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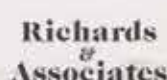
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From the Editors

On Embracing the Rainbow

It’s Pride Month. That means a lot. It also means rainbows. Hell yes. In some conservative circles, it might cause some eye-rolling or even worse. Let’s stay out of those circles for now. Amidst some leftist echo chambers, June’s rainbowification might elicit eye rolls of a different kind – calling out the corporate co-opting of a deeply personal movement. That’s valid, and it’s complicated.

But it’s also progress.

The omnipresence of the Pride Flag in June, and the normalization of LGBTQIA+ (as will be our chosen acronym of 2022) issues is a remarkable thing. While it’s decisively villainous for money-grubbing corporations to profit off of an underrepresented group of people, look to the rainbow itself, for the issue is not as black and white as that.

While it’s certainly an intersectional issue concerned with classism, gender, and sexuality, think of all the queer youth who have had jobs – or simply been customers – at some of these places throughout the ‘90s and the 2000s. To make their lives just a little more welcoming makes a difference, even if it’s a very small one. That being said, a Pride Flag does not wave a magic wand forgiving a litany of misdeeds done to an oppressed group in the name of capitalism.

Long story short, rainbows are good.

If corporations make sure they are accountable and treat their LGBTQIA+ employees and customers with the equal rights that all humans deserve, and are actively making strides to do better, I say wave that Pride Flag high.

There’s even been progress in the Pride Flag itself. In 1978, Gilbert Baker designed the original rainbow flag at the request of Harvey Milk, to be flown at San Francisco’s Pride parade that year. Baker’s original version had eight stripes, including hot pink, turquoise, and indigo. Due to fabric costs and availability, by the time the 80s rolled around, the flag had its iconic six stripes – which remains its most recognizable iteration.

That symbol remained for decades, until the spectrum needed to be widened. One popular variation gaining ground now is the Progress Pride Flag, designed by Daniel Quasar. They added a chevron of colors to specifically represent trans individuals, and communities of color. Similarly, Julia Feliz’ New Pride Flag shared the same color scheme that adorns our cover, with a bisected hypotenuse. Valentino Vecchietti recently modified Quasar’s design to include Intersex representation as well, and we’re sure this will not be the end of the Pride Flag’s evolution.

Looking inward, we want the Reader to be an inclusive place. We need to hear more BIPOC voices, more New American voices, and more LGBTQIA+, voices. Everybody’s journey is different, and representation is important.

If you’re interested in contributing to the Reader, go to our website and follow the links on our sidebar to reach out to us.

In this issue we talk about advocacy. Jonathan Burdick traces some of the local history of the LGBTQIA+ community, while Dan Schank takes a look at the present and future of Erie’s inclusivity. Erin Phillips talks to Chris Kinder about historic preservation, Liz Allen talks to a few Master Gardeners, blooming in their 70s, while Amy VanScoter details Sundae Vegan Sweets. There’s much more too, like a summer music series checklist, and a piece from Jim Wertz on the Que Abides, as well as our usual bevvy of reviews and event spotlights.

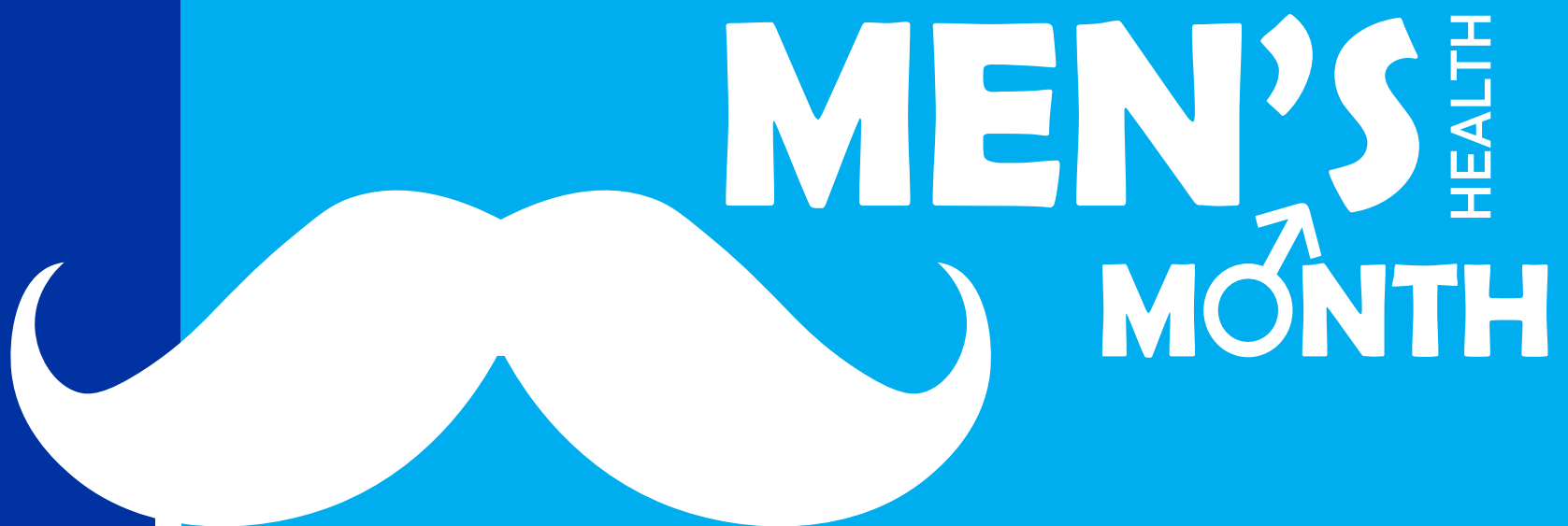
We wish you all a very nice, and very gay month



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Piecing Together Local LGBTQIA+ History

Moving beyond the dangerous and out-of-date views of our past



LUZITANIA

By: Jonathan Burdick

At the end of last school year, a photograph shared on Facebook went locally viral. The poster was unhappy about a library display that included seven books with LGBTQIA+ themes at Maplewood High School in the Penncrest School District.

While the post might have vanished into the void after a few shares and mad-face emojis, it instead erupted on social media (and at school board meetings) when Penncrest school board member David Valesky shared the photograph of the display on his Facebook account, adding the following commentary: “Besides the point of being totally evil, this is not what we need to be teaching kids. They aren’t at school to be brainwashed into thinking homosexuality is okay. Its [sic] actually being promoted to the point where it’s even ‘cool.’”

Many defended the school library as well as students within the district who were targets of the school board member’s words. Still, numerous defenders of Valesky’s unambiguously bigoted comments argued that having books with LGBTQIA+ themes available in the library was “indoctrination” of children — despite the fact that books in a library are voluntarily checked out. The books on display included a history of Nazi persecution of gay men, a history of the Stonewall riots that helped spur the Gay Rights Movement, a book highlighting LGBTQIA+ athletes, and a collection of interviews with six trans-

gender young adults.

Such complaints and allegations aren’t unique to the Penncrest School District, not even in our area. Providing access to a diverse selection of books in a high school library, which is the purpose of a library, is not brainwashing young people. The reality is that most teenagers graduate high school in the United States having learned very little about LGBTQIA+ related topics at all. According to the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network’s 2019 National School Climate Survey, less than 20 percent of LGBTQIA+ identifying students were exposed to *any* positive representations of LGBTQIA+ people, history, or events in school.

In most high school history classrooms, topics such as the Gay Rights Movement are skimmed over quickly or not even addressed. In one widely-used modern high school U.S. History textbook that is just shy of 1,000 pages, there are four paragraphs (or roughly half a page) dedicated to “LGBT Rights.” It briefly mentions the Stonewall riots, the implementation and repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and the 2015 Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage.

Learning the history of *anything* is like collecting scattered segments of a 1,000-piece puzzle. For most people, even those who *study* history, these puzzles are vastly incomplete — but the more perspectives read, the more interpretations studied, and the more sources that information is pulled from and analyzed, the more complete one’s puzzles become. The picture becomes clearer.

Learning the history of anything, says writer Jonathan Burdick, is like putting together a 1,000-piece puzzle. But when it’s the history of a marginalized group such as LGBTQIA+, those pieces are even more scattered.

The LGBTQIA+ community is one of those historically marginalized groups. For all of the alleged indoctrination, relatively few Americans know even the basic historic details of these communities. For example, going back to the founding of the United States, persecution was the law of the land. There were states such as Virginia which had carried over colonial-era laws making sodomy punishable by death. Thomas Jefferson thought that capital punishment was a bit extreme, so he instead proposed an amendment to Virginia law. Instead of death, the penalty could be castration for a man or “by cutting thro’ the cartilage of her nose a hole of one half inch diameter” for a woman. Virginia rejected his proposal and kept death as the punishment.

To identify as LGBTQIA+ for the vast majority of the history of the United States for many has been a life of living in the closet or being forced into the shadows. The first official gay rights group in the United States was only established less than a century ago as the Society for Human Rights. It was founded in Chicago in 1924 by a World War I veteran named Henry Gerber who had once been forced into a mental institution due to his sexuality. Following the creation of his organization, he would be constantly hounded by police and faced with newspaper headlines referring to his group as a “strange sex cult.”

Progress was slow over the next three decades. Persecution and alienation were the rule, not the exception. The so-called “lavender scare” targeted gay and lesbian federal employees (spearheaded by Joseph McCarthy, who had associated them with communism during a speech), eventually culminating in President Dwight D. Eisenhower signing Executive Order 10450 in 1953, banning those identified as gay or lesbian for serving in federal jobs or contracted positions. Erie newspapers printed reports on these events, quoting McCarthy calling gay men “perverts” and, in another, publishing a nationally-syndicated column where the author stated: “There is no humor in homosexuality, as there is no humor in cancer, blindness, insanity or the state department.”

Occasionally, the Erie papers would report on gay men being arrested for “moral offenses,” for which they were often denied bail. Local homicides were sometimes sensationalized with a “homosexual angle” revealed by a confession during police interrogation. In more than one op-ed, homosexuality was referred to as a “disease.” This was the same decade in which neurologist Walter Freeman was attempting to “cure” homosexuality with his “ice pick” lobotomies: a practice of damaging the prefrontal lobes of the brain by driving a pick through a person’s eye socket bone. This was done using only a local anesthetic, meaning

that they were awake and aware. He performed thousands of these, despite having no certified surgical training.

In 1958, there was a positive development. The Supreme Court case of *One, Inc. v. Olesen* overturned a lower court's ruling that a magazine written for a gay audience violated obscenity laws (this was after the Los Angeles Postmaster refused to deliver it through the United States Postal Service). This is considered a landmark First Amendment case.

Even if modern history textbooks do mention the Stonewall riots of 1969, also sometimes referred to as the Stonewall Uprising, there were many prior events that made its trajectory into a mass movement possible, such as José Sarria becoming the first openly gay candidate in the U.S. ever in 1961, the Mattachine Society's "sip-ins" of 1966, the activism of Drew Shafter in Kansas City, and the thousands of demonstrators who picketed and protested unfair treatment throughout the decade.

The first Pride march took place on June 28, 1970, the one-year anniversary of Stonewall. Three years later, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of "psychiatric disorders," although The New York Times ran an interview with psychiatrists which made it clear that there was no consensus, with one stating that a male became gay during development in a similar fashion to a polio victim losing their ability to walk.

In 1977, reporter Debbie Wallace wrote a five-part se-

ries for the Erie Daily Times titled "Gay Life in Erie." In Erie during this time, it was still near impossible to come out publicly, she reported, as they "could lose their jobs, be denied credit, be disowned by family and straight friends, be denied housing, child custody, and be subject to public ridicule and harassment."

To identify as LGBTQIA+ for the vast majority of the history of the United States for many has been a life of living in the closet or being forced into the shadows. The first official gay rights group in the United States was only established less than a century ago as the Society for Human Rights.

The series isn't without its problems, particularly a one-sided examination of Griswold Park as a place for predators, but for the time, was likely eye-opening for many Erie residents. It also angered many.

"As an American, I wanted to see equal rights that are fair and just, but not to have these rights twisted into perversness [sic]," one letter-to-the-editor in response to the series stated. "There are murders [sic] and thieves too ... but is that to be legalized too because they should have their rights!"

In terms of these civil rights, nondiscriminatory ad-

vancements in the law are relatively recent. The first state (Vermont) didn't permit same-sex civil unions until the year 2000 and the Supreme Court didn't rule that laws criminalizing consensual intimacy between people of the same sex were unconstitutional until 2003's landmark *Lawrence v. Texas*. It would take until 2011 for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to be repealed and 2015 before the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, as a result, requiring every state to recognize marriages of same-sex couples on the same merits as opposite-sex couples.

There are thousands upon thousands of stories — puzzle pieces — weaved between these events which help tell a wider, deeper, and more complex history. Libraries and the books within them are tools to help an interested person begin filling in those missing puzzle pieces. Identities, orientations, and the way in which we define ourselves and others are all a part of our shared history. It all contributes to understanding ourselves better as well as building empathy and understanding for others. This is not indoctrination, but knowledge.

To learn more about local LGBTQIA+ history, *Erie Gay News*, established in 1992, has an in-depth timeline: www.eriegaynews.com/history. You can also access their monthly publication, which includes news, events, and other information, as well as article archives going back decades. Resources can also be found through the NW PA Pride Alliance.



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Master Gardeners Plant the Seeds

Sharing stories with some certified green thumbs



LIZ ALLEN

By: Liz Allen

Is my rhubarb ripe enough to chop off a stalk? Will the blueberries bloom better if I transplant the bushes? Did the Swiss chard and cilantro survive our mild winter?

After two-plus years of COVID precautions, my friends and I still try to boost our spirits with daily texts and weekly Zooms. When we aren't bemoaning the state of the political landscape, I'm feeding them questions about gardening, a natural topic for those of us nurtured on early '70s works like *Diet for a Small Planet* and *The Moosewood Cookbook*.

Linda, one of my friends with a green thumb, is an official Master Gardener in Wisconsin, and I wanted to find out how to earn such a certification in Pennsylvania.

It turns out that all Master Gardener programs in the U.S., offered by extension services at land-grant universities, including Penn State, have the same requirements: mandatory coursework, community service, and continuing education.

But to qualify as a Master Gardener, your garden needn't be fancy or formal. You can grow flowers on a small city lot or vegetables on expansive country acreage.

In Erie, Master Gardeners also feed the birds, raise pollinators, protect butterflies, celebrate art, beautify neighborhoods, teach schoolkids, and feed the hungry.

"I'm a flower person," said Sue Thompson, who was

encouraged to enroll in the Master Gardener program after she twice participated in Garden Tour Erie.

Thompson, 58, a paramedic, is still an apprentice Master Gardener, but her expertise was on full display when she showed me around her West Bayfront home recently.

Gorgeous tulips bloomed out front, from bulbs donated by her mom, who had decluttered the gardens at the Orange County Arboretum in Montgomery, N.Y.

"I grew up in the Hudson Valley where I saw all these different historic homes with their gardens and window boxes," said Thompson. Indeed, the home she shares with her husband Erik was built in 1891 and belonged to Erik's parents, the late Betty and Jim Thompson.

