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From the Editors

Summertime and the livin’s Erie

By now, you’ve probably seen the T-shirts telling you that “it’s okay to love Erie.” As in “go ahead, don’t be ashamed.” But there are sheepish confessions of love, and there are passionate demonstrations of it. Did you know how adamantly people used to bicker and even fight over the rights to this corner of Northwest Pennsylvania? The part we might now proudly call *our* corner?

Leading up to the Revolutionary War in the late 18th century, the territory that is now Erie County changed hands *at least* thrice — from among the nations of the Iroquois Confederacy to New France to New England. After the Revolutionary War, four states wanted a piece of this, in particular the roughly 300-square-mile “tab” (if you picture modern-day Pennsylvania as a manila folder, which is pretty invigorating) nuzzling Lake Erie to the northwest. This “Erie Triangle” had a lot going for it, including access to the Great Lakes, an unrivaled natural harbor (Presque Isle), a (mostly) agreeable climate, fertile soil, and an abundance of flora and fauna. In the mathematical sense, it did not qualify as a “golden triangle” (that is, having perfect 2:2:1 proportionality in length and angles); but in the economic sense, it gleamed.

New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts all called dibs (the natives also wanted it back pretty badly), but the federal government ultimately awarded the Erie Triangle to Pennsylvania, as our state would have been otherwise mostly landlocked.

Over 200 years later, the settlements framed within the Erie Triangle — including the City of Erie — show some signs of aging. However, that aging is underpinned by a youthful vitality inherent in Erie’s ongoing swell of activities (highlighted in our Spotlight and Calendar sections), impressively affordable array of amenities (check out our recently released 2019-2020 Best of Erie Visitors Guide), and the promise of its young people (which we will celebrate in our forthcoming 40 Under 40 issue).

With the onset of summer, the days grow longer and warmer and the sun shines brighter, casting everything in a better light. It’s easier to dote on a subject during the golden hour; most would agree that Erie is positively *glowing* this time of year. But it’s okay to remind yourself that there is bounty here year-round, whether it’s in the humanity of our arts and culture scene (Cara Suppa previews an incredible 2019-20 Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture lineup) or those areas of nature left relatively untouched by humans, such as the Erie Bluffs (Ben Speggen outlines the efforts of the Lake Erie Region Conservancy).

It’s okay to love Erie, yes. But beyond giving yourself permission, get out, get involved, and get in our corner. You may just discover the same kind of passion people felt years ago.



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Open Land in the Plans

Moving forward with the Lake Erie Region Conservancy



Erie Bluffs State Park encompasses 587 acres of undeveloped and undisturbed land along the Lake Erie shoreline in Girard and Springfield townships. Its designation as a state park was the culmination of Lake Erie Region Conservancy's earliest efforts, helmed by executive director Tom Fuhrman.

NICK WARREN

By: Ben Speggen

In 2005, the Lake Erie Region Conservancy achieved the singular thing it had set out to do: Protect a stretch of land spanning Girard and Springfield townships. But Tom Fuhrman — who became LERC's executive director when it formalized as a nonprofit in 2000 and still serves as its director today — had been working on that case for nearly 20 years already.

Back in 1981, a young Fuhrman was standing in front of a polling station in Lake City. He had just returned to the Erie area and wanted to get involved in politics. While he was volunteering for another campaign — a way his father had suggested he get involved in the Erie political scene — he had a spur-of-the-moment idea: Launch a write-in campaign for mayor in the small municipality. He had a personal motivation and reason to believe he could more easily achieve his goal through elected office.

"Our family's property was between that and Erie Bluffs," Fuhrman says. "And I committed to prevent that happening at the Bluffs."

The first "that" Fuhrman's referring to was what had been Camp Sequoia Boy Scout Camp. Fuhrman's family owned property between the Bluffs — that plot of land in Girard and Springfield townships — and the camp, which had been sold off to developers. Up sprung McMansions — the second "that" Fuhrman mentions.

The future of the bluffs was unclear. So on the spot, freshly back in Erie

County, he decided to run for Lake City mayor, writing his name on tiny pieces of paper that he would hand out to those heading in to cast a ballot. And it worked; he got enough votes to get on the ballot for the general election come November. And in November, he won.

Nearly two-and-a-half decades later, Fuhrman, who said he never saw himself as a life-long politician, served as a one-term mayor of the small enclave in west Erie County but would see the fruits of his chief labor pay off by way of the Erie Bluffs State Park.

"Our part in the creation of Erie Bluffs State Park still remains our most significant accomplishment," says David Skellie, president of LERC's 14-member Board of Directors, a role he's held for more than 10 years now.

The Bluffs boast one mile of Lake Erie shoreline, Elk Creek, several plant species of conservation concern, uncommon black oak woodland/savanna, Great Lakes region sand barren ecosystems, forested wetlands, and 90-foot (you guessed it) bluffs overlooking the lake.

Over the years, Fuhrman had met with several Pennsylvania governors before finally making some headway in turning the state's attention to the 587-acre plot of land, thus begetting LERC.

"We got the attention of Gov. (Ed) Rendell (2003-2011) who saw the value in saving the land and making it a state park," Fuhrman says. "When the deal was done in 2005, we realized the opportunities that existed and the need to continue protecting open space in the Lake Erie watershed."

"The mission of LERC is to identify, conserve, and protect the Lake Erie region's unique natural and cultural resources," Skellie says. "We also promote sustainable development through research and outreach. This original mission has not changed."

That mission has continued because the nonprofit land trust indeed did not stop at the Bluffs. Nineteen years later, the land trust conservancy, which began with zero acres, has been involved in 49 conservation projects, "totaling 1,754 acres having a value of \$13,333,314," according to Skellie, who is also a coastal land use and economic specialist for the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program.

Most recently, LERC, with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Sea Grant, has secured funding from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and the Erie Insurance Giving Network, totaling \$1,031,721 to acquire 182.1 acres of land and purchase a conservation easement on the additional 88.54 acres, both within the Elk Creek watershed, according to Skellie.

"The completion of these two purchases will protect and provide public access to 270.14 acres having [roughly] 6,325 linear feet of Elk Creek in perpetuity," he notes.

The land is on privately-owned property in an area familiar to LERC: Girard Township.

The easement is on a portion of the Erie County Historical Society's property on Walnut Street/Tanner Road in Girard.

Closings on these properties, according to Skellie, is anticipated later this year.

Additionally with the assistance of PA Sea Grant, LERC is collaborating with the McKean Township Board of Supervisors to improve 88 acres containing roughly three-quarters of a mile of Elk Creek.

"On these Township and LERC-owned adjoining properties, this partnership

has been able to obtain \$364,394 in funding from PFBC, DCNR, Erie County, and McKean Township to develop a new recreational area on Pepper Road just south of West Road," Skellie notes.

Those improvements include a picnic shelter, trails, an ADA-accessible fishing platform, and parking, according to Skellie, who notes that the project is currently under design with construction expected to begin during summer 2020.

The question Fuhrman says is most important to ask when considering LERC's work and land conservation on the whole is: Why is it important to protect open spaces?

While myriad answers may spring to mind, Skellie makes a blunt point: "No one is making more land."

And, conversely, he notes: "Land continues to be developed."

"The goal is simple," Fuhrman says: "Protect as much open space as we can."

"We want to ensure that open, green space exists for continued wildlife habitat, protected water quality, and for people who want to enjoy natural areas," Skellie says of LERC's mission.

As LERC continues to expand the acreage of impact, Pat Traphagen, treasurer of LERC since 2005, says he looks forward to the organization being "more widely recognized as the go-to regional land trust of the Erie area."

"With the development that has occurred over the years, we are best positioned to take on smaller and mid-size properties that are more common to the area and that may not appeal to bigger statewide conservancies," he adds.

That recognition comes with interaction with the lands LERC conserved and projects they've initiated and completed, Traphagen acknowledges.

"Conserved lands create an enhanced quality of life for our community," he says. "And LERC is proud to play a significant part in the stewardship of these lands."

From the New York state line to the Ohio border — thanks to LERC — these lands are being conserved for you and me.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bspeggen@ErieReader.com. You can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.

Delivering a Promising Future

Erie County Community College closer to reality



NICK WARREN

By: Kathy Dahlkemper

You might have heard the news that Erie County is negotiating a partnership with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College to bring community college education to our county.

A partnership with Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) will be responsive to the needs of our employers and workers while also being responsible to our taxpayers. If this partnership comes to fruition, we will have affordable, accessible education and top-of-the-line workforce training at no cost to county taxpayers.

I've heard a lot of questions and comments from people on both sides of the issue — some who insist we need a standalone Erie County community college, and some who say we don't need any community college education here at all.

This is an important issue, one that will prove pivotal to our county's economic future. That's why it is equally important that you, the citizens, understand the thinking behind this partnership and hear from me about why we are pursuing it.

Why do we need a community college?

This is one of the most common questions I hear, and one that is easiest to answer. We need community college education to meet the workforce needs of our employers and to bring family-sustaining jobs to our citizens.

Community college education isn't the kind of education you would receive at a traditional four-year institution. It might be a stepping stone to a bachelor's degree, but it also often allows for certification or other training that is essential to entering a particular industry.

That is key in today's workplaces. Research shows that in the next decade, 65 percent of jobs will require some form of post-secondary training. Local employers echo that need. They are preparing to lose up to 50 percent of their workforce to retirement in the next decade, and they need new workers, ready with skills and training, to take the place of experienced employees.

Furthermore, report after report — including the Erie Regional Chamber's recent report from the Atlanta agency Garner Economics — have indicated cities can't grow and attract businesses without community colleges.

Another advantage of a community college education is affordability. The cost is less than \$200 per cred-

it, which is considerably less expensive than traditional four-year colleges and private training institutions.

Why partner with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College?

When Erie County was considering local sponsorship of a community college in 2017, county officials and Empower Erie, the nonprofit group that created the local community college plan, met with officials from the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (then known as the Rural Regional College) to consider potential partnership opportunities.

At the time, the two entities seemed too far apart in their missions — NPRC, which was just getting started, was not looking to own buildings as part of its model, but Erie County was convinced that a brick-and-mortar facility was essential.

Erie County Council ultimately voted in 2017 to act as a local sponsor, and Erie County submitted an application to the state to create a standalone community college. For nearly two years, the application has been under consideration by the state Board of Education.

Late in 2018, Erie County began to again communicate with NPRC, as the school continued to develop its presence in a nine-county footprint. As potential opportunities to collaborate were discussed, it became clear that there was more that united us than divided us — though we each envisioned a different delivery model for education, we share the ultimate goal of training a ready and able workforce of the future.

Furthermore, a partnership with NPRC would address a persistent concern that county taxpayers have expressed. We've heard them say they don't mind a community college — they just don't want county taxpayers to shoulder the burden of paying for it.

What might a partnership with NPRC look like?

Our goal is to have a brick-and-mortar location here in Erie County that would offer hands-on classroom education and, vitally, a world-class workforce development center where students can learn and train. Students from Erie County would have a campus for their community college education, and NPRC students from around the region could also take advantage of the skills center.

The academic and technical courses and programs that will be offered will be in line with the curriculum developed by Empower Erie and will be nimble and responsive to the changing needs of our employers.

And with all of this, there will be no local match — that is, no county funding share, like there would be in a traditional community college. The NPRC has a different funding model than the state's community colleges, which require local funds. So a partnership with NPRC means Erie County taxpayers would not be shouldering the burden of funding a community college.

