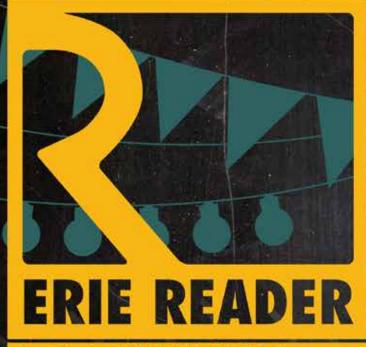
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May 22 - Jun. 4//Vol. 9, No. 11//ErieReader.com

MISSING the MARK

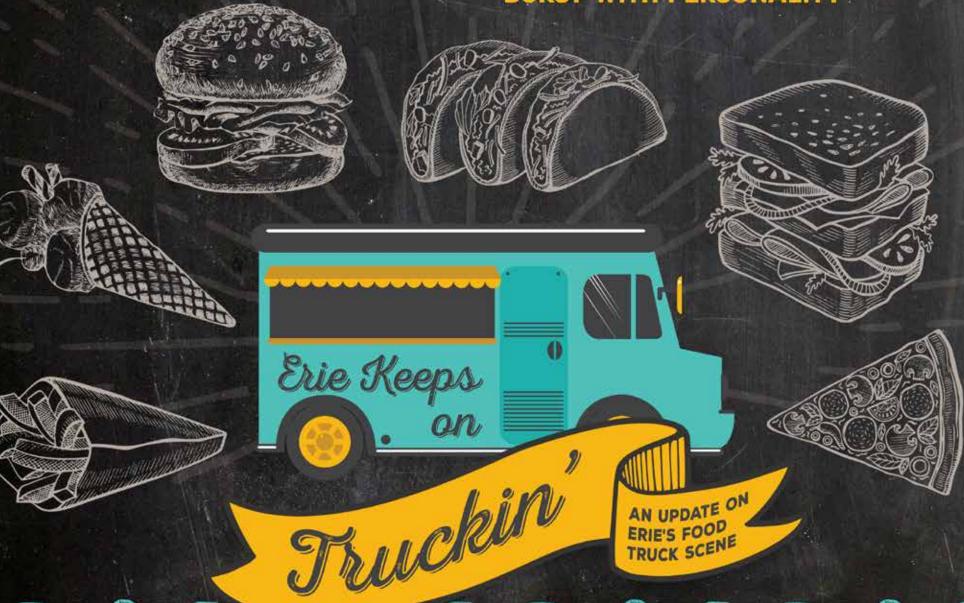
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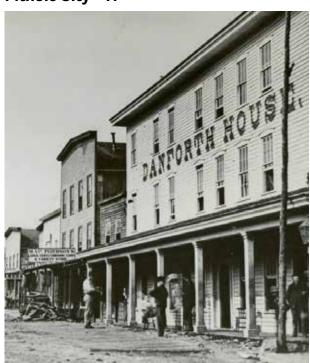
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From the Editors

Roaring, Rewriting, and **Roving for Restaurants**

inter is over. Just like Game of Thrones, all things must come to an end. As many of us know very well, however, not everything goes quite the way we want it to. Prior to the show's series finale, over one million fans signed an online petition on Change.org, asking for showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss to remake the entire last season. It's a new level of community involvement in the face of what they feel to be poor decisions. Back in the north(west) of Pennsylvania, there's an oddly similar feeling happening.

Things are being rewritten all the time. One such thing is Roar on the Shore. Recently, the motorcycle festival announced plans to relocate from Downtown Erie to the Lake Erie Speedway in North East. As reported by the Erie Times-News, after last year's festival ended up costing the City of Erie almost \$139,000, Erie Mayor Joe Schember chose to have around half of that paid for by the event, forgoing a 2018 payment for \$69,304 due this year. A disagreement about that bill led to the choice to relocate. Schember told Erie News Now that he was "sorry to lose them from Erie, but "happy that they found a good location," speaking about the Speedway location.

To some, this was mourned, to others, it was celebrated. If you're wondering where we stand, here's a little backstory on some of the Erie Reader's commentary on this event: In 2015, Jim Wertz wrote that "Roar on the Shore feels more like the flu. It comes on fast and you're grateful when it's gone." In a 2014 edition of our very own From the Editors column, we wrote: "A better dialogue between those running the event and the small businesses in our area needs to be had so that we're not having the same conversations come July 2015."

A better dialogue is one thing that Liz Allen suggests that the Erie Downtown Development Corporation have as well. As Allen writes: "Instead of garnering positive PR, the EDDC has had to play defense to explain why it was evicting three restaurants, all started by immigrants, and why it intends to demolish two historic structures."

As we can see, these conversations were repeated. And repeated. In 2016, the Gears and Grub Festival started, as a local response to Roar on the Shore and their much-maligned lack of true local involvement. The event took off, and crowds flocked to the West Erie Plaza to visit local food trucks and hear local bands. While increasing renovations and new, thriving brick-and-mortar businesses began to account for the festival's lot space, they've managed to get permits in order to move the festival to Downtown Erie while Roar is going on elsewhere.

These food trucks are the focus of Nick Warren's update about the state of Erie's mobile vendors. While last year saw a visible swell in both support and the sheer number of vendors, challenges still remain, as the Erie Food Truck Alliance thrives, and the Erie Food Truck Festival in Lawrence Park kicks off a string of events not just catered by these eateries, but in celebration of them.

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Breathing Difficulties

The need for better air quality monitors in the wake of Erie Coke's ongoing violations



By: Katie Chriest

▼ rom pop songs to t-shirts to coffee mugs, it seems like everywhere we look in our stressed-out society, we're encouraged to just breathe. Though it can feel frivolous to focus on an involuntary process, something happens when we breathe with more awareness. Time slows, tension eases, and the next moment feels better than the last.

Numerous studies have likewise found that breathing well delivers measurable positive health outcomes. Medical personnel who might otherwise eschew alternative healing practices have incorporated breathing into their treatment plans.

But breathing polluted air has been shown in numerous studies to create myriad public health issues. At the Erie Coke Plant Community Impact Update in April, Rachel Filippini, executive director of Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) told a crowd about studies showing that "air pollution is linked to impaired judgment, mental health problems, poorer performance in school and higher levels of crime." She added that "New research shows air pollution also affects us socially through decreased productivity, school attendance, and lifetime earnings."

In one recent study, researchers concluded that air pollution - particularly from carbon monoxide and particulate matter — had a "significant negative effect" on the ability of Major League Baseball umpires to make accurate calls.

The researchers found that "shortterm exposure to air pollution affects the work performance of a group of highly skilled, quality-focused employees." They conclude, "Recent evidence points to the effect that air pollution may have on how well people do their work. If detrimental impacts are significant in size and sufficiently widespread, then the economic burden associated with such effects could rival the direct health effects."

Filippini also emphasized that poor air quality may discourage people and companies from moving to a region, and that young people may not choose to stay here — a central point repeated by Hold Erie Coke Accountable (HECA).

Nevertheless, in the Erie Times-News. you may have seen this late-April headline: "Erie region among cleanest in air report."

But the article, recounting the results of the American Lung Association's [ALA] annual report card for air pollution, went on to explain that "Erie and Meadville are grouped together, though the only official air pollution monitor in Erie and Crawford counties is located in the city of Erie."

In a letter to the editor, Filippini further clarified this somewhat misleading headline, and the incomplete report to which it refers, adding that the ALA report "doesn't reveal areas of Erie County where air quality may be poor, unmonitored and potentially threatening public health."

We've talked before about the grievous lack of air quality monitors in our community, especially downwind of Erie Coke. And Erie's existing monitors also don't register levels of all potential pollutants.

Meanwhile, Erie Coke continues to violate air quality regulations, as Pennsylvania's Department of EnvironmenSo far in 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has recorded 17 violations for the Erie Coke plant at 925 E. Bay Drive. Two years ago, Erie Coke was the county's top emitter of ammonia, benzene. nitrogen oxides, PM2.5 (particulate matter) and sulfur oxides.

tal Protection (DEP) noted in a letter to Erie Coke on May 9. DEP stated that it has "identified unresolved existing or continuous violations of the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act," adding that "No operating permit or plan approval can be issued, reissued or modified to either Erie Coke Corporation or any related party until these violations and your lack of intention or ability to comply are resolved." DEP is currently reviewing Erie Coke's application for renewal of its Title V operating permit.

DEP's letter includes a list of unresolved violations between June 3, 2017 and April 16, 2019. In 2019 alone, 17 violations are documented, including the emission of fugitive particulate matter outside of the property, the flaring or combustion of coke oven by-product gas with excessive hydrogen sulfide concentrations, and detections of malodors outside of the property.

Let's look first at particulate matter. In "Health and Environmental Effects of Particulate Matter (PM)," the EPA states that "Numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including: premature death in people with heart or lung disease; nonfatal heart attacks; irregular heartbeat; aggravated asthma; decreased lung function; and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing. People with heart or lung diseases, children, and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure."

DEP documented a release of particulate matter into our air by Erie Coke on February 15.

And then there's hydrogen sulfide.

In its "Public Health Statement for Hydrogen Sulfide," the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) states that "Studies in workers, communities living near industrial sources of hydrogen sulfide, and volunteers suggest that the respiratory tract and nervous system are the most

sensitive targets of hydrogen sulfide toxicity."

ATSDR adds that "Exposure to low concentrations of hydrogen sulfide may cause irritation to the eyes, nose, or throat," plus "difficulty in breathing for some asthmatics," as well as "headaches, poor memory, tiredness, and balance problems."

And there are no hydrogen sulfide monitors in the Erie area.

In other words, we have no definite way of measuring the exposure of our people to this irritant. And while hydrogen sulfide causes a pronounced rotten egg smell detectable at low levels, "At high concentrations, a person might lose their ability to smell it," explains ATSDR. "This is important because a person might falsely think that hydrogen sulfide is no longer present; this may increase their exposure risk to air levels that may cause serious health effects."

While we clearly need more air quality monitors to accurately tell us what we're dealing with, it seems we also need to let ourselves truly feel what it must be like for those coping with hazardous air pollution, in our community and beyond. In our efforts to make Erie a genuinely livable city, we can't allow pollutants to remain unmonitored or insufficiently regulated.

And this substance is only one of those associated with coke oven emissions, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes as among the most toxic of all air pollutants, according to Filippini.

She adds, "In 2017, Erie Coke was the county's top emitter of ammonia, benzene, nitrogen oxides, PM2.5 [particulate matter] and sulfur oxides."

According to the EPA, "Short-term exposures to SO₂ [sulfur dioxide] can harm the human respiratory system and make breathing difficult. People with asthma, particularly children, are sensitive to these effects of SO2."

EPA adds that sulfur oxides can also contribute to particulate matter, dam-

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age foliage and decrease growth of trees and plants, and lead to acid rain. Additionally, "SO2 and other sulfur oxides can react with other compounds in the atmosphere to form fine particles that reduce visibility (haze)." Some Erieites have recently attended the Smoke School Visible Emissions Training Program through Penn State to become certified "smoke readers" who may recognize harmful emissions.

In her letter to the editor, Filippini summarizes that "Pollution from coke plants can cause leukemia, respiratory ailments, nervous system problems and premature death. Additionally, noxious odors can disrupt sleep; discourage people from spending time outdoors; irritate the eyes, nose and throat; and generally make life unpleasant."

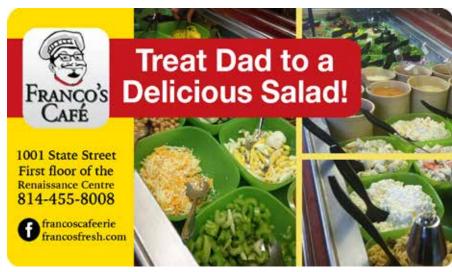
"Making life unpleasant" lacks the urgency of many issues we're inundated with on a daily basis. But do we need horrifying details to move us to act? Is it not enough that our quality of life could be substantially compromised by the air we're breathing — and we don't even have reasonable data collection?

At this point, I've filed away so many articles connecting air pollution to declining health that I can scarcely keep track of them. And I wonder if more statistics are really the best way to convey the magnitude of the issue.

While we clearly need more air quality monitors to accurately tell us what we're dealing with, it seems we also need to let ourselves truly feel what it must be like for those coping with hazardous air pollution, in our community and beyond. In our efforts to make Erie a genuinely livable city, we can't allow pollutants to remain unmonitored or insufficiently regulated. Our DEP needs to know that we won't settle for another insufficient permit. Mayor Schember and both our city and county councils have formally voiced their concerns, but it's up to all of us to keep pressure on our DEP and elected officials to get this right.

"Inspire" can simply mean to breathe in. But it also refers to that urge to think, act and create. Let's take a deep breath and get going.

Katie Chriest can be reached at Katie@eriereader.com.









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Missing the mark

Why the EDDC's game plan for North Park Row needs adjustment



By: Liz Allen

was pondering how the Erie Downtown Development Corp. had fouled up the rollout of its plans for North Park Row when a pithy Al Mc-Guire quote popped into my head: "The world is run by 'C' students."

If only Gannon College had hired Mc-Guire as its basketball coach decades ago, maybe the people calling the big plays in Erie today would be incorporating McGuire's wisdom into their decisions.

McGuire's observation means that it's not enough to be book-smart. You also need common sense and the human touch to succeed, and it helps to respect your roots. For McGuire, the son of an Irish bar owner in Rockaway, Queens, that meant recruiting ballplayers from neighborhoods with "cracked sidewalks" rather than gilded pathways.

Sportscaster Dick Enberg explained McGuire's philosophy when he gave the 2009 commencement address at Marquette University, where McGuire had honed his legend as a masterful basketball coach and astute observer of life

"C-plus' students who have people skills become outstanding leaders," said Enberg, who wrote a one-act play about McGuire. "To underline his point, half in jest, Al would suggest that if you want your master's and doctorate in 'humanism,' tend bar for six months and then drive a taxi for six months."