Sue Thompson would pull "an occasional weed" from Betty's garden, filled with hosta and irises, before Thompson started adding plants in 2018. Now the garden includes Shasta daisies, coneflowers, hydrangea, roses, Black-Eyed Susan, spiderwort, Queen of the Prairie, Lady's Mantle, Solomon's Seal, coleus, marigolds, zinnias, yarrow, false indigo, sunflowers, delphinium, phlox, sweet alyssum, and begonias. I probably missed a few!

She also grows Russian sage and other herbs, as well as milkweed to attract monarch butterflies. During my visit, Baltimore orioles hopped on an orange bird feeder to feast on grape jelly.

Also in 2018, Thompson began building a pergola, finishing it in 2019 so that she and her now-husband Erik could get married under its twinkling lights and

[left] Sister Mary Miller, OSB, takes a few minutes out of her busy schedule as director of Emmaus Ministries to enjoy the peace and beauty of Emmaus Grove. [center] Kevin Thomas, left, chairman of the Erie County Master Gardeners program, poses with Patti Williams, center, apprentice Master Gardener, and Jeanne Gaber, Master Gardener, as the program's annual plant sale wraps up at Penn State Behrend's Wilson Picnic Grove. [right] Master Gardener Bonita Herman passes out educational literature, including information about the invasive spotted lanternfly, at the annual plant sale at Penn State Behrend.

flowering vines in July 2020.

Her creativity is on display everywhere: Flowers spring up in antique pickle crocks, beneath a wooden arbor, below a metal water pump, and from window boxes hung on the fences.

"I'm one of those gardeners who will plant something and if it does well, it stays. If it doesn't, it goes," Thompson said. Violets are usually frowned on because they are invasive, but Thompson keeps hers. They remind her of her grandmother and they also signify amethyst, her February birthstone.

She was temporarily stumped, though, by a cluster of forget-me-nots that sprung up overnight, outside the garden perimeters. Where did they come from?

Bonita Herman also asks questions about her own garden in southeast Erie. "I call it the Wonder Garden," joked Herman, 73. "I'll plant something and wonder if it's going to work here. Next year, I'll wonder where it will move."

Herman described her garden as a "hodgepodge." She is growing tomatoes, eggplant, peas, and radishes, and has planted squash in her flower beds. Eclectic yard art abounds. "I have a unique little fence made out of doors and windows," she said, and she uses old ladders for props. "I was a nurse, so I have bedpans hanging from a tree," she chuckled.

As she's getting older, her endurance isn't what it used to be. "I think every gardener has attention deficit," she said. "You start to do weeding, get sidetracked, then wonder, 'Where in the devil did I put that tool?'"

Like other Master Gardeners, Herman cares deeply about the environment. She has three rain barrels, makes compost, and gives talks to garden clubs and other groups about the importance of native bees for pollination. "I guess pollinating is one of my bigger things," she said.

She sits on the board of the Erie County Conservation District, serving as the liaison between the district and the Erie Master Gardener program.

Roberta McCall, 67, became a Master Gardener when she lived in Houston. When she moved back to Erie, she got involved with the Erie Master Gardener program and later was hired as the Master Gardener coordinator. The Penn State Extension program at that time was housed at the former Pleasant Ridge Manor East on East Gore Road and had a "whole wing," she said. Master Gardeners worked closely with entomologists, specialists in pesticide-and-tree-spraying safety issues, agricultural experts on fruit and grape-farming, home economists, and the directors

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of the youth development and mentoring organization 4-H.

After six years at Penn State Extension, McCall went to work for the state Department of Environmental Protection. She retired from there last July.

Now, she is determined to “create my whole backyard with all native plants.” She gets concerned when she hears that some people complain about their oak trees, annoyed that the trees are dropping acorns and leaves.

“The more that people keep replacing our native species with non-native, the more that diminishes our insects. We need insects to produce caterpillars,” as part of the whole pollination cycle, she said.

McCall is also not fond of lawn fanatics. “People are so into grass. They love their yards. That was one of my number-one questions (at Extension). I kept telling people that lawns were created by the British. People here who think ‘I have to keep up with the Joneses’ should be trying to get rid of as much lawn as possible,” she said.

Kevin Thomas, who chairs the Master Gardener program here, has noticed growing interest in pollinator gardens. “People realize their lawns are really green deserts; they don’t provide any nutrients for the insects,” he said. Some Master Gardeners are also honeybee keepers, but bumble bees and carpenter bees are also necessary, he said.

Like Herman, Thomas, 73, is a retired nurse. He got a degree in animal science from Penn State but ended up “in human medicine,” he said.

“I enjoy plants. I have a large yard, a nice orchard, all of this good stuff,” Thomas said. After he gave a local garden club a tour of his garden, someone suggested that he become a Master Gardener. “I was retiring and looking for ways where I could contribute and give back to the community,” he said.

Master Gardeners volunteer at many gardens, including at the Housing Authority of the City of Erie’s community gardens, at the Erie Zoo’s pollinator garden, and at Emmaus Grove, part of Emmaus Ministries in the 200 block of East 11th Street.

Benedictine Sister Mary Miller, director of Emmaus Ministries, treasures both the serenity and the productivity of Emmaus Grove, with its tidy garden beds, artful markers made by children from the Neighbor-

hood Art House, and its gracefully designed wooden tables used to teach gardening.

She credits the grove’s success to the dedicated work of Master Gardeners and other volunteers.

Most of the fresh food — more than 2,000 pounds a year — is distributed through the Emmaus Food Pantry, although some produce, such as herbs, might be used for Emmaus Soup Kitchen meals.

The grove idea came to fruition in 2013 thanks to Ellen DiPlacido and Rosemary Gantz.

The first gardens were planted on the south side of the Neighborhood Art House, but the volunteers had their eye on additional green space to the west of the soup kitchen.

Solomon’s Porch Apostolic Assembly, at East 11th and Holland streets, owns the property, but Elder

It turns out that all Master Gardener programs in the U.S., offered by extension services at land-grant universities, including Penn State, have the same requirements: mandatory coursework, community service, and continuing education.

Rick Sprague agreed to let the church lot be used for the garden as long as the produce was “tithed” to the soup kitchen. Today, he’s pleased with the results. “It’s helping people,” he said.

After Gantz and DiPlacido started Emmaus Grove, they realized they both needed to learn more about gardening. Gantz moved away from Erie, but DiPlacido graduated as a Master Gardener in 2014 and then enlisted Master Gardener Mike Bailey as co-coordinator of Emmaus Grove.

DiPlacido, 75, has retired twice — first, from the De-

partment of Welfare, then from the Benedict Education Center, where she helped set up a program for refugees, many of them farmers.

DiPlacido herself wasn’t always big on gardening. “I grew up on a farm and with gardens,” she said. “I worked in the garden (back then) because I had to.”

But she tapped into her gardening genes when she realized that she could grow healthy food for those in need in a productive garden.

Make that plural “gardens.” DiPlacido and other Master Gardeners also volunteer at the Erie School District’s community gardens every fall and spring. “It’s gardening but it’s really part of S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math),” said Kevin Thomas, the Master Gardener chairman in Erie. “When you plant plants, it’s gardening but you have to do a little math and there’s science involved.”

That’s just one more example of the ways Master Gardeners pay dividends in the Erie community.

Liz Allen hasn’t found time yet to become a Master Gardener. You can reach her at lizallenerie@gmail.com.

Learn more

The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Erie County program offers its 40-hour course in horticultural science biennially. The next program will start with orientation in late September 2023, with classes beginning in early October and continuing through the following March.

To graduate as a Master Gardener, you must complete 50 hours of community service in your first year, then do 20 hours of service and earn 10 continuing education units annually, including five units certified by Penn State.

To get on the list for the 2023 course and to learn more about Master Gardeners of Erie County, visit extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/erie, where you will also find links to its Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Master Gardeners of Erie County hosts two annual fundraisers. The plant sale took place May 7, but mark your calendars for Pumpkin Walk 2022, set for Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Waldameer Park & Water World.



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Pride Month in Erie: An Intersectional LGBTQIA+ Community Comes Together

Inclusivity and acceptance to be driving forces behind regional Pride events



NICK WARREN

The Pride Flag (seen here at the Erie Reader offices overlooking East 10th Street) has undergone numerous evolutions over the years, with chevrons representing trans individuals and communities of color added in more recent designs.

By: Dan Schank

It's an uncertain time for the LGBTQIA+ community in Erie. Awareness and visibility seem stronger than ever and plenty of motivated local people are doing great work. Concurrently, reactive forces in our political system threaten to erode the progress of the past few years — especially regarding the rights of transgender and gender-expansive individuals. Visibility and acceptance are more important than ever, with many local activists and organizations re-evaluating their advocacy to be more inclusive of different identities.

Growing awareness and impact

When I ask Michael Mahler, the co-editor and webmaster of Erie Gay News, about recent progress for the LGBTQIA+ community, he is especially enthusiastic about the return to in-person events. "Things seem to be winding down from COVID," he says, with a sense of relief. This year's Pride March on June 25 is a good example, since it will deemphasize virtual events in favor of a full itinerary of physical performances and actions.

The *number* of local Pride events is expanding as well. Jamestown and Ashtabula will both host Pride celebrations on the second Saturday of June, while Warren's will occur on June 18. "There's a feeling that if you're in a smaller area, it affects more people and it is more needed," says Mahler. "I like the Prides in smaller cities because I connect with more people."

Erie Gay News, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is also expanding its outreach. "When we came back from COVID, we had maybe 15 to 20 places to drop off the newspaper," according to Mahler. "And we're now over 90."

Mahler's publication recently helped organize an LGBTQIA+ Food Drive on April 30, where 781 pounds of food and \$330 in cash were collected at Central

Outreach Erie. A partnership that also included the NWPAA Pride Alliance, the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Transfamily of NWPAA, and Compton's Table mobilized the drive.

Mahler is especially excited about TransFamily of Northwestern PA, which recently hosted an annual picnic on June 4 in Frontier Park, as well as its yearly Day of Visibility vigil on March 31. The organization, which serves transgender communities in Erie, Crawford, and Warren counties, is now led by Raven Cammarata, a twenty-something Mercyhurst student whose advocacy is emblematic of an emerging younger generation of activists.

When I spoke to (past 40 Under 40 honorees) Davona Pacley and Angelica Spraggins, a queer couple who will celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary this month, about our recent progress, they quickly mentioned Central Outreach Wellness Center. "It's really making a push to support queer individuals — and Black and brown queer individuals specifically — with their health, with transitioning, with medical support," says Spraggins. "And also by bringing them to therapeutic support as well."

As a licensed professional counselor, Spraggins knows a thing or two about therapeutic support. She works for Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, an organization providing "culturally competent mental health services in our community," according to their website. One initiative of theirs that Spraggins is especially excited about is an LGBTQIA+ Queer Youth Group known as Compton's Table. Through a partnership between Journey and the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, they were recently able to secure a physical space that will provide a "safe haven for queer youth in our region," according to a recent Facebook video from its founder, former Erie School Board member and County Executive candidate Tyler Titus.

Defining "intersectionality"

When our conversation shifts to what's needed in Erie, Pacley and Spraggins mention the importance of intersectionality.

"As a Black, queer woman, there are three parts of myself," says Pacley. "And they all intersect as far as socioeconomic status, as far as my experience. Not everybody shares the same experience, but I can understand being in the groups that I'm a part of."

Spraggins continues this line of thinking: "I've been asked — are you Black or are you a woman first? Are you Black or are you queer first? And the truth is that I can't be separated from those things. So intersectionality is me existing in those three realms simultaneously and experiencing the world in that way."

Pacley and Spraggins note that, too often, queer-inclusive spaces in Erie are almost entirely white. "Going to Pride as Black people, we have a certain kind of culture," says Pacley. "And our music is not included, our artists are not included. There's a type of environment we want to be in. We've been in spaces where we've asked 'Can you play Drake?' and they're like 'We don't play that type of music.'"

As an example of the kind of intersectional gathering we need more of, Pacley recalls a screening of Elegance Bratton's 2019 documentary *Pier Kids* at the Zone nightclub last December. The film, which explores the lives of Black, queer, and transgender youths along the Christopher Street Pier in New York City, allowed Pacley and Spraggins to see something that more closely aligned with their own experiences. "That was a great conversation," says Pacley. "And out of that, a couple of people sought out therapy."

Pacley's interest in intersectional advocacy also informs her work as a doula. While providing emotional and physical support to LGBTQIA+ people throughout the birthing process, she has noticed an occasional lack of comfort with medical professionals among her clients — as well as misgendering problems when the parents are gender-non-conforming. "I started to see how the medical field will automatically assume a family is heteronormative, or that they're married, or that they're not. But they don't ask deeper questions to understand the patient," says Pacley.

As a mental health professional, Spraggins has noted that "marginalized groups have the hardest time adapting to what it takes to be in therapeutic services — and accepting who they are without feeling like they're 'other-than' or an outlier." Spraggins has found that many of her clients, especially Black and brown members of the queer community, "will flat-out call themselves 'crazy,' and they will say that they're 'weird.' They put terms on themselves that show that they've been marginalized for so long." She

continues: “For the majority of these people, they’re the only trans person that they’ve seen other than on TV. They don’t have trans friends, they don’t have a support group, they don’t have a space where they can have a drink and feel safe, they don’t have a space where they can make art and be in contact with other queer people.”

Understanding the full LGBTQIA+ spectrum

Marshall Blount (another past 40 Under 40 honoree) spends a lot of time explaining — and correcting misunderstandings about — his sexuality. As an asexual, his experiences are often marginalized (or ignored) within the larger LGBTQIA+ conversation.

Over Zoom, I asked him to summarize some of the preconceptions he deals with as an asexual (or “ace”) advocate with an impressive social media presence. “Asexuality is not the same as celibacy or abstinence,” says Blount. “It’s about sexual orientation. A lot of people only see sexuality as heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality. But nothing else. And you see sexual orientations such as asexuality, pansexuality, etc. left out of the conversation.”

As an active Youtuber with over a thousand followers, Blount uses his personal experiences to acknowledge and respond to cultural ignorance about asexuality. He summarized some of the stereotypes during our conversation: “An asexual might be considered as someone who can’t get dates, who can’t have relationships, or who just wants to be alone on purpose. When really it has nothing to do with relationships

or sex — it’s about sexual attraction. There’s a big difference between sexual attraction and sex. There are even asexual people who are married and have kids.”

When asked about local advocates he looks up to, Blount quickly mentions Tyler Titus, whose political achievements as a transmasculine advocate have garnered national attention. He also cites his mother who, while not a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, has been open and supportive. But Blount truly found his community on Twitter and Facebook, where he was able to engage with the broader “ace” community quite intimately, while amassing nearly 7,000 Twitter followers in the process. Influencers like Yasmin Benoit, Ciora Thomas, and The Asexual Goddess have helped him to feel confident about his identity.