What's next?

Details of the collaboration are still being worked out, but Erie County and NPRC are building a framework that will allow us to move ahead.

If this agreement comes to fruition, community college education will finally come to Erie County. It might not be exactly what we envisioned, but it will achieve the goal we all share. We will have a brick-and-mortar facility that will provide certificates, associate degrees, and workforce training for Erie County residents.

Community college education in Erie County has been a long time coming. Credit goes back to former County Executive Barry Grossman, who advocated for a community college a decade ago; to Empower Erie and Erie County Council, who picked up that mantle and revitalized the effort two years ago; and to business leaders and private funders who have rallied around the cause. Because of all of those efforts, county government is finding a path forward.

After all the twists and turns, stops and starts, it appears that community college education and training is within our grasp. A partnership between Erie County and NPRC will finally deliver on the promise local leaders have been working to fulfill for more than a decade — and we will finally deliver a promising future for our citizens.

Kathy Dahlkemper is Erie County Executive. She welcomes your comments at countyexecutive@eriecountypa.gov.

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NAMI of Erie County Explores the Arts

Developed from a 40 Under 40 Collaboration, the program reaches its sixth year



By: Denise L. Kolivoski

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Erie County held its sixth annual Exploring the Arts with NAMI on Monday, April 29, 2019, at the exPERIENCE Children's Museum. Over 50 students from Early Connections explored the museum and how art and creativity can positively affect mental health and wellness. This year, Exploring the Arts with NAMI featured local musician Lori Burke, who has written music for *Sesame Street*.

The children enjoyed a fun-filled day of music, art, and mental health education that allowed them to explore how art and creativity can positively affect mental health and wellness. The students got a chance to see a variety of instruments, as Burke performed some classic children's songs and a few that she has written herself. The kids then made an instrument of their own, using recyclable materials, such as paper towel tubes, tissue boxes, and rubber bands. Recyclable materials enable the children to continue exploring their creativity at home after the program concludes.

Exploring the Arts with NAMI was started in 2015 when Christine Olivier, former Director of the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture, and I collaborated over coffee. Both she and I were awarded the Erie Reader's 40 Under 40 honor in 2015. With my knowledge of mental health and her access to local and national musical artists, Exploring

the Arts with NAMI was created in an effort to introduce mental health issues and reduce stigma at an early age through music and artistic expression. The program has served over 800 children since its inception. One in five children living in Erie County will experience some form of mental illness in their lifetime.

Our goal was to create a program that was fun while trying to decrease the negative preconceptions surrounding mental illness. Ultimately, I think Exploring the Arts with NAMI accomplished that goal and it has been so rewarding to see the kids have such a good time during the program. I'm very thankful that the Erie Reader brought Christine and I together through the honor of the 40 Under 40 award.

"I'm happy to hear that Exploring the Arts with NAMI is still going on and still reaching so many people," Olivier said. "This really is a model for other communities that art can be used to help and support."

Additionally, Exploring the Arts with NAMI has been added as a component of the MIRROR program, developed by the International Institute of Erie. These sessions began in March 2019. The program is designed to introduce mental health and wellness concepts in New American and refugee children at McKinley and Pfeiffer-Burleigh schools, both United Way of Erie County Community Schools. Exploring the Arts with NAMI fits perfectly within this program. "The stigmas regarding men-

Local musician Lori Burke, who has written music for *Sesame Street*, speaks to kids at The National Alliance on Mental Illness' sixth annual Exploring the Arts event at the exPERIENCE Children's Museum on April 29.

tal health are even stronger and more prevalent in our New American and refugee communities," said Dylanna Grasinger, International Institute of Erie director. "Offering a fun-filled program to introduce these concepts is a great way to spark a conversation about mental health with these students."

In addition to music, the sessions within the MIRROR program also introduce the students to yoga, to present the relationship between mental and physical wellness. The importance of this relationship is often neglected, but the simple, calming yoga poses the students are taught makes it possible for them to feel better, both in body and in mind.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Erie County is focused on fostering personal growth and family stability by supporting and educating family members and individuals facing the challenges of mental illness in Erie County. As always, NAMI's community services are provided at no cost to participants. For more information on Exploring the Arts with NAMI or NAMI of Erie County, visit NAMIErie.org.

Denise L. Kolivoski, MBA is the Executive Director of NAMI of Erie County and can be reached at denise@NAMIErie.org

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'Close' Talking and More at MIAC Live 2019-20

A look at the can't-miss shows going on at Mercyhurst this season

By: Cara Suppa

Year in and year out, the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture does something amazing: it keeps bringing in big-name talent that you would expect to find in larger, more metropolitan cities, all while making its events accessible to a broad swath of the Erie community.

"Through the generosity of our corporate sponsors, individual donors, and 501 members [club for supporters, taking its name from the university's address at 501 E. 38th St.], we're able to keep ticket prices down," Brett Johnson, in this third year as director of MIAC, said. But with those reasonable ticket prices comes an inevitable scarcity. Johnson added, "As in past seasons, we expect many of the shows to sell out quickly. Our May 2nd performance with Broadway legend Patti LuPone was our 23rd consecutive sold-out show."

Is the Erie community loving what MIAC is bringing to our shores? Obviously. Can last season's incredible lineup be topped?

We'll leave that up to you to decide. But with the likes of Kristen Chenoweth, David Sedaris, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Glenn Close on the roster — it's going to be a tough decision.

501 Summer Soiree: Mike Super - Magic and Illusion – Saturday, Jul. 27



Some kids go through a magic phase — card tricks, sleight-of-hand involving coins, and making household plants disappear. Mike Super might have been just another one of those kids, but a life-changing trip to Disney World as a child piqued a fascination so deep that he turned a hobby into a full-fledged profession. The Pittsburgh-area native has won NBC's magic competition *Phenomenon*, placed in the finals on *America's Got Talent*, and received accolades like Entertainer of the Year, and Super has performed for the likes of Ellen DeGeneres and Kim Kardashian.

As a performer, Mike Super's magic is

captivating, while his humorous, lively, and down-to-earth persona makes his shows accessible for all.

Kristin Chenoweth in Concert – Thursday, Sept. 19



Perhaps it was her feisty performance on the gone-too-soon *Pushing Daisies*. Or her divine interpretation of a re-imagined Glinda in *Wicked*. Or her cameo appearance in Amazon's *American Gods*. However you first noticed this 4-foot-11-inch Emmy and Tony winner-cum-powerhouse, there is no denying either the breadth of her talents or the gift that is her presence on the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center stage come September.

Chenoweth is an unparalleled actress who brings warmth, humor, and strength to every role she inhabits, while the impact of her vocal prowess will undeniably bring the audience to its feet — if they're not shaken to the core.

David Sedaris – Friday, Oct. 18



When was the last time a book made you laugh out loud? How about a book that made you laugh so hard you cried?

If your response is "The last time I picked up a book of essays by David Sedaris," you're making perfect sense.

It has been nearly eight years since Sedaris last came to the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, a decade during which the author — who is brother to the actress Amy Sedaris — moved to West Sussex, England, lost his youngest sister to suicide, and published three more books, including 2018's *Calypso*.

Time clearly has not dulled or dimmed Sedaris' biting wit; on the contrary, he remains as astute an observer of human behavior as ever, saying what everyone else is surely thinking.

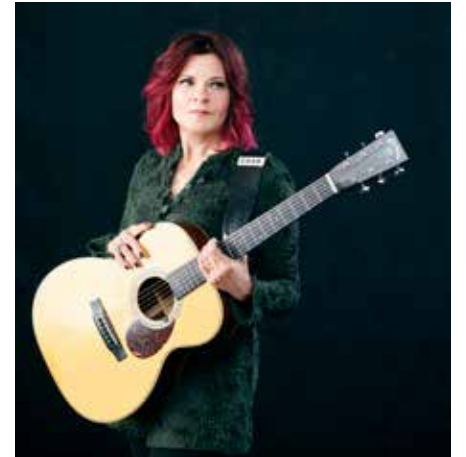
Oh Solo Wainwright: An Evening with Rufus – Saturday, Nov. 2



A colorful, unconventional childhood gave way to troubled adult years for Rufus Wainwright, son of Loudon Wainwright and Kate McGarrigle, both singer-songwriters themselves — yet his propensity for music and performance has been a constant since he started playing piano at the age of six.

Wainwright is a multi-instrumental artist who shifts effortlessly between piano and guitar and has released 10 albums and three DVDs, headlined nine tours, and received nominations for numerous Grammy and Juno (Canadian) awards. His music is strongly influenced by opera (Wainwright has written two operas), often swelling with layers of instrumentation and orchestrations, with subject matter like pop culture, politics, and love featured heavily.

Rosanne Cash & Band: She Remembers Everything – Thursday, Nov. 14



Four Grammy Awards, 11 nominations, and induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame would be a significant list of achievements for any artist — but then again, Rosanne Cash isn't just any artist. The daughter of the legendary Johnny Cash, Rosanne has forged her own path, found her own voice, and become an iconic, celebrated artist in her own right.

At just 19, Cash made her studio recording debut on one of her father's albums, and from the mid-1970s onward, she has not looked back. A solid 15 albums, four books, and numerous articles later, the accomplished singer/songwriter and author will take the stage in Erie, hot on the heels of her latest studio release, *She Remembers Everything*, a hazy, atmospheric observation of the trials, tribulations and triumphs that make a life.

Yamato - The Drummers of Japan – Tuesday, Feb. 11



Oftentimes in Erie, we get treated to a once-in-a-lifetime event, and when it's gone, it's gone.

But in the case of Yamato - The Drummers of Japan, we've got something akin to a cat's nine lives, as this touring group comprised of several dozen drummers has come through Erie again and again (and we hope they will come back in the

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CALENDAR

future, too!)

This year, Yamato is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and they are bringing a new production, entitled *Jhonetsu — Passion*, to the stage of the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. The virtuosic performance will no doubt prove to be as pulse-pounding, heart-racing, and eye-popping as ever. *Jhonetsu — Passion* also promises to impress by virtue of the company's "sheer endurance," leaving the audience wondering, "How do they do it?"

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo – Tuesday, Mar. 3



ZORAN JELEVIC

"Oh," you say, "I can't that night. I'm going to the ballet."

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way to Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, an all-male drag ballet troupe where the dancers perform *en travesti* (in roles normally reserved for the opposite sex) and the evening is going to be anything but conventional.

Founded in 1974 in New York City, Les Ballets has traveled the world and performed for royalty, and these men have done it in tutus while en pointe, mixing the comedic with the sublime, a skill set usually overlooked in most self-serious ballet. Under the wigs, the makeup, and the gorgeous costumes, each one is a highly trained dancer of unsurpassed talent: Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire at the same time.

Brian Stokes Mitchell – Wednesday, Apr. 1



Last year, MIAC opened its doors and welcomed acclaimed Broadway god-

dess Audra McDonald, who originated the role of Sara in *Ragtime* and more recently starred in *Shuffle Along*. Wouldn't you know it, in both of those productions she was joined on stage by Brian Stokes Mitchell, himself an eminent star in the Broadway firmament and a favorite romantic male lead on stage.

A booming yet velvety baritone, Mitchell won the "Best Actor in a Musical" Tony Award in 2000 for *Kiss Me, Kate*, and has appeared in *Sweeney Todd*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *South Pacific* and *Man of La Mancha*, as well as numerous TV and film roles.