The Erie Downtown Development Corp. plans to transform the historic buildings it owns on Perry Square into a \$30 million culinary district. The plans include demolishing the former Greyhound bus station and the building now known as Marlena's Place

"The message: Study those around you, friends and rivals. Know them well enough to anticipate their needs and actions. In his words, 'Know the ripple below the surface of the water," Enberg said.

The leaders of the EDDC likely did not anticipate the ripple effects when plans leaked to create a \$30 million culinary arts district in the historic properties the EDDC bought on North Park Row, across from Perry Square.

Instead of garnering positive PR, the EDDC has had to play defense to explain why it was evicting three restaurants, all started by immigrants, and why it intends to demolish two historic structures.

Under the terms of the leases, the EDDC explained, the businesses technically had 30 days to vacate, but the EDDC had "graciously" extended the leases until October. Still, it's ironic that the restaurants and their employees are being displaced so that the EDDC can renovate its properties into a new food market, arcade and food hall. In other words, to replace eateries with eateries.

"I think we did our best to be good stewards of the leases and trying to work with them," Matt Wachter, EDDC vice president, told the Erie Times-News. "That is not something to be ashamed of."

Maybe "ashamed" is too strong, but how about chagrined? By evicting Khao Thai, Casablanca Hookah Lounge and Café and Tandoori Hut, the EDDC gave the impression that it didn't care about small businesses started by new Americans (the lease for Tandoori Hut, it turns out, doesn't expire until 2021).

Those of us who treasure Erie's built environment were also stunned to learn that the EDDC plans to tear down the former Greyhound bus station and Marlena's Place, replacing them with "an arcade-style building made of brick and glass," according to the May 12 Erie Times-News.

As the 1982 book *Erie Style* points out, the former bus depot at 28 North Park Row is "Erie's only pure example of the Art Moderne style." The EDDC justifies demolishing the bus station because that spot on the block had originally been occupied by the Park Opera House.

It's true that the bus depot, built in 1939, isn't one of the original structures, most of them designed in the "Commercial Italianate" style, according to livingplaces.com. But the fact that the bus station was preserved is one reason why this entire block, known as West Park Place, is on the National Register of Historic Places, according to those who produced Erie Style, including Tom Weber, editor; Alexandra Potous, art director; Ron Norman, principal photographer; and Terrence P. Cavanaugh and Janice M. Earick, Old Erie Press directors.

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8 | Erie Reader | ErieReader.com May 22, 2019 curvilinear floor plan, the liberal use of glass brick and aluminum, make this Moderne building take on a streamlined, machinelike appearance expressive of America's newfound fascination with high-speed highway transportation," the book states.

Some Erie people have asked why Alkeme Restaurant at 18 North Park Row and the new Andora's Bubble Tea Shop at 516 State Street haven't been asked to vacate. That's because those two restaurants are in the Exchange Building, which the EDDC does not own.

But all of the buildings on North Park Row and along State Street share a rich history, things that could be mined and celebrated as part of the EDDC's efforts to generate excitement and attract visitors, locals, and newcomers of all ages to downtown Erie.

Consider, for example, that one of the buildings once housed a business called the Kitty Hawk Bicycle Shop. I learned that from David VanAmburg, an Erie entrepreneur, software developer, market researcher and former city planner, who operated Friendship Imports and Domestics in the Exchange Building in 1973-74.

VanAmburg, 71, attributes his love of historic architecture and his appreciation for Erie's sense of place to the way he grew up. As a "Bay Rat" on Erie's west side, he had the freedom to explore his neighborhood at an early age, then to venture beyond those boundaries. He recalls when Downtown Erie was full of red brick Victorian buildings.

"Twice a week, I'd go downtown with my mother and grandmother. I remember being three years old and crying because they were tearing down another building," he said.

As a student at Gannon College, he helped to form a nonprofit to run the InnSecure, a coffeehouse, in two of those Victorian buildings. The coffeehouse was a big hit, until Mario Bagnoni announced his bid for City Council outside the building in 1971. "He declared it was a den of iniquity," VanAmburg said. The Erie Redevelopment Authority tore the buildings down to make way for the Erie Sport Store.

VanAmburg is also a guitarist who plays at various Erie venues four or five nights a week. He used to hold jam sessions in the basement of the Exchange Building and he knows the history of the retail shops that once existed under these historic buildings. They were connected to other buildings across

State Street by a labyrinth of tunnels, all of them now filled in.

If Erie had preserved more of its original architecture, "We could have become a Williamsburg of the Victorian Era," he said. Or if we hadn't blocked off those tunnels, we could have boasted a subterranean cultural scene, like in Atlanta or Montreal, he said.

VanAmburg reminded me that Carter's Little Liver Pills were invented by Dr. John Carter, a pharmacist, in one of the buildings on North Park Row.

According to The History of Pharmacists and Pharmacies in Erie County, Pennsylvania, published in 1978 by Thomas Groner and Thomas Will, the four-story Carter building was built in 1859 at 20 N. Park Row. This is in the building that housed Sherlock's, which the EDDC purchased in September of

The goings-on in that building literally created an aura of magic around North Park Row, according to a 1951 booklet on Erie history published by Security Peoples Trust.

"A boy was engaged by Carter's (Drug Store) to help prepare 'proprietary remedies.' He may have assisted in the alchemy of a world-famous remedy. He learned much of chemistry. He grew restless," the booklet says.

That boy was Harry Kellar, who became known as the "Dean of American Magicians," according to the historic marker in Griswold Plaza, site of Kellar's childhood home. Kellar was friends with Houdini. Both magicians might have been astounded by the disappearing acts in the West Park Place Historic District over the years.

For example, according to Erie city directories, 20 North Park Row is also where the Avalon Restaurant stood. Famed soft-sculpture artist Lisa Lichtenfels created "Avalon Restaurant" to immortalize the characters who frequented that restaurant, which closed in the early 1980s.

"I knew every one of those people," recalled VanAmburg.

Actually, I could picture Al McGuire striking up a conversation with the Avalon patrons — the hippies, the harried parents, the hung-over guy, the preacher, the society matron, the Amish family, the waitress, the proprietor and the cook. McGuire had a fondness for characters, and he had visited Erie to interview for the Gannon basketball coaching job for the 1963-64 season. Gannon hired Jim Harding instead.

"While he had some supporters on the hiring committee, McGuire was considered a risk because he was a bit flamboyant and extremely colorful," the late Jim LeCorchick wrote in a 2014 Erie Reader story.

Despite being rejected by Gannon, McGuire later returned to Erie to give a talk. "Someone set up a time for him to come on my radio show and he had some time to kill, so we took a two-hour stroll around lower State Street and the lower east side of Erie," LeCorchick wrote. "Not many knew that he was an expert in the field of architecture and loved older cities, especially Erie. His knowledge of the old buildings in Erie simply amazed me," he wrote.

McGuire died in 2001, LeCorchick in 2016, and Enberg in 2017. I can only guess what the EDDC might have learned by examining their Perry Square project through the lens of a philosopher-character like Al McGuire, who would have sought out information about the people and the places that once populated North Park Row.

Even The Avalon art exhibit won't be on view to provide inspiration and context. The Erie Art Museum recently decided to "de-install" the exhibit, according to Josh Helmer, the museum's executive director. Helmer said the room in the Old Customs House where the soft sculpture had been on permanent display since 1984 sustained water damage on the ceiling and needs to be repaired.

Helmer said each piece of The Avalon will be measured, photographed, assessed for damage, cleaned and subject to "preservation measures," if needed, before the exhibit is eventually re-installed, possibly in a different space.

I can't picture The Avalon characters patronizing a "culinary district" with fresh-food stands, but there's a lot to be said for giving us a slew of restaurants that serve healthy foods in downtown Erie, instead of meat-and-potatoes fare.

But the EDDC would have earned an "A-plus" grade from me if the staff had talked to regular Erie people, including the diverse patrons of Khao Thai, Tandoori Hut and the Casablanca Hookah Lounge and Café, about what they would like to see in this cluster of historic buildings before steaming ahead with their ambitious revitalization

That way, they might have elicited a really clever idea from Debbi Lyon, the always-helpful clerk in the Heritage Room at Blasco Library, who helped me research this story.

When she works with young people on genealogy or other history projects, Debbi starts by asking them what old objects they have at home. "Why did you keep that? What does it mean to your family? What's in your neighborhood? What do you see when you walk down the block?" she asks.

This is what Debbi envisions when she goes by the sleek Greyhound station on Perry Square: party buses, lined up in the old bays, available to rent for special occasions, such as a child's birthday party.

Debbi says the buses wouldn't be mo-

But I can picture at least one bus rumbling down the street from the old depot. Debbi Lyon would be giving tours of her — and our — beloved old Erie.

The world should be run by "see" students, too.

Liz Allen grew up as a Gannon basketball fan long before she attended Marquette University and rooted for Al McGuire's Warriors.

Did you know?

According to old Erie city directories, businesses in the cluster of buildings that comprise the West Park Place Historic District included, at one time. Kokko's Lock & Key Service, Little's Dance Studio, the Robert Whitford Piano School, an art school, the Gannon College Alumni Club. a donut shop, F & D diner, the Brownstone Apartments and Park Coin Laundry. on North Park Row; Dispatch Printing and Dahlkemper's Wholesale Co., on West Fifth Street; and the Busy Bee Tavern, Purcell Hardware, the Jack Parris Steak House and Supper Club, a pizza shop, a barber shop and Fischer & Scheller drugs, on State Street.

Fun fact

After Gannon turned down Al McGuire for its men's basketball coaching job in 1963, Marquette University hired McGuire. He led the team to an NIT championship in 1970 and an NCAA championship in 1977. Gannon does have a Marquette basketball connection, however. In 1989, Gannon University hired Bob Dukiet when Marquette fired him after three seasons. Dukiet coached at Gannon until 1996, when he retired to make his living playing the piano.

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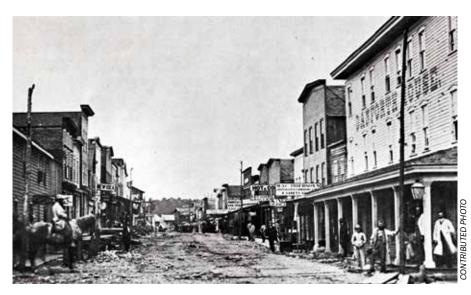






Pithole City: A Boomtown that Burst with Personality

How the true stories from the oil region breed the stuff of tall tales



By: Jonathan Burdick

y grandmother and her two older sisters grew up in Plumer, Pennsylvania. It's a blinkand-you'll-miss-it populated place within Cornplanter Township, right in the heart of the Oil Region, only a short drive south of Titusville and bordering the eastern side of Oil Creek State Park.

She was born in the earliest years of the Great Depression. Her father, Clarence, worked the region's oil wells as a pumper, while her mother, Grace, managed the home. At times, they housed others who worked the wells. Plumer is serene, slow-paced, unpretentious, and somewhat isolated. It has a small country store, a small rural church with an accompanying cemetery (where my great-grandparents are buried), an old garage, and a scattering of homesteads.

My grandmother's sisters married and moved the 10-mile drive into Titusville, where they raised their children. My grandmother also married, but they moved to Union City, where they would raise my mother and her three broth-

As a result, I spent many weekends and summer days in Union City. Since Titusville was only a quick drive down Route 8, we would often go visit with her sisters. For me as a kid, there was always something a bit otherworldly about those drives: the sheer amount of old buildings, the massive oil-era mansions, the variety of architectural styles. I didn't understand at the time why, but Titusville somehow felt different.

That's because the Oil Region is different. It is an essential, yet often over-

looked day trip for anyone in our area, for the incredible history and scenery, but also the modern offerings. In Titusville and the surrounding area, there are numerous parks and trails, great restaurants, a locally-owned escape room, and even a place to make a night out of the trip called the Caboose Hotel where each of the 21 rooms are — you guessed it - renovated train caboose

For beer connoisseurs, there is Orr's Brewing Company, which opened in 2017 within the historic Towne Square Building (recently renovated after a devastating fire). If one makes the trip before late-June, they can walk less than 50 feet to say goodbye to the beloved Blue Canoe Brewery before its doors close and the location transforms into the Lavery Brewing Lager Haus.

The history is still the highlight of the trip, of course. One can spend hours driving through the many neighborhoods admiring the old homes and architecture. The Drake Well Museum & Park is a history buff favorite, which not only has exhibits and an impressive exact replica of Drake's engine house, but also includes picnic and fishing areas with numerous trails for biking and hiking. A trip to the Oil Region isn't complete without the three-hour round-trip train ride on the vintage Pullman train cars of the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad (a childhood memory with my parents and brothers that stands out).

One can also visit the newly rehabilitated Tarbell House, the teenage home of legendary muckraking journalist The true definition of a boomtown, the population of Pithole peaked at 15,000 less than two years after its establishment. Within a decade, it ceased to exist.

Ida Tarbell, who in 1869 moved with her family to Titusville for her father's pursuits in the oil industry. Her father built the Italianate-style house himself using lumber from the Bonta Hotel a once popular establishment that had been part of an oil boomtown between Titusville and Oil City.

That boomtown was a place called Pithole City.

Located east of Titusville and a few miles northeast of Plumer, Pithole is a story just waiting to be adapted into a prestige premium cable drama (call me,

It was only a few short months before the Civil War's end in 1865 that a man named Thomas H. Brown struck oil on a farm not far from Titusville in an area that was mostly still wilderness. Within days, speculators descended upon the area, clearing out the forest in their quest for quick fortune.

That first well was producing 200 barrels a day at eight dollars per barrel. As more and more wells were discovered, more and more people arrived. A hillside city of 500 lots and 22 streets was planned as the oil continued to flow. A well that was struck that August became the largest ever in the region, producing over 1,000 barrels each of its first few days. Within a year, an entire city had sprung up with over 15,000 people of all races and ethnicities and personal interests: speculators, teamsters, preachers, doctors, bankers, veterans, drifters, and more.