Increasing visibility and advocacy

Since he has been one of our community’s most prominent LGBTQIA+ activists for over 30 years, I asked Michael Mahler about the changing nature of his activism. He told me that “you have to show up for people when you don’t have a clear reward for doing it.” As a white, cisgender gay man, he has learned to avoid what he calls a “punch card” approach to advocacy — where you need a bunch of different types present at your event or in your organization, but you don’t actually change the itinerary in a meaningful way.

Showing up is also essential to Pacley: “We pride ourselves on showing up in literally all spaces. If peo-

ple see us and we’re visible, it can give hope to others.”

As we celebrate Pride this month, consider showing up in some way yourself. Maybe it’s by marching, maybe it’s through a donation, maybe it’s by simply listening. We’re living at a time where it has become easier than ever to hear from a diverse array of voices. It’s up to us to actually absorb those voices — and to respond to them with compassion and intelligence.

Dan Schank can be reached at dschank@eriereader.com

Upcoming Pride Events

Wednesday, June 22 — LGBTQIA & Allies Happy Hour at Julian’s Bar & Grill (Meadville)

Happy Hour held on the fourth Wednesday of each month

Thursday, June 23 — Pride Night at the Seawolves
Special shirt and ticket package will be available when purchasing your ticket through NWPAPride.org

Saturday, June 25 — The Erie Pride Parade and Pride Festival
Starting at The Zone, marching to Perry Square, where there will be vendors, information tables, and performances

For more information, go to NWPAPride.org



ILLUMINATE Erie

The Erie Community Foundation Annual Meeting

THURSDAY
06.09.2022

4:00 p.m.
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Chris Kinder: Erie's First Preservation Planner

Calling on the past on behalf of our future



JESSICA HUNTER

The mansions of Millionaire's Row on West Sixth Street represent some of Erie's most iconic historic buildings. The key to saving others, says preservation planner Chris Kinder, is the establishment of historic districts in Erie's older neighborhoods.

By: Erin Phillips

Erie has never had a preservation planner before. Prior to the pandemic, City Council voted to create a temporary committee, the Historic Preservation Task Force, which consisted of a group of conservancy specialists, local historians, and City Council members who came to a consensus: Erie needs an official plan for saving the local historic buildings that we have left, and we need to hire someone whose job it is to see that plan put into action. And so, in October of 2021, the city hired its first ever historic preservation planner in Chris Kinder, whose task it is to take advantage of all of the ground laid by the Historic Preservation Task Force (and the Historic Review Commission that grew from it) and facilitate a plan for protecting Erie's historic buildings, preserving the history of all of Erie's neighborhoods, to educate the public on the benefits of doing so, and create a program that works for everyone.

Kinder hails from Southeast Missouri, receiving his bachelor's degree in historic preservation from Southeast

Missouri State prior to being hired by the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office in 2011, later serving at the Tennessee Historic Preservation Office.

Recently, I had the opportunity to take a walk with Chris Kinder, to get to know more about him, his background, his position and his plans. I met up with him outside of City Hall and our walk rambled out from there, beginning along West Sixth Street, where preservation work is obvious and unique to our city.

Erin Phillips: What is a historic preservation planner?

Chris Kinder: In a nutshell it's a facilitator of conversations focused on historic preservation. It's about identifying goals and to promote and use them in an effective and positive way in the city. My job is to build conversations with different organizations and groups. Erie has a great foundation of historic preservation but my job is to bring all these different perspectives together, and make sure we're moving in a positive direction, and facilitating that at a municipal level.

EP: And is part of that creating policy?

CK: It's about policy, and a lot of that policy was in place before I got here, with a zoning ordinance which creates historic districts, which are then overseen by the Historic Review Commission. This helps promote preservation, but then also, creates incentives. It's not about telling people what to do with their buildings but it's about offering incentives to actually help them preserve their buildings.

EP: What are some of the reasons that historic preservation is important for a city?

CK: Personally, I love preserving places that are a connection to the past. I love being able to walk by these buildings like we are now, and thinking of where they came from, who built them, who lived in them. Also, preservation has a proven positive economic impact; historic preservation creates jobs and draws investors. Utilizing historic districts is a great way to increase or maintain your property value. And those types of things have been proven time and time again — it just hasn't really happened yet in Erie and that's what we're trying to promote. And here we are now, walking down Sixth Street

and seeing this in action now.

And obviously this is benefiting the city, but we really want to see that benefit happen on a larger scale. Because it's really about preserving everybody's history. As we're seeing these architectural gems here, not only are we interested in this preservation, but we're also interested in preserving the sites of the people who built them. The craftsmen, the laborers; their homes, their stories are important too. I am really looking forward to looking into neighborhoods that are more working class and telling that story of Erie. Erie has a great history when it comes to industry and immigration and so preserving those places is important. We also want to use preservation in a way that gives all communities a way to talk about their history and promote their identity. It's about being inclusive and not just focusing on areas with architectural gems and mansions.

At this point, we turn off Sixth Street and head north on Chestnut, into the neighborhood historically known as New Jerusalem, which was established pre-Civil War by abolitionist William Himrod, who created this neighborhood for free Black people, which gave them the opportunity to own a home, work, live, worship, and go to school. Our interview becomes less question and answer, and more conversational as we discuss the preservation of neighborhoods like this, whose historic buildings are mostly gone and how we can work now to help preserve what's left and educate our city about what has been lost.

CK: Historic preservation, for so many years, was about preserving the architectural gems, which are most often connected to rich white men and in doing so we've overlooked working class communities, communities of color, immigrant communities; nobody saw those places as valuable. And so buildings have been left to rot or be demolished and we can't tell those stories as effectively. So that's part of our goal: to start from here. We've lost a lot



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A native of Southeast Missouri, Chris Kinder previously spent time with the Alabama State and Tennessee historic preservation offices before stepping in as the City of Erie's first ever preservation planner.

already but we can at least start from here and try to do a better job of telling those stories and preserving the important places that are connected to it.

A lot of historic communities of color have basically been wiped out, whether that's due to "urban renewal" or just pure racism. I spent three years in Montgomery, Ala. and some of the communities that were most attached to the Civil Rights Movement's early stages were wiped out just because the governor at the time didn't like it. So he built interstates right through their community. As a result, those communities lost a sense of autonomy, they lost a sense of connection, and we can't go back and change that but we can at least try our best to preserve what is left.

EP: So how will creating historic districts and using preservation planning help these communities from here on out?

CK: We have to do this in a way that doesn't gentrify the neighborhood. Sometimes historic preservation gets a bad rap for creating gentrification, "revitalizing" communities, but then that pushes out the people who live there. We really want to address structural decline without gentrifying a neighborhood. So, the way we do this is by establishing historic districts, not just in areas with historic mansions, but in historic neighborhoods: New Jerusalem, Little Italy, etc. Then those properties within those designated districts can be eligible for historic preservation tax credits, grant pro-

grams, facade improvement programs, even for rental properties.

We'll also be looking for grants. Right now one of the great things that Erie has going for it is that over \$800,000 of ARP (American Rescue Plan) money was set aside specifically for grants for building owners in locally designated historic districts. We're still working on those guidelines and ironing them out a bit: we have to create the districts first so we've been working on that, but once those districts are created, we're looking at offering grants of up to \$15,000 for individual property owners, residential or commercial, as long as they're within a registered historic district. The great thing about having a locally designated district is that it's not as stringent on historic integrity, so we can come to a community like New Jerusalem which doesn't have a lot of its historic building stock left and still say: it's important to the City of Erie, we're going to designate it, and once we designate it we will have incentives to help preserve what's left. It doesn't have to just be glamorous majestic mansions, it can be all communities that fit into local designation.

This interview was edited for length and content.

Chris Kinder can be reached for questions at ckinder@erie.pa.us

The Historic Review Commission posts it's meetings (held on the first Monday of the month) to their Facebook Page

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Sundae Driving Dessert Euphoria for Alternative Diets

Tantalizing treats to satisfy your sweet tooth and support animals

By: Amy VanScoter

Sundae is a vegan gourmet dessert bakery for people and dogs that seems to be everywhere. You may have noticed owner Samantha Randall, sometimes with her adorable golden retriever Charlie, at their pop-ups around town. Sundae has been seen at Gallery Nights, in Perry Square, at Frontier Park, and pretty much anywhere community events are happening. You'll be able to spot them by their matching outfits and the black and white tent filled with delicious treats and merchandise.

Sundae began three years ago when Randall says she had a difficult time finding vegan desserts in Erie. "As a 20+ year vegan with food allergies, I found it very frustrating to never have a dessert option available anywhere. So, I created what was missing. Now, no one has to be left out," said Randall. A vegan diet is plant-based and avoids the use of all animal-derived foods such

as meat (including fish and shellfish), dairy, eggs, and honey. The desserts are all homemade, placed in biodegradable packaging, and each treat has its own clever and sensual name.

"The names are indeed sensual and spicy; they are just an extension of myself. My personal favorite is our 'Worship Me' cookie. It's a raspberry chocolate chip cheesecake-filled cookie with sea salt. It's an experience. Our doggy friends absolutely love our 'Mickies' dog cookies. Never had a complaint from them," said Randall.

Sundae's mission is to help aid in animal rescue and to end speciesism with 15 percent of all proceeds benefiting local shelters, farm sanctuaries, and oceanic conservation. "I advocate for the voiceless and educate the ignorant through decadent gourmet goodness to prove that delicious food doesn't have to be at the expense of a beautiful being. I choose the organizations that need the most help. I rotate among all



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Samantha Randall, owner of Sundae vegan gourmet bakery and passionate advocate for animal rights, regularly contributes to the dessert case at Purrista Cat Cafe.

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ROXANN HUDOCK/ROXANN MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY



Sundae vegan gourmet bakery owner Samantha Randall and her golden retriever Charlie are a regular presence at vendor fairs, farmers markets, and community events.

local no kill shelters. I donate to farm sanctuaries that save countless animals from slaughter, I donate overseas to organizations that save dogs from trucks headed to slaughter in the dog meat trade, stop deforestation in the Amazon, and support oceanic conservation to protect marine life. I try to bring awareness to what people may not know is actively happening and show a way that together we can make a difference," said Randall.

Randall says Sundae has donated

serts," said Randall.

With demand increasing for more conscious options, Randall says future plans may or may not include opening a vegan gourmet restaurant at the right time. For now, she says her next move is an ice cream trailer serving vegan soft serve ice cream with Sundae desserts. It will be Erie's first mobile vegan dessert bakery and creamery.

Sundae vegan desserts can be purchased at their pop-ups, or by order-

Sundae's mission is to help aid in animal rescue and to end speciesism with 15 percent of all proceeds benefiting local shelters, farm sanctuaries, and oceanic conservation. "I advocate for the voiceless and educate the ignorant through decadent gourmet goodness to prove that delicious food doesn't have to be at the expense of a beautiful being." — Samantha Randall

roughly \$5,500 to date from the sale of her sweet treats, which is no small feat in a community with limited vegetarian and vegan options. "It can be very difficult but the community's response to my desserts has been overwhelming. I am so grateful and thankful for the support. I'd say that roughly 85 percent of my customers aren't vegan or vegetarian but are choosing to make better choices and mostly because they love our des-

ing directly anytime by emailing sundaevegansweettreats@gmail.com. A variety of options are also available for purchase at the Purrista Cat Cafe in Erie. Keep up with Sundae on Facebook and Instagram for all of the latest news and tasty offerings.

Amy VanScoter is a local communications professional and registered yoga instructor. She can be reached at avanscoter@gmail.com

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FEATURE

The Que Abides Pit-Stop

Follow the smoke to West County



By: Jim Wertz

We first met Tim Grow in the summer of 2015 when he pulled his custom-made *Big Lebowski*-themed food truck up to the curb in Perry Square. It was the first summer of a concerted food truck presence in Erie County and Tim's truck quickly became the point of interest for barbecue aficionados from across the region.

Fast forward to the summer of 2022. We've — mostly — survived a global pandemic that, among other disruptions, turned the food service industry on its head and caused chefs at all levels to get creative in order to put their product in customers' hands and bellies.

Grow took the downtime created by the pandemic to work toward his abiding interest in expanding his barbecue empire by opening a brick and mortar smokehouse on West Lake Road in Fairview Township, in the building formerly occupied by the Out of the Grey Cafe.

What's emerged is a cozy smokehouse with all the trimmings, the Que Abides Pit-Stop.

For you fellow Dudeists who frequent the Que Abides food truck, all of the favorites remain. Only instead of a rotating menu of Grow's smoked with love and purpose meats and sandwiches, every item is available all the time. He's even got a chalkboard behind the counter to showcase special, off the menu, short-run items, and handcrafted ice cream from Northern Scoop to top off your meal.

When we arrived at the restaurant's soft open, the line was out the door. If you're

greeted by those masses on your first trip out to the Pit-Stop, have no fear. It's well worth the short wait. Like many smokehouses, you order at the counter and head to an open table of your choosing to post up until your barbecue arrives, which only took a few minutes, even in a packed house. The melt-away brisket was smoked to perfection and if you're lucky enough to land a burnt end (those who know, know) on your plate be sure to save it for your last bite. That's the taste you want to stay with you. I paired mine with the North Carolina-style coleslaw and jalapeno cornbread. I'd recommend the same, but if you're into homemade mac n' cheese or smoked baked beans (Was that a hint of curry?), you can't go wrong.

And it's not just the usual suspects on the menu — plates range from pulled pork and the aforementioned brisket to smoked shrimp drizzled with garlic aioli. All the meats come as an entree or a sandwich, or if you're really looking to get comfortable and loosen your belt a notch or two, just top your mac n' cheese with your favorite meat. It's gluttonous in all the right ways.

I'd do us all a disservice if I didn't talk about the smoked bacon boats and the pork bellies on a stick. The bacon is up there with the best you've had. You probably can't replicate it at home.

But the gold star goes to those pork bellies. Think meat popsicle. It's a thickly sliced pork belly on a skewer about the length of an ice-pop. Every bite has just the right amount of peppered rub, tender meat, and of course the belly jelly that is the reason this delicacy gets sliced the way that it does. It's topped, like the shrimp, with a garlic aioli.

The Pit-Stop is, for now, BYOB. So if you get there and find that line out the door, crack one of those beers and settle in or share one and make a new friend.

This Que Abides.

The Que Abides Pit-Stop is located at the corner of Rt. 5 and Eaton Road in Fairview Township. Hours of operation are Thursday and Friday 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



JESSICA TAYLOR/MENAJERIE STUDIO

[top] Food truck-turned-restaurant owner Tim Grow hands a customer a cup of sauce at the newly opened Que Abides Pit-Stop, at the location of the former Out Of the Grey Coffeehousecafe in Fairview. The wall art, painted by muralist Marcy Hall, is an homage to Erie and *The Big Lebowski*, the film from which the business took its original inspiration.



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EVENTS

Interchangeable Roles and Existentialism Mark Dramashop's *Everybody*

Medieval play explores the meaning of life in this contemporary adaptation

PREMIERING FRIDAY, JUN. 10

“What comes after?” is a question most of us have asked ourselves when wondering what happens after death; as morbid as it sounds, it is the only guarantee in life. So what happens when we explore that question more fully, considering our own mortality and the meaning of life?