An Evening with Glenn Close – Thursday, Apr. 16

If you measure success by awards, Glenn Close's 1983 was phenomenal. After making her big screen debut a mere one year earlier, Close racked up Tony, Emmy, and Oscar nominations in a single 12-month period. Since then, she has been nominated 115 times for various awards (including the Academy Awards, the Golden Globes, and the Primetime Emmy Awards), most recently last year, for the film *The Wife*.

Perhaps you measure success by lon-



gevity and endurance. Close began her acting career on the stage in 1974; her filmography has its own Wikipedia page, and the list is sprawling, with credits marking every decade since she began to work.

Or maybe you think of success in terms of lives changed for the better. Close has been an outspoken advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, for women's rights, and for mental health destigmatization and care for decades.

An Evening with Glenn Close will be an evening of legendary proportions, and thus the perfect punctuation to end another stellar season at MIAC.

Cara Suppa can be reached at csuppa@eriereader.com

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Brilliance in Resilience: The Cambridge Springs Music Festival

Community rallies around music



STEVE LEITZINGER

THURSDAY, JUN. 6-8

Cambridge Springs' Riverside Inn was the kind of place that welcomed invitation. There was a certain magic to it that brought people together — a lot like music. Musicians, forever seekers of the "right vibe," often found it within the cordial Victorian-era building, tragically lost to fire on May 2, 2017. Enough artists expressed an interest in playing there that it spurred the idea of a concert festival.

The Riverside Music Festival, which debuted in 2011, was essentially built around the rallying cry "let's get together and jam," according to Justin Moyar, one of the event's original organizers. "We wanted to put that on steroids."

The inn had finished hosting its seventh festival less than a month prior to its demise — three stages nestled within the historic structure another at the nearby Villa Restaurant and Lounge.

However, Moyar, a passionate supporter of his hometown, refused to let the music die with the building. Thus emerged the Cambridge Springs Music Festival, the outdoor successor to the Riverside Music Festival.

Yes, it would be impossible to recapture the Riverside's air of enchantment. "People just showing up organically and jamming? There's no replacing that, because the Riverside was the type of building that it was," admitted Moyar.

But at the same time, the inn had its limitations. Approximately 300 people squeezed into the Riverside's Victorian Room to watch the festival's main act in

2017. At last year's inaugural Cambridge Springs Music Festival, the headlining performance was attended by 700. "There was definitely an increase in the number of people," observed Moyar.

Although the first Cambridge Springs Music Fest was a success, Moyar believes that he has laid the groundwork for future events with this year's sequel. The Cambridge Springs Music Festival will host music on three stages — the main stage downtown at the carnival grounds (the Bush Investment Group or "B.I.G." Stage), one at the newly opened Riverside Brewing Company (on the site of former Riverside Inn), and the Villa Stage (reprising its role as the home for louder, rowdier genres such as punk and metal). Mugs and Muggles, the Harry Potter-themed cafe and 2018 Best of Erie award finalist for "Best Coffee," will be the home of the Crazy Monkey Kids Zone (hosted by Edinboro's Goodell Gardens). On Saturday afternoon, songstress Brooke Surgener (as Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*) and balloon animal savant Magic Steve will entertain the youngsters, while an inflatable slide, bounce house, and obstacle course will allow them to expend some energy.

While the town of Cambridge Springs and its economy continue to evolve, the festival's commitment to musical diversity will never waver. "Unlike other festivals [throughout this region], we want to be a home for all types of music," said Moyar.

Acoustic singer-songwriters, met-

Roots rock band Adam Ezra Group served as one of the headliners of last year's Cambridge Springs Music Festival, which is dedicated to highlighting a variety of musical genres.

al and punk bands, Delta blues, and even Latin music (a rarity for Crawford County) will all have an outlet at the Cambridge Spring Music Festival. The emphasis, as always, will be on original music. However, there are a couple of tribute performances — Chestnut Grove playing a Beatles set on Thursday and The Erie All-Stars channeling Tom Petty on Friday — on the bill to broaden the appeal and get more people listening. "I want to create an environment at this festival," Moyar expressed.

Ultimately, Moyar hopes that the Cambridge Springs Music Festival can be the same kind of cultural and economic stimulus for his small town that the GrassRoots (Ithaca, N.Y.) and Launch (Lancaster, Pa.) festivals have been for theirs. "This is really targeted at bringing awareness to and helping the economy of Cambridge Springs. I've seen it transform other towns."

The response has already been encouraging. "This town's super resilient. Nothing has ever stopped us from trying to carry things out." The show, as ever, must go on. — Matt Swanseger

Thursday 6 to 10 p.m., Friday 5:30 to 10 p.m., Saturday 2 to 11 p.m. //Free// For a full list of lineups, entertainment, concessions, and vendors, visit cambridgespringsmusicfestival.com

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Goodell Summer Music Series a Perennial Favorite



TK Blues is just one of the bands slated to play Goodell Gardens' Summer Music Series, which features performances every other Friday starting June 7.

Goodell — Riverside Brewing and Edinboro's award-winning Cart/Horse Distilling will also be hanging out for the festivities.

For the Solstice, Goodell will be “taking advantage of the longest day of the year,” said Goodell Executive Director Amber Wellington, adding that special date will offer free admission as well as some special fundraising-centered things to do like guided tours of the historic gardens, special donation collections, and the opening of an art show.

“We’re so excited to bring back this well-loved concert series, and are even more excited to partner with the Erie Federal Credit Union, who signed on as the main sponsor of the series this year,” said Wellington. “This is the first year we’ve had a major sponsor of the Summer Music Series, and we’re so thankful for [their] support.”

Wellington added grant funding from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is being used to once again hire professional sound engineering for this year's series. — Ryan Smith

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. // 221 Waterford Street (Route 6N), Edinboro, PA 16428 // \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors; \$2 for kids; and free for members of Goodell Gardens, Erie Federal Credit Union, and Edinboro University students // goodellgardens.org.

Fun Home to Close Out Dramashop Season



The autobiographical graphic novel-turned-musical *Fun Home* documents lesbian writer Allison Bechdel's coming out and coming of age. The critically acclaimed play will close out Dramashop's 2019 season.

2015, to nearly universal acclaim, the first Musical to win a Tony award made by an all-female creative team (and first to feature a lesbian lead), its score

by Jeanine Tesori and Lisa Kron. It was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in the Drama category. It centers around Bechdel, her coming out, and the relationship with her father, himself a closeted gay man named Bruce. Quickly becoming a paramount landmark of LGBTQ storytelling, her story resonated with audiences across the world. Dramashop's production stars Julie Loka-hi, Anna McJunkin, Meghan Longo (as Bechdel at various ages), Ken Brundage (as Bruce), Gretchen Kerr, Parker Irwin, Justin Wesmiller, Michael Haas, and Brittney Shaw. It is directed by creative director Zach Flock, its opening weekend already quickly selling out. — Nick Warren

Fridays and Saturdays June 7 to 22 at 8 p.m., Sunday, June 23 at 2 p.m. // 1001 State St., second floor // \$15 // features adult language and situations // Dramashop.org

FRIDAY, JUN. 7

Erie's Dramashop theatre has always provided a finely curated selection of staged productions. The final show in its 2018-19 season is certainly no exception, with the Tony Award-winning musical *Fun Home* coming to Erie for the first time. Cartoonist Alison Bechdel, in her long-running strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*, created the world famous “Bechdel Test,” a term that has since served to call out the male-dominated film industry (a film passes the test if two female characters have dialogue that doesn't center around a male character, a shockingly rare occurrence). In 2006, Bechdel published her coming-of-age autobiographical graphic novel, *Fun Home*. Much to the surprise of fans, the subtly penned comic memoir was made into an off-Broadway musical in 2013. It debuted on Broadway at the Circle in the Square Theatre in

PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Duke Sherman Band

Jun. 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing,
11727 E. Main St., North East,
PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Lakeview Spring Concert Series

Jun. 8, 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440
Singer Rd., North East, PA 16428
lakeviewwinecellars.com.

Flight

Jun. 8 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park
Row facebook.com.

Tyler Smilo

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

Joe C. Porter

Jun. 8 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach
St. tippybean.cafe.

4 Brown Eyes w

Tony Kellogg

Jun. 6 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St.,
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borolakeresort.com.

Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers

Jun. 7 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park
Row facebook.com.

The Iced Out Tour feat. Falsifier and VCTMS

Jun. 7 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145
W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Rachel Short

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

JD Blues & Jazz

Jun. 7 — 7 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State
St. facebook.com.

Summer Music Series: Tiger Maple String Band

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

Open Mic Night

Jun. 7, 14 — 7 p.m.
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach
St. tippybean.cafe.

John Trudeau, Jesse & The Spirit, Holquist/Popp/Wilson, Undertouch

Jun. 7 — 8 to 11 p.m.
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Erie Movie House, 3424 W.
Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Cee Brown's Variety Show 4

Jun. 7 — 10 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301
German St. facebook.com.

Abbey Road

Jun. 8 — 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing,
11727 E. Main St., North East,

MUSIC

UPMC Sunset Music Series: DangerBird, Jeff Fetterman

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

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Jun. 5, 7, 12, 14 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th
St. belaireclarion.com.

Open Mic

Jun. 5 — 9 p.m. & Jun.
11, 19 — 10 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301
German St. facebook.com.

MVP

Jun. 6, 13 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716
Liberty St. facebook.com.

Brian K. Chase

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

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Jun. 11 — 7 to 11 p.m.
A night of live music with a
progressive jazz-rock band
from Chicago headlining.
Basement Transmissions, 145
W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Mid-Day Art Break: Erie Philharmonic

Jun. 12 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th
St. erieartmuseum.org.

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Jun. 12 — 5:30 p.m.
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JUNE 26 @ 5:30 THE ACOUSTIC JUKEBOX
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Heavy Metal Dream: Falsifier, VCTMS, and More to Play Stop on Iced Out Tour



Get a cathartic start on your weekend with Ontarian heavy metal band Falsifier, who are noted for their “bone-crushing riffs” and “misanthropic nihilism.”

FRIDAY, JUN. 7

Heavy metal fans rejoice: Heel Heat Production invites you to a night jam-packed with metal, metalcore, and deathcore artists. Bands Falsifier and VCTMS will stop in Erie on their Iced Out Tour and are set to be joined by other local and semi-local bands. Many of the bands scheduled to play fuse genres such as extreme metal, hardcore punk, and death metal together to create new and intense musical sounds. This show is on track to be unique and fierce — the lineup of artists is sure to thrill any hardcore music enthusiast.

The headliners for the Iced Out Tour, Ontario’s Falsifier and Illinois’ VCTMS, are both regarded as international metalcore powerhouses. Falsifier is known for its “bone-crushing riffs” and “misanthropic nihilism,” while VCTMS blends hardcore metal and hip-hop.

Casketmaker and Entheogen, two bands from Pittsburgh, and Closing Remarks from Erie are also playing during this Iced Out stop. Casketmaker

specializes in “crushingly heavy breakdowns” and “melodic hooks” that leave fans both refreshed and familiarized with the deathcore genre. Entheogen’s music is described as “bold and unique soundscapes” and they are scheduled to release their newest single just days before the show. Closing Remarks is a post-hardcore band that is already gaining traction in Erie’s metal scene less than a year after forming.