Soon, over 50 hotels were operating. Numerous churches were erected, theaters with top-notch entertainment, saloons, brothels, casinos, banks, a post office, a fire department, expanded railroads, and a newspaper titled the Pithole Record.

Charles C. Leonard, who wrote for the newspaper, published an early history of Pithole in 1867. "There was so much oil flowing from the wells and so many people," he wrote, "that clean water was difficult to obtain." He explained how there were so many people that the operations appeared like massive armies, miles long stretches of people and wagons transporting oil from the wells to

the railroad on nearly impassable roads - a feat that became so inefficient, it led to the creation of the world's first oil

"At first sight, it seems that every available spot of ground is occupied by these lofty and skeleton-like [oil derricks], so near together that it appears impossible for a wagon to drive between them," he described.

Within the city, which was drowning in mud, he noted how poorly built the structures were, many of which were erected in a single day.

"It is a wooden town, not a brick or stone house in it. The streets are narrow, with but a single plank for a sidewalk ... The smell of new lumber, fresh paint, and the 'crude' is everywhere."

Since buildings couldn't be built fast enough for the exploding population, tent cities sprung up all over the hill-

"Where so many different characters and nations were represented, much lawlessness necessarily prevailed," he continued. "[G]ambling, robbery, and shootings were of frequent occurrence." He recounted how before a police force was organized, a "self-appointed vigilance committee dealt justice to rogues in Texan or Californian frontier style."

Of those historical characters, Kate LeCounte (also known as French Kate) and Ben Hogan are two who could have been plucked straight out of an episode of Deadwood.

"Ben Hogan was there in the height of his fame and glory," William McKnight, an esteemed doctor from Brookeville who was in Pithole for a short stint, wrote in 1910. "[H]is hotel was the largest and vilest den in the city."

"If I made up the characters of Kate and Ben, I'd be accused of it being way too far out there to be taken seriously," says Lori Twichell, who grew up in Titusville but now is a screenwriter as well as the owner of a marketing company in San Antonio.

Twichell grew up hearing these stories, but it wasn't until she was back visiting and exploring her childhood hometown with her own children and saw their fascination that she recognized the uniqueness of where she was

"To me, [Pithole] was just a field we





went to for field trips all the time," Twichell says. Her children loved it though and she began imagining the story on the screen. So, she did just that: intertwining a fictional story set in Pithole with the very real characters of French Kate and Ben Hogan.

"Built like a bull and just as strong," Carl Burgchardt wrote of Hogan in his 1989 profile of him. "[H]is specialty was to have an 800 pound stone of block broken on his chest with a sledgehammer."

The German-born Hogan was hardly a protagonist. In fact, he was the self-proclaimed "wickedest man in the world." He had been a Confederate deserter who later in life claimed to have been a spy for the Union. Kate was a former dancer and career criminal with a sharp mind who stood out in Pithole with her elegant clothing and fine jewelry. She was described in one 1909 publication as an "olden time vampire" who once had John Wilkes Booth as one of her dupes.

"She was an educated woman, more-

Soon after Thomas H. Brown struck oil on a farm not far from Titusville in 1865, thousands of speculators descended on the area, clearing the woods and hastily assembling a hillside city of 500 lots and 22 streets. Rigs such as these dotted the countryside to extract the wealth.

over, speaking six or seven different languages," one Pithole resident who knew her claimed.

When Hogan arrived at Pithole, he felt at home and immediately made a name for himself as a fighter, both in the street and as entertainment in the ring. He challenged anyone who dared to try and last three rounds with him.

Soon, he and Kate began operating establishments in Pithole meant to cater to "the depraved tastes of men." Violence was common in these dives. In one particularly disturbing case, Hogan kidnapped a young woman, holding her against her will until her mother personally came to Pithole with a mob of men to rescue her.

When a murder took place in the city, Hogan was often blamed. "[W]hen the matter was called to his attention, he used to shrug his gorilla-like shoulders, shift his cud, and ask 'em what they were going to do about it," one person claimed

In Hogan though, Twichell sees a story of redemption. After he left Pithole (and experienced a famous brawl at his Tidioute brothel Babylon Hill that ended with French Kate shooting two men), he found religion and changed his ways, which also meant losing Kate. "I cannot imagine a more intriguing story than that of 'the most wicked man in the world' getting religion and

ending up being mentored by [famous evangelist] D.L. Moody."

Lee Deeter is the program manager with the Friends of Drake Well, Inc., which operates the Pithole Visitor Center today. He understands the attraction visitors have to its story.

"I think most visitors are most interested in just how fast the city came and went and what it was able to accomplish in the short time that it was there," he says. "It is mind boggling that in 500 days, a buckwheat field turned into a city of 15,000 and plummeted back to 2,000 people and within 10 years had disappeared completely."

Indeed, by December of 1866, the population of Pithole plummeted to less than 2,000. By 1870, it was less than 300.

"To me the most interesting part of the story is the people," Deeter continues. "Not just the fact that there were so many of them, but that there are so many fascinating characters and countless more we may never know about."

While little of Pithole remains today, the museum has a highly-detailed diorama of the city at its peak.

"It is a great model and really puts it all into perspective," Deeter says. "You can look out at what is there now and see where all of the buildings and businesses would have been. ... A lot of people also take the time to look at it closely and pick out some of the interesting little details that are in it."

Whether its Pithole, Plumer, Titusville, Oil City, or any of the numerous townships in between, the Oil Region perhaps describes 19th century America as well as any other. Twichell says that when she was last in town, she made sure that she no longer took her hometown for granted. She took countless photos and hours of video so she could "try and explain [to people back in Texas] that 'normal every day people' *live* in oil mansions and they are *all over* Titusville."

It's easy to take the Oil Region for granted while living here, but we shouldn't either.

"The Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, the mansions, the various beautiful locations that remain virtually untouched, Titusville, and the entire oil region are hidden jewels of Western PA," Twichell concludes.

I'll see you at the train station.

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

Learn More

The Wildcatter Festival: Pithole City comes alive, welcoming visitors with historic demonstrations, reenactmens, music, quided tours and more.

Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Historic Pithole City, 14118 Pithole Road, Pleasantville, Pennsylvania 16341 // \$8, \$5 for youth (ages 5-17), children under 5 free // drakewell.org

The Pithole site officially opens on Saturday, June 1 in conjuction with the Drake Well Museum. Regular hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Transgender Health Care

Understanding and overcoming issues facing patients and providers

By: Caitlyn Strohmeyer

Then is the last time you went to the doctor for a minor ailment and were told "I'm sorry, I don't know how to treat you," or "We don't treat 'people like you' here." Sounds far-fetched, doesn't it? I mean, what doctor in their right mind would treat a patient so badly, or not treat them at all? Well, the truth is that it does happen, but generally only to those people who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming. Transgender people have been making the news a lot more in recent years, but most of the buzz has been around bathroom usage

instead of real problems like equal access to employment, to housing, and to culturally competent medical care

The same has historically been true of patients who identify as gay or lesbian; however, the medical needs of transgender patients may exceed those of gays and lesbians. It is important to note here that all people have a sexual identity AND a gender identity, but these two aspects of our identity are completely independent of each other. As a result, a transgender person may have specialized needs due to their gender identity as well as their sexual orientation,

whereas a gay person will generally only have concerns around sexual identity.

For the uninitiated, *transgender* means that a person's internal sense of their own gender does not match the sex they were assigned at birth, meaning a person may be assigned male at birth based upon anatomical characteristics, however as they grow into adolescence, they do not necessarily "feel" male. The opposite of this is *cisgender*, which means that the sex assigned at birth and the person's self-realized sense of their own gender are in alignment. Put simply, if you do not identify as transgender, you are

cisgender.

Gender Non-conforming, on the other hand, means that a person does not conform to societal expectations of gender. You may have heard other terms applied to this population, including gender variant, genderqueer, or gender expansive, among others. A gender non-conforming person may not identify as male OR female, or they may identify as both. A person may feel more male than female one day and express themselves as such through their clothing, behaviors, and other outward expressions, then present as female the next, or they may express themselves through some combination of male and female at the same time.

As a lay person, you may say "I don't see what difference this makes. An injury or illness is the same whether you are transgender or cisgender," and in most cases you would be correct. I mean, biology is biology, right? However, when it comes to medical care of transgender people, there are some very important things to take note of.

The first is that transgender people do require some variations on care that their cisgender counterparts do not, such as the possibility that they may be taking cross-sex hormones to create physical changes that over time will result in a shift from one sex to the other. This can present medical professionals with some challenges that are easy to overcome if a provider is culturally and professionally aware. For example, you may have a trans man (assigned female at birth but identifies as male) who, because they have not had any surgical procedures done to alter their sexual organ, still require pap smears and who may still become pregnant. Alternatively, a trans woman may still require prostate exams.

In addition to the medical knowledge required to properly treat transgender people, medical professionals must recognize and deal with their own biases in relation to sexual and gender minorities. Doctors, like anyone else, have upbringings and social factors that can affect how they see the world and the people in it. One would hope that a doctor is free of such biases and is willing to treat every patient equally, but this is not always the case.

In fact, according to the 2015 U.S. Trans Survey, with a total of 27,715 respondents from all 50 states, transgender people face several barriers to accessing quality and appropriate health care, including problems with insurance, adverse experiences with providers, and fear of experiencing discrimination:

One in four (25 percent) respondents experienced a problem with their insurance in the past year related to being transgender, such as being denied coverage for care related to gender transition.

One-quarter (25 percent) of those who sought coverage for hormones in the past year were denied, and 55 percent of those who sought coverage for transition-related surgery in the past year were denied.

One-third (33 percent) of respondents who had seen a health care provider in the past year reported having at least one negative experience related to being transgender, such as verbal harassment, refusal of treatment, or having to teach the health care provider about transgender people to receive appropriate

In the year prior, 23 percent of respondents did not see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender person, and 33 percent did not see a doctor because of cost.

While more than three-quarters (78 percent) of respondents wanted hormone therapy related to gender transition, only 49 percent had ever received it.

So, what is the primary reason for this lack of appropriate skills and cultural competency? Transgender and LGBTO health care is rarely, if ever, taught in medical schools. Contrary to the beliefs of many, transgender people have been around as long as there have been ... well ... people. Unfortunately, it is only in the last 10 years or so that our Western culture has reached the point where it is possible for transgender people to be out and open about their gender identity. I say "Western culture" because, historically, many other cultures have held transgender people in high regard. In some cultures, transgender people have been priests and shamans because they transcend normal male/female roles and expectations. Some medical schools are starting to take notice, but with roughly 890,000 doctors already in practice in the U.S. alone, there is a lot of catching up

While a recent small study shows that 86 percent of doctors surveyed stated they were willing to provide routine care to transgender people and 79 percent were willing to provide pap smears to transgender men, the vast majority reported a lack of familiarity with transgender transition guidelines, lack of training in transgender-specific care, lack of exposure to transgender patients, and lack of knowledge about transgender patients among office staff, medical assistants, and nursing staff. It is important to note that the survey was sent to only 308 internal medicine and family practice doctors, and only 140 of them responded. Dr. Janelle Downing of the University of South Carolina, who was not involved in the study, noted that the number of doctors who declined to respond shows that the responses are likely an overreport of willingness to provide care, due to those providers who are uncomfortable with transgender people declining to take part. According to study leader Deirdre Shires of Michigan State University, "These barriers suggest that willingness is not necessarily equivalent to competence." Shires goes on to say that "it is important for medical education to address not only clinical knowledge but also personal biases and attitudes as well."

So, with more transgender adults and children coming out every day and the lack of training in medical educational institutions being slow to take up the mantle, what's a community to do?

TransFamily of NWPA and the Erie County Department of Health have been collaborating to deliver the first ever LGBTQ+ Provider Training Conference in Erie that will focus on not only understanding the specialized needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer patients, but also on the cultural competency required to treat these patients with the dignity and respect that they deserve. The training will be delivered in cooperation with the Erie County

Department of Health, TransFamily of NWPA, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). The conference will take place on May 31, 2019 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center at 7794

This conference will focus on level-setting the cultural awareness and competency required of medical and mental health providers and staff to provide quality, competent, respectful treatment of LGBTQ patients. Future trainings will focus on more specific treatments and protocols, such as hormone replacement therapy, OBGYN care, Pediatrics care, etc.

One of the most important ways that we can increase cultural awareness and reduce implicit bias on the part of providers is simply to share experiences. People who identify as transgender have amazing and sometimes heartbreaking experiences to share that highlight the need for competent services, and it is important for these providers to listen to these stories and learn from them.

So, what is it about being LGBTQ that requires some different approaches to care? Aside from the biological differences that providers might encounter, there are a lot of other questions that need to be asked and understood within the context of being a sexual or gender minority. Examples of this might include:

- Understanding how patients' past negative experiences with providers might impact how you are able to work with them.
- Understanding the health disparities that LGBTQ people experience because of their identity.
- · Understanding the mental heath risk factors faced by LGBTQ people, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

This conference is appropriate for anyone who has regular contact with LGBTQ patients seeking medical or mental health care, especially front-line staff, nurses, doctors, therapists, psychiatrists, blended case managers, etc. It is important to understand that medical and mental health are inextricably linked, with experiences, positive or negative, in one area affecting possible outcomes in the other. This is about the overall wellness of LGBTQ patients, and each is just as important as the other.

The LGBTQ+ Provider Training Conference takes place on May 31, 2019 at the Ambassador Conference Center in Erie, PA. Please contact Haylee Esposito at 814-877-5691 or by email at espositoh@upmc.edu with any questions. You can register for the conference at http://ccehs.upmc.com.