That's where *Everybody* comes in. Written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, the play is a modern twist on *Everyman*, a medieval morality play adapted from a Dutch play by an anonymous 15th century English writer. These types of plays became popular in the late Middle Ages, beginning as religious allegories meant to teach the audience a moral lesson.

Jacobs-Jenkins' play follows a similar trajectory as the source material, minus the heavy reliance on religion. Yes, his piece still includes the characters of God and Death — key players in the original — but Jacob-Jenkins' is more interested in the uncertainty and unfairness of death.

The play follows titular character Everybody on their journey alongside Death through life's greatest and most enigmatic mystery — what is the meaning of living? Along the way, they encounter others — such as Kinship, Cousinship, and Stuff — whom Everybody interacts with when trying to find a companion for their

journey.

The premise of the performance gets better: each performance will likely be different from the rest, as the person set to play main character Everybody is chosen by random lottery each night from a group of five actors. While key characters like God and Death remain the same person throughout the show's run at Dramashop, each performance will offer its own unique telling, giving each audience their own one-of-a-kind performance.

Originally slated to be performed two years ago, Dramashop is proud to present *Everybody*, calling the timing “better late than never” — their words, not ours. In the wake of a pandemic, the timing of a piece that challenges preconceptions of death and makes people question their own morality and mortality seems more appropriate than ever.

This production of *Everybody* is directed by Courtney Wyatt and stars Jasse Camacho Vera as God; Kerry Lee Hinkson as Death; Karen Biebel, Leslie Ford, Justin Karns, Raina Harden, and Zachery Hoffman as Somebodies; Alycia Olivar as Girl; and Jade Mitchell as Love. — Ally Kutz

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through June 25, with a final show on Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m. // Dramashop, 1001 State St., Ste. 210 // \$7.50 opening weekend, \$15 all other shows // dramashop.com



Jade Mitchell, playing the role of Love, consoles Leslie Ford in the Dramashop production of *Everybody*.

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saturday june 11th 10am-5pm

EVENTS

All An Act's *Harvey* Is Ear-esistibly Funny

Hop on over for a hare-raising good time

PREMIERING FRIDAY, JUN. 10

Elwood P. Dowd always insists that his friend Harvey is included in his sister Veta's social gatherings. The only problem is, Harvey is an imaginary six-and-a-half-foot rabbit.

To prevent any future embarrassments for her family — especially for Myrtle, her daughter — Veta decides to have her brother committed to a sanitarium. Upon arrival at the sanitarium, a comedy of errors arises, leading to a search for Elwood and his invisible friend.

Once they turn up, Elwood and Harvey have a strange influence on the staff of the sanitarium, including more than one of the doctors employed with his care. What follows is a hilarious classic fantasy that will keep audiences laughing.

Written by Mary Chase and premiering on Broadway initially, *Harvey* has been adapted for both movie and television since its 1944 debut, in both domestic and foreign markets. It has also been adapted as a stage musical, *Say Hello to Harvey*, which opened in Toronto in 1981. Arguably the most notable adaptation is the 1950 movie *Harvey*, starring James Stewart and Josephine Hull — the latter of which won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in the film.



Allie Mitchell (left), Shantel Kay, Kirsten McCain star in the All An Act production of *Harvey*.

Harvey is presented at All An Act by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York and is directed by Larry Lewis. Starring in the production are Jawn Gross, Kirsten McCain, Allie Mitchell, Michael Nasca, Shantel Kay, Andre Concepcion, Josh Herrera, Michael Meyer, Dennis Karle, Char Newport, and Jenn Puz.

Proof of vaccination is required to attend the show, with masks strongly encouraged but not required. — Ally Kutz

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. through June 26 // All An Act, 652 W. 17 St. // \$5 - \$15 // For tickets and more information, visit allanact.net

JOSHUA MIZIKOWSKI

Cat Fanciers' Association Offers Purrfect Getaway for Cat Lovers

Feline showcase curls up to Bayfront Convention Center

SATURDAY, JUN. 11 - 12

Cat lovers may want to mark their calendars for an annual celebration of all things cat at the Bayfront Convention Center, June 11 and 12. The Great Lakes Regional Cat Show is a great place to learn about specific pedigreed breeds, and connect with breeders. Cat shows are composed of a number of separate, concurrently running, individual shows held in various judging rings throughout the show hall. Each ring is presided over by a different judge, who presents his or her own awards independent of the decisions of other judges. A Parisian party prepared for the Great Lakes will feature eight rings, each with a fantastic judge, and will run over a period of two days. During this time, there will be vendors and foodstuffs aplenty for your amusement. The show will be open from 9 a.m.



to 4 p.m., both *Caturday* and Sunday. — Amy VanScoter

Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra's Pier // For more information, please visit cfa.org or call 814-746-1561

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schedule and ticketing information, visit erieplayhouse.org

Together, composer Richard Rodgers (left) and lyricist-dramatist Oscar Hammerstein II (right) formed one of the most prolific duos in the history of musical theater.

June 8 2022



LIVE MUSIC

Friday & Saturday 7pm-10pm
Sunday 1pm-4pm

6/9	THE PICKLE MAFIA	7/30	SAMJAMWICH - Jerry Garcia Day!
6/10	THE MIGHTY GOOD TIMES	7/31	FIRST TO ELEVEN
6/11	GRUB	8/5	PHUNKADEMIC
6/12	BAKED SHRIMP	8/6	DFtrio ALL MUSICIANS JAM
6/17	PHUNKADEMIC	8/7	TOUCH OF GREY
6/18	GYPSY HEART	8/12	FUNK KNIGHTS
6/19	JEFF FETTERMAN BAND	8/13	DEREK WOODS BAND
6/24	COLD LAZARUS	8/14	BLUES BEATERS
6/25	HIGHER EDUCATION	8/19	OPTIMUS RIFF
6/26	SURPRISE GUISE	8/20	JEFF FETTERMAN BAND
7/1	EBERWINE	8/21	INTREPID TRAVELERS
7/2	BASSES LOADED	8/26	FAMILIAR SPIRIT
7/3	CAMEL BUTTER	8/27	THE GROOVY ROOTS
7/8	RIFFRIDERS	8/28	DONNY FRAUENHOFER TRIO
7/9	FIRST TO ELEVEN	9/2	DARKSIDER
7/10	ERIC BREWER AND FRIENDS	9/3	OLMSTEAD DUB SYSTEM
7/15	RON YAROSZ'S POWER ORGAN TRIO	9/4	TBA
7/16	JEFF FETTERMAN BAND	9/9	TOUCH OF GREY
7/17	420 STATE	9/10	PHUNKADEMIC
7/22	RODGER MONTGOMERY BLUES	9/16	ERIC BREWER & FRIENDS
7/23	UNCLE UKU & THE GUISE	9/17	SUN AND RAIN
7/24	TBA	9/23	EBERWINE
7/28	LAND OF PANDA	9/24	MOCHESTER
7/29	TORTOISE FORREST		

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UPCOMING EVENTS

6/16 Footsteps of Our Fathers:
A Discussion on Fatherhood

6/23 National Immigrant Heritage Month Celebration:
History, Challenges, and Opportunity

7/7 "Fixing Where We Rest Our Heads":
A Candid Conversation with Two African-American
PA Mayors on the Personal and Political



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WWW.JESERIE.ORG/EVENTS

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Patrons will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination (14 days post final shot) or a negative test (PCR test within 72 hours or antigen test within 24 hours) upon arrival.

A historic finale
featuring the first notes
played on the Wurlitzer Organ!

EVENTS

EMTA and EDP Offer Block Party Experience at 14th Fest

The Groove, CEE Brown Experience top off free downtown celebration

TUESDAY, JUN. 14

The Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Erie Downtown Partnership are teaming up to kick off the summer with a block party sure to get you in the groove for summer fun. Celebrating the opening of the new Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority facility, 14th Fest will be held Tuesday, June 14th on 14th Street between French and Holland Streets from 5 to 10 p.m. The block party features some of the city's biggest names in musical entertainment, The Groove and The CEE Brown Experience. Besides the great music, you can experience some of the area's favorite food trucks including The

Que Abides, Snack Shack, Kona Ice, Cafe 710, and the Sticks and Bricks pizza truck. Several local breweries will also be on hand serving cold beverages.

"We are super excited about the partnership and to see this new facility opening in our downtown," said David Tamulonis, events and marketing manager at Erie Downtown Partnership. Prior to the event, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. for the new facility. The event will also feature children's activities. — Amy VanScoter

5 to 10 p.m. // 14th Street, between French and Holland
// Free // [eriedowntown.com](#)



DAVID DESIN

The CEE Brown Experience and The Groove will perform at 14th Fest, celebrating the opening of EMTA's new facility on East 14th Street.

Erie's Summer Gallery Night

Art crawl continues at popular Erie locations

FRIDAY, JUN. 17



JESSICA HUNTER

Gallery Night, hosted by the Erie Art Museum, boasts an extended hours series that is set to adorn nearly 20 locations in Erie.

Consider visiting more than one location, as all the exhibits will be unique in popular Erie locations listed below.

An upbeat musical performance from The Groove will have you moving your feet at the Erie Art Museum from 7 to 10 p.m. while you enjoy free admission to check out local art, vendors, and cash bars.

Exhibitions at the EAM feature work from The Documentary Works, B atrice Lebreton, Paula Garrick Klein, the Nicole and Harry Martin Spring Show, interactive art exhibit Noodlefish, and Erie Art Company. — Cypher Eiwhaz

419 on 10th // 301 W. 10th St. // [facebook.com/artifactserie](#)

With contemporary and period art, items from the Richford Hotel, mid-century barware, rococo, boudoir furnishings, and more.

The 10/20 Collective // 1020 Holland St. // [1020collective.com](#)

Featuring *I Should Have Seen It Coming*, a new exhibit by

Justus Cotterill, and *New Lab Nuance* by Tyler Podomik.

Allen Stoneware Gallery LLC // Shops at the Colony, 2602 W. 8th St. // [allenstonewaregallery.com](#)

Check out *The Crystal Ball* series by Brandon Borgia, featuring a meet and greet with the artist.

Annabella's at Anastasia Mansion // 551 W. 8th St. // [facebook.com/annabellasatanastasiamansion](#)

See Ann St. George and Art Spirit Encounter participants' mixed media display *The Spirit Encounter* and *Other Divine Adventures Revisited*, with entertainment by Amber Adams and Michael Shreve.

Asbury Woods Brown's Farm Barn // 5774 Sterrettania Rd. // [asburywoods.org](#)

Featuring the photography exhibit *Through Your Eyes* from artists all over the region.

The Dollhouse at Pointe Fourre // 423 State St. // [pointefoure.com](#)

Artist Belinda J. Rogers will present *Nostalgia*, inspired by the Dollhouse itself.

Erie Masonic Temple // 32 West 8th St. // [facebook.com/MasonicTempleErie](#)

Tour the historic Masonic Temple with its grand ballroom, lodge room, Arcadia banquet hall, and more.

Footlights Theatre Performing Arts Center // 945 West 12th St. Suite B // [footlightspac.com](#)

Catch a sampling of performances from shows like *James and the Giant Peach* and *Matilda*, with art from the Footlights Student Committee.

Glass Growers Gallery // 10 E. 5th St. // [glassgrowers-gallery.com](#)

Go through *Looking Glass*, an exhibition by Donna and Aubrey Reese, with their two distinct styles.

Hagen History Center // 356 W. 6th St. // [eriehistory.org](#)

Visit Frank Lloyd Wright's San Francisco office and Butterfly Wing Bridge model and see the restored Wood-Morrison House, along with the Carriage House Gift Shop.

Kada Gallery & Frame Shop // Shops at the Colony, 2632 W. 8th St. // [kadagallery.com](#)

With Julia Ennis' surrealist paintings and work by Jamie Keim, with music from Jess Royer.

Molly Brannigan's // 506 State St. // [mollybrannigans.com](#)

Inhabit *A Life Well Lived*, featuring the photography of Mark Hulings.

Primo Tailoring // 421 State St. // [primotailoring.com](#)

Recently opened storefront showcases high-end men's fashion as well as local art at the Cashier's House location.

Purrista Cat Cafe // 30 W. 8th St. // [purristacatcafe.com](#)

With music from Dave Tamulonis and illustrations by Megan Merz.

Radius CoWork // 1020 Holland St., 1001 State St., Ninth Floor // [radiusco.work](#)

Displaying art from the 10/20 Collective's collection.

Traditions Unlimited // 1608 W. 8th St. // [tradition-serie.com](#)

See *ICA Art of Aging*, sponsored by UPMC for Life, by artists Frank Fecko, Mary Hamilton, Perry Winkler, Ray Maholtz, and Joyce Perowicz.

Whitethorn Games // 11 E. 12th St. // [whitethorn-games.com](#)

Go behind the world of video game design, guided by art director Robert Huerbin.

For more information, go to [erieartmuseum.org/gallery-night](#)

Subjectivity and Justus For All

Cotterill's *I Should Have Seen It Coming* debuts at 1020 Collective

FRIDAY, JUN. 17

You are at liberty to interpret the artwork of Justus Cotterill. In fact, he wouldn't have it any other way.

"What's important to me is that I am not making a statement, my art is strictly for 'art's sake' — there is no deeper message. Each painting is its own experience and not a comment on anything away from it," he explains. "I leave things fluid and open so that the viewer has the opportunity to take different things from the work each time they see it."

A fascinating interplay of colors and geometries pervades Cotterill's work, inviting those multiple looks. *I Should Have Seen It Coming*, an exhibition of drawings (colored pencil and graphite) and paintings premiering at 1020 Collective on Gallery Night, takes an almost synesthetic approach.

"With this body of work I was really reflecting back on my life and using music, or specific songs, to mark certain time frames. The pieces aren't literal interpretations of songs but instead are influenced by the feeling that is created when you hear a particular song, at a particular time, and it becomes a soundtrack to that moment," Cotterill clarifies.

His visual soundtrack ranges from pure abstraction to pieces with more defined, identifiable imagery. "I have been using some forms, such as the Dragon's teeth, which are taken from the anti-tank structures used in WW2, to these newer dark shapes that resemble stones, to be the stand-in for 'a presence.' The shape is not a portrait but rather a focal point that represents a witness to the ex-



Justus Cotterill's "China Girl" (colored pencil and graphite), one of the pieces to be featured in *I Should Have Seen It Coming*, on display in 1020 Collective's upstairs gallery starting June 17.

perience." ("Age of Consent" and "Burn Down Disco" exemplify the use of these vaguely crystalline structures.)

Hold your mind's prism to the light and find your wavelength within Cotterill's vast artistic spectrum. — Matt Swanseger

5 to 10 p.m. // 1020 Collective, 1020 Holland St. // Free // justuscotterill.com

DJ Salt's *The Recipe* is Ready to Serve

MLK Center to host album release show

SATURDAY, JUN. 25

Over a thousand hours of sweat, dedication, and most importantly hard work, is the reason we can all finally receive a taste of every ingredient that makes DJ Salt's *The Recipe* delectable.