Enjoy all of these bands and their heavy stylings as the Iced Out Tour makes its way to Erie for one night only; come out to support new local bands and experience established international heavyweights. — Madeline Dufala

7 p.m. to 11 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St // \$10 Pre-sale, \$12 Door // facebook.com/Basement.Transmissions

Groovy Ghoulies: The Eerie Roller Girls Home Opener



SATURDAY, JUN. 8

Come and support our local Erie ladies of the roller rink as the Eerie Roller Girls (ERG) skate to victory in their 2019 home opener

According to Kristin Kriegbaum (a.k.a #716 Box Cutta), “the audience can expect a fantastically good time. Seriously, there will be the nonstop action of a full-contact sport on roller skates, and it’s family-friendly. The Bayfront Convention Center is an amazingly gracious host and we always have incredible fans, whom we love, that come out to support us.”

The ERG are a local roller derby league that is completely volunteer-run by skaters and non-skaters that have participated since their start in since 2010. They are members of a nationally recognized organization called the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). This organization sets safety guidelines and standards for rankings. In order to improve their ranking, the ERG have been developing new skills and strategies through building their

roster and making the skaters focus on being more competitive by implementing new training techniques.

The ladies have been preparing for their first home bout of the season by dominating in their first two away games this year. “Our two bouts this year were really fun. Both teams were competitive and super friendly. We won both games and made friends along the way. We always want to win, but we also strive to have a good time and create lasting relationships with other leagues. Most teams we play ask us to come back and we value our positive reputation,” says Oriana Mattis a.k.a HEY-O!, skater #000 with the ERG.

The Assault City Roller Derby will be competing against the ERG for the first time at the home bout. The team is from Syracuse, New York and is ranked higher by the WFTDA, which makes for excitement for the crowd as the underdog ERG are in for a fight but prepared to win the battle. Fans can also expect the unveiling of the new mascot, Ghoulie, as well as new merchandise and t-shirt designs.

#716 Box Cutta speaks to both the new and old fans by stating, “We’d love for you to join us for the home opener and then join us on the track!” — Symoné Crockett

Doors 6:30 p.m., Bout 7:30 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier. // \$10 pre-sale, \$12 at the door // eerierollergirls.net

Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Doug Phillips Trio

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

Jesse Weston

Jun. 13 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

SAWCE, Velvet Waves, Live Happily, Lyle Sallade

Jun. 13 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.
New Jersey instrumental alt/math-rock band headlines Andromeda Agency’s latest production.
The Ballet Haus, 1020 Holland St. facebook.com.

Dream Demon Tour

Jun. 14 — 5 p.m. to midnight
Let your freak flag fly at this heavy metal Flag Day festival.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

The Groove

Jun. 14 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Coconut Joe’s, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

The Highlife

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

Eric Brewer & Friends

Jun. 14 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

The Vultures, Mala Sangre, Elektra Kings

Jun. 14 — 10 p.m.
Trip out and rock out to acid surf, surf, and punk rock at Scotty’s Martini Lounge.
Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Geek Army

Jun. 15 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Coconut Joe’s, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Bonfires & Brews:

Rick Magee & the Roadhouse Rockers

Jun. 15 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Peek’n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com.

A Killer’s Confession

Jun. 15 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Led by ex-Mushroomhead vocalist Waylon Reavis, A Killer’s Confession storms into Basement Transmissions with hard rock and heavy metal gusto.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Dionisio/Colette Bone

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

Not Hamilton

Jun. 15 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach St. tipsybean.cafe.

Duke Sherman Band

Jun. 15 — 8 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Whiskey Daredevils, Kookie Kutterz, Paper Matches

Jun. 15 — 10 p.m.
Cowpunk and rockabilly bands from Cleveland join Erie’s Paper Matches, all three of whom spotlight female bassists.
Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

James Drakes

Jun. 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428
skunkandgoattavern.com.

Brown Dog Acoustics

Jun. 16 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing, 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Sunday Sesh: Danger Bird

Jun. 16 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), West-

field, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

Seann P. Clark

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

Monday Music in the Woods: Claire Stuczynski & Eric Brewer

Jun. 17 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Showtunes Singers Night

Jun. 18 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Dickey’s BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Mid-Day Art Break: Mambo

Jun. 19 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

UPMC Sunset Music Series: Re-Issue, SIRSY

Jun. 19 — 5:30 p.m.
Beach 1 at PI State, 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Matty B & 57 Pickup

Jun. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

DANCE

Beginner/Intermediate Dance

Jun. 5 — 5 to 6 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

Long’s 73rd Annual Dance Concert

Jun. 7, 8 — 7 p.m.
Long’s Dance Studio students of all ages display their talents in jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, and more at their 73rd Annual Dance Concert.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. longschoolofdance.net.

Creative Dance Class: Jennifer Dennehy

Jun. 10, 18 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Multiple library locations

CALENDAR

Experience a Night of Jazz with Murray and El Zabar at Artlore Studio



SUNDAY, JUN. 9

Artlore Studios is set to host two legendary jazz performers as their US tour makes a stop in Erie. Saxophonist David Murray is a prolific musician with an extensive discography, with over 150 separate releases under his belt. Percussionist Kahil El Zabar is a former chair of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians. Neither of the two are strangers to collaboration, whether it's with other big-name artists or each other, making their Erie performance a must-see show for local jazz enthusiasts.

Noted for their unique blend of genres that ties together avant-garde of both the past and the present, Murray once described his relationship with El Zabar as "stream of consciousness," creating "spirituality-based original sounds." Born in Oakland, California, Murray was originally influenced by (and associated with) the free jazz movement but quickly separated himself by incorporating more modern sounds into his compositions. Murray would go on to become

Accomplished and prolific musicians David Murray (saxophone) and Kahil El Zabar (percussion) are closely associated with the free jazz movement and will showcase their elite improvisational skills at Artlore Studios on Sunday, June 9.

a founding member of the World Saxophone Quartet.

Meanwhile, El Zabar, a Chicago native and multi-instrumentalist, spent the 1970s starting groups like Ritual Trio and the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble. The fact that both of these groups are still active, paired with a history of collaborations with the likes of Nina Simone, Stevie Wonder, and Paul Simon, is a testament to El Zabar's spirit and commitment to the art.

And what's a night of live music without some light breakfast desserts? Fortunately for guests, A Waffle Miracle will be making themselves available for all of your "brinner" needs. — Aaron Mook

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. // 3406 W. Lake Rd. // \$15 // facebook.com/artlorestudio

Infuse Your Lunch Breaks with Beautiful and Brilliant Music This Summer



The Breeze Band will return to the Erie Art Museum on August 7 as their popular Mid-Day Art Break music series continues for another season.

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 12

Memorial Day has passed and, it may be hard to believe, summer is here. If nothing else, that means long, languid evenings, and relaxing lunch breaks enjoyed outside. To enhance your culinary experience halfway through the work week, the Highmark Mid-Day Art Break — starting June 12 and running Wednesdays through September 4 at noon (prime lunchtime) — will provide some beautiful sonic entertainment to celebrate the most pleasant season of the year.

Pay what you deem appropriate to enjoy a wide range of local music at the Erie Art Museum. If you're the kind of person who always brings their own lunch, feel free to take it to the space. Should you prefer to treat yourself, the Erie Art Museum Cafe will be serving up delicious delectables to sate your appetite. Bring your own chair, or use one provided at the museum. (And if it's too hot for you outside, sitting inside in the air conditioning of the cafe will still enable you to hear the music.)

As for your creative and sonically-inclined desires, the following performances will occur through September:

June 12: Bruce Morton Wright Chamber Series with the Erie Philharmonic String Quartet — Small ensemble from the Erie Philharmonic performs beautiful, soothing

melodies.

June 19: Mambo: You'll be dancing to this group's Latin-infused rock, pop, and jazz.

June 26: The Division Street Machine — North East-based outfit playing funky, blues-infused songs.

July 3: The Rooftop Project Band — A high-energy blend of pop, blues, jazz, and funk.

July 10: Mountain Thyme Ramblers — Twangy, rambling bluegrass with an Irish twist.

July 17: Gem City Jazz Band — Grab your partners and take a spin across the dancefloor to this outfit's blend of big band and swing.

July 24: Brooke Surgener — Open your ears wide for some chill, acoustic-based indie folk and pop.

July 31: The Charles Brown Experience — Erie favorite plays a compelling hip-hop, blues, and funk fusion.

Aug 7: The Breeze Band — Soulful summer R&B for your listening pleasure.

Aug 14: Erie Philharmonic — Enjoy the sophisticated sounds of the Philharmonic and allow the music to carry you away from your office-based duties...at least for the duration of the concert.

Aug 21: Campfire Jams — Jam out with Jeremy Jaeger and friends.

Aug 28: Monica Lewis — Acoustic, chilled-out tunes by a talented singer-songwriter.

September 4: The Honest Mistakes — Close out the season enjoying some upbeat power-pop melodies and evocative lyrics. — Miriam Lamey

Wednesdays from June 12 to Sept 4, noon // 20 E. 5th St. // Pay what you can // erieartmuseum.org

events.erielibrary.org.

Free Zumbini Sample Class w Susan McCall

Jun. 11, 17, 19 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Multiple library locations
events.erielibrary.org.

Marguerite's Academy of Dance

Jun. 14, 15 — 7 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. facebook.com.

FOOD AND DRINK

Happy Appy Food Tour

Jun. 5, 12, 19 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Bolero, 16 W. 10th St.
eriefoodtours.com.

Pint Night

Jun. 6, 13 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing,
8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

Erie Philharmonic Drink-Along Sing-Along

Jun. 6 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Guests are invited to Molly Brannigan's for a night of good food, good music, and good friends.

Molly Brannigan's, 506 State St. eriephil.org.

Downtown Erie Food Tour

Jun. 7, 14, 15 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

North East Food Tour

Jun. 8, 15 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Little Shop of Donuts, 36 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com.

Cooking From Your Garden

Jun. 11 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

Fiesta! Tacos, Tequila, & Margaritas 2019

Jun. 14 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott Erie Bayfront, 2 Sassafraz Pier eventbrite.com.

Breakfast Fundraiser

Jun. 15 — 10 a.m. to noon
Trinity United Methodist Church, 3952 Pine Ave. erietumc.org.

Meadville Food Truck Festival

Jun. 15 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Featuring food trucks from

all over the region, a car cruise-in, live demonstrations, a basket raffle, cornhole, music, and a photo booth.
Vernon Place, 11277 Vernon Pl., Meadville, PA 16335 meadvillefoodtruckfestival.com.

Flagship Trolley Wine Tours

Jun. 15 — noon to 6 p.m.
Millcreek Mall (east of Towne-Place Suites at Home), 5800 Peach St. 814-453-4666

Book Tasting: Galactic Grub

Jun. 18 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library,

413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erielibrary.org.

MOVIES

Burning

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

Mimosa Matinee: Grease

Jun. 8 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Double Indemnity

Jun. 12 — 6 p.m.

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No Need to Pack Lunch with North East’s Picnic in the Park



THURSDAY, JUN. 13

For those lucky enough to still have them, summer vacations imply hours upon hours to fill — children exulting in unison as their parents collectively shudder. Starting June 13, however, that energy can be confidently directed toward North East’s Gibson Park (for three hours, at least). That’s because North East Area Chamber of Commerce and North East Arts Council are reviving their Picnic in the Park program for the season.