Caitlyn Strohmeyer, MSW, is a life-long Erie resident, a social worker, community advocate, and a transgender woman. Caitlyn is the founder and past president of TransFamily of NWPA, a grassroots organization that operates several support groups throughout Northwest Pennsylvania and advocates for the rights of all transgender people of the region. She currently works as a Crisis Clinician for Safe Harbor Behavioral Health of UPMC Hamot, remains involved with TransFamily of NWPA as Board Advisor, and sits on the Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council. She can be reached at caitlynxpress@gmail.com

Keep on Truckin'

An update on Erie's food truck scene



By: Nick Warren

n 1872, a pressman working for the Providence, Rhode Island newspaper The Morning Star named Walter Scott decided to quit his job in search of a new path. Catering to his former coworkers, he cut a hole in a horse-drawn light freight wagon and subsequently gave birth to two concepts that have persisted to this day. One was the diner — or as any self-respecting Erieite knows it as — the dinor. Many of these cozy eateries were fashioned from former train cars, and got their name from that railroad designation, the "dining car." These flourished into the mid-20th century, many of which are still in operation today. Places like the recently closed (and soon reopening) Crossroads Dinor in Edinboro leaned into this concept, their lineage being visible in both name and — until its renovation in the late '90s — its architecture. While some restaurants transitioned from a life traversing the countryside by rail to a sedentary, brick-and-mortar life, Scott's other progeny opted for the opposite route entirely. These of course, were food trucks.

As summer begins its fickle approach to the southern shores of Lake Erie, outdoor eating becomes a staple of the warmer months. Over the past few years, the number of mobile food vendors has risen, perhaps reaching a critical mass, and certainly catching the public's eye.

"It definitely picked up a lot," explained Ernie Scheffner. As owner and operator of Ernie's Food Truck, Scheffner was the original face of Erie's food truck community. "I'm the first, the pioneer," he admitted. "I took the initial leap to do it because it was what I was doing already and it just seemed like the move," he said. He started his business in 2009, not in a truck, but in a tent. By the following year, however, he found his true calling, at the wheel of an understated white vehicle with a small four-color rainbow by the door, forgoing the pun-laden names and ostentatious paint jobs of most popular trucks. He now owns five different food trucks, but the one you probably know him for is the classic downtown truck. Others go out to fair circuits, down to locations like Pittsburgh, or they get rented out.

Scheffner's choice of business went relatively unopposed for its first several years. In contrast, during that same time period in the early 2010s, the food truck craze was reaching high levels in coastal metropolises like New York City and Los Angeles. In 2011, USA Today, citing increasing impressive culinary benchmarks, reported that "fancy food trucks are rolling out across the country and into the broader culture." They then began creeping into pop culture: a food truck festival was featured in a Season Two episode of Bob's Burgers in 2012, and food truck were a major plot point in the 2014 film Chef. In those days, the Best of Erie award was known as simply "Best Mobile Food Vendor" an honor Ernie's Food Truck received in 2015. By the next year, however, it was renamed "Best Food Truck." Since then, that honor has gone to Tim Grow and the Que Abides every year.

Really Tying the Community Together

"Sometimes, there's a man, well, he's the man for his time and place." Sam Elliott grumbled these words during the opening of the cult classic film *The* The Whole Foods Co-op's SorcERIE food truck awaits its next customer. The SorcERIE specializes in vegan-friendly wraps and sandwiches and spends most weekdays flanking Perry Square.

Big Lebowski. While Scheffner was unquestionably the local pioneer, Grow helped usher in a new boom of Erie food trucks. A lifelong barbecue enthusiast, Grow's passion turned into plans for a career in food. Originally planning to open a traditional location, he went on a road trip from San Diego, Calif. to Austin. Texas with his brother and "the food truck scene in those two cities alone blew me away. I came home with the mindset that I was going to start a food truck in Erie." He joked that "there were a lot of people who thought I was nuts and that it wouldn't work but I kept thinking of the old joke, 'Erie is 10 years behind the rest of the country.' I figured if that were true, we are hitting this at the right time. By the looks of the booming population of food trucks in the city, it certainly seems we did, in fact, get started at the right time." The Que Abides has since won the award for Erie's Best Food Truck three consecutive years, and is often the de facto face of our community's food truck scene. Describing his early days in 2015, Grow explained that "we would grind those first couple seasons, doing very little business in hindsight. So many days we sat in Perry Square with minimal orders but people kept coming. Slowly but surely we began to have regulars who began to bring friends, who became regulars, and so on. Word of mouth and social media were huge to get going."

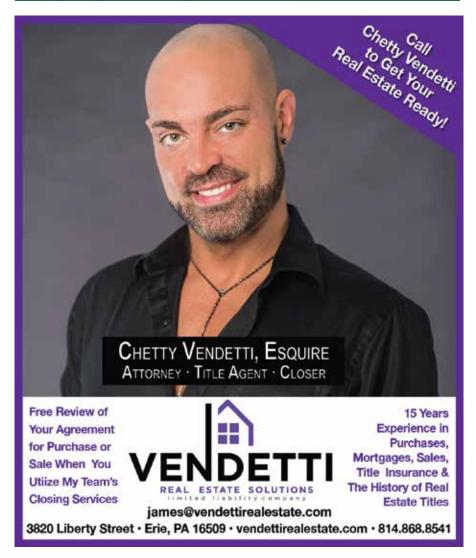
Sites like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram help trucks give up-to-the-minute updates to their followers, letting them see if they're in a new location, if they're running out of ingredients, or if they have new menu items. There are also a few reliable places you can find them, most chiefly along State Street flanking Perry Square in downtown Erie. "My truck's always going to be on State Street," Scheffner stated. "Ernie's is State Street. I don't want people to have to look and see where we're at. We're always there," he said, once again happily bucking the trends.

"Business is tricky when you are

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moving from place to place," explained Jessee Treiber, manager of the SorcERIE food truck, adding that "because unlike a brick-and-mortar where you find yourselves establishing a more consistent clientele, with food trucks our customers are ever changing so it's difficult to adapt to the needs of the customers because they are different everywhere we go."

In Their Element

Today, there are over 50 mobile vendors in Erie. According to a list provided by the Erie Food Truck Alliance, 53 to be precise, with 16 operating year-round. While the term "food truck" tends to be the preferred nomenclature, it's worth noting that there are almost as many food trailers as there are trucks (14 and 18, respectively).

Another trend that's surfaced has been successful restaurants branching

Que Abides owner Tim Grow (left) takes an order outside of Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. Microbreweries and microdistilleries without kitchens of their own are grateful for food trucks, which by virtue of showing up can offer patrons a full menu.

out in the form of a more mobile option — for instance, Brooklyn Pizza with its Sticks and Bricks, Voodoo Brewery with its Foodoo Truck, or the Whole Foods Co-op's aforementioned SorcERIE. Treiber describes how the cooperative decided to throw its hat in the ring and go beyond its W. 26th Street location. "Our goal with the food truck was to use it as a vehicle — literally to be able to reach those who might not ordinarily have access to healthier, more wholesome food options. Our hope was to use the food truck to extend our reach and impact in the Erie community," Treiber detailed.

"I think last year saw a boom, not just in the amount of trucks and other vendors in the area, but in venues and businesses wanting to incorporate our trucks and other vendors into their events," explained Alison Green, who helps run the Erie Food Truck Alliance. Green works hard volunteering long hours to help organize events and practices for both mobile vendors and participating venues.

As a rule, food trucks tend to follow the crowds; although lately, it's been working the other way around. While well-attended community events always seem to carry with them a tail

of nomadic restaurateurs, this summer will see a handful of events that exist purely as a celebration of these foods unto themselves. These include The Erie Food Truck Festival (in Lawrence Park Saturday, June 1), Erie's Downtown Erie Food Truck Festival (outside of Bourbon Barrel on Saturday, June 22), and Gears and Grub (this year taking place at Perry Square for three days beginning July 19). "There is no denying that the local events have played a huge part in the local Food Truck Scene growing the way it did," explained Green. She was also quick to note the important role that breweries and distilleries — especially those with no formal food services of their own — play in the health of their business. citing that they "have been especially welcoming to the trucks. On any given weekend we have trucks out at several amazing local breweries, like Erie Ale Works and Black Monk, as well as Cart/ Horse Distilling and Luminary Distilling. We also are often out at businesses people may not expect us at such Zurn, Logistics Plus, VNet, Bay Valley and the like feeding their employees through all the different shifts." She clarified that "we love the festivals and big events, but if the local businesses weren't so welcoming to us every week, all season we would be seeing a lot less trucks out there succeeding."

Nick Warren can reached at nick@eriereader.com





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Celebrating 100 Years!



TROHA Russian Festival

Friday, May 24 - 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm Saturday, May 25 - Noon - 6:00 pm Sunday, May 26 - Noon - 8:00 pm

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



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

Russian Breakfast

Sunday, May 26th at 10am to Noon

Tea Room is Back

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Bob Uleck Polka Band

Friday Night • 5:30-8:30

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Helps to support the church's neighborhood improvement and charitable outreach projects.

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The Wait is Over at Dysmorphia's CD Release Show



FRIDAY, MAY 24

his Friday, the all-female riot-punk outfit Dysmorphia and special guests will grace the stage of Scotty's Martini Lounge for their long-anticipated CD release show. Joining them is a crew of notable bands from both Erie and Pittsburgh, eager to showcase their own work alongside Dysmorphia's new output. Chief among the locals are Aria and the Voiceless, a rock quartet with a twist of punk influence. Making the trip from the South are The Fuckies, an alternative punk rock band notable for their masterful inclusion of the cello, and Middle Children, a Pittsburgh-based electropop act, who released their second and most recent LP, Something Private, in 2016. Last but not least is Elizabeth Kawinski, who will be opening the show with an acoustic performance.

Dysmorphia is set to release the follow-up to their 2015 demo "Apathy is Dead," a 13-track, self-titled album, that was three years in the making. Guests are encouraged to enjoy the bar and support the bands by purchasing merchandise. This show is for folks 21 and over, sponsored by The Radcastle Collective, Rebel Girl Media, and Gimp Guy Underground Promotions. Scotty's notes that underground art will be on display as well. When it comes to diverse gigs headlined by a band at the forefront of progressive, feminist punk rock in Erie, Dysmorphia's album release show is not one you'll want to sleep on. — Aaron Mook

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German Street // \$5 // 21+ // facebook.com/scottys.martini

Voodoo Conjures Up Impressive Summer Songwriter Series

FRIDAY, MAY 24



rie's much-loved singer-songwriter Tyler Smilo kicks off the official Voodoo Songwriter Series. Organized by musician Zack Orr — voted Best Local Singer for the 2019 Best of Erie Awards - this series features a well-curated array of both local and out-of-town talent on the brewery's outdoor patio. Smilo, an impressive talent and leader of groups such as Smilo and the Ghost and Daybreak Radio, has had his share of ups and downs this year but has persevered, releasing full-length records that are some of his best work to date. He blends surprisingly frenetic guitar work with emotionally resonant vocals that never fail to impress. Orr will perform during the course of each evening, usually starting off the night, though he will be trading sets over the course of the evening with Smilo. The following week (May 31) will showcase Maryland singer-songwriter Stefan Edward. The singer's well-articulated gravelly voice provides the perfect vehicle for his evocative and relatable lyricism. With dozens of performances scheduled (primarily in the northwest regions of Maryland), the songwriter is also producing a web series title "2wo Scoops." — Nick Warren

June 7 - Eric Brewer; June 14 - Justin Moyar; June 21 - Johnny Major; June 28 - Gem City Duo; July 5 - The Honest Mistakes; July 19 - Paolello & Gone; July 26 - Fred Oakman; Aug. 2 - McKenzie Lee Sprague; Aug. 9 - Brown Eyes (NYC); Aug. 16 - Gem City Duo; Aug. 23 - Matthew J. Thompson the Romantic Insomniac, Aug. 30 - Jane West (Pittsburgh); Sept. 6 - Myke Gunter, Sept. 13 - Brooke Surgener

Fridays until Sept. 13 (no performance July 12), 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. // // The Patio At Voodoo Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. // Free // facebook.com/thePatioatVBErie Dome Sweet Dome: Troika 2019 at Church of the Nativity



FRIDAY, MAY 24 - 26

magine Erie 100 years ago. What do you picture? Those brick roads that still lie exposed in spots? Horse-drawn carriages slowly being edged out by those new automobiles? Ladies starting to wear their hems above the ankles, about to usher in the Roaring'20s?

One thing you would have seen, believe it or not, was the first incarnation of the Church of the Nativity, newly finished in 1919, in the same prime location where it sits now, ready to serve the existing Russian Orthodox Old Rite community in Erie. Sadly, in the 1980s that original church was lost to a fire. However, the rebuilt structure remains a timeless gem high atop its Bayfront bluff, radiating peacefulness and warmth as the light illuminates its face with every sundown.

It is this gorgeous building, with the eye-catching gilt dome on top, that welcomes visitors every year to what amounts to the start of festival season in Erie: Troika Russian Festival. After 11 years, the Church of the Nativity and its planning committee have the whole cultural festival thing down pat.

There's the crowd-pleasing menu: "Russky" sliders, kolbasa sandwiches, "Russky" fries with their signature mushroom and cheese sauce, potato pancakes and those enchanting nesting doll (or "matryoshka") cookies - plus so much more. There's the entertainment, with lively dancing and music. There's the tasty selection of beers, wine, and shots. And of course, there is the location, featuring a view that can't be beat.

Those interested in learning more

a guided tour of the interior with Rector Father Pimen Simon on each of the three nights, or a self-guided tour, both during certain hours. Stephen Maynard, who has been a member of the Church of the Nativity for over 20 years, has a deep reverence for the church and encourages others to appreciate it as he does.

"You can literally see The Church of the Nativity from many places on the lower east side, as far away as East Ninth Street, from the top of the parking garage on 10th and French. And you can hear the bells all over the lower east side, too ... The church building itself is a beacon."