Local hip-hop artist Collective Thought, who appears on the album and will be performing at the album release show at the King's Rook Club, says he was honored to "add some seasoning to the flava" on Salt's "outstanding work of art."

The time has finally come as DJ Salt is prepared to release and showcase his newly produced album, *The Recipe*. For the music, you can expect to hear genres such as conscious rap, modern melodic trap-type rap, speed rappers, soulful sounds, and more. The event will also feature a mocktail bar, light hors d'oeuvres, merch from various artists and clothing brands (including Salt's own Flavaful Sound), hot food by Erie's own Ghetto Chef, a Mishka vodka tasting, a photo booth, as well as DJ Vanni spinning the turntables all night.

This will be a full night of entertainment — with an astounding 24 artists on the bill including CEE Brown, Jonny Evans, Aaron Rennel, and Shai Boogie — that will only be the start of DJ Salt adding more heat to the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

summer weather. He states, "I think that *The Recipe* is comparable to a blueprint, something that artists and producers can refer back to years from now that want to create a dope project such as mine. I am very pleased with it and I believe anyone of any age or music style can appreciate and learn from it."

So if you're looking to see and hear a little sugar, spice, and everything nice, this will be the event for you not to miss out on. Also, "The Recipe" will be on all streaming platforms after the event for all your listening pleasures. Are you ready to absorb the heat? — Symoné Crockett

Doors open at 9 p.m., Show starts at 10 p.m., After party starts at midnight // MLK Center, 312 Chestnut St., afterparty at Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // \$15 cover, or two for \$25 // 21+ event, BYOB

Erie Philharmonic Ends Season With Mahler's Resurrection

Chorus collaboration features commissioned work from Zhou Tian

SUNDAY, JUN. 26



M. CURTIS

The Erie Philharmonic will end their season with a combined concert with the Erie Philharmonic Chorus, performing "Rise," a co-commissioned piece from Chinese-American composer Zhou Tian, and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, known as "Resurrection."

"Continuing in our tradition of performing the work of America's finest composers, we have commissioned new music by Chinese-born composer Zhou Tian," the orchestra said in the program description. "Inspired by diary entries of American soldiers during World War I, Tian's 'Rise' attempts to convey the emotions of servicemen through the intimacy and power of the orchestra."

Tian serves as associate professor of composition at Michigan State University's College of Music, and became the first Chinese-born composer to be nominated for a Grammy in 2018 for his "Concerto for Orchestra" recorded by the Cincinnati Symphony. He has worked with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the Shanghai Symphony.

After coming to the U.S. at the age of 19, Tian studied at the Curtis School of Music, before going on to Juilliard and the University of Southern California. He was named "Artist of the Year" by the Beijing Music Festival in 2019. According to his website bio, "Tian seeks inspiration from different cultures and strives to mix them seamlessly into a musically satisfying combination for performers and audiences alike."

The combined ensembles will end the concert with Mahler's "Resurrection," a symphony which "traverses a brooding lament to a fallen titan, reflects on the beauties and grotesqueries of a life passionately lived and ends with an astonishing sonic epic on a transformation of a spirit," according to the program description. The symphony, which was composed over a period of six years, premiered Dec. 13, 1895 with Mahler conducting the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. It takes inspiration from Beethoven's Ninth, and this performance will feature the orchestra with a full chorus showcasing soprano soloists Felicia Moore and Daryl Freedman. — Thomas Taylor

3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$23 to \$56, \$12 for students // For tickets and more information, go to eriephil.org

Your Summer Music Series Checklist

A surplus of outdoor shows in Erie’s future

By: Nick Warren

Do you want to see some live music every day of the week? How about for two or three months? Now, what if I told you that it’s *free*, too?

Ah, summer can be pretty darn nice around Erie. And though I sincerely doubt that anyone will realistically have the gumption, social battery, or where-withal to catch one of these shows every day, maybe you can carve out some time to go to a *couple* of them? It’s fun and it’s literally in the sun. Let’s hold on to our summer months for dear life and cherish them while we can before they slip right through our fingers.

Here are but a few of the places you can catch local and regional acts around town. We hope to see you there. Bring your chair along if you like or your dancing shoes (why not both?), and enjoy.

All scheduled events are subject to change.

Monday Music in the Woods

Mondays 6 to 8 p.m. // Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. // asburywoods.org/events/monday-music-in-the-woods

June 6 – Erika Kuhn & Jesse Smith
June 13 – The Collective
June 20 – Stephen Gutting
June 27 – Rankin & Schell
July 11 – Mike & Marie Miller
July 18 – Katie & Jack
July 25 – Jesse James Weston

Sounds of Summer

Mondays 7 p.m. // Various Locations // 814concerts.com/#soundsofsummer

July 11 – The Rooftop Project at Mercy Terrace Apartments, 430 E. Grandview Blvd.
July 18 – Bayfront Dixieland Band at Registry at South Shore, 322 Washington Pl.
July 25 – The Erie Trombone Collective at Ostrow Apartments, 4220 Davison Ave.
Aug. 1 – Presque Isle Little Big Band at Pennsylvania Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Home, 560 E. 3rd St.
Aug. 8 – Presque Isle Saxophone Quartet at Nightingale Nursing and Rehab Center (formerly Saint Mary’s East), 607 E. 26th St.
Aug. 15 – Gem City Jazz Ensemble at Curry Schell Apartments, 3909 Schaper Ave.

ErieBank 8 Great Tuesdays

Tuesdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. // Highmark



JESSICA HUNTER

Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park will again host another slate of 8 Great Tuesdays this July and August, sure to be accompanied by at least a few glorious sunsets.

Amphitheater at Liberty Park, 828 W. Bayfront Pkwy. // porterie.org/8greattuesdays

July 5 – Erie All-Stars
July 12 – Zac Brown Tribute Band (ZBTB) with Reignmaker
July 19 – King Solomon Hicks with The Pierce Dipner Band
July 26 – Concrete Castles with Polka-maniacs/Patrick Lah
Aug. 2 – The Town Pants with The Probables
Aug. 9 – Latin Fusion
Aug. 16 – Buffalo Rose with Ron Yarosz Power Organ Trio
Aug. 23 – Bruce In the USA with Jack Stevenson & the Buried Treasure Band

UPMC Sunset Music Series

Wednesdays 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. // Beach 11, Presque Isle State Park // discoverpi.com/events/upmc-sunset-music-series

June 22 – Eric Brewer & Friends, Rodger Montgomery Blues Band
June 29 – Chautauqua Jazz Revival, Perez Project
July 6 – Danny & the Daddios, Lori Burke
July 13 – Smilo & the Ghost, Tommy Link
July 20 – SIRSY, The Islers
July 27 – Crush, Psych Patrol

Whitford Park Summer Concerts

Wednesdays 7 p.m. // Whitford Park, 5400 Iroquois Ave., Harborcreek Township // harborcreek.org/departments/parks/whitford

June 8 – Country Blue
June 15 – Generic Grass
June 22 – The Mountain Thyme Ramblers
June 29 – Abbey Road
July 6 – The Loose Change Band
July 13 – Shady Side
July 20 – Acoustic Ear Candy
July 27 – Mike and Marie Acoustics
Aug. 3 – Nicely Done
Aug. 10 – Polka Relations
Aug. 17 – Kurt Novakowski (Elvis impersonator)
Aug. 24 – David Julius
Aug. 31 – Gem City Jazz Ensemble

Music in the Park

Wednesdays 7 p.m. to sunset // Lake Erie Community Park, 10192 W. Lake Rd., Lake City, PA // Lake Erie Community Park on Facebook

June 15 – Steppin Pappy
June 22 – Shoreline
June 29 – South of 90
July 6 – The Breeze Band
July 13 – Riffriders

July 20 – Tiger Maple String Band
July 27 – Fugitives
Aug. 3 – Matty & the Pickles
Aug. 10 – Jim Madden & Friends
Aug. 17 – Rodger Montgomery Blues Band
Aug. 24 – Erie Philharmonic Brass Ensemble
Aug. 31 – West County Rangers

Thursday in the Park

Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m. // City Park Gazebo, Downtown Corry, PA // corryareaartscouncil.com

June 9 – Gypsy Heart
June 16 – Dennis Ford
June 23 – Mayflower Hill
June 30 – Lucky Dog
July 7 – Revolving Again
July 14 – House of Rhythm
July 21 – Erie Philharmonic performing “Tubby the Tuba” (Beginning at 6 p.m.)
July 28 – Knuckle Down
Aug. 4 – Slim and Red
Aug. 11 – Diana Evans (children’s music)
Aug. 18 – Happy Days
Aug. 25 – Radioactive

Concerts at the Gazebo

Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m. // Gazebo in Beute Park, Lawrence Park Township // lawrenceparktwp.org/parks-and-recreation
June 16 – Erie Heights Brass Ensemble
July 21 – The Kokomo Time Band
Aug. 18 – Chris & Julie Moore from Tennessee Back Porch

Perry Square Concert Series

Thursdays 7 to 10 p.m. // Perry Square, Downtown Erie // eriedowntown.com/events/calendar
June 16 – Gem City Jazz Ensemble
June 23 – Phunkademic
June 30 – Nicholas Nasibyan Jazz Trio
July 7 – (Watan)
July 14 – Lifethrumusic
July 21 – Polka in the Park
July 28 – Lake Erie Cyclefest Downtown Slow Roll and Music Festival
Aug. 4 – Gem City Concert Band
Aug. 11 – Smilo & the Ghost
Aug. 25 – First to Eleven
Sept. 1 – The Breeze Band
Sept. 8 – Erie All-Stars

Goodell Summer Music Series

Select Fridays 7 to 9 p.m. // Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA // goodellgardens.org
June 10 – Slim & Red
June 24 – Salmon Frank
July 8 – Tiger Maple String Band
July 22 – House of Rhythm
Aug. 5 – Patchouli & Terra Guitarra
Aug. 12 – Jess Royer & Nick Warren

WQLN Sounds Around Town

Fridays 7:30 p.m. // WQLN Studios, 8425 Peach St. // wqln.org/Community/Sounds-Around-Town
July 8 – The Rooftop Project
July 15 – Cosmic Debris
July 22 – Brooke Surgener
July 29 – Rankin and Schell

Live Music at Altered State

Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. (extends beyond summer), Open Jam on Thursdays // Altered State Distillery, 1535 W. 8th St. // alteredstatedistillery.com
June 10 – The Mighty Good Times
June 11 – Grub
June 12 – Baked Shrimp
June 17 – Phunkademic
June 18 – Gypsy Heart
June 19 – Jeff Fetterman Band
June 24 – Cold Lazarus
June 25 – Higher Education
June 26 – Surprise Guide
July 1 – Eberwine
July 2 – Steve Trohoske’s Basses Loaded
July 3 – Camel Butter
July 8 – Rodger Montgomery Blues Band
July 9 – Cosmic Rhythm
July 10 – Eric Brewer & Friends
July 15 – Ron Yarosz Power Organ Trio
July 16 – Jeff Fetterman Band
July 17 – 420 State feat. Doug Phillips, Randy Baumann, Randy Hetherington & Craig Stevens
July 22 – Riffriders
July 23 – Uncle Uku
July 24 – ABTrio
July 28 – Land of Panda
July 30 – Jerry Garcia 80th Birthday with SamJAMwich
July 31 – First to Eleven
Aug. 5 – Phunkademic
Aug. 6 – Donny Frauenhoffer Trio
Aug. 7 – Touch of Grey
Aug. 14 – BluesBeaters
Aug. 19 – Optimus Riff
Aug. 20 – Jeff Fetterman Band
Aug. 21 – Intrepid Travelers
Aug. 26 – Familiar Spirit
Aug. 27 – Groovy Roots
Sept. 2 – Darksider
Sept. 3 – Olmsted Dub System
Sept. 9 – Touch of Grey
Sept. 10 – Phunkademic
Sept. 16 – Eric Brewer & Friends

Bonfires & Brews

Saturdays (and occasionally Sundays*) 5 to 9 p.m. // Peek’n Peak Gazebo Grill, 1405 Old Rd., Clymer, N.Y. // pknpk.com/events
June 18 – Hard Luck Story
June 25 – Neville Francis & the Riddim Posse
July 3* – Doug Phillips Trio
July 9 – Ralph Chamberlain Band
July 23 – Key West Express Lite
July 30 – Small Town Rollers
Aug. 6 – Two For Flinching
Aug. 13 – Theory of Evolution
Aug. 20 – Rick Magee and the Roadhouse Rockers
Aug. 27 – Erika & Jesse
Sept. 3 – Rankin & Schell
Sept. 4* – Brown Dog Acoustics

Sunday Music Series

Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. // Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main St., North East, PA // arundelcellars.com/events
June 5- Acoustic Ear Candy
June 12 – Jesse James Weston
June 19 – Katie & Friends
June 26 – Chillbilly’s
July 3 – Jesse & Erika
July 10 – Acoustic Ear Candy
July 17 – The Highlife
July 24 – Shadyside
July 31 – The Mulligans
Aug. 7 – Acoustic Ear Candy
Aug. 14 – Dock Boys
Aug. 21 – Chillbilly’s

Sunday Sesh Music Series

Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. // Mazza Chautauqua Cellars Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, 8398 W. Main St., Westfield, N.Y. // fiveand20.com/events
June 12 – Doug Phillips and Amanda Barton
June 19 – Elle Taylor (with band)
June 26 – Eliot Road Acoustic Duo
July 3 – The Bigness
July 10 – Division Street Machine

July 17 – Jesse & Erika
July 24 – Fred Oakman
July 31 – Rooftop Project Band
Aug. 7 – 50 Miles to Empty
Aug. 14 – Adam McKillip
Aug. 21 – Rooftop Project Band
Aug. 28 – Optimistic Apocalypse
Sept. 4 – Buttermilk Falls Gang
Sept. 11 – Josh Travis (with band)

814 Concert Series

Sundays 4 to 7:30 p.m. // Various Locations // 814concerts.com/#814Concerts // Drum Circle by One World Tribe – Rhythms of the World from 4 to 6 p.m.
July 10 – The Islers at Bayview Park, W. 2nd and Cherry streets
July 17 – The Breeze Band at Franklin Park, E. 7th St. and Marne Rd.
July 24 – The Division Street Machine at Washington Park, W. 24th and Raspberry streets
July 31 – The Groove at Wayne Park, E. 6th and East Ave.
Aug. 7 – Mambo at Baldwin Park, W. 25th and Berst Ave.
Aug. 14 – Eric Brewer & Friends at Baker Field, E. 32nd and Holland streets

Calamari’s Deck Jams

Sundays 6 to 9 p.m. // Calamari’s Squid Row, 1317 State St. // facebook.com/CalamarisSquidRow
June 12 – Ron Yarosz & the Vehicle
June 19 – Cosmic Debris
June 26 – CEE Brown Experience
July 10 – Justin Moyar’s Shoefly Soul
July 17 – Eric Brewer & Friends
July 24 – Acoustic Jukebox
July 31 – Matt “Broke” Boland Trio
Aug. 7 – Six Year Stretch
Aug. 14 – Steve Trohoske’s Electrohope Band
Aug. 21 – Jeff Fetterman Band
Aug. 28 – Tyler Smilo and Dom DeCecco of Smilo & the Ghost

Looking for More Events?