Each of the nine installments will feature concessions and kid-friendly entertainment in an oasis of natural shade —effectively preserving your fuse from any sun, sons, and/or daughters. The Rusty Wheel, a North East dining oper-

ation with both fixed and mobile locations, will provide lunch for this year’s first picnic. Their chicken and waffles are a well-regarded Southern comfort among Northeasters. Marty’s Bubblegum Machine, an interactive music show hosted by Marty Loomis, will be on hand to pre-occupy the youngsters.

— Matt Swanseger

The series continues each Thursday through August 15 (excepting July 4):

6/20: North East Lion’s Club (concessions), Cliff the Illusionist (entertainment)

6/27: Skunk & Goat Tavern, Jungle Terry

7/11: Sons of the American Legion, Erie Heights Brass Ensemble

7/18: Sons of the American Legion, Davis & Eng

7/25: Rusty Wheel, Geoff the Juggler

8/1: North East Lion’s Club, Jurassic Pat

8/8: Rusty Wheel, Old Dawg Bluegrass

8/15: Skunk & Goat Tavern, Magician Steve Haberman

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. // Gibson Park, Main Street (Rte. 20) in North East // Free // nechamber.org/picnic-in-the-park

Arsenic and Young Lace: All An Act



FRIDAY, JUN. 14

Are you in the mood for a good laugh? Or perhaps you want an entertaining storyline? If you answered yes to either question (or both), then All An Act has you covered.

All An Act is partnering with the Footlights Theatre Program to bring you a comedic classic — *Arsenic and Old Lace*. If you’re not familiar with this tale, it includes drama, a false celebrity impersonator, and homicidal family members — just to name a few of the quirky details that spring to life (or fail to) here.

It’s always exciting to see fresh faces on stage, and it shows that today’s youth are still invested in and working hard to make live productions a major success. “I’m really excited for the community to see how hard these students work. I’ve been working on the youth productions for about 4 years, and we have such an amazing pool of young actors in the Erie community who deserve to have their talents shown,” emphasizes Michael

Hipwell, one of the co-directors for this production.

“Aside from the production team, all cast members are either high schoolers or students who will be graduating this school year,” informs Hipwell. KC McCloskey is the other director of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and McCloskey is no stranger to theater. She’s also directing a Footlights Theatre Program production of Disney’s *Newsies*.

When asked what audiences can expect to see from the show, Hipwell says, “Be prepared to laugh. This show is most definitely a comedy, and our actors are making it so funny.”

In addition to providing entertainment, All An Act is giving back to Erie. One dollar of every ticket sold will benefit Community Shelter Services, which provides hope, help, and shelter to Erie’s homeless.

McCloskey and Hipwell have banded together as they prepare to show off all the incredible talent that Erie’s youth have to offer. Now all you have to do is show up and let all the comedic magic unfold. — Kalli Oberlander

Fridays and Saturdays, Jun. 14 - 22 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Jun. 23 at 3 p.m. // 652 W. 17 St. // \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors (55+), \$5 children (6-11) // allanact.net

An insurance representative lets himself be talked into a murder/insurance fraud scheme that arouses the suspicion of an investigator.

Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietytnwpa.org.

Boy Erased

Jun. 19 — 6 p.m.

Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietytnwpa.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

Ongoing — noon & 3 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing — 1 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

VISUAL ARTS

Figure Drawing in the Mansion

Jun. 5, 12, 19 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.org.

ARTrageous

Jun. 8 — 7 to 11 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Second Sundays: Make a Mosaic

Jun. 9 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Piece together a mosaic with your kids at the Erie Art Museum’s ongoing family-friendly art-making program.

Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Design Your Own Stein

Jun. 12 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Voodoo Brewery Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. voodoobrewery.com.

Art in the Garden: Open Air Studio

Jun. 16 — 1 to 3 p.m.

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

Tile Decorating w

Caelin McDaniel

Jun. 18 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. eventbrite.com.

Helen Tullio: Something Serendipitous

Ongoing through Jun. 18

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.org.

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

Fun Home

Jun. 7, 8, 14, 15 — 8 p.m.

Dramashop, 1001 State St., Ste. 210 dramashop.org.

Leading Ladies

Jun. 8, 15 — 5:30 p.m. & Jun. 9, 16 — 2:30 p.m. & Jun. 11 — noon

This comedy, following downtrodden Shakespearean actors performing in Pennsylvania Amish Country, is far from a “drag.”

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Mamma Mia!

Jun. 14 — 7:30 p.m.

The Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA 16335

Freaky Friday

Jun. 14, 15 — 7:30 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

Arsenic & Old Lace

Jun. 14, 15 — 7:30 p.m.

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

COMEDY

Giggle Water: An Open Mic Comedy Night

Jun. 5 — 8 p.m.

Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Laugh Practice

Jun. 11 — 8 p.m.

Avalon Hotel, 16 W. 10th St. facebook.com

West Coast Comedy Night

Jun. 14, 15 — 9 p.m.

Avalon Hotel, 16 W. 10th St. facebook.com

Dad Jokes

Jun. 16 — 3 to 5 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US-6 & 19, Venango, PA 16440

SPORTS

Presque Isle Volleyball Tournament

Jun. 6, 13 — 5:45 to 9 p.m. & Jun. 11, 18 — 6 to 9 p.m. & Jun. 15 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Beach 6 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

PA State Bowling Open Championships

Jun. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd. bowlpa.com.

Friday Fun Night

Jun. 7 — 7 to 11 p.m.

ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesbankportspark.com.

The Edinboro Triathlon

Jun. 8

Pat Crawford Beach, 554 Lakeside Dr., Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborotriathlon.blog.

Shoot the Rock Summer Tip-Off Tournament

Jun. 8, 9

ERIEBANK Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesbankportspark.com.

Yvonne Gulick Memorial Run/Walk

Jun. 8 — 7 a.m. to noon

Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Summer Fun

Jun. 8 — 11 a.m.

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

Drift Paohny Open Drift/Soft Gripp Season Opener

Jun. 8 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lake Erie Speedway, 10700

Freaky Friday Fires Up for Run at Erie Playhouse



Leah Johnson (left) and Melina Walter (right) co-star in the Erie Playhouse production of *Freaky Friday*, which begins its theatrical run on Friday, June 14.

FRIDAY, JUN. 14

A startling and ground-shaking rumble in a Chinese restaurant one Friday night is only minorly concerning compared to the aftershock — a single-mother and teenage daughter have magically swapped consciousnesses, and no one has more than the slightest idea why. Such is the premise of Walt Disney Pictures’ 2003 film version of *Freaky Friday* (one of four versions the company has produced in a 42-year span), in which Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsey Lohan co-starred.

What is known is that the plucky story, which is based on the 1972 novel by Mary Rodgers, is coming soon to the Erie Playhouse. The delightful new musical tells the same story as the beloved novel and Disney movie, that of a feuding mother (named Katherine Blake in the theatrical version) and teenage daughter Ellie, suddenly in one another’s shoes and forced

to see the world — literally — from the other’s eyes.

The two main ladies in this production are Leah Johnson as Katherine and Melina Walter as Ellie. Melina has been seen in shows all over Erie since beginning her theatrical run with Erie Playhouse Youth Theater. The cast, 32 members strong, is a mix of known faces and new talent of all ages. Johnson and Walter, both of whom are Erie Mainstage veterans, will stand alongside William Speros as Fletcher, Luke Bongiorno as Wells, Nicole Schneelock as Torrey, Barbara Vasquez as Adam’s Mom, and Amanda Brown as part of the student ensemble, all of whom will take the limelight for the first time at the playhouse.

Freaky Friday the musical will run for three weekends with Friday (of course), Saturday, and Sunday showings each week, a Thursday showtime the first and second week, and a Wednesday production during the second. — Hannah McDonald

June 14-30, 7:30 p.m. // 13 W. 10th St. // 814.454.2852 // For tickets and a full list of showtimes, go to erieplayhouse.org

Asbury Woods Releases Lineup for This Year’s Music Monday Series



The Celebration Garden at Asbury Woods’ Andrew J. Conner Nature Center will host an extended Monday Music in the Woods schedule in 2019.

MONDAY, JUN. 17

The Asbury Woods’ annual Music Monday in the Woods series is set to begin, running seven weeks from June 17 to July 29.

Each week the nature center, which prides itself on providing educational and recreational environmental experiences, will host a regional artist of a different genre and a local food truck. New to the annual series is Lavery Brewing Company, who will host an on-site beer garden featuring locally crafted beers. From every pint sold during the series, \$1 will go back to Asbury Woods.

The first spot in the series lineup is filled by local acoustic folk-rock songwriter Claire Stuczynski, backed up by the versatile guitarist Eric Brewer. The

location. Playing popular country music, Boyd and Lex will perform at the wooded venue during the third installment of the series while A Waffle Miracle food truck feeds listeners. Singer-songwriters Katie and Jesse will fill the fourth week’s lineup, with Rust Belt blues duo Paoello and Gone following the fifth, and Erie-based Gem City Revival on the sixth.

Erie singer-songwriter Dan Baney, the lead singer of regional country band REFUGE, will close out the series, and Dickey’s Barbecue Pit will provide the last wave of local food for purchase to music-lovers in attendance. — Hannah McDonald

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. // Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. // All Ages // asburywoods.org/events

Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Voices For Independence Golf Scramble

Jun. 8 — 7:30 a.m.
Green Meadows Golf Course, 2451 Brickyard Rd., North East, PA 16421 vfciil.org.

Neighborhood Art House Art & Sole 5K

Jun. 8 — 9 a.m.
Inner City Neighborhood Art House, 522 Seminole Dr. erieartandsole.com.

Eerie Roller Girls Roller Derby

Jun. 8 — 7:30 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eerierollergirls.com.

Atlantic Coast Baseball Mercyhurst University Tournament

Jun. 14, 15, 16
Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. playacbaseball.com.

Erie Commodores vs. Cleveland FC

Jun. 14 — 7 p.m.
McConnell Family Stadium, 200 W. 4th St. eriecommodores.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs.

Hartford Yard Goats

Jun. 14, 15 — 7 p.m. & Jun. 16 — 1:30 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com.

Scurvy 7’s Beach Rugby Tournament

Jun. 15 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Beach 9 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Night at the Races

Jun. 15 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Father’s Day Race

Jun. 16 — 6 a.m. to noon
Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Portland Sea Dogs

Jun. 17, 18 — 7 p.m. & Jun. 19 — noon
UPMC Park, 110 E.10th St. milb.com.

COMMUNITY

Basic Video Editing w Adobe Premiere Pro

Jun. 6 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erieliibrary.org.

How to Write a Will

Jun. 6 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Iroquois Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. events.erieliibrary.org.

Eat Better for Less

Jun. 6 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 events.erieliibrary.org.

Intro to Windows II

Jun. 6 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erieliibrary.org.

Eating Disorders

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

Regional GSA

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

Erie Guild of Craftsmen Meeting

Jun. 6 — 7 p.m.
Glenwood United Methodist Church, 2931 Myrtle St. erieguildofcraftsmen.com.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Yard Sale

Jun. 7 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Prince of Peace Social Hall, 9261 Lake Pleasant Rd.

Ste. 115 [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Strollers & Striders

Jun. 7, 14 — 11:15 a.m.
expERIEnce Children’s Museum, 420 French St. eriedowntown.com.

Dance It Out Downtown

Jun. 7, 14 — 12:15 to 12:30 p.m.
Come down to Perry Square to dance off the day’s stress and leave refreshed.
Perry Square erie-downtown.com.

Little Perry Story Time + Play

Jun. 7, 14 — 12:30 to 1 p.m.
Perry Square erie-downtown.com.