Maynard continued, "Now, entering the building itself is magical. The wide open space makes you feel so small and like you're floating in heaven."

Keep in mind, the Troika Festival is a fundraiser, a way for the church and the community within to keep their doors open (and their dome aloft) and to keep up the ability to do their good works around the community.

"I literally love everything about it," Maynard said. "Everything about the Church of the Nativity on East Front Street in Erie, PA is a true expression of love."

Show your love for this beautiful church, on its beautiful perch, by attending Troika 2019 and ensure that the Church of the Nativity community enjoys another 100 years in the City of Erie. — Cara Suppa

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. (see website for full three-day schedule details) // 251 E. Front St. // Free admission // churchofthenativity.net/troika

Bonfires and Brews — The Peak's Backyard Party Series



SATURDAY, MAY 25

Are you the type of person who loves to kick off summer by hanging out with friends, eating great food, and drinking ice cold brew? Then look no further because Peek'n Peak's got you covered with their ongoing Bonfires and Brews Concert Series.

Starting soon, you can consider the Peak your backyard. There will be nine additional dates to relax with a large bonfire as this series will continue into October. With a variety of rock and pop talent to see, there's an evening for everybody here.

Heather McBriar, corporate events manager at the Peak, explains that the atmosphere at Bonfires and Brews is "really laid back, a 'pull up a chair and hang out with your friends' kind of event. At the end of the evening, we have s'mores with the bonfire. It's a kick-off summer party, with certain foods and beers highlighted."

In addition to the live entertainment and plenty to eat and drink, there are also yard games (corn hole and volleyball, for instance) for those who want to move around and play in the yard.

What makes each Bonfires and Brew night unique (besides the music, of course) is the theme of the evening. On June 15, the theme is #1 Dad Day in honor of Father's Day. There will also be a corn hole tournament that day.

Another great theme, "Dog Days of Summer," is set to take place on July 20 as they honor the Humane Society. Speaking of animals, are you aware that this event is pet-friendly?

Be sure to gather your friends, especially your four-legged ones, to kick off the summer right. — Kalli Oberlander

Saturdays, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. // Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 // pknpk.com

Showcase Honors The '90s



SATURDAY, MAY 25

M usic is one of the common denominators that defines our community. Though there are many well-established local musicians who have made their mark, the new generation of artists are eager to do just the same.

One-stop-shop Most Lethal Club, a production company that specializes in film, photography, and digital art, will be hosting a night for music lovers and '90s babies to enjoy. The "Issa 90s Thing" showcase will be kicking things off May 25 at Basement Transmissions, with a variety of hungry young acts representing a great blend of genres. Major Coin, a hip-hop ensemble that takes guerrilla marketing to new heights, will present a breathtaking performance while up-

and-coming artist Jordy The Traveler delivers raps about his journey to the top. Alternative band Wasted Info will waste no time with their subtle yet definitive approach, and rising stars Aria and the Voiceless will show you what they really have to say. Sammy C will take the baton and bring forth a melodic wave that will have you looking forward to his next performance.

According to the flier — one that pays homage to the '90s with a vibrant VHS tape displaying a list of names on the bill — there are more acts that are still under wraps. While holding back on who the surprise guests are, this affair ups the ante asking that you wear your best (or worst) costume to embody the golden decade that we all love. Issa 90's Thing is for adults 18 and older but comes with a Retrocade to fuel your gaming nostalgia. If you're up for a blast from the past with outrageous fun, then get out those airbrushed overalls and join the vibes. — Charles Brown

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. // 18 + // BYOB with ID // facebook.com/MostLethalClub

MUSIC

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

May 22, 24, 29, 31, Jun. 5—6 to 9 p.m. Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Blasco Concert Series: Gem City Jazz Ensemble

May 22 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Erie's own big band — featuring a 20-member lineup — swings into the library auditorium.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Open Mic

May 22, 29, Jun. 5 — 10 p.m. Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

MVP

May 23, 30 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Abby & Pat Doyle of Gem City Revival

May 23 — 6 to 8 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

The High Life

May 23 — 6 to 9 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Jesse Westo

May 23 — 6:30 p.m. Now in its fourth week of live music, the venue boasts live performances Thursday through Sunday, with the folk-influenced bluesman Weston's first of five appearances.

Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Katie & Jesse

May 24 — 5 to 7 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The Patio at Voodoo Erie Presents Tyler Smilo

May 24 — 5 to 8 p.m.
The Patio At Voodoo Erie, 101
Boston Store Pl. facebook.
com/thePatioatVBErie

SASS Acoustics w Kayti Stadler

May 24 — 5 to 8 p.m. Rum Runners, 133 E. Dobbins Landing rumrunnerserie.com.

Geek Army

May 24 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Salmon Frank

May 24 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Sprung 2019

May 24 — 7 p.m.

Part rave, part party, part EDM and rap show, the event also

features local comedians, hoopers, and seven DJs with the music going all night. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Open Mic Night

May 24, 31 — 7 p.m. Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Rick Magee Acoustics

May 24 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Derf Hospecger

May 24 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Here Comes Summer

May 24 — 7 to 11 p.m. Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach St. bullfrogbarerie.com.

Dysmorphia CD Release Show

May 24 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Stationary Pebbles

May 24 — 10 p.m.
The Pittsburgh-based quintet brings their brand of funk, reggae, and rock to the upstairs stage.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.com.

Black Widow

May 25 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Lakeview Spring Concert Series

May 25, Jun. 1 — 6 to 9 p.m. Running until the end of June, this weekly series kicks off with none other than Eric Brewer and Friends, who will revisit the venue twice more this summer. Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 Singer Rd., North East, PA 16428 lakeviewwinecellars.com.

Bonfires & Brews: Reset2Vinyl

May 25 — 6 to 10 p.m. Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com.

Cruisin

May 25 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Dionisio/Colette Bone

May 25 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Paul Hunter

May 25 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Sam Hyman

May 25 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Lacy Alyse

May 25 — 7 to 10 p.m. Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Witty Tarbox

May 25 — 10 p.m.
The surf-funk five-piece
from Buffalo, N.Y. make their
Rook debut upstairs.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.com.

George & Ray

May 26 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com.

Tech Trek IV

May 26 — 5 p.m. Canada's Archspire, Tennessee's INFERI, Switzerland's VIRVUM, Maryland's Worm-

VIRVUM, Maryland's Wormhole, Erie's own Bravura (Erie Metal Kings), and Buffalo's Inertia bring a whopping dose of metal to BT.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Carl Hultman Jazz Trio

May 26, Jun. 2 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Josh Travis

May 26 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Leeanna Golembiewski

May 27 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

A Memorial Day Yeehaw w The Standby

May 27 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.
The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland St. facebook.com.

Live On Mars: A Tribute to David Bowie

May 29 — 7:30 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriewarnertheatre.com.

Pat & Abby Doyle

May 30 — 6 to 9 p.m. The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Jay Baumgardner

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

Rankin & Schell

May 31 — 5 to 7 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The Patio at Voodoo Erie Presents Stefan Edward

May 31 — 5 to 8 p.m.
The Patio At Voodoo Erie, 101
Boston Store Pl. facebook.com.

Small Town Revolution

May 31 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

CALENDAR

Support Cool Local Business with Hill District Fleas



SUNDAY, MAY 26

ave you found yourself saying, or heard someone else say that there's nothing to do in Erie? Perhaps you haven't been looking in the right places. What were Flagship Fleas have now become The Hill District Fleas as they prove that Erie certainly does have many things to do, and plenty of trendy local businesses that are a must to

Emily Lynn George, owner of Pointe Foure Vintage Boutique, is the avid force Ska-punk band The Filthy Casuals perform at one of last year's Flagship Fleas on Peach Street in midtown. The events, renamed Hill District Fleas. return this year with myriad vendors, food trucks, and interactive stations - all local, of course.

behind this event, bringing many local business owners together. She is no stranger to the hard work that goes into making this event possible. She explains, "We ran

five Flagship Fleas in 2018 from May to September. We ran with funding from our own pockets, and for the love of all things local. The mayor granted the road to be closed, which is huge because Peach Street is a first response oneway street. With the mayor behind our back, we knew it was go time to try and get the big city concept rolling a second time around."

George continues to excitedly inform that there will be "six fleas this year, on every last Sunday of the month from May through October, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We changed the event day to Sunday instead of Saturday. That just made sense. Sundays are a fun, chill day and that's the vibe we want to roll 'down the hill' with."

If you're not at all familiar with an event like this, expect to see numerous vendors, food trucks, interactive stations, and all good things local. As a bonus, it's fun for the whole family as it is both kid and pet-friendly.

"This event is unique because it's all handmade and hand-grown. It is Erie's only open air flea market that sources only local businesses and makers," says George. "These are put on to get other local artists and businesses known so they can make a living off what they passionately love and do!" emphasizes George.

Erie has a lot of incredible talent, shops, and people, and the Hills District Flea is a great place to start discovering them. — Kalli Oberlander

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. // The Hill, W. 26th-24th and Peach // facebook.com/ The Shops On The Hill Erie



Tommy Link

May 31 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

The Impurity w Brotherhood of the Jam, Shattered Utopia, and Insult to Injury

May 31 — 7 p.m.

The Buffalo, N.Y. heavy metal fourpiece combines forces with a trio of local metal and punk rock bands. Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Findley

May 31 — 7 to 9 p.m. Churchill's Bourbon & Brew, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Curtis Jones

May 31 — 7 to 9 p.m. & Jun. 1 — 2 to 4 p.m.

The critically-acclaimed guitar master from northern Georgia (not to be confused with either the local politician or the local actor) will bring his flamenco and jazz style to Artlore, along with guests Kim Jones and Chuck Williams. Artlore Studio, 3406 Westlake Rd. artlorestudio.com.

Sharon Liu

May 31 — 7 to 10 p.m. The Cork 1794, 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. cork1794.com

Wild Adriatic

May 31 — 9 p.m. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Rhythmic Explorations World Drumming Workshop

Jun. 1 — 2 to 3:30 p.m. PACA, 1505 State St. facebook.com.

Northern Accents

Jun. 1 — 6 to 10 p.m. Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

Refuge

Jun. 1 — 6 to 10 p.m. Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Fred Oakman

Jun. 1 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill 508 Frie St. Edinboro PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Maybelle and The Band

Jun. 1 — 7 to 10 p.m. Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Lexi Weege & The Wonder Twins, Justin Moyar

Jun. 1 — 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Banjo Workshop

Jun. 2 — 1 to 5 p.m. Banjo Workshop, 2320 Loveland Ave. GeoffHohwald.com.

Blasco Concert Series: 'Bach to the Future'

Jun. 2 — 3 to 4:30 p.m. The Millcreek Community Band provides a free classical performance at the library's Hirt Auditorium. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

8th Annual Kate Buczek **Memorial Concert**

Jun. 2 — 4 to 6:30 p.m.

In memory of the local jazz aficionado, the evening will feature the "Razzer's Jazzer's," a Dixieland sextet from Jamestown, N.Y. and "Derf's Quartet '18," a Latin/swing group lead by pianist Derf Hopsecger. Unitarian Universalist Church, 7180 Perry Hwy. erieartsandculture.org.

Clever Norman

Jun. 2 — 6:30 p.m. Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Red Creek, Jail Socks, Vermont, Penny Racer Jun. 3 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.

Local punk rockers Red Creek and Penny Racer are joined by North Carolina's Jail Socks, and Cincinnati's Vermont, all playing their own unique takes on punk, emo, and indie rock.

The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland St. facebook.com. **UPMC Sunset Music Series:**

DangerBird, Jeff Fetterman

Jun. 5 — 5:30 p.m. Beach 1 at PI State. 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

DANCE

Garden Party Dance

Jun. 1 — 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Garden-themed ballroom dancing sweeps through the St. John's Lutheran Parish Center.

St. John's Lutheran Parish Center, 2216 Peach St. usadanceerie.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Happy Appy Food Tour

May 22, 29, Jun. 5 — 5 to 7 p.m. Bolero, 16 W. 10th St. eriefoodtours.com.

Cocktails & Color at Voodoo Brewery Erie

May 22 — 6 p.m. Voodoo Brewery Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. facebook.com.

Pint Night

May 23, 30 — 5 to 8 p.m. Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

Riverside Brewing Company Growler Hours Return

May 23 — 5 to 9 n.m. Riverside Brewing Company, 1 Fountain St., Cambridge Springs, PA 16403 riversidebrewing co.

Downtown Erie Food Tour

May 25, Jun. 1 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Siri Thai Cuisine

May 25 — 1 p.m.

The Siri Thai food truck stops by Luminary Distilling to curry the favor of local cocktail drinkers.



LECOM HEALTH

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22 | Erie Reader | ErieReader.com May 22, 2019

The Standby's Memorial Day Yeehaw



MONDAY, MAY 27

Jeehaw" is not normally a phrase you would associate with rock music. However, Erie's newest venue, The Ballet Haus, makes an exception. On May 27th, the first ever "Memorial Day Yeehaw" will be headlined by beloved Erie indie trio The Standby. Just returning from a Midwest tour, they're bringing along new friends Lilac Kings, Body Thief, and HIGHDIVE.

The Standby had a remarkable time on tour: their first ever show in Tulsa, Oklahoma sold over 120 tickets. Collectively, the band loves exploring new places and playing for new audiences. Bassist Lyle Sallade says "the overwhelming support of the community" is what makes Erie a special place for them to play. Their debut single "Wintersun" was released at the beginning of April and has gathered over 10,000 monthly listeners and 20,000 total streams. The music video debuted on Europe's alternative music platform dreambound, through Alternative Press in the U.S., and is available on Apple Music and Spotify.

Lilac Kings, a progressive rock band from Tulsa, Oklahoma finds a bal-

ance between emotional lyricism and hard-hitting vocals to deliver a high energy performance new fans won't forget. The band released their new album Goodnight in February on We Are Triumphant Records, with some tracks selected for Spotify's "New Punk Tracks" playlist. Washington, D.C.-based alternative band Body Thief recently dropped a long-awaited album entitled Travel Glow, nearly four years after their debut record Speak in Hibernation. Both bands are touring to promote their coinciding records.

