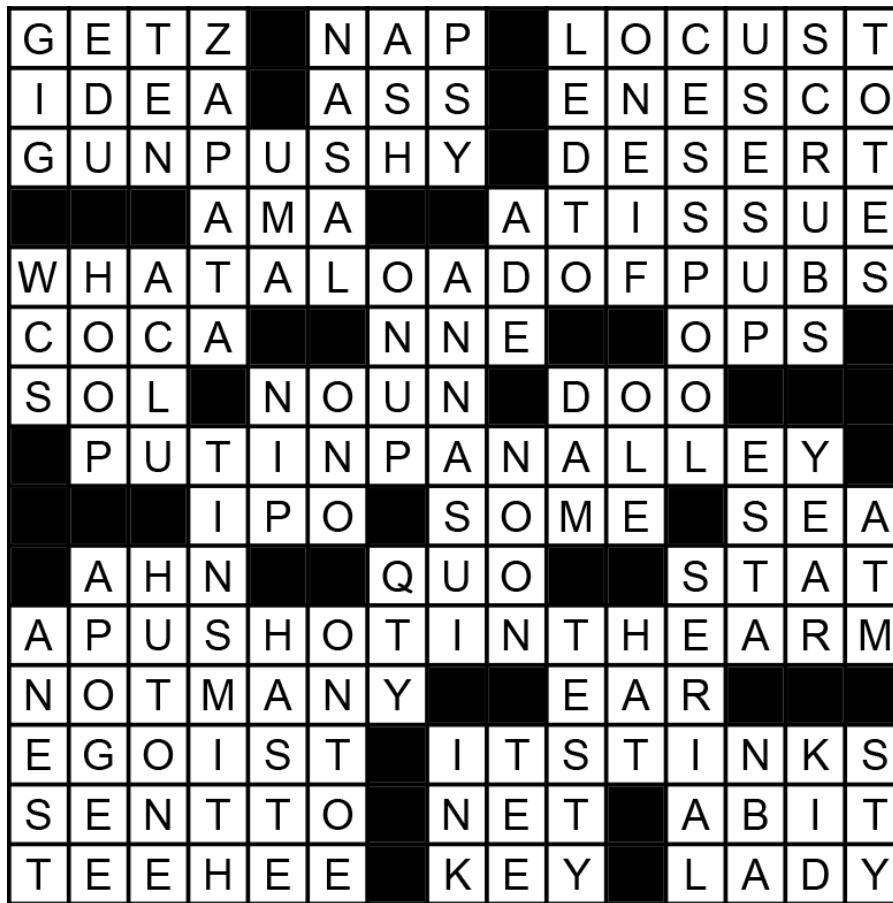
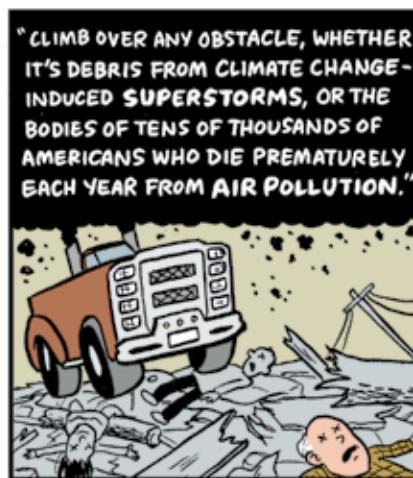
- 1. Muslim pilgrimage
- 5. Cheese coated in red wax
- 9. Set straight
- 14. Not esta or esa
- 15. Uber rival
- 16. Big name in Japanese electronics
- 17. Hollywood agent's job?
- 20. 2008 film whose title is the initials of the martial arts expert who stars in the film
- 21. Drunk motorist's offense, briefly
- 22. Part of a tuba's sound
- 23. USA ____
- 26. They may make your hair stand on end
- 27. "Who am ____ judge?"
- 28. Miss one's target during a pajama party fight?
- 32. "Geez!"
- 33. Knee-slapper
- 34. Relative of -ists
- 35. Tupperware contents, perhaps ... or this puzzle's theme
- 39. Home buyer's debt: Abbr.
- 42. Dentist's directive
- 43. "I became insane, with long intervals of horrible sanity" writer
- 46. Nullify a hunter's weapon?
- 51. NYC subway line named for two boroughs