1650 Friday

Jun. 7 — noon to 10 p.m.
Downtown Erie erie-downtown.com.

Vinyl Cutter Open Lab

Jun. 8 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erieliibrary.org.

Block Party

Jun. 8 — 10 a.m. to noon
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erieliibrary.org.

Gibson Days North East

Jun. 8 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Jun. 9 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A community-wide celebration of crafts, plant sales, food, music, and chance auctions.
Gibson Park, Main St. & Rte. 89, North East PA 16428 e-clubhouse.org.

Pokemon League

Jun. 8 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. events.erieliibrary.org.

Super Hero Saturdays

Jun. 8, 15 — 3 p.m.
Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Giggles, Grub, and Grooves

Jun. 8 — 4 to 11 p.m.
Start the summer off right with some delicious food, arts ‘n’ crafts, comedy, local beer, and music.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Break the Stigma 2K Walk

Jun. 9 — 7 to 10 a.m.
Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Great American Book Sale

Jun. 9 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Jun. 10, 11, 12, 13 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Jun. 14 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Over 75,000 used books

and media items for sale.
McDowell Intermediate HS, 3320 Caughey Rd. erieliibrary.org.

Summer Sunday Fundays

Jun. 9, 16 — noon
Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

Law of Attraction Workshop

Jun. 9 — noon to 4 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Getting to Know Your Camera with Kathy A. Welte

Jun. 9 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Pets and Poetry Pop-Up

Jun. 9 — 1 to 3 p.m.
An afternoon of animal-related poetry readings by local poets, with snacks & coffee, and the company of adoptable cats and kittens
Erie Animal Network, 1158 W. 26th St. [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

Orchid Society Meeting

Jun. 9 — 2 p.m.
Erie Zoo Education Building,

423 W. 38th St. facebook.com.

Crystal Grid Workshop

Jun. 9 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

**Little Einstein
expERIENCE Day Camp**

Jun. 10, 11 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
expERIENCE Children’s Museum,
420 French St. facebook.com.

Surviving a Layoff

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

Perry Peddlers

Jun. 10, 17 — noon
Perry Square erie-
downtown.com.

**Monday Makers:
Magic and Juggling**

Jun. 10 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center
Library, 1255 Manchester
Rd. events.erialibrary.org.

**Summer Reading
Challenge Kickoff Party**

Jun. 10 — 5 to 7:45 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library,
413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA
16412 events.erialibrary.org.

Throwback Game Night

Jun.10, 17 — 6 p.m.
Tippy Bean, 2425 Peach
St. tippybean.cafe.

**Gentle Yoga &
Meditation: Lvl. 1**

Jun. 10 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center
Library, 1255 Manchester
Rd. events.erialibrary.org.

**Monday Makers:
Make a T-Shirt Bag**

Jun. 10 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

Cruise the Bay Cruise-Ins

Jun. 10, 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bayfront Park n Ride call-
ingallcruiserz.com.

Rainbow Family Storytime

Jun. 10. 18 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

Time Out Tuesday

Jun. 11, 18 — 6:30 a.m.,
noon, & 5:30 p.m.
Dobbins Landing & Perry
Square eriedowntown.com.

Aero Camp

Jun. 11 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
North Coast Flight School,
1605 Asbury Rd. flyerie.com.

Memory Cafe

Jun. 11 — 10 a.m. to noon
Lincoln Community Center
Library, 1255 Manchester
Rd. events.erialibrary.org.

Portable Planetarium

Jun. 11 — noon to 5 p.m.
A portable celestial program
designed for the whole family.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

Windowsill Herb Garden

Jun. 8 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center,
4105 Asbury Rd. registra-
tiondesk.asburywoods.org.

T3

Jun. 11 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
McCord Memorial Library, 32
W. Main St., North East, PA
16428 mccordlibrary.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Jun. 11 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. &
Jun. 12 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Multiple library locations
events.erialibrary.org.

**Teddy Bear Picnic &
Open Field Play**

Jun. 12 — 11 a.m to noon &

Jun. 19 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead,
221 Waterford St., Edinboro,
PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Craft Corner

Jun. 12 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Iroquois Branch Library,
4212 Iroquois Ave. events.
erialibrary.org.

Erie County in the Civil War

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

Garden Sprouts Preschool

Jun. 13 — 11 a.m. to noon
Goodell Gardens & Homestead,
221 Waterford St., Edinboro,
PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Pennwriters Group

Jun. 13 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library,
2088 Interchange Rd., Ste.
280 events.erialibrary.org.

**Lake City Fire Company
94th Annual Carnival**

Jun. 13 — 5 to 10 p.m. &
Jun. 14, 15 — 1 to 11 p.m.
Live music, children’s activities,
food, crafts, bingo, and rides.
Lake City Fire Station No.
56, 2232 Rice Ave., Lake City,
PA 16423 lakecityfire.org

Learn to 3D Print

Jun. 13 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

**VETx Series: LGBT
Veterans Community**

Jun. 13 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

30th Annual Yard Sale

Jun. 14, 15 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Erie, 7180
Perry Hwy. uuerie.org.

**Intro to Computers
and the Internet I**

Jun. 14 — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Iroquois Branch Library,
4212 Iroquois Ave. events.
erialibrary.org.

Neurofibromatosis 5K Walk

Jun. 15 — 7 a.m. to noon
Beach 1 at PI State Park, 1 Pen-
insula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

**Early Morning
Pontoon Ride**

Jun. 15 — 8 a.m.
Lagoons at PI State Park, 1 Pen-
insula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie 2019 Quilt Celebration

Jun. 15 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. &
Jun. 16 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
View 200+ quilts, shop vendors,
participate in the basket
raffles and a quilt raffle.
Holy Cross Church (Reilly Cen-
ter), 7100 W. Ridge Rd., Fairview,
PA 16415 facebook.com.

**Fishing Derby &
Community Day**

Jun. 15 — 9:30 a.m. to noon
YMCA Camp Sherwin, 8600
W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA
16423 ymcaerie.org.

Dungeons & Dragons

Jun. 15 — 10 a.m. to noon
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

**Mystery Animal
Meet & Greet**

Jun. 15 — 11 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature
Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.
asburywoods.org.

Game Day

Jun. 15 — noon to 2 p.m.
Iroquois Branch Library,
4212 Iroquois Ave. events.
erialibrary.org.

Juneteenth Celebration

Jun. 15 — noon to 6 p.m.
Perry Square facebook.com.

Hero Equipment Day

Jun. 15 — 3 p.m.
Splash Lagoon, 8091 Peach
St. splashlagoon.com.

Girard PA Ghost Hunt

Jun. 15 — 8 p.m.
A series of unique ghost
walk experiences at some
of Erie County’s most
haunted locations.
Corner of Main & Mechan-
ic streets, Girard, PA 16417
candlelightghostwalks.com.

Patio Yoga w Dariel

Jun. 16 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing,
8398 W. Main Rd. (Rt. 20), West-
field, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

**Passport to Play
Discovery Camp**

Jun. 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to noon
expERIENCE Children’s Museum,
420 French St. facebook.com.

**Artlore Studio Kids
Summer Art, Music,
and Tech Camp**

Jun. 17 — 9 a.m. to noon
and/or 1 to 4 p.m.
Mondays through Thursdays,
running through Aug. 10
Artlore Studio, 3406 W.
Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Magic Steve: Sessions 1 & 2

Jun. 17 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
& 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library,
2088 Interchange Rd., Ste.
280 events.erialibrary.org.

**Monday Makers: Make
a Simple Circuit**

Jun. 17 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

**Free Health Screening
for Seniors**

Jun. 18 — noon to 2 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

Intro to Word I

Jun. 18 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center
Library, 1255 Manchester
Rd. events.erialibrary.org.

Backyard Composting 101

Jun. 18 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Iroquois Branch Library,
4212 Iroquois Ave. events.
erialibrary.org.

Teen Science Club

Jun. 18 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
McCord Memorial Library, 32
W. Main St., North East, PA
16428 mccordlibrary.org.

**Packing Party for
Operation Christmas Child**

Jun. 19 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb
Rd., McKean, PA 16426
samaritanaspurse.org.

CBD Facts

Jun. 18 — 6 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341
W. 26th St. wfceerie.coop.

Twilight Campfire Walk

Jun. 18 — 8 to 9:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center,
4105 Asbury Rd. registra-
tiondesk.asburywoods.org.

Fiber Arts Meetup

Jun. 19 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E.
Front St. events.erialibrary.org.

Sci-Fi Writer Fritze Roberts

Jun. 19 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
McCord Memorial Library, 32
W. Main St., North East, PA
16428 mccordlibrary.org.

Silent Peace Walk

Jun. 19 — 7 to 7:30 p.m.
Bayfront Connector Trail
eriebenedictines.org.

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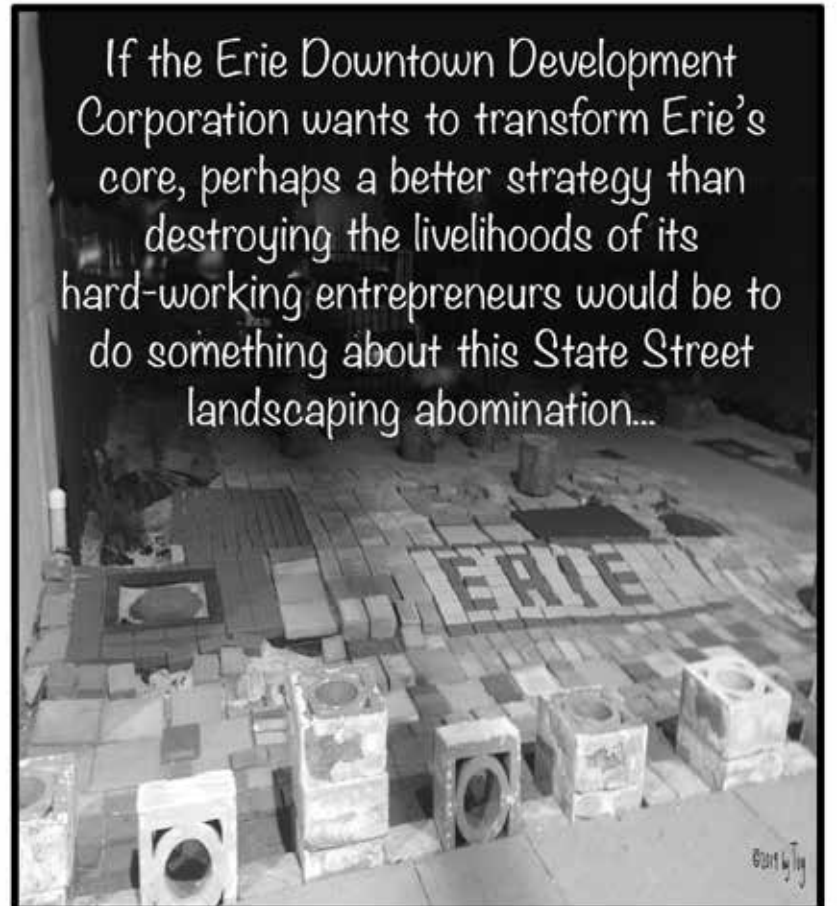
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No More Heroes: *Brightburn* is a Terrific Premise Hobbled by Shoddy Execution

★★★

The Superman character was created during one of the worst periods of the 20th century. He was intended to be a champion of the people and an inspiring symbol for people living in a very dark time. Today, we live in a world with much different problems, and skepticism, if not outright cynicism towards the idea of a purely good hero. Could a "Superman" exist in our modern times? According to director David Yorovesky and the Gunn cousins (writers Brian and Mark, along with producer James), that answer is a resounding "no" as shown with their bleak, dismal horror film *Brightburn*.