Bringing the "Yee" and "Haw" from Texas is HIGHDIVE, who have constantly been on tour throughout the United States since their debut album Forget I Called dropped last May. The quartet has shared the stage with many acts, most notably up-and-coming Chicago powerhouse Belmont.

In between sets while you are browsing band merch, don't forget to check out Melancholy. Melancholy is a local clothing brand that aims to promote self-growth and to embrace mental illness. A Waffle Miracle will also be in attendance, so if you are feeling hungry during the show, their top-tier waffles have you covered. This one-of-a-kind event is happening May 27th, and it's one of many Andromeda Agency gigs you won't wanna miss. - Dylan Tutmaher

7:30 p.m.// The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland St. // \$12 Pre-sale, \$14 Door // All ages, BYOB with ID // facebook.com/ theandromedaagency

He's In The Best-Selling Show: Life on Mars: A Tribute to David **Bowie**



WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

f you know when to go out and you also know when to stay in, then you should be heading over to see "Life on Mars: A Tribute to David Bowie" at the Warner Theatre on May 29. Here, you will bear witness to lifelong Bowie fan Alex Thomas and his ultra-talented band interpreting and presenting some of the Starman's greatest work on — or off this earth.

Like Ziggy who really sang (complete with screwed-up eyes and screweddown hairdo), Thomas presents a venerable selection from Bowie's catalogue, live and onstage including hits like "All The Young Dudes," "Let's Dance," "The Man Who Sold The World," "Changes," "Rebel Rebel," and "Young Americans."

Whether Thomas does a passable Bowie — can anyone truly come close to The Man Who Fell to Earth? — will have to be decided by concertgoers, but you can see an interpretation of your hero right here in Erie.

VIP Packages to the event are available. Starting at 5 p.m. on the show day, each guest will be given a special Live On Mars VIP Meet and Greet Soundcheck Experience tour pass and 2019 tour poster. They will then be invited by the show road manager into the venue auditorium to listen to the soundcheck, meet the show musicians, and enjoy a special bonus performance of two Bowie songs that will not appear in the show. Bring your poster and a pen if you fancy a signature. — Miriam Lamey

7 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$29 — 64 // facebook.com/ LIVEONMARSSHOW

Ribs For Your Pleasure: Ribfest 2019



WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 - JUN. 1

There is no shortage or good when hanging around downtown and Perry Square Park, but the end of May tends to be downright mouth-watering. That's when Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off and Music Festival, or Ribfest for short, sets up — and sets off — an explosion of smoky, sweet, and savory scents.

Local businesswoman and entrepreneur Kathi Danielson, the owner of Performance and Event Management, LLC, said, "I know that most people believe that the Ribfest is run by the city. It is not." In fact, she purchased the rights to produce Ribfest in 2004, and has been at the helm of seeing the event to fruition every year since. Her talent for event production is obvious, as the four-day just smoked meats, and it seems to grow each year.

Families can count on the RIB Kidz Fun Zone, with rides that are available via the Ride-a-ribba-ramma pass, or individual tickets, all four nights. "Beer on the Plaza" is presented thanks to Alkeme, the official beer sponsor for 2019. A variety of vendors will sell on-site, while, "we are also featuring women-owned, women-focused businesses on 'Ladies Night," Danielson added. This networking and sales event takes center stage on Thursday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Big Top Tent.

The event would not be complete without tons of live music — Me and the Boy, Katie and Jesse, 100 Proof, and Jasmine Morgan, among others — and, of course, rib judging. The general public is invited to cast their vote for the People's Choice award, while the local group ManBQUE will be on hand with their own independent judging.

It's a jam-packed four days, and it is no surprise that people visit from out of state to get a taste of what Erie's Ribfest is cooking up every year. — Cara Suppa

Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. // 6th and State Street // Free admission // erieribfest.com

Luminary Distilling, 8270 Peach St. Ste. 300 facebook.com.

Campfire Cooking

May 25 — 3 to 4:30 p.m. Build a campfire, hone your outdoor cooking techniques, and roast a granola-stuffed apple in Asbury Woods' pavilion fireplace. Asbury Woods Nature Center. 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Lunch Meal Prep

May 28 — 5:30 p.m. Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

29th Annual Wild Rib Cook-Off & Music Festival

May 29, 30 — 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. & May 31, Jun. 1 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Perry Square erieribfest.com.

Erie Food Truck Festival

Jun. 1 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fields at GE, 800 Water St. eriefoodtruckfestival.com.

North East Food Tour

Jun. 1 — 1 to 4 p.m. Experience the highlights of North East dining in this guided food tour, with dates continuing throughout the summer and fall. Little Shop of Donuts, 36 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com.

June Paint N Sip

Jun. 1 — 5 to 7 p.m. Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

MOVIES

The Intruder (1962)

May 30 — 8 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

High School 911

Jun. 1 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Director Tim Warren will be on hand to answer questions after the screening of this award-winning documentary about the only ambulance service in Darien, Connecticut — ran by high school teenagers. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.ora.

Burning

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

Volcanoes: The **Fires of Creation**

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

Turtle Odyssey

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

Backyard Wilderness



we cater!

weddings grad parties family reunions

Start with our base menu or we will work with you to create a custom menu.

Gluten free, dairy free, vegetarian, and vegan options available!



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CALENDAR

Refueled, Recharged, Ridiculous and Wild



FRIDAY, MAY 31

he internationally known band Wild Adriatic will provide an evening fueled with two heavy-hitting setlists that blend the sounds of '70s rock 'n' roll and Motown soul. Now in their eighth year of touring, they're making a stop in Erie during their busiest year yet to provide a next level live performance for everyone to groove to.

Drummer Mateo Vosganian says, "we love this ... we're just normal dudes who are lucky to be supported by fans who buy tickets and come out to shows, and we like to hang out with them. We aren't trying to take ourselves too seriously. We're trying to connect. We're trying to

The well-established trio from Saratoga Springs, N.Y. has now added three more members to recharge the band with a fresh perspective. Along with their guitar-heavy swagger, the addition of two saxophones and a keyboard helped to add depth to the band and infuse soul into their setlists.

In the midst of completing several European and multiple stateside tours as well as appearing at festivals such as Bonnaroo and the upcoming local Spring Badfish (in nearby Garrettsville, Ohio), they recently completed a fivesong EP. Adriatic/Rodriguez came to be after Minneapolis-based singer/songwriter Dan Rodriguez and Vosganian spent three days writing and recording after a late night, drunken conversation together. With songs like "Don't Hold Back" and "Party," the spirit of the band shines through and exemplifies the mission that the band is trying to accom-

In addition to their brand new EP, the band embarked on a month-long tour with their musical partners-in-crime Andy Frasco & the UN. They also will assist in bringing the heat this summer as they are performing with the legendary Lynyrd Skynryd as a supporting band on their farewell tour.

This acclaimed band is not one to miss as they make their way through the United States during the quickly approaching festival season. — Symoné Crockett

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

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

Mysteries of the **Great Lakes**

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

VISUAL ARTS

Art Talk: Art & Science

May 24 - 6 to 7 p.m.

This latest installment of the Erie Art Museum's lecture series explores the interwoven histories of art and science. Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.ora

Natural Impressions Student Art Competition

Ongoing through May 27 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Plein Air Painting

May 28, Jun. 4 — 6 to 8 p.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Figure Drawing in the Mansion

May 29, Jun. 5 — 6 to 8 p.m. Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.org.

LGBTQ Regional **Juried Art Show**

Jun. 1 — 7 to 10 p.m. Time listed is for opening reception, ongoing through Jun. 30 thereafter. Erie Art Gallery, 24 W. 8th St. areatereriealliance.com

Helen Tullio: Something Serendipitous

Ongoing through Jun. 18 Glass Growers' latest exhibit features the acrylic, resin, oil, and watercolor paintings of local artist Helen Tullio. Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Bill Brady

Ongoing through Aug. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Brian Pardini

Ongoing through Aug. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th

St. erieartmuseum.org.

96th Annual Spring Show

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

Artist Takeover: Roman Glass

Ongoing through Sept. 15 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.ora.

Everything But The Shelves

Ongoing through Dec. 2019 Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Ashley Pastore: **Everyday Monumental**

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

THEATER

70s Flashback Reunion

May 25 — 5:30 p.m. & May 26 — 2:30 p.m.

This "musical romp through the '1970s" touches on the decade's pop culture highlights. Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 $Peach \, St. \, can terbury feast. com.$

Erie Food Truck Festival: Field of Eats

Lawrence Park set for scrumptious sequel



SATURDAY, JUN. 1

The first course of the Erie Food Truck Festival did exactly what it intended to do — stoke an appetite for more.

"We learned that people in Erie County really like food trucks," recounted Kate Philips, chairperson of the festival and CEO of the consulting firm Parker Philips. "This was something people wanted." Democracy sometimes votes with its belly, and 5,000 ballots were cast last year in favor of a repeat.

Food trucks have grown into a local phenomenon this past decade, one that simultaneously could be anywhere (thanks to wheels and combustion engines) and doesn't appear to be going anywhere soon (because deliciousness). For one day, you can taste what the fuss is about all in one place — the former GE

Fields in Lawrence Park.

Attendees are invited to graze all day in these welcoming pastures, with the festival running from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Even if you so choose to stay for multiple meals, there will be some tough decisions to make, as the roster of participating vendors has been upped from 15 to 24 this year. "Bigger and better" is the mantra for the second Food Truck Fest — and appropriately, you'll have little trouble leaving a little bigger than when you arrived, between waffles (A Waffle Miracle), tacos (The Atacolypse), pizza (Sticks & Bricks, Benvenuti Pizza Factory), cheesesteaks (Fat Boys Phillys), smoked meats (The Que Abides, Hawk's Grocery and Smokehouse), ice cream (Bruster's, Cold Stone, Shabby's), and more.

Philips is looking forward to a more streamlined experience this time around, as Festival Fun Chips will be the only form of currency accepted within the festival grounds, for both the food trucks and the merchandise, beer, and wine tents (yes, plenty of local libations will also be available); however, your credit cards can be used to pay for them. The expanded food truck fleet should result in shorter lines, and the start time being pushed back to 11 a.m. should better accommodate the lunch crowd — as well as two additional bands.

That's right, the Erie Food Truck Festival is not only a celebration of local food, but also of local music. Enjoy the musical stylings of seven area bands while you metabolize, including:

11 a.m. — Jack Stevenson (classic rock, formerly of Jackson Station)

12:45 p.m. — Jesse & Katie (soft rock/country acoustic duo)

2 p.m. — The Honest Mistakes (power pop duo)

3:45 p.m.— 2 For the Show ft. Eric Brewer and Lindsay Vendetti (pop-rock/blues/soul)

5 p.m. — Key West Express (Jimmy Buffett tribute)

6:45 p.m. — Real Fake Doors (rock/poppunk)

Philips advises interested parties to purchase their tickets early online (eriefoodtruckfestival.com) or in-person at the Iroquois School District building located at 800 Tyndall Avenue — doing so saves you half the gate price (\$10). Proceeds benefit the Iroquois School District Foundation.

With another large turnout expected, this is clearly a festival with a future worth salivating over. — Matt Swanseger

11 a.m. to 8 p.m. // Former G.E. fields in Lawrence Park, 800 Water St. // General admission: \$5 Pre-sale, \$10 at gate // eriefoodtruckfestival.com

COMEDY

FUBAR Comedy Presents: A Night at the Movies

May 31 — 7 to 10 p.m. BYOB, sit back, and laugh with standup talent from Erie, Buffalo, Pittsburgh. Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Sweet Cheeks Comedy Tour

Jun. 1 — 7 to 10 p.m.

AG White and Tommie Too
Smoov join headliner Derrick
"Capone" Lee, AKA "The Gangsta of Comedy," at the Avalon
Hotel and Conference Center.

Avalon Hotel & Conference Center.

Giggle Water: An Open Mic Comedy Night

16 W. 10th St. eventbrite.com.

Jun. 5 — 8 p.m. Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

SPORTS

Erie SeaWolves vs. Bowie Baysox May 24, 25 — 6 p.m. & May 26, 27 — 1:30 p.m. UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com.

BMX State Race Triple

May 25 — 10 a.m. to noon Scott Park, 2700 W. 6th St. usabmx.com.

3rd Annual Great Lakes Showdown

May 25 — 4 p.m.

The Midwest Compact Touring Series rolls into Lake Erie Speedway, with a day of 4- and 6-cylinder stock car races. Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

Crash-A-Rama

May 25-5 p.m.

It's crunch time at Lake Erie Speedway as school buses, campers, and other sacrificial vehicles converge (often quite literally) at this demolition derby. Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

Erie 15K Freedom Challenge

May 27 — 7:30 a.m. Walnut Creek Baptist Church, 6015 W. Ridge Rd. erie15k.com.

Presque Isle Volleyball Tournament

May 30 — 5:45 to 9 p.m. & Jun. 1 — 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. & Jun. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m. Beach 6 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks

May 31, Jun. 1 — 7 p.m. & Jun. 2 — 1:30 p.m. UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com.

Into the Woods 5-Miler Trail Race

Jun. 1 — 8 a.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Crossing the Frontier 5K/10K/Virtual

Jun. 1 — 8 to 10 a.m. Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. runsianup.com.

First Time Archery Program

Jun. 1 — 10 a.m. Erie Bluffs State Park, 11122 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA 16423 events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Altoona Curve Jun. 3 — 7 p.m. & Jun. 4, 5 — 10:30 a.m. UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com.