Remember to visit the Erie Reader's Online Calendar at eriereader.com/calendar

- Home to hundreds of listings each month!
- Submit your own events!
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- @ RIVERSIDE MUSIC FESTIVAL: JUNE 23, 24, 25
- @ BLUE HERON MUSIC FESTIVAL: JULY 1, 2, 3
- @ CHAFFEE'S GATHERING : JULY 22, 23, 24
- @ ERIE'S BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL: AUGUST 5, 6, 7

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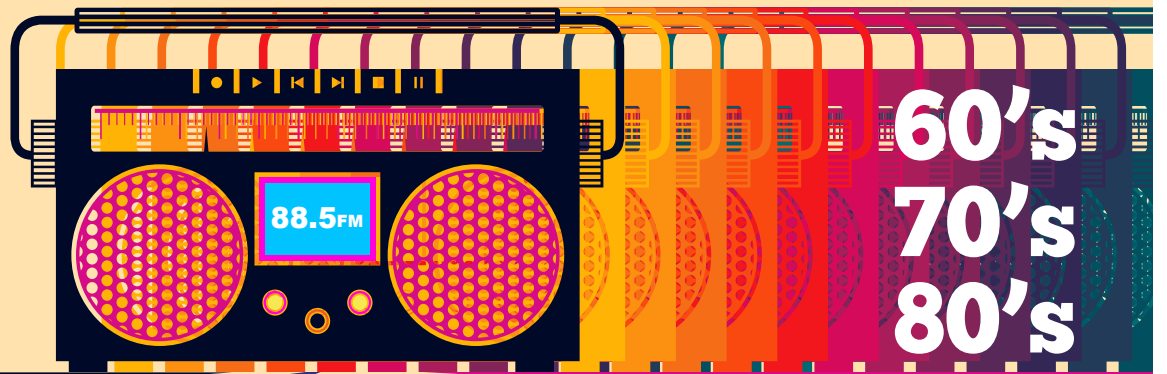
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Uncovering Murder & Mayhem in Erie

Local author Justin Dombrowski sheds light on historical cases

By: Jonathan Burdick

To write *Murder & Mayhem in Erie, Pennsylvania*, author Justin Dombrowski dove deep into the historical archives to recount the tales of six lesser-known crimes from Erie's past. The book, to be released on June 13 by The History Press, is the culmination of well over a decade of intense interest and meticulous research.

It all began after Dombrowski graduated from Central Tech in 2007 and he enrolled at Mercyhurst University to study criminal justice. During this time, he learned about some of the more well-known crime cases that put Erie in the national spotlight and he wondered about some of the older, more forgotten crimes of Erie's past. This led to a trip to Blasco Memorial Library 14 years ago — a trip which ultimately led him down the path to write *Murder & Mayhem*. Around this time, he interned for the Erie County Detective's Unit under District Attorney Brad Foulk as well, an experience which left a lasting impact.

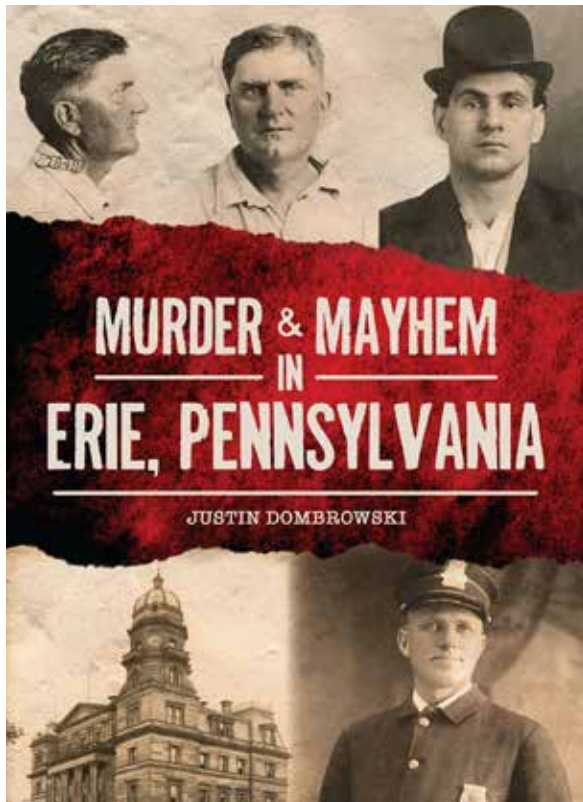
"Brad had really ... [instilled] life back into some of Erie's cold cases," explains Dombrowski, adding he noticed how dedicated Foulk was to the victims of his cases, something he made sure to prioritize while writing his book. While some readers may focus on the "gruesome and macabre," in his mind, it is more about remembering those who never received justice as well as those who escaped it. Says Dombrowski, "[O]ne of the more rewarding aspects of researching and writing this book was being able to give an identity to some of the victims of the crimes."

Interning with the county also gave him firsthand experience working with detectives, prosecutors, attorneys, and other local agencies, giving him a deeper understanding of the behind-the-scenes work and coordination that goes into investigations. This is in "stark contrast," he notes, to the way that investigations were run in Erie a century earlier, cases that, with the passage of time, have been mostly forgotten or overshadowed.

Murder & Mayhem is broken down into six chapters, each covering a unique case. In one, he recounts the 1905 murder of a police detective. In another, he revives the story of the Madman of West Lake. The final chapter covers the shocking and tragic murder of 27-year-old Rachel Levin in 1925. "Everywhere there was blood, blood, blood," the Erie Daily Times sensationalized.

Dombrowski stresses that while the *true crime* aspect might draw readers in, such stories also serve as glimpses into Erie's broader past. His historical research is thorough and tight (check out the pages and pages of citations and notes, if you need convincing) and from it, he weaves together stories that are both deeply personal, but are additionally of Erie itself. True crime and local history are intertwined, he argues, adding that this connection between the two is often overlooked. "By writing this book, I hope to begin to at least change that notion," he says.

There were numerous obstacles during his research. For one, the city police department's case files before



1945 are gone. "None of these case files for any of these cases exist anymore and that includes the coroner inquests [and] autopsy reports," he says. "Erie itself has changed so much since these crimes occurred, an additional challenge was finding the original sites of where some of these occurred, especially since most of the locations written in this book are no longer intact." As part of his research, he tracked down the locations and would try to visualize the location as it had been when the crime occurred.

So, much like the detectives who Dombrowski writes about — including an internationally-known private eye coined "the female Sherlock Holmes" — he began to piece together evidence from old Erie Daily Times and Erie Dispatch microfilms as well as courthouse and other records housed at the Erie County Historical Society. His experience with criminal justice, history, and genealogy all coalesced to bring these stories to life in a fascinating and engaging read.

As for what's next? Dombrowski is keeping busy. He's working with The History Press on a book about Erie's Backyard Strangler, which has a tentative release date of spring 2023. He is also under contract to write a book about the 1911 desecration of Erie Cemetery's famous Scott Mausoleum. On top of that, he is developing two other book proposals while planning to grow his Erie True Crime page, *Shadows from the Boulevard*, and create a website to highlight smaller individual cases from Erie's past.

You can purchase a copy of *Murder & Mayhem in Erie, Pennsylvania* from your favorite book retailer or snag a signed copy at Peach Street's Barnes & Noble for an author event on June 18 at 2 p.m.

The History Press // 160 pages // True Crime, History

Erie's Sensational Murder Trials

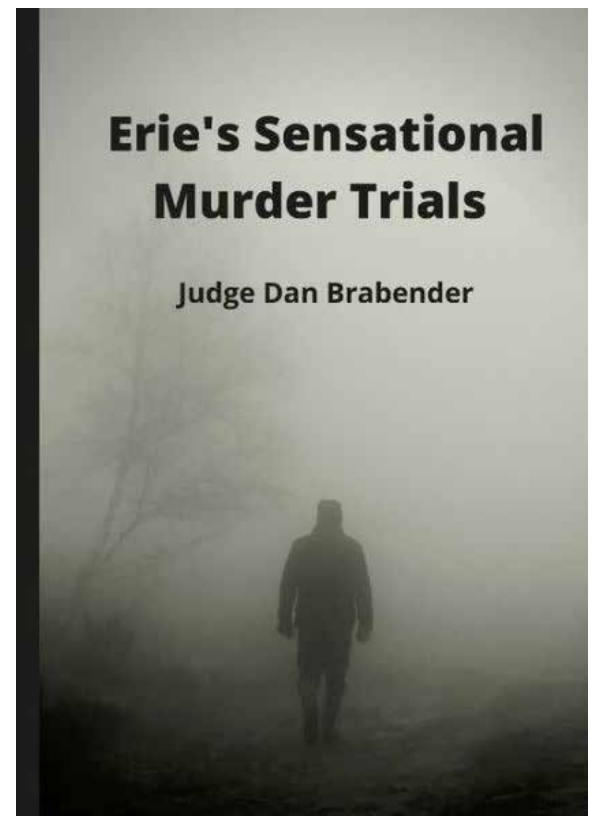
Judge Dan Brabender unearths a century of shocking cases

Judge Dan Brabender has compiled a collection of murder trials that occurred in Erie spanning 1895 to 1975, presented as "only a judge can tell them." And as you make your way through the book, where the stories of murders span from abjectly disturbing to those riddled with grey area, Judge Brabender truly shows you the full picture, from crime to sentencing. Jam-packed with details from psychological files and studies, the genealogy and biographies of the murderers, victims, lawyers and bystanders, as well as any appeals, executions, or commuted sentences, Brabender leaves no stone unturned in presenting these sensational cases.

Largely, Brabender leaves his personal opinions out of the book: he presents the stories in a way that lets you come to your own conclusions, while making sure his reader takes into account the social atmosphere of the time period when the crime occurred. Brabender himself was only personally involved with adjudicating one of the murderers in the book, upon appeal (in which he upheld the sentence of life in prison without parole).

The first two stories in the book concern two extremely brutal, disturbing, graphic murders rife with psycho-pathological behavior, but before one feels too overwhelmed, he switches the narrative and tells a story of an accidental murder of political intrigue and corruption, set during Prohibition. The book feels very balanced in that regard, allowing the reader some respite between episodes of brutality.

While there are some stories that are quite disqui-



eting, there are others whose proceedings will fill you with the rage of injustice: like the aforementioned accidental murder in 1921, where the defense built their entire case on the fact that the shooter and witnesses were Black, therefore they “must have done it.” Or the concluding story set in 1925, where a 22-year-old man was rejected for marriage by a 14-year-old girl, killed her father out of shame and revenge, and (spoiler alert) only served five years, largely because the jury believed his “impassioned love” for the victim’s daughter justified his behavior.

Jam-packed with details from psychological files and studies, the genealogy and biographies of the murderers, victims, lawyers and bystanders, as well as any appeals, executions, or commuted sentences, Judge Dan Brabender leaves no stone unturned in presenting *Erie’s Sensational Murder Trials*.

Brabender also, when applicable, places the scene in the present day, clarifying the locations involved by describing what is currently in its place. Overall, I was totally riveted. I couldn’t wait to find out what happened with each case and found myself not really able to put the book down until it was finished. Brabender has completed a massive research project in his volume, and any lover of true crime, especially a local Erieite, will find themselves intrigued. — Erin Phillips

Brabender’s book is available for purchase locally at Werner Books, the Hagen History Center, Erie County Bar Association and Barnes and Noble. Also available online through Amazon and Lulu.com. Brabender holds regular book signing events at Werner Books in the Liberty Plaza.

The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle

Matt Cain’s newest novel delivers heartwarming adventure

There isn’t much anyone would be able to tell you about Albert Entwistle: as an extremely private man, his neighbors and colleagues can’t say anything with certainty about him, except that he’s a postman.

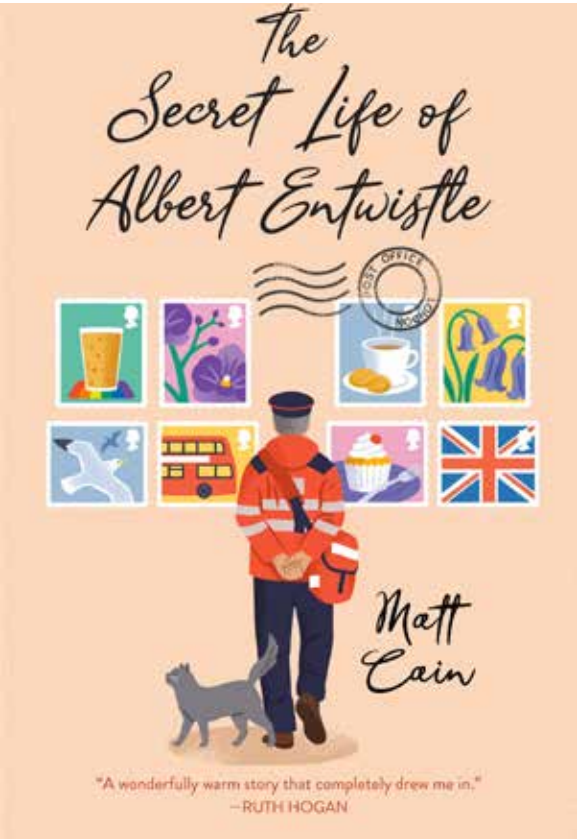
At least he was a postman, until the Royal Mail sent him a letter thanking him for his service while simultaneously forcing him into retirement by his 65th birthday. Now, Albert has no clue what to do — his life has revolved around being a postman for almost 50 years. After some thought, he creates a plan to start living life rather than watch it pass him by.

In Matt Cain’s *The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle*, Albert’s determination to start living his life leads him on a whirlwind journey to come to terms with the past to create a better future for himself. He realizes that in order to be happy, he must be honest about who he is with those around him. He also realizes that his happiness hinges on finding George, the man he loved and lost almost 50 years ago.

With that mission always at the foreground, Albert finds himself in places he’s never been — from the gay club scene in Manchester to a drag show in London — with people he’d never expect. As he slowly begins to emerge from the barrier he’s built around himself all these years, he finds unlikely allies and new friends, the most important being Nicole, a 19-year-old single mother who lived on one of Albert’s post routes.

Together, Albert and Nicole set out to find George, but help each other in more ways than on the surface. While Nicole helps Albert grow more comfortable in social situations and opening up to people, Albert helps Nicole realize her worth both professionally and personally.

Cain’s writing is nothing short of spectacular. Perhaps it is the story, the scene, or Albert himself, but everything in this novel works so wonderfully well together that readers will be absolutely spellbound by it. Traveling alongside Albert as he becomes his true self seems a privilege that Cain has graciously shared with us.



Cain has brought to life the quiet, ordinary man and makes him into an extraordinary example of what we should all strive for — not simply living for the sake of it, but really participating and enjoying our lives. No matter how big or small a part they play in Albert’s life, each character is crafted with such excellent detail in their quirks and qualities that it is difficult not to imagine them right in front of you.