Set in the town of Brightburn, Kansas, the film follows Kyle and Tori Breyer (David Denman and Elizabeth Banks) who discover a crashed spacecraft carrying an infant boy (sound familiar?) Raising the child (named Brandon) as their own but keeping his origins secret, the Breyers are about to learn that their "miracle" is far more sinister than he initially seemed.

As an inversion of this classic superhero tale, the film could have been a truly ingenious statement about our modern myths or even a tragic story about how good people can be twisted by circumstance. Unfortunately, we never get to really know the inner thoughts of young Brandon (played by a creepy Jackson A. Dunn) and worse, it is implied that he is being controlled by his spaceship. As a result, any societal statements are killed early and the film settles on pure horror. Sloppy editing and directorial inexperience prevent the film from being engaging so it relies heavily on its admittedly stomach-churning gore effects. *Brightburn* is brutal, depressing, and miserable, but I was hoping to see more of a point to it all. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: David Yorovesky // Written by: Brian Gunn and Mark Gunn // Starring: Elizabeth Banks, David Denman, Jackson A. Dunn, Matt Jones, Meredith Hagner, Emmie Hunter, Becky Wahlstrom, and Gregory Allen Williams // 91 minutes // Rated R



SONY PICTURES

Breaking All the Rules: *Booksmart* is a Refreshing Spin on an Old Story

★★★★

Olivia Wilde's directorial debut, *Booksmart*, is firmly entrenched in the old "last day before graduation" playbook of teen movies. However, the story still feels very fresh and original thanks to her unique take on many of these old clichés. It isn't as subversive as I was hoping it would be (more *Superbad* than *Ghost World*), but a witty script and the endless chemistry of its two leads should be more than enough to win over audiences.

The plot centers around best friends Molly and Amy (Beanie Feldstein and Kaitlyn Dever), two overachievers who have foregone the parties and socialization of high school to focus on their grades and getting into a good college. When Molly learns that all the "losers" who partied all the time also got into those colleges, she drags Amy with her to a big "night before graduation" party to prove to everyone that they can be fun too. Now only one problem remains ... finding the location of said party.

Like many films of this ilk, *Booksmart* is less a story and more a series of comedic vignettes. Some work wonderfully (especially a hilariously surreal sequence involving stop-motion animation), while others fall flat. Wilde occasionally doesn't give the sequences enough time to stay with the audience. That being said, Feldstein's and Dever's charms shine throughout and the film has enough winning moments to carry us through its runtime. Finally, it's very refreshing to see this story told from a new perspective. I'm sure the audience this was made for (women and LGBTQ+) will be overjoyed to find this film amongst what is overwhelmingly a hetero-masculine sub-genre, and that alone is cause enough for celebration. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Olivia Wilde // Written by: Emily Halpern, Sarah Haskins, Susanne Fogel, and Katie Silberman // and stars Beanie Feldstein, Kaitlyn Dever, Skyler Gisondo, Billie Lourd, Diana Silvers, Molly Gordon, Mason Gooding, Eduardo Franco, Victoria Ruesga, Jessica Williams, Lisa Kudrow, Will Forte and Jason Sudekis // 102 minutes // Rated R



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FOOD & DRINK

Molly Brannigan's New Outlook

The downtown pub and eatery reopens to big improvements



By: Nick Warren

Working downtown for more than six years now, I've seen my fair share of lunches. Throughout countless afternoons meeting with friends and coworkers for a bite, certain favorites start to emerge, along with a list of desires, and of course, complaints. Venturing to other cities has long left me wishing for places like Chopt or Tender Greens, offering quick and healthy options. On the more indulgent side of things, however, one of the top spots in my eyes was Molly Brannigan's Irish Pub. It was a treat that always delivered (the "trinity chicken" was my favorite). More often than not though, it pushed the boundaries of my allotted lunchtime. Eventually, my lunch squad befriended one of the servers there, and we began calling our orders in to save on time. As the old infomercial adage goes, however, "there's got to be a better way!"

Fast forward to more than a year later and things are looking a whole lot better.

"Redevelopment might be the wrong word," wondered Billy Lewis, who — along with Greg Brown — runs Red Letter Hospitality (RLH), the bar and restaurant's new owners (and the organization also behind The Cork 1794 and North East's Skunk and Goat). "Renovation, or revitalization, or a refresh," he specified, circling a key idea behind what's in store for the new Molly's. His team began talks with the previous owners in November of 2017, finally closing on the property in July of 2018. Now with a reopening date of Thursday, June 13, the evolution will

be complete.

Most notably, it will feature an updated menu with an "express" lunch option, new handcrafted cocktails, an upper-level speakeasy, and a much-welcomed overall facelift.

Upon first inspection, most changes seemed subtle to the casual patron. "When you walk in you will immediately see a cleaner, brighter, and tasteful Irish pub," explained Anne Lewis, Director of Marketing for RLH and Billy's daughter. She was quick to note though, that "we're keeping the Irish in the pub." There's still the classic wood fixtures, and the very same emerald isle-themed art that it had before adorns the walls. The black and white tile work at the building's front bar section echoes the entrance it's had for years. Large wood sections have been removed and repurposed throughout. Overseeing many of the construction, design, and aesthetic choices that make the new pub what it is were Beth Lewis and Ann Brown, who are co-owners of RLH with their husbands Billy and Greg. These subtle choices, like the new wallpaper upstairs, the re-envisioned bar wall, and freshly upholstered banquette seating add up to a larger whole and a cohesive interior that does what it set out to do. Even the exterior is updated, making for a bit of a Mandela Effect (i.e., a sense of remembering what never actually was). Close your eyes and picture the outside of Molly's. What do you see? It might surprise you to know that for years it was blue, yellow, and maroon. Currently, it's now what you possibly pictured it as:

Molly Brannigan's Irish Pub reopens to the public on June 13 with updated menus (including an "express" lunch) option, new handcrafted cocktails, an upper-level speakeasy, and a much-welcomed overall facelift.

green and gold.

In addition to these cosmetic changes are two sections, the "Dungarvan Room" and the "Shebeen." The former seats 40-50 guests and is essentially a rebranding of the location's back room. The latter is an inviting room on the bar's second level, and seats about 30. Both rooms are available for private functions but will be open to guests when not reserved. The Gaelic word for "speakeasy," the Shebeen is a cozy location that overlooks the lower barroom, a warm environment that's perfect for meetings, parties, or good conversations. It features two local drafts on tap with its own special drink menu.

One of these special offerings will be smoked whiskey. While I've certainly smoked while drinking whiskey before, I had admittedly never experienced a cocktail via smoker. General Manager Ryan Blair, who developed the cocktail menu, served up a new take on an Old Fashioned, this time made with Tullamore Dew. It was capped with a Luxardo Maraschino Cherry — the bar abandoning the garish red garnish with the purple, nuttier, higher-end alternative — making for a multi-level drink, with the lighter campfire aroma on top leading to a sweeter taste beneath. As with Cork and the Skunk and Goat, each drink replaced plastic straws with reusable metal counterparts.

The newly opened Andora's Bubble Tea, Khao Thai, or Fat Lenny's aren't the only places around town with boba on the mind. Blair concocted "Spring Bubbles," a blueberry mint-infused vodka made in-house, with fresh-squeezed lime juice, hydrated coconut water with coconut pulp, a lime twist, and Asian blueberry boba bubbles. Altogether it's a smooth, refreshing cocktail, ideal for cooling off on hot summer days. "The Four Leaf" features Effen Cucumber Vodka, elderflower liqueur, and lime juice that's shaken, strained, and brought together with a sparking line for a champagne cocktail garnished with rosemary. Blair notes that he has 15 more drinks on the menu that are equally complex, with the smoker being upstairs in the Shebeen.



Molly Brannigan's cocktail smoker adds another layer of depth and complexity to classic concoctions such as the Old Fashioned.

chi, white rice noodles, bell peppers, cilantro topping, and a lime wedge. It was supremely refreshing, with just enough spicy kick (mostly helped by the flavored kimchi). It was a wonderful balance of temperatures and textures, filled with top quality ingredients that left me feeling invigorated even after a hearty serving. This bowl is one of the items offered on the express lunch menu, which as the name implies, seeks to cater to guests in a quicker-than-usual manner for a higher-tier eating experi-

"The Old Fashioned is smoked with American Oak, but I also have some other options like cinnamon and all kinds of different woods," he explained. After previewing some of the bar offerings, I got to try the new Thai Shrimp Bowl. Loaded up a tad more than usual, this extra-large portion included its mix of peanuts, daikon white radishes, kim-

ence. Detailing pick two, pick three, and half portion options, Anne summed it up as "quick, convenient, delicious." The company no doubt found some inspiration in another one of their ventures, CoreLife Eatery. While Red Letter is currently looking for an Erie location, they manage franchises in the Cleveland area for the rapidly booming fast-casual chain, offering vegetarian-friendly bowls (similar to the aforementioned Chopt or Tender Greens). They're also looking ahead to weekly specials, with Monday being their Service Industry Night (SIN), a burger and beer night on Tuesdays, and a Whiskey Wednesday, while Thursdays they'll offer dollar oysters all day (Shucker Thursday), all-you-can-eat fish on Fridays, while Sundays will work in an Irish supper component. It's important to note that while it's on the same block, Molly's does not inhabit any of the buildings on North Park Row owned by the Erie Downtown Devel-

opment Corporation, which has come under fire recently after deciding not to renew the leases of immigrant-owned businesses Khao Thai, Casablanca Hoo-kah Lounge, and Tandoori Hut Indian Cuisine, with Coconut Joe's and Resolution Nightclub on the chopping block later. The EDDC later shared plans to construct a \$39 million culinary arts district. With Molly's rejuvenation, and the ongoing work of places like The Erie Art Museum and Gannon University, the RLH team views this as an important time for downtown Erie. "We're hoping that it encourages others to invest in downtown," Billy Lewis said. While the future of downtown Erie sees itself at yet another crossroads, Molly's may end up leading the charge for a new restaurant and bar experience. After seeing the site's improvements first-hand, it's hard to deny that this is a step in the right direction. Nick Warren can be reached at nwarren@eriereader.com

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Tyler, The Creator
IGOR
Columbia Records
★★★★★

The path to success has been a jarring one for Tyler Okonma. Just a decade ago, the then 18-year-old rapper and producer was crafting *Bastard*, a vulgar debut that explored self-deprecation and intrusive thoughts in a way that would loom over his next several releases. This all changed with 2017's *Flower Boy*, an unguarded magnum opus that lifted Tyler's facade and hid virtually none of the artist's emotions from his audience. Now, *IGOR* plays like an extension of that album's change of heart, pushing Tyler into a previously unexplored sonic territory to electrifying results. "Ride around town, they gon' feel this one," Tyler sings in a pitch-shifted voice on opening track "IGOR'S THEME." The key word there is "sung," as Tyler throws (most) of his old instincts aside here in favor of genuine emoting, even when heavily distorted to match the unbelievable instrumentation of songs like "A BOY IS A GUN" and "WHAT'S GOOD." "I've been trying to make this [album] since I was 14," Tyler said at a recent Apple Music conference, and while *IGOR* may not be a perfect album in itself, it is the most perfect album Tyler could have made right now. — Aaron Mook