COMMUNITY

The Berlin Wall 30 Years Later: Legacies & Lessons

May 22 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Jackson Janes, President of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University, measures the aftereffects of the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Intro to Windows I

May 23 — 5 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

$Learn\,to\,3D\,Print$

May 23 — 5:30 to 7 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Lyme Disease & Ticks

May 23 — 6 p.m. Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

From 2.3 GPA to D.O.C.:



Author Joe Newcomer's Return to Erie



SUNDAY, JUN. 2

t only makes sense to return to your roots to promote a book swirling around ideas of time travel and where you fit into the world. That's exactly what Joe Newcomer, author of the new book Diminishing Return, is doing on Sunday, June 2nd at Artlore Studio.

In the past, Joe's creativity poured into many outlets. Locals may recognize him as the frontman of the original rock band Mas Nova. These days, he is a panel member of the Arizona-based, comic book-themed podcast Comic Playground, led by comedian Frank Caliendo.

He released his first book El Camino Blue on February 24, 2016 (currently for sale at Artlore).

Before writing Diminishing Return, his day-to-day life experienced a major shift.

"I went from a job that was 90-hours a week to a 40-hour week position. That drastic change made every day feel like an eternity. I watched the sun slowly move through my office window daily and thought about what would happen if time stopped — that's what triggered the idea for the book."

Joe created a time-paused future wherein society has abandoned traditional life due to its obsession with nostalgia and the advent of time travel.

"Time has stopped, no one is around, and there is little to feel good about," Joe explains. "But despite this, the main character finds a way to trudge through. If he can make it in that dystopia, I hope that readers draw inspiration to keep going in our current society."

The event at Artlore Studio will not only provide the chance to get your copy of Diminishing Return signed (standard copies are also available for advance purchase on Amazon.com), but also entertain you with the sounds of Cult Classics, Bob Bearfield, and Jake Johns. In addition, the Atacolypse food truck will be on site and there are complimentary adult beverages for those who purchase a copy of the book. — Marie Turko

6 p.m. // Artlore Studios, 3406 W. Lake Rd. // josephdnewcomer.com

Sand, Sunsets, Stunning Sounds, and Something to Eat: UPMC Sunset Series Returns



WEDNESDAY, JUN. 5

It can be universally noted that Erie residents are starting to feel skeptical that summer — or even warmer weather — will actually return. Surprisingly. however, the UPMC Sunset Music Series is starting soon, and will run every Wednesday from June 5 to July 17 (except July 3). Shows begin at 5:30 p.m. at Beach 1 and continue until that large fiery ball in the sky sinks below the lake on the horizon.

"We are anticipating a summer of awesome music and delicious food - all with the irreplaceable sunsets of Lake Erie as a backdrop," says Jon DeMarco, executive director of Presque Isle Partnership. And this year, it seems that the Sunset Music Series will be bigger and better than ever.

"Each Wednesday enjoy two live bands, extended swimming hours, hula hoop playshops with Jennifer Dennehy, and weekly raffle drawings," DeMarco explains. "Our weekly raffle drawings feature exclusive prizes for hotspot activities and eateries around Erie, including a dinner for two at the Bayfront Sheraton Grille, tickets to tour the Presque Isle Lighthouse, and a 90-minute sail aboard Flagship Niagara League's Lettie G. Howard."

Mentors, Mantras, & Hip-Hop

May 23 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Chuck Herring, Ed. D. recounts his journey from an underachieving high school student to a nationally acclaimed educator, author. entrepreneur, and speaker. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Lagoon by Pontoon Begins May 24

Observe the hidden wonders of the Presque Isle lagoons on a one hour interpretive pontoon boat ride, ongoing throughout the summer. Evening rides are available Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Lagoon Boat Launch at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie PPA Project Stream Grant Workshop 2019

May 24 — noon to 1:30 p.m. Goodell Gardens & Homestead 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erieartsandculture.org.

Sensory Day

May 24 — noon to 9 p.m. Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Red, White, and Splash May 25

Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Excel Erie

May 25 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier excelerie.com.

Paws and Reflect Cat Yoga

May 25 — 10 to 11:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Church, 8880 W. Main St., McKean, PA 16426 event brite.com

Master Builders: Block Party

May 25 — 10 a.m. to noon Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Bird Beak Lab

May 25 — 11 a.m. Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Scrapbooking

May 25 — 1 to 3 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events. erielibrary.org.

World War I Memorial **Dedication**

May 25 — 2 p.m. The Erie County World War One Centennial Committee will dedicate a cast aluminum memorial that carries the

190 names of those from Erie County who died in World War One. Another memorial, a cast aluminum plaque fixed directly to the outside wall of the stadium's northwest corner will also be unveiled. Erie Veterans Memorial Stadium, 2800 State St. 814-823-2562

Game Afternoon

May 25 — 3 to 4:30 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrarv.ora.

Patio Yoga w Dariel

May 26 — 10 to 11 a.m. Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield. NY 14787 fiveand 20.com.

Hill District Flea

May 26 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hill District W. 26-24 and Peach St. facebook.com.

Ubhauli Sakela 2019

May 26 — noon

Erie's Bhutanese population invites Kiranti Rai (followers of an ancient Earth-based spirituality) from all over the Northeast to partake in its Sakela, an outdoor festival featuring traditional costume, dance, and food. St. Nick's Picnic Grove, 5131 Old French Rd.

erieartsandculture.org.

Candlelight Ghost Walk May 26 — 8 p.m.

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com. **Teen Reading Lounge**

May 27 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Finding and Using **Death Records**

May 28 — 10 a.m. to noon Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Eat Better For Less

May 28 — 1 to 3 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

MISSION Act Town Hall

May 28 — 2 to 3 p.m. Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E. 38th St. erie.va.gov.

Off the Shelf: **Magical Mayhem**

May 28 — 4:30 to 6 p.m.

The Erie County Public Library System presents some of its finest YA fantasy offerings, with accompanying activities such as fairy bread tasting, dragon egg hunting, and everyone's favoriteunicorn poop slime making. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Belle Valley Auxiliary

May 28 — 6 to 8 p.m. Belle Valley Fire Dept., 1514 Norcross Rd. 814-825-4359

Theology Pub & Cafe

May 28 — 7 p.m. Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Recycling 101

May 29 — 2 to 3 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events. erielibrary.org.

Yoga By The Bay

May 29 — 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

3D Modeling with Blender

May 29 - 6 to 8 p.m.Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Information Session for Artists

May 29 — 7 p.m. Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Alzheimer's Support Group

May 30 - 3 to 4 p.m. Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester

Rd. events.erielibrary.org.

Truth and Consequences

May 30 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Jefferson's Pat Cuneo and Ben Speggen examine the imperiled state of contemporary news media, which is experiencing serious trust issues with the American public. The Corry Higher Education Council, 221 N. Center St.,

Walk for a Healthy Community

Corry, PA 16407 jeserie.org.

Jun. 1 — 7 a.m. to noon Beach 11 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Intro to Files & Folders

Jun. 1 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Dungeons & Dragons

Jun. 1 — 10 a.m. to noon Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Motive Matters

Jun. 1 — 10 a.m. to noon Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Equipment Day at the Erie Zoo

Jun. 1 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. eriezoo.org.

CALENDAR

If that's not enough to whet your appetite for some great summer fun, your mouth will be watering at the food truck lineup which will also be stationed at the beach for your masticating pleasure. The rotating roster of edible delights will feature Erie's finest food trucks, which, if you know anything about these mobile culinary units, range from vegan food to barbecue, and tacos to Indian fare. Connie's Ice Cream and J's Mainstreet – serving up hot dogs and ice cream will be there each Wednesday.

"The UPMC Sunset Music Series is a perfect opportunity for the Erie community to experience our local musical talent along with Presque Isle's worldclass sunsets and Lake Erie's beautiful shores," says DeMarco.

Speaking of music, each week, expect to indulge not only in summer delights, but seasonal treats of the aural variety. Two bands will play at every event, as follows:

June 5: DangerBird — Edgy, offbeat, classic rock and blues cover band

Jeff Fetterman Band - Raw, exciting, and intense blues, with spontaneous set changes and true character

June 12: The Rooftop Project Band — Fun, collaborative pop, jazz, blues, and funk music.

The Goats — Veteran local musicians

with a broad repertoire from country to jazz and everything in between.

June 19: Re-Issue — Outstanding rock, roots, and Americana with exceptional harmonization and vocals.

SIRSY — Charismatic and sassy sounds that will get everyone dancing, peppered with anecdotes guaranteed to prompt a laugh or two.

June 26: The Acoustic Jukebox — Acoustic, high-energy tunes presented by two young lads

Lucky Dog — Copious, crowd-favorite covers presented by talented local mu-

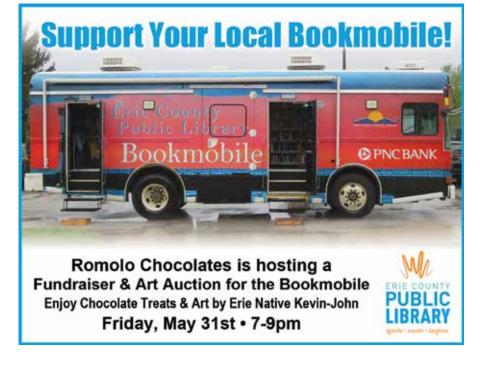
July 10: Six Year Stretch — Soulful, infectious melodies that will get you up and grooving.

Daddy Longleg's Homegrown Revival - Rich, genre-hopping jazzy sounds described as "Santana meets Lenny Kravitz with hints of Green Day, Fela Kuti, and Red Hot Chili Peppers."

July 17: Jamie B. Gallagher — Folk rock and pop presented by a feisty young art-

The Breeze Band — 9-piece outfit with sonic versatility, talent, and a roster of Motown, blues and classic rock numbers. — Miriam Lamey

5:30 p.m. // Beach 1, Presque Isle // Free // discoverpi.com/events/upmcsunset-music-series







Introduction to Reptiles and Amphibians of PA

Jun 1—11 a m Tom Ridge Environmental, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Sash Making Workshop

Jun. 1 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wood-Morrison House, 338 W. 6th St. eriehistory.org.

Meet Tito Santana

Jun. 1 — noon to 2 p.m. WWE Hall of Fame wrestler Tito Santana stops by local comic and memorabilia shop ActionTovMan for a meetand-greet and photo ops. ActionToyMan, 1215 W. 26th St. atdpromotions.weebly.com.

Discovering Your Energetic Health

Jun. 1 — 1 to 4 p.m. Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. dspath. massagetherapy.com.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Jun. 1 — 2 to 4 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Modified Martial Arts

Jun. 1 — 3 to 4 p.m. Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events. erielibrary.org.

Blasco Bookworms: The Egypt Game

Jun. 1 — 3 to 4:30 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Mariners Ball 2019

Jun. 1 — 6 to 11 p.m.

This year's 9th annual event honors the Flagship Niagara League Legacy Award recipients, Gary and Rebecca Johnson, during this black tie affair featuring hors d'oeuvres by The Cork 1794, performances by The Rooftop Project and The Groove, as well as a fireworks display along Lake Erie. Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

Yoga at the Woods

Jun. 2 — 11 a.m. to noon Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Yoga for Gardeners

Jun. 2 — 1 p.m. Goodell Gardens & Homestead. 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Benefit for the Family of Slim Fall

Jun. 2 — 2 to 5 p.m. Girard Legion Park, Noble Rd., Girard, PA 16417 facebook.com.

Diminishing Return Release and Signing Party

Jun. 2 — 6 p.m. Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Galaxy Night Light

Jun. 3 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrarv.ora.

Throwback Game Night

Jun. 3 — 6 p.m. Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Teen Reading Lounge

Jun. 3 — 6 to 8 p.m. Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erielibrary.org.

Fall Prevention for Older Adults

Jun. 4 Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd., Ste. 280 events.erielibrary.org.

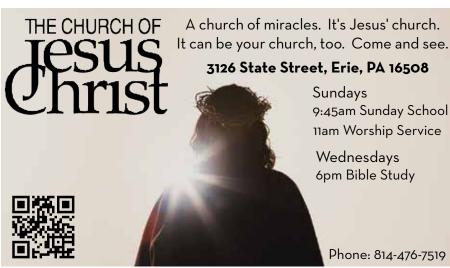
Standup Paddle **Board Program**

Jun. 4 — 5 p.m. Pontoon Boat Station at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.



CALL 1.866.377.5274











847 North Main Street Meadville, PA

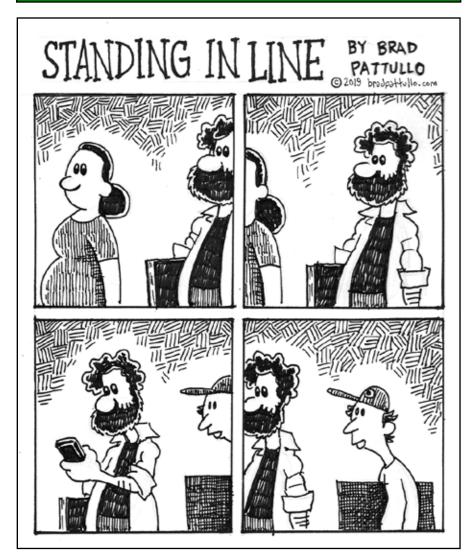
OPEN HOUSE

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MOVIE REVIEWS

"As If I Never Existed": Burning is One of the Greatest Cinematic Achievements of the Decade

Young woman talks about her recent visit to Kenya. She says that the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert have two types of hungry peo-

Kalahari Desert have two types of hungry people; the people who are literally hungry, or the "Little Hunger;" and the "Great Hunger," or the people who are hungry for a meaning in life. Lee Chang-dong's (Poetry, Secret Sunshine) masterful film Burning (adapted from a story by Haru-



ki Murakami) addresses both of these hungers and how they relate to a world that seems to be getting tenser both socially and economically every day.