This novel is an absolute triumph for Cain, as both he and Albert prove that it’s never too late to change, to grow, to live, to hope, and to love. — Ally Kutz

A John Scognamiglio Book // 384 pages // Fiction, LBGTQ+ Romance

Don’t Look Now: Men is Exquisitely Made but Lacks Engagement

★★★★

For the last decade or so, the term “elevated horror” has become more and more prominent in film discussion. Seen as the more highbrow, artistically adept contrast to the noisy jump-fests of mainstream horror, these films (often distributed through A24) have helped turn horror into a more respected subgenre. That said, it was only a matter of time before these films became derivative in their own right and Alex Garland’s (*Ex Machina*, *Annihilation*, *Devs*) new film *Men*, despite some admirable filmmaking, often feels like a dozen other “horror as a metaphor for grief” tales that have come before it.

Harper Marlowe (Jessie Buckley) has moved to an idyllic house in the English countryside as a way to rebuild her life after her husband’s apparent suicide.



While settling in, she has several encounters with the various men of the village (all played by Rory Kinnear). As the days go by, these encounters go from strange to unnerving to horrifying.

On a technical level, the film is excellent. Garland’s blocking makes great use of empty space, turning corridors and tunnels into places of foreboding dread and Buckley’s performance sells the horror elements well. However, the story is too paper thin to really engage the audience. The plot and the setting are so shopworn that we feel like we’ve seen it all before, until the final 20 minutes when the film delves into pure abstraction. These elevated horror films at first felt like a breath of fresh air, but are now feeling as routine as the mainstream films they were contrasted against. How many times can we talk about grief before it gets repetitive? — Forest Taylor

Written and Directed by: Alex Garland // Starring: Jessie Buckley, Rory Kinnear, Paapa Essiedu, Sarah Twomey, Zak Rothera-Oxley, and Gayle Rankin // 100 minutes // Rated R // A24



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We're All Going to the World's Fair Presents the Fears of Life Online

★★★★

As the Internet has become more and more ubiquitous in our lives, filmmakers have attempted to capture what the online world feels like. Many of those films are now hilariously dated, but some have touched on real truths of the strange and often surreal world that online life can provide. I think that Jane Schoenbrun has gotten the closest to depicting that often lonely, occasionally creepy, but ultimately fascinating life with their new film *We're All Going to the World's Fair*. Schoenbrun gives us a tale of online obsession that is both detached and surprisingly intimate.

Casey (Anna Cobb) is a lonely teenage girl who decides to take part in a new online role-playing game known only as *The World's Fair*, which promises to alter the participants both physically and mentally in unexpected ways. As Casey documents how the game is affecting her through her vlog, one of her viewers warns her that there's more to *The World's Fair* than she knows. Or is it just part of the game?

The film does an excellent job of depicting the depersonalization that life online can often bring. It's telling that there isn't a single conversation that doesn't take place in front of a screen. But it never judges the protagonist, instead showing why so many are drawn to that world with effective establishing shots of urban decay and the crumbling relics of consumerism. While the Internet can become an obsession, for many isolated people it can become a place to live more truly as oneself. As a nonbinary individual, Schoenbrun understands this more than most. The film's depiction of both the good and the bad of the Internet is one of the most honest yet. *We're All Going to the World's Fair* is currently playing in select theaters and is available on Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, Google Play, Vudu, and YouTube. — Forest Taylor

Written and Directed by: Jane Schoenbrun // Starring: Anna Cobb, Michael J. Rogers, May Leitz, Theo Anthony, Evan Santiago, Turner Greaves, Holly Anne Frank, and Slight Sound ASMR // 86 minutes // Unrated (R equivalent) // Utopia



Podcast Picks

Streamable stimulation to start your summer

Violating Community Guidelines

Hosted by: Brittany Broski and Sarah Schauer // Studio71

Debuting in January of 2022, *Violating Community Guidelines* was nearly perfect from the start. Hosted by real-life roommates and internet celebrities Sarah Schauer and Brittany Broski, it's a gassy, and exquisitely hilarious time. You might not know Broski by name, but you definitely know her from the "kombucha girl" meme. Similarly, Schauer was a giant star on Vine before its decimation, but has found equally viral success on TikTok and Twitter.

They're just about the funniest people on the internet, and boy howdy do they know the internet.

Violating Community Guidelines delves into weird corners of the web, from Facebook Marketplace, to Bronies, to furies and ASMR. Count the burps (mostly by Brittany) as the two, sometimes frantically, try to explain such odd internet phenomena.

As of yet, there have been no guests, and that formula is working. Find out what it means to be horny on main, and hopefully it won't bleed into your life as a LinkedIn influencer; perhaps you're better off as a faceless content creator, best leave that to the trending A.I. influencers these days.

Broski and Schauer's results are addicting and immensely bingeable. If you aren't already following the two on social media, you certainly will be afterwards because you simply want more of them in your life. Thankfully, there's no shortage of online weirdness to be had. — Nick Warren



Sick on Cinema

Hosted by: John & Matt (Last Names Unavailable) // Independent

Horror movies can already be a tough sell for some people. Now let's pretend that the Jasons and the Freddies (widely discussed on shows like *With Gourley and Rust*) are a little too tame for your tastes; fortunately, there's a podcast for that. *Sick on Cinema* is a show dedicated to controversial, weird, and generally disturbing films. From challenging documentaries and New French Extremity films to movies about black metal, depression, and everything in between, this show does an exceptional job of shining a light on the strange underbelly of filmmaking.

And while this may be the general concept for the show, it's actually rooted in something much more wholesome: the relationship between its two hosts, an uncle and nephew duo. (In fact, if you stumble upon John's old Youtube account, you can find videos of him interviewing a very young Matt about more kid-friendly horror films such as *Critters*). With this rapport going back at least a decade, the hosts' pleasant relationship and Southern charm make *Sick on Cinema* a shockingly easy listen for those that may not be familiar with the works of, say, Harmony Korine John Waters, or Herschel Gordon Lewis. While this podcast certainly won't be for everyone, it's a lovely listen for those with a penchant for darker media presented in a casual and generally light-hearted manner. — Aaron Mook



Newcomers

Hosted by: Lauren Lapkus and Nicole Byer // headgum.com/newcomers

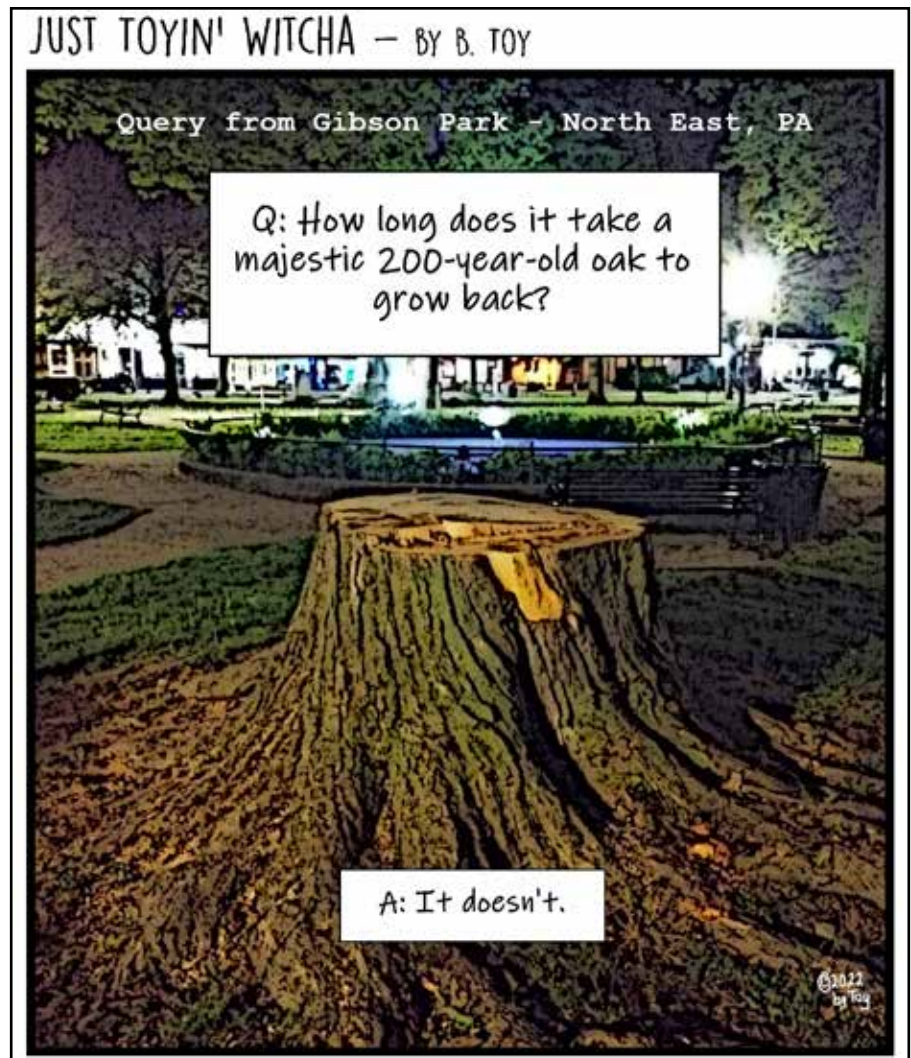
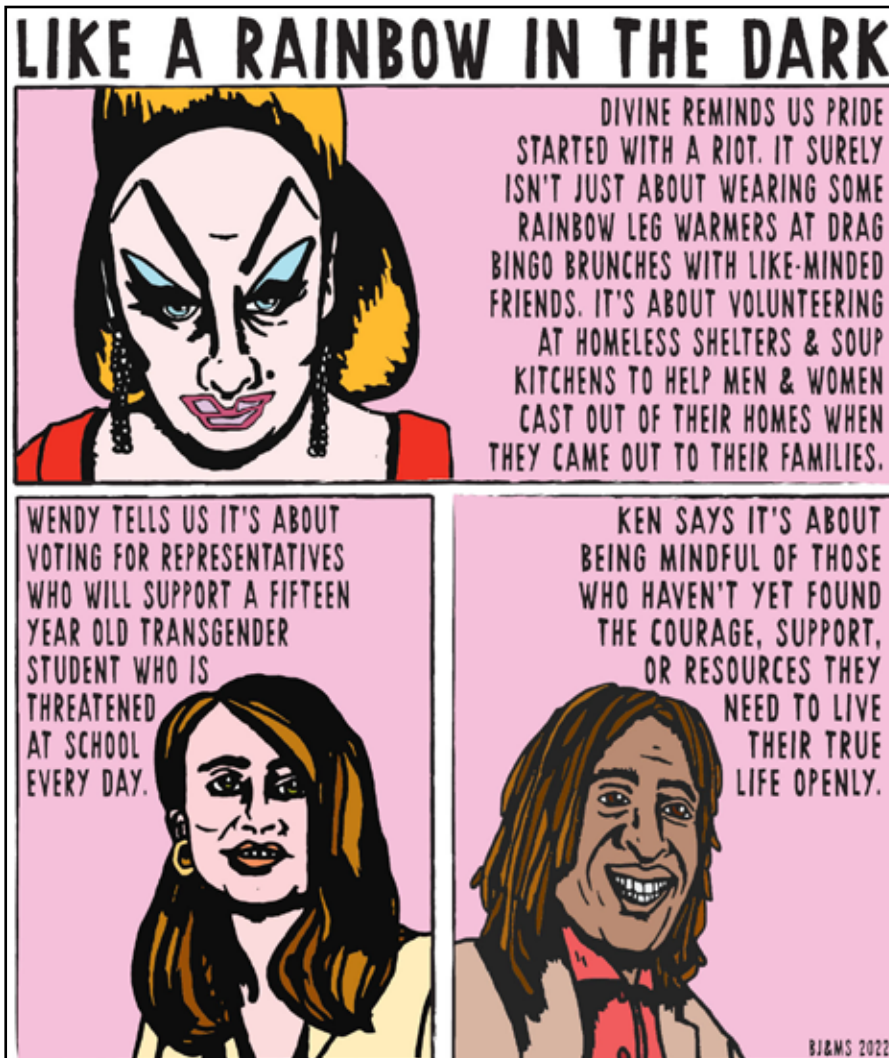
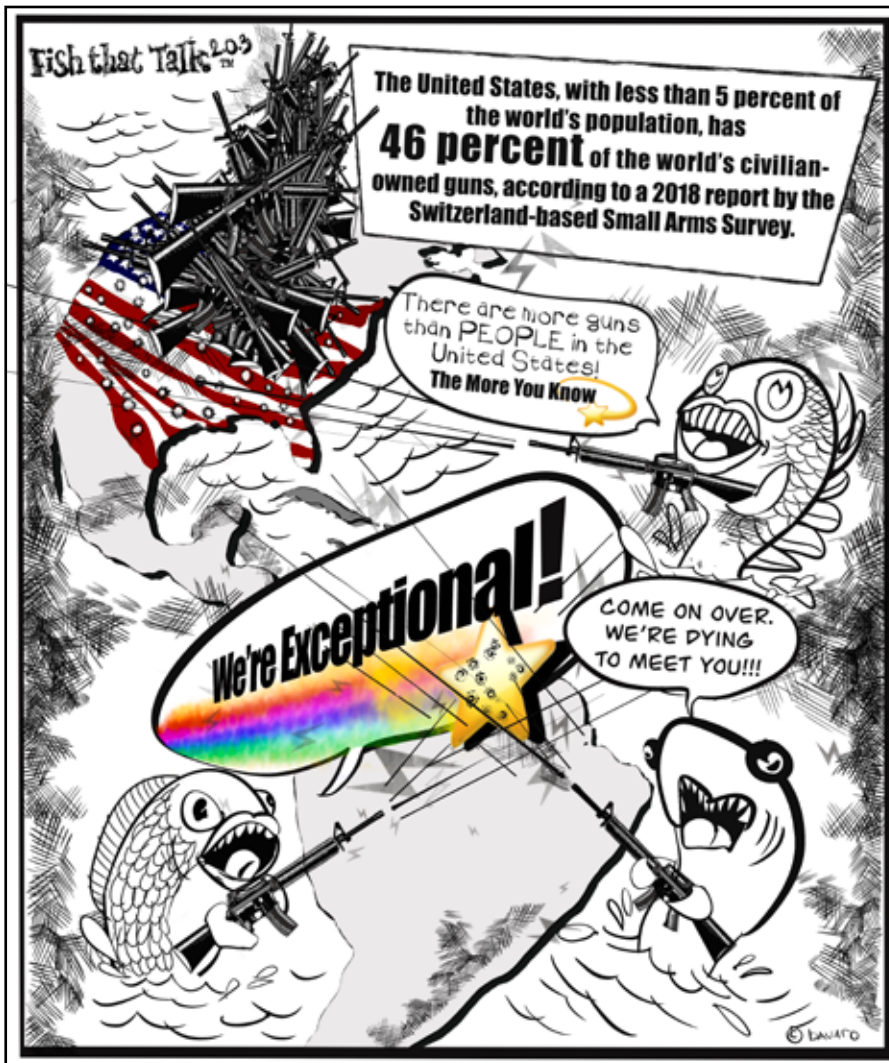
Lauren Lapkus (*Three-*
dom) and Nicole Byer (*Why*
Won't You Date Me?) have centered the next chapter of their prolific podcasting careers on having fresh eyes. This concept drives *Newcomers*, a show in which they explore cultural phenomena (*Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, the Corona-loving "family" that drives really, really fast) they're oblivious to.