The National
I Am Easy to Find
4AD
★★★★★

In a way, it's fitting that The National's latest is titled *I Am Easy to Find* because as a band, they are extremely identifiable. From Matt Berninger's baritone to the band's melancholic-yet-complex arrangements, The National have mastered the craft of making sad songs for sad people. 2017's *Sleep Well Beast* was an album largely about the near-dissolution of a marriage, and naturally, with Berninger and his wife staying together, some folks might expect their next record to be a bit more upbeat. Those folks would be mistaken. Accompanied (and partially inspired) by a short film directed by producer Mike Mills, *I Am Easy to Find* focuses on the lives of women, lending a perspective often missing from Berninger's tumultuous narratives. Many of the record's finest moments are written and performed by women like Sharon Van Etten and Gail Ann Dorsey. "You have no idea how hard I died when you left," sings Dorsey on the opening number, "You Had Your Soul With You." These performers turn otherwise typical National fare ("Roman Holiday") into full-blown conversations. It makes for some of the band's strongest moments ("Quiet Light") in an already impressive catalog. — Aaron Mook



Flying Lotus
Flamagra
Warp
★★★★★

At long last, we have *Flamagra*, the burning follow-up to 2015's *You're Dead*, and the sixth studio album from Steven Ellison, better known by the moniker Flying Lotus. At 27 tracks and nearly 67 minutes, *Flamagra's* epic scope is not unlike that of its predecessors. The album ties together many opposing forces; it's both meditative and filled with tension, with moments of danceable aggression and evocative passages able to soothe one's nerves. The record features a myriad of guests such as spiritual brethren Anderson.Paak ("More"), Thundercat, Toro y Moi, and Shabazz Palaces, as well as iconic voices like George Clinton and filmmaker David Lynch ("Fire Is Coming"). The latest in an entry to a storied discography, *Flamagra* is marked by Lotus' trademark concoction of alternative hip-hop, jazz, and electronic music. It's able to be listened to passively, while being even more rewarding for the active listener, getting lost in the album's deep grooves and captivating glitches. As suggested by its title, the album uses a motif of fire, underscored by the hiss and crackle of faux vinyl sounds, its cover and kinetic streaming artwork giving way to the world's most relaxing nightmare. — Nick Warren



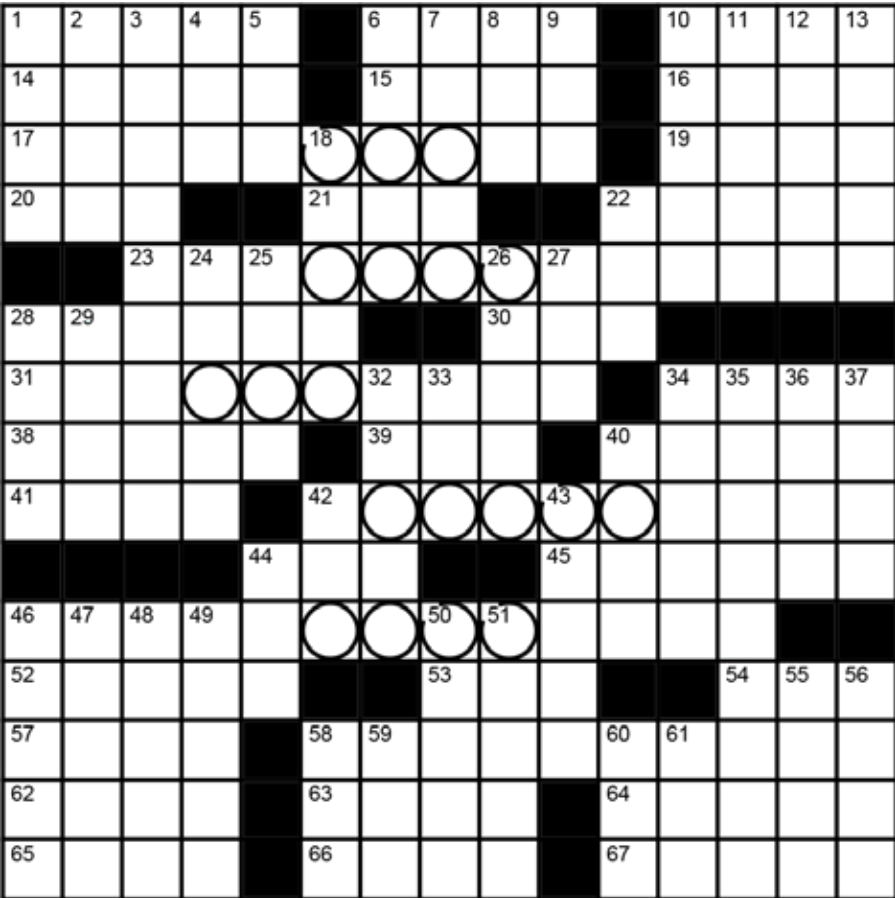
Sacred Paws
Run Around the Sun
Merge Records
★★★★★

A bright and optimistic sounding record, the aptly titled *Run Around the Sun* comes at just the right time, a perfect indie album for summer days. The sophomore album from the Scottish duo of guitarist Rachel Aggs and drummer Eilidh Rodgers finds the two arriving at many of the same conclusions they did in their debut *Strike a Match*, but with a more hopeful bent. Aggs has a captivating style of playing — rhythmic, technically adept, and always moving. She is also a member of the bands Shopping and Trash Kit, her distinctive guitarwork almost immediately recognizable. A syncopated blend of the African Highlife style and post-punk ideals, it's a percussive flavor reminiscent of Minus the Bear, The Raincoats, Sleater-Kinney, and Talking Heads — influences that, while disparate, come together. Clean brass sections dot the album in tracks like "Almost It," one of many danceable upbeat grooves. The major-scale tonality coupled with the consistent tempo of each track reads as a declaration of purpose, the intent to please. While the album may not be wholly innovative, especially compared against Aggs' other works, it's worth visiting, a welcoming album that is bound to put a smile on your face. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK





Across

1. Mergers and buyouts
6. Delany or Carvey
10. Stoker of fear?
14. "The Governorator"
15. Wishy-washy response
16. Actress Malone of "The Hunger Games"
17. Cancer, e.g.
19. Author Robert ____ Butler
20. Protein source in a vegan diet
21. Amts. of blood
22. Cold treat, informally
23. Comment upon bumping into an old friend
28. Awkward way to be caught
30. QB's cry
31. Strength of character
34. Adolph who coined the motto "All the News That's Fit to Print"
38. "You're never too ____ learn"
39. 22nd out of 26
40. Facebook Messenger precursor
41. Danny who co-starred in "White Christmas"
42. "The Godfather" actress
44. Garfield's owner, in the funnies
45. Author Lee
46. Southern rock band with the 2012 hit "Hold On"
52. What a divorce may generate for a celeb

53. It may be a shocker
54. "Bali ____" (Rodgers and Hammerstein show tune)
57. "The Clan of the Cave Bear" novelist
58. Outlets for artisans ... or what you do by solving 17-, 23-, 31-, 42- and 46-Across
62. Woman of the Haus
63. Sassy
64. From head ____
65. Smears, as a reputation
66. Like some cheeks and outlooks
67. Air passenger's request

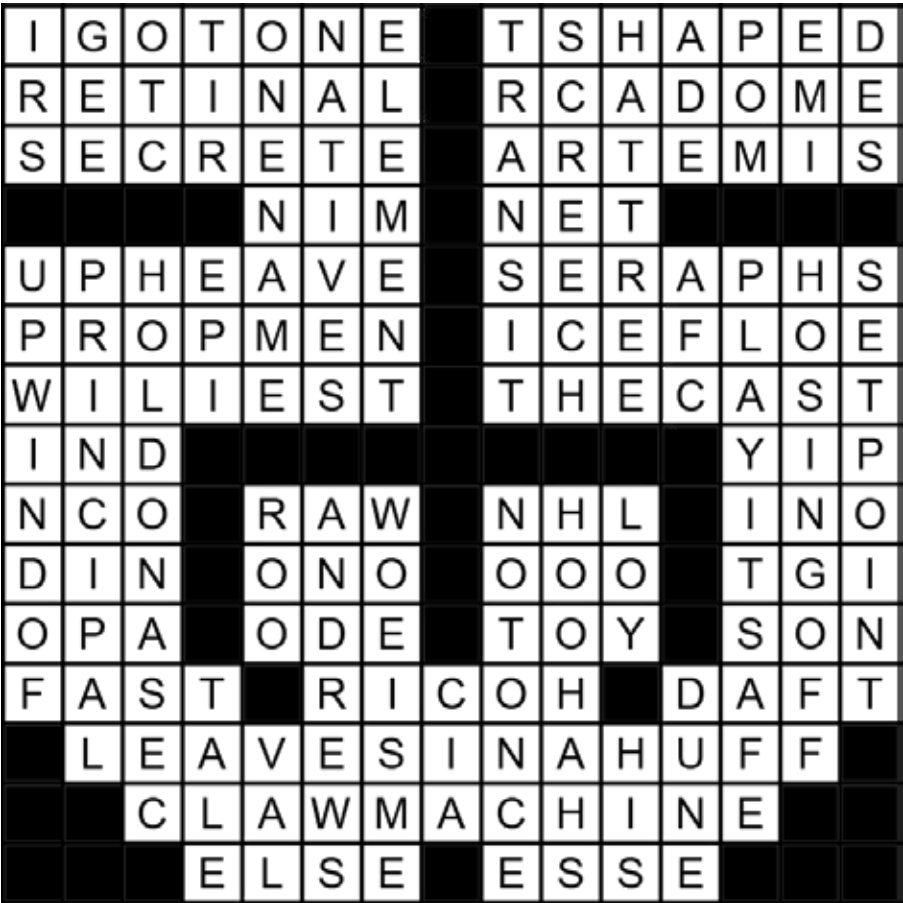
Down

1. Häagen-____
2. Suffix with switch
3. Character played by Mickey Rooney in 16 films
4. Number of weeks per annum?
5. Where the buoys are
6. "Boogie Oogie Oogie" music genre
7. Not quite right
8. Badger or hound
9. "The Fountainhead" author Rand
10. Tennis' Borg
11. Enter again
12. In the blink of ____
13. Downton Abbey, e.g.
18. Symbol seen on viola music
22. Bacon runoff
24. Overjoy

25. Disney's "____ & Stitch"
26. "Of ____ Sing" (Pulitzer-winning Gershwin show)
27. Capek play that debuted the word "robot"
28. "Nothing's broken"
29. The Big Easy, by another nickname
32. The first Mrs. Trump
33. ____ Paese (variety of cheese)
34. Earth tone
35. They may be made with pitching wedges
36. Lion : pride :: ____ : husk
37. Suffix with trick
40. "Out of Africa" author Dinesen
42. Friend of Huck
43. Something to grind to?
44. Place for pickles
46. Toward the stern
47. Actress Linney in "Kinsey"
48. "You're such ____ for helping"
49. 3.3, give or take
50. Retail giant established in 1886 that filed for bankruptcy in 2018
51. Whopping
55. Soldier who's gone missing
56. "Mm-hmm"
58. Letters on some kits
59. ____ Speedwagon
60. Bus stop: Abbr.
61. ____ polloi



Answers to last puzzle





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