The film follows Lee Jong-su (Yoo Ah-in), a sporadically employed writer who by chance reconnects with former classmate Hae-mi Shin (Jun Jong-seo). He volunteers to feed her cat while she goes on her visit to Africa. However, the dynamics of their relationship change when Hae-mi returns from her trip with a new friend named Ben (*The Walking Dead*'s Steven Yeun), an extremely wealthy young man who doesn't seem to have a care in the world. Jong-su begins to get suspicious of Ben when he confesses to a secret hobby that may be more sinister than he is revealing.

The film is an impeccably shot and ingeniously crafted thriller that slowly takes its time introducing its characters before hitting us with an unexpected twist. However, I admire it most as a grim statement of the economic uncertainty in this modern world where the divide between rich and poor seems to be growing wider by the minute. I'm not going to act like I understand the socioeconomic situation in South Korea, so I'll let Lee's incredible film speak for itself. — Forest Taylor

Burning comes to the Bourbon Barrel on Wednesday, June 5th at 7 p.m. Directed by: Lee Chang-dong // Written by: Lee Chang-dong and Oh Jung-mi, based on the short story "Barn Burning" by Haruki Murakami // Starring: Yoo Ah-in, Jun Jong-seo and Steven Yeun // 148 minutes // Unrated (R equivalent)

Paranoia: Under the Silver Lake is a Dizzying, if Over-Long Puzzle Film

In this age of franchise filmmaking, brand recognition, and cinematic universes, it's often refreshing to find a truly original idea at the theater. That makes it doubly disheartening that David Robert Mitchell's conspiracy theory head trip *Under the Silver Lake* got dumped on VOD after a polarizing Cannes premiere last year and a twice-delayed re-



lease by studio A24. The film is frustrating, fascinating, and at least 30 minutes too long — but an ultimately rewarding slice of absurdity. Its failure to launch says more about the state of the movie industry than the film's story ever could.

Following Sam (Andrew Garfield), an aimless young man faced with eviction but seemingly not caring, as he spends his days spying on his neighbors and having casual sex. One night, Sam becomes infatuated with Sarah (Riley Keough), a mysterious young woman. When Sarah disappears the next morning, Sam wanders Los Angeles in search of her, finding clues among hobo codes, pop songs, cereal boxes, and video games.

Like Mitchell's last film, It Follows, the film seems to exist in a world where past and present exist at the same time, but Silver Lake uses that imagery to make a point. The film is a literal pop culture explosion, with references to classic Hollywood, grunge bands and even old Nintendo Power magazines just to name a few. It uses this imagery to craft an intricate conspiracy while simultaneously poking fun at the concept of conspiracy theories in general. The film takes many leaps into the surreal, but never goes into full Lynchian territory, instead maintaining an ironic detachment from its mostly compelling, occasionally frustrating narrative. Under the Silver Lake isn't perfect, but I'm glad it will be able to finally find its audience. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by: Robert David Mitchell // Starring: Andrew Garfield, Riley Keough, Jimmi Simpson, Riki Lindhome, Zosia Mamet, Callie Hernandez, Patrick Fischler, Don McManus, Grace Van Patten and Topher Grace // It is currently available on iTunes, Amazon Prime, Google Play and VUDU // // 139 minutes // Rated R

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - BY B. TOY

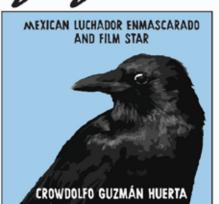
Downtown Erie merchants react to the news that Roar on the Shore will be taking their noise, litter, and out-out-of-town vendors to another location...

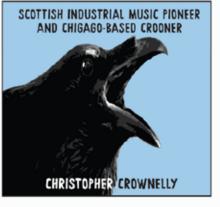
Output

SCIENTISTS ARE MORE WIDELY EMBRACING THE CONCEPT OF ANIMAL CONSCIOUSNESS. THE SKILL SETS & MENTAL DEXTERITY OF CROWS CONTINUE TO AMAZE RESEARCHERS.

The Secret Life of Crows









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Big Thief *U.F.O.F.* Rough Trade



The are moments during the final minute of the opening track "Contact" when you're thrown for



a bit of a loop. A scream from singer songwriter Adrienne Lenker comes in, followed immediately by a caustically fuzz-laden guitar riff, and the two are virtually inseparable. Recorded in a studio-turned-barn perched on the rural outskirts of Seattle proved ultimately effective, a handcrafted folk tone permeating through the album as a whole. Somewhere right below that timbre however, is a soul-shattering intensity. This tempered darkness should come as no surprise to those already familiar with the Brooklyn-based quartet. Their debut album Masterpiece and their sophomore follow-up Capacity gradually built up to this album, arguably their best. Lenker's lyrics, while being almost deceptively simple, have an arrestingly mystical aura about them. Intent listeners are able to craft moving storylines out of songs like the titular track (the last "F" standing for "Friend," according to the band). Musically, it's subdued, filled with ethereal chimes, a majority of the songs being marked by rhythmically similar fingerpicking patterns. It's a simple sound and a somber rumination, a haunting lullaby made into a beautiful record. - Nick Warren

Mac DeMarco Here Comes the Cowboy Mac's Record Label

ac DeMarco is tired.
And in all fairness, he warned us of this in nearly every in-

***1



terview leading up to the indie prince's fourth LP. Pull quotes about being uninspired and thinking the record would fly under the radar left some fans worried about the nature of the record, especially paired with a single as sparse and melancholic as "Nobody." While Here Comes the Cowboy is the spaciest and most inconsistent record in his catalog, it still showcases DeMarco's strong songwriting abilities, surprising attention to detail, and a longing to grow up. DeMarco conjures up "Finally Alone," a synth-heavy meditation on the desire to get away. This song, alongside highlights like the piano-driven "On the Square" and the surprisingly hopeful "All of Our Yesterdays" build a series of strong moments throughout, although some cracks do begin to show in the songwriter's craft. A song like "Heart to Heart" is a copy of some of DeMarco's best work, while a song like "Hev Cowgirl" is far from offensive, but regrettably forgettable. Still, if you're willing to keep pace with one of indie-rock's most innocuous voices, Here Comes the Cowboy is the kind of reflective experience worth sitting through from time to time. — Aaron Mook

The Get Up KidsProblems Polyvinyl Records

Reunion albums are always a toss-up. Will the band's chemistry hold up? Will the



songwriting be up to par? Now consider the fact that Problems is in fact the second reunion album from grizzled veteran pop-punkers The Get Up Kids, their first since 2012's experimental There Are Rules. There's a moment on the album's frantic opener, "Satellite," when the song explodes, immediately recalling their most infamous opening track ("Holiday") and dispensing any doubts you may have had going into the album. What's truly impressive about Problems is its consistency. Not only does the album stand up against the band's already impressive catalog, but it often reflects the best kind of reunion album - the kind that plays like a greatest hits collection. From the synth-driven, Cars-esque power-pop of single "The Problem is Me" to the introspective, midtempo "Salina" and beyond, the band hits all the right buttons here, balancing new sonic territory (the distorted fuzz of "Lou Barlow") with all of their best old habits (the nostalgic gang vocals on "Fairweather Friends"). And because of this consistency, Problems works as both a gift to the band's oldest fans and a perfectly fine entry point into The Get Up Kids' catalog. - Aaron Mook

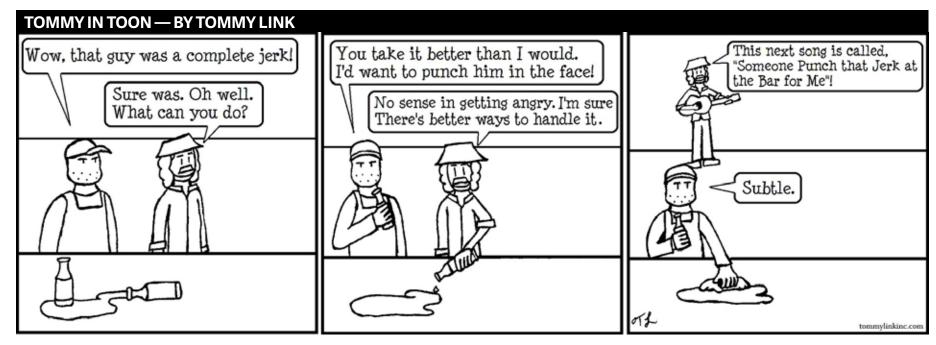
Vampire Weekend Father of the Bride Columbia Records



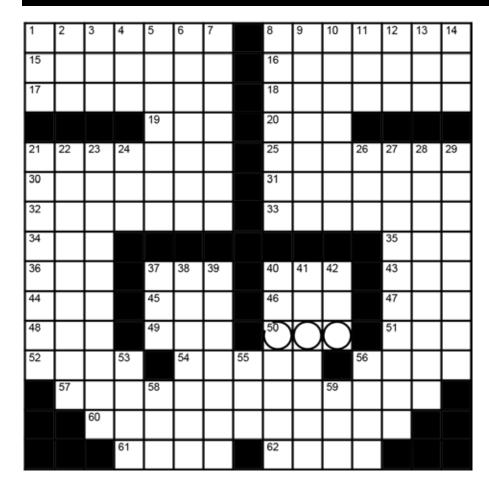
This is one of the most listenable albums the year. There's just something so airily pleasant,



though almost forgettable about what Vampire Weekend do, and Father of the Bride brightly exemplifies this. While fans of the band might have fallen off in the last six years since their previous album, there are plenty of those still in love with the band since their stunning 2008 debut. That eponymous album made by Columbia University graduates struck a nerve, Ezra Koenig's softly charming vocals combining with disparate influences, often — for better or worse — drawing comparisons to Paul Simon's Graceland. At 17 tracks, this album is packed with complex musical passages and production techniques, having already drawn comparisons to Phish and Kanye West, among others. On paper, lyrics like those of "This Life" might even sound a little dark ("Baby, I know death probably hasn't happened yet"), but the bouncing, snappy musical backing doesn't seem to echo those statements at all. Notably. the album showcases guest vocalists Danielle Haim (of the band Haim) and Steve Lacy (of The Internet) for three and two tracks, respectively. Haim's have a country tinge, while Lacy's both boast jaunty, syncopated backdrops. - Nick Warren



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Across 1.60-Across user's cry upon seeing what's in this puzzle's circled letters (7) 8.Like a crucifix (7) 15.Kind of scan (7) 16. Former home of the Colts (7) 17.Discharge, as a liquid (7) 18.Temple of ____, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (7) 19.Logic game with matchsticks (3) 20.Tennis barrier (3) 21.Cause a major disturbance in (7) 25. High-ranking angels 30. Some stage assistants (7) 31. Polar bear's resting spot (7) 32.Most slippery (7) 33. Movie credits caption 34. Neither Dem. nor Rep. (3)35. Puppy's cry (3) 36.Cpl. or sgt. (3) 37.Kind of food or footage 40.Org. for Penguins and Ducks (3) 43.Italian diminutive suffix (3)

9.Car accident sound (7) 45.Yoko who loved John 10.Hall fixture (7) 46."Hollywood Squares" 11.Ending with many fruit win (3) names (3) 12. Juice brand with a _ Fridays (restaudistinctive bottle (3) rant chain) (3) -Locka, Florida (3) 13.One of the record 49. Poem of praise (3) industry's former Big Four 50.!!! (3) 51.Cain or Abel, to Adam Moines, Iowa (3) 14. and Eve (3) 21.Not forced to smell a 52.Observe Ramadan (4) factory's fumes, say (8) 54.Xerox rival (5) 22. Seymour Skinner, to 56.Batty (4) Bart and Lisa (9) 57.Storms away angrily 23."Wait ..." (10) (13)24.Commercial lead-in to 60.Amusement park attraction suggested 26.Patriots' org. (3) visually by the black 27.Don't take any chancsquares in the center of es (10) this puzzle's grid (11) 28.Cleaning, as a side-61.Besides (4) walk (9) 62.Caesar's "to be" (4) 29.Critical tennis situation (8) Down 37.A. A. Milne hopper (3) 1.Mid-April addressee, for 38. Julie who played Mary Poppins (7) short (3) 39."Alas!" (7) whiz!" (3) 40.Never (7) 3.Like Tylenol PM, for 41.Big kerfuffles (7) short (3) 42.Myrna of "Love Crazy" 4. French shooting match 5.What Rihanna and Ma-53.Story (4) 55."Zero Dark Thirty" org. donna are each known by (7) 56.Beach hill (4)

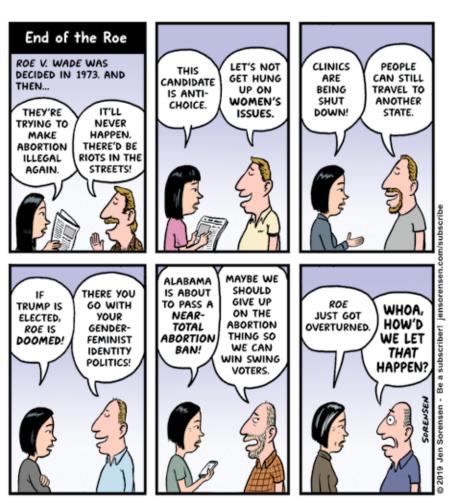
58.Actor Kilmer (3)

59.That dude's (3)

6.Tour guides, often (7)

8.Buses and trains (7)

7.Mercury, e.g. (7)



Answers to last puzzle

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44.Cacophony (3)



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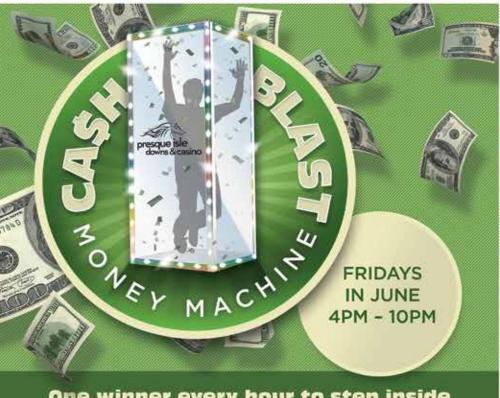
See Table Games for details.



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