- 52. Carded, for short
- 53. "Again ..."
- 54. Palindromic male's name
- 55. Modern prefix with gender
- 56. President after Tyler
- 58. Budget figure for a governor?
- 64. Mount in Exodus
- 65. Comic Carvey
- 66. ____ gin fizz
- 67. Number of giorni in a week
- 68. Site of a famous eviction
- 69. Pain in the neck

Down

- 1. "Yoo-____!"
- 2. Off-road wheels, briefly
- 3. Beats Electronics co-founder Dr. ____
- 4. "Star Wars" character ____ Binks
- 5. The mi. in Mile-High City
- 6. Like purple hair
- 7. Org. with a "100 Greatest Movie Quotes of All Time" list
- 8. Name on green-and-yellow soda cans
- 9. St. Francis' home
- 10. Back muscle, to weightlifters
- 11. Heaped together
- 12. Elvis, at times
- 13. They don't make it
- 18. Tool for the Grim

- Reaper
- 19. [This is scary!]
- 23. Friend of Huck
- 24. Things zygotes come from
- 25. Winter home, perhaps
- 26. Retire
- 29. Cooperstown inst.
- 30. Go beyond ripe
- 31. "____ Misérables"
- 35. The Once-____ (Seuss character)
- 36. Word on either side of "à"
- 37. Biblical verb ending
- 38. Keeps lubed, say
- 39. Don
- 40. "Brian's Song" or "Sybil," e.g.
- 41. Bart Simpson catchphrase
- 43. Org. for people puttering around?
- 44. Foreign agreement
- 45. Come to a close
- 47. Havens who sang at Woodstock
- 48. Romeo's last words
- 49. "The Crimes of Love" author Marquis ____
- 50. "You should know better!"
- 56. Cornmeal bread
- 57. Blink ____ eye
- 59. Subway station sighting
- 60. "Dear old" person
- 61. "The Greatest"
- 62. Great deal
- 63. Apt rhyme of "squeak"



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- One bonus entry for every 20 points you earn that day
 - Silver - 2x entries
 - Gold - 3x entries
 - President - 4x entries
 - Chairman - 5x entries

Players can only win once per drawing day.

KISS-A-PIG

5K Run/Walk

Benefiting



Boys & Girls Club of Erie

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Over \$6,000 in Cash & Prizes

Early Registration Available Online
at <https://runsignup.com>

MUSIC IS *Our* SOUL LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 5PM-7PM

April 13 - Dan Baney Country Unplugged
 April 14 - Matt Gavula
 April 20 - Jesse James Weston
 April 21 - Doug Phillips Acoustic

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 9PM

April 13 - The Vendettas
 April 14 - SuperBand
 April 20 - The Groove
 April 21 - Whiskey Road

THURSDAYS • 8PM

April 11 - Dueling Pianos
 April 18 - Stiletto



LBV STEAK & PASTA

\$20 Three Course Meal

5:00pm - 6:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday

Last Chance! Offer Ends April 26th

Choose One from each Course

FIRST COURSE

House Salad
 Caesar Salad
 French Onion Soup
 Minestrone Soup

SECOND COURSE

10oz Sirloin w/ Mashed Potatoes & Asparagus
 Salmon w/ Mashed Potatoes & Asparagus
 Chicken Parmesan w/ Pasta Marinara
 Spaghetti & Meatballs
 Chicken Alfredo

FINALE

New York Cheesecake
 Panna Cotta

Call 814-866-8359 for reservations.

Not Valid with any other Offers, Discounts or Erie Fine Dining.
 Cash, Credit and ONE Club Rewards Dollars ONLY
 No Substitutions Allowed

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



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