The show's latest season brings them to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. And before opener *Iron Man*, Nicole had seen 3 of 28 films, while Lauren had (quite randomly) only seen *Black Panther* and *Captain Marvel*.

Currently ongoing, their weekly installments feature MCU news (their live trailer commentaries are always highlights), a detailed summary and reaction to the movie, and stellar guests like Jason Mantzoukas (*How Did This Get Made?*) and Eugene Cordero (recently in *Loki*, who also guested on the *Thor* episode). Whether or not MCU movies are actually funny is a constant debate (Lauren is a little more forgiving than Nicole on this topic), while listening to our hosts trying to dissect convoluted Marvel lore is predictably hilarious.

If you're a big comics fan, fair warning, you might get frustrated by the show. At one point, Nicole calls the super soldier serum "first draft shit." But, if you can embrace the fresh eyes perspective, it's like experiencing the MCU all over again. — Chris Lantinen





ALBUM REVIEWS

Kendrick Lamar
Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers
Top Dawg Entertainment
★★★★★

Look into the genres tied to *Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers* and “conscious rap” is bound to make an appearance. While genres can be limiting, it is true that Pulitzer Prize winner Kendrick Lamar no longer shows up without something to say. It’s been five years since *DAMN.*, a polarizing but largely successful project, and since then, the world has continued to change. #MeToo, COVID-19, and the George Floyd protests have all in one way, shape, or form affected Lamar’s worldviews and thoughts on the cycles of abuse we, and particularly people of color, have to deal with; this is the dense message presented on double album *Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers*. Listeners be warned, it arrives with a caveat; the album features a number of appearances from accused rapist Kodak Black, which is enough to make many turn away (and with good reason). It’s not Lamar’s place to forgive him, but by using these appearances to signify the way abuse can form us into abusers, he challenges those that would prefer to see the world in black and white. Lamar delivers thoughtful musings on fatherhood (“Father Time”) and transphobia (“Auntie Diaries”), culminating in a penultimate thesis statement that doubles as one of his strongest moments, “Mother I Sober.” — Aaron Mook



The Smile
A Light For Attracting Attention
XL Recordings
★★★★★

Let’s start with the good and the bad, which ironically, are the same thing: *A Light for Attracting Attention*, the debut album from The Smile (featuring Thom Yorke and Johnny Greenwood alongside Sons of Kemet drummer Tom Skinner) sounds like it could be a Radiohead album. For fans, this is an advantage; the album shares a lush and subdued energy with Radiohead’s last release, 2016’s *A Moon Shaped Pool*. It simply isn’t fair to compare, however, because what might typically comprise a weaker Radiohead album still makes for a pleasant and experimental art-rock record here. Despite their quieter moments, The Smile really succeeds when opting to take left turns, such as with the snarling, #MeToo-referencing lead single, “You Will Never Work in Television Again.” Elsewhere, between typical choir-like deliveries from Yorke, the band offers jittery post-punk (“Thin Thing”) and woozy piano ballads (“Open the Floodgates”). These moments that stray from the path arrive courtesy of Greenwood and Skinner, who bring a frenetic energy to their genre-fluid instrumentals. It’s better that *A Light For Attracting Attention* isn’t a Radiohead album, as it gives The Smile a fair shake at exploring their own unique path. — Aaron Mook



Lettuce
Unify
Round Hill Records
★★★★★

Lettuce, the hard-touring Boston funk band, are rightfully known for their live performances. Although a common fixture of summer music festivals, the band’s studio albums — unlike some of their peers — are unforgettably magical as well. *Unify*, the band’s eighth studio album, captures that essence perfectly, in an expansive 16 tracks coming in at 70 minutes. It’s the perfect record to put on to keep your head bobbing and your spirit grooving, the vast majority of it instrumental (hell, if it was all instrumental, the album might even be more effective). Blending funk and jazz, the band formed at Berklee College of Music a remarkable 30 years ago, and have been playing together ever since. With former members Eric Krasno and Neal Evans cooking away with their trio Soulive, the septet hasn’t missed a beat. Sounding as fresh and bouncy as ever, the group even pulls in the legendary funk icon Bootsy Collins for “Keep the Funk Alive.” If you’re not pulled in by the opening track “RVA Dance,” then you might just want to make sure you have a soul and a sense of humor. Through highlights like the dark and driving “Hawk’s Claw” and the spicy explorations of “Vámanos,” the band builds a rhythmic relationship with the listener. — Nick Warren



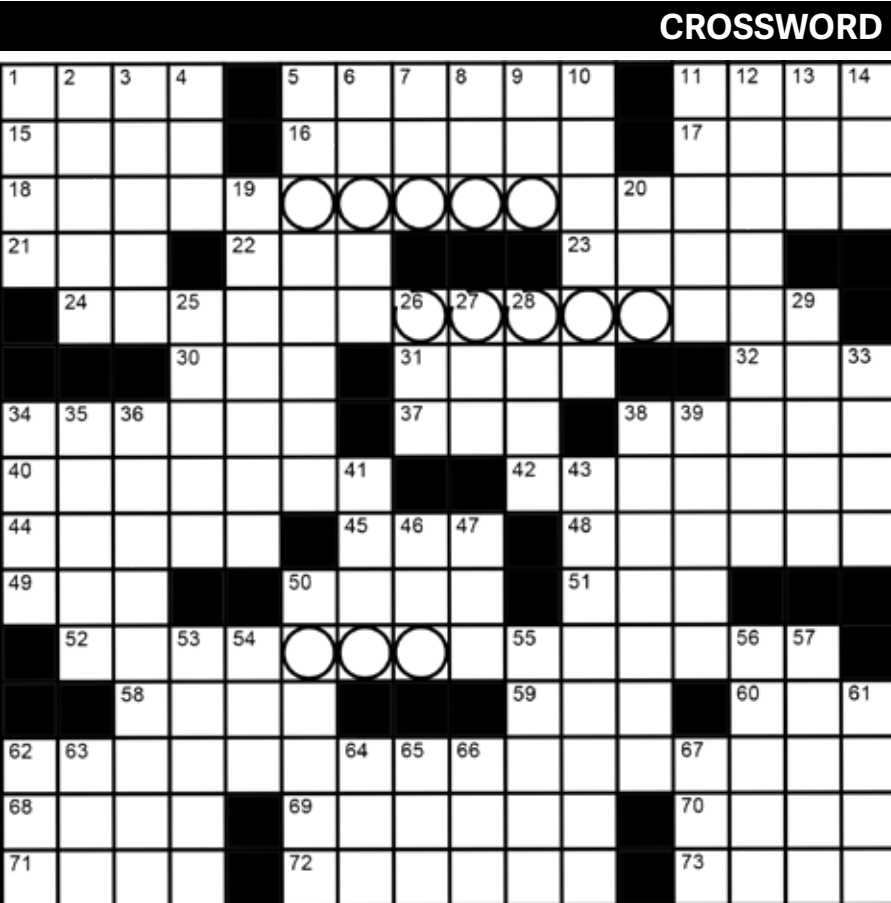
Remi Wolf
Juno (Deluxe)
Island Records
★★★★★

Remi Wolf just released the deluxe edition of her late-2021 debut album *Juno*, with the album’s vinyl shipping soon. Featuring five new tracks and a live version of the final track “Street You Live On,” it’s ultimately an unnecessary release, but serves to underscore the bizarre glory that the proper release of *Juno* is. That album itself is perhaps even an entire star rating higher than this one — and it’s exactly what I want my album of the summer to be. Its 13 tracks are cohesive and brilliant, while existing amidst chaotic lowbrow sentiment. It’s laugh-out-loud hilarious even upon multiple listens, channeling a retro tone as the perfect conveyance to Wolf’s idiosyncratic lyricism. Choruses are catchy and anthemic, with multiple vocal tracks layered together constantly — a distinct absence in the deluxe version’s five opening tracks, which ultimately read more as adroit yet forgettable bedroom pop. Last year, Wolf made a viral splash with her song “Photo ID” and has taken off since then. Not bad for someone who made it to Hollywood on *American Idol* in 2014 (she was 17 at the time). Fully coming into her own, complete with a surrealist aesthetic like *Pee-wee’s Playhouse* colored by Lisa Frank, Remi Wolf is solidifying herself as a future superstar. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK





Across

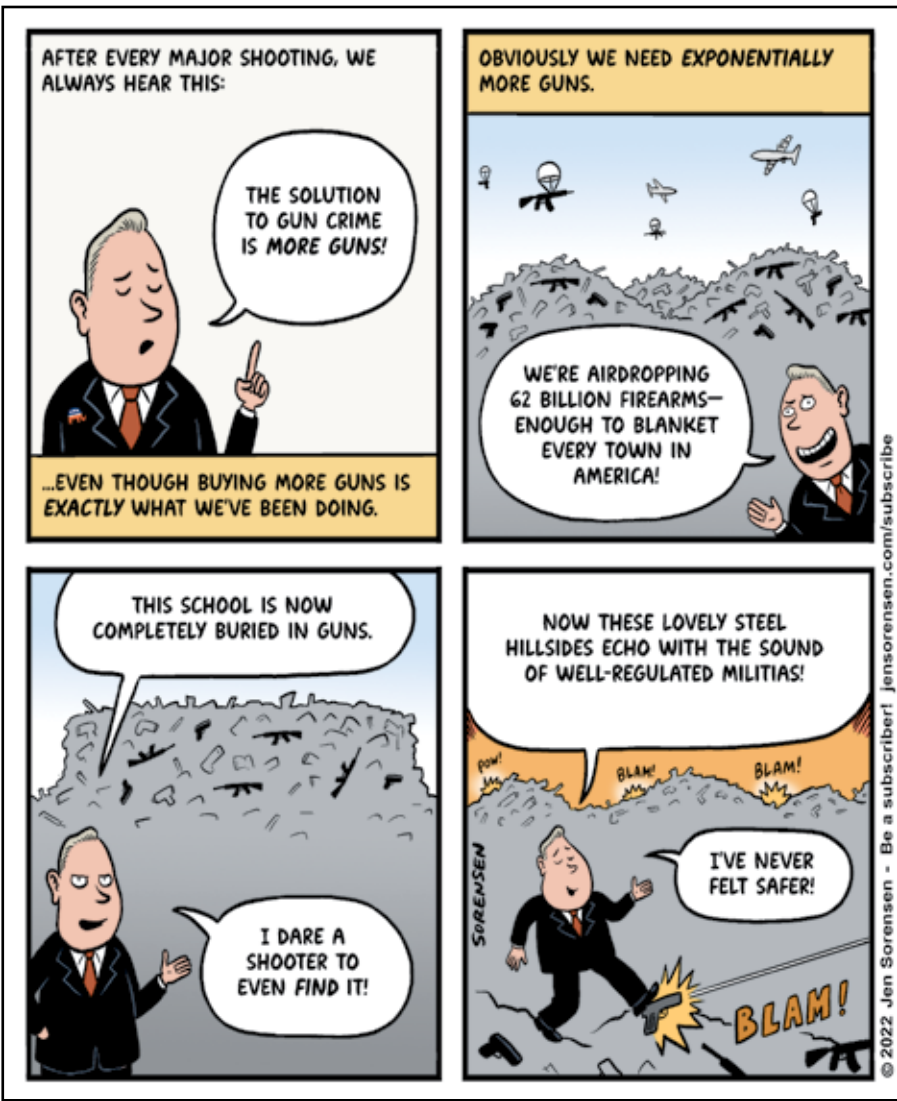
- 1. "Club Can't Handle Me" rapper Flo ____
- 5. Part of Indiana Jones's outfit
- 11. The Ponte Vecchio spans it
- 15. Answer to the riddle "What cheese is made backward?"
- 16. Livestock ID
- 17. More than trot
- 18. 1) He was the first person to split an atom's nucleus (✓) 2) He taught at Montreal's McGill University (✓) 3) He was born in Manchester, England (x)
- 21. "Exile in Guyville" singer Phair
- 22. Georgia airport code
- 23. Standard
- 24. 1) She played Gloria Stivic on '70s TV (✓) 2) She was a spokesperson for the Christian Children's Fund (✓) 3) She was married to David Hasselhoff (x)
- 30. Motor City org.
- 31. Einstein's "m"
- 32. NYC rep since 2019
- 34. Parent's mom, informally
- 37. "Monsters, ____"
- 38. Terra ____
- 40. Scuba gear attachment
- 42. Red gems
- 44. Greetings down under
- 45. Soak (up)

- 48. Performs adequately
- 49. [Not my error]
- 50. Of sound mind
- 51. Popular nail polish brand
- 52. 1) He met Gandhi in 1931 (✓) 2) His autobiography was titled "My Autobiography" (✓)
- 53. He won an Oscar for 1921's "The Kid" (x)
- 58. Successor of Claudius
- 59. Opposite of WSW
- 60. Chump
- 62. Popular game exemplified by 18-, 24- and 52-Across (or what's seen in the circled letters)
- 68. Completely wear out
- 69. Question of possibility
- 70. Pile
- 71. Ginger ale or root beer
- 72. Old-style "Listen up!"
- 73. Title alter ego of 1886

Down

- 1. Projection booth item
- 2. Elba of "Thor: Ragnarok"
- 3. Tony of "Taxi"
- 4. Inits. in some church names
- 5. "Trap Queen" rapper
- 6. Some "Downton Abbey" characters
- 7. R&B's ____ Hill
- 8. Mel with 511 home runs
- 9. "Go team!"
- 10. They may be special or secret
- 11. Woodard of "12 Years a Slave"

- 12. Hotel costs per night
- 13. "Fresh Air" network
- 14. Ref. work that added "livestream" in 2021
- 19. Dangers in a deli
- 20. "Ruh-____!" (Scooby-Doo gulp)
- 25. Like some mashed potatoes
- 26. "You're oversharing!"
- 27. Fled
- 28. Org. whose academy's motto in English is "The sea yields to knowledge"
- 29. ____ voce
- 33. Winery container
- 34. Jokes
- 35. Cockamamie, slangily
- 36. Spider webs, e.g.
- 38. Did a Photoshop task
- 39. Ninja Turtles' ally April ____
- 41. Morales of "Ozark"
- 43. "Oklahoma!" girl "who cain't say no"
- 46. Indivisible
- 47. Ab's neighbor
- 50. Exhibit bad posture
- 53. Subsidiary of CVS Health
- 54. Trio in elem. school
- 55. Intoxicating
- 56. ____ Brothers ("It's Your Thing" group)
- 57. River nymph
- 61. Stinky Le Pew
- 62. NFL scores
- 63. Court
- 64. Oft-stubbed digit
- 65. Mao's successor
- 66. 35mm camera inits.
- 67. "That hits the spot!"



Answers to last puzzle



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