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From the Editors

If you got it, flaunt it

Exposure can be either a very good or very bad thing — as the days grow longer, there is both more light to go around and more places to shine it. One might be excited to lift the cover on his or her pool, convertible, or washboard abs. Another might be leery of unveiling an unswimmable primordial swamp, a scratch in their paint, or the biggest muffin top this side of Ye Ole Sweet Shoppe. There are leisurely afternoons on the beach and late nights on the patio, but there are also sunburns and bug bites. As spring segues into summer, we reap the rewards of being out-and-about more often, but also incur the risks. It's easier to be more sociable, more active, and more fulfilled; but it's also much harder to hide inadequacies and those aspects of ourselves and our realities that we would much rather remain hidden.

That being the case, we might as well face the music. Literally — there are seemingly more music festivals within a short drive than ice cream stands. Roll up your tents, pack plenty of sunscreen, and fill your Camelbaks, because Nick Warren can (and does) list an event for virtually every weekend from now until September in our annual Summer Music Festival Preview. Few things bring people together like song and dance, and no matter what your tastes are, you're likely to find kindred spirits in front of an outdoor stage not far from you. This is exposure in the best sense.

If words are more your idea of an escape, you'll want to check out the newly-opened Pressed bookstore in the Greengarden Plaza. One of the titles you may find there is James and Deborah Fallows' *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, wherein the married couple delve into the cultures and mindsets of communities all throughout the country, both large and small. One such community was Erie, PA, which the duo visited for a week in 2016. During that time, they witnessed not only the obvious eye-sores (rundown factories, blighted properties), but also an attitude and climate of progress, the will to improve and persevere against all odds.

Immigrants and former refugees such as Jefferson Educational Society President Ferki Ferati and Deputy Sheriff Youssif Almusawi (profiled in this edition's "Maitham's Corner") can certainly attest to that, as they've fled bleak circumstances and affected lives positively right here in Erie. We cannot be shy about exposing ourselves to change; there are deep wounds in our neighborhoods that will continue to fester unless they are brought to the attention of our leaders and ritually cared for. Mayor Joe Sember has certainly made himself more visible around town — it is time now for our next wave of new leadership (there will be new representation for Erie at both the state and possibly federal levels in November; primaries take place May 15) to examine and address these infirmities, and remain hospitable to the ideas of the community.

Then maybe, just maybe we will have no more reservations about showing off.

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Erie at Large: The Mayor's New Clothes

Erie Refocused and City Hall's recent transparency



Erie Mayor Joe Schember should be applauded for being a more visible presence in the community, but before he earns a standing ovation, major questions regarding our most distressed neighborhoods must be addressed.

cused.

Since the beginning of March, the mayor's engagement has included a tag-team with Erie's Public Schools, which are in the midst of strategic planning that is expected to conclude this June. This collaboration is relatively novel in Erie's recent history, and it is also necessary. The demographic trends — social and economic — are parallel with the ones facing the city. If they don't move in concert, both will surely fail.

More than 80 people attended one of these joint sessions at the JFK Center on Buffalo Road on April 24. There were residents representing several corners of the city, as well as the top leadership from a variety of community organizations. However, the most active participants during the Erie Schools forum were public school students, as it should be. They raised concerns about being college-and-career-ready, and their need to be directed on the best paths to get there. These students recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to their success or the success of their school district.

It's a lesson that city officials would be wise to heed.

That's because several of the attendees I spoke with following the meeting voiced concern that the city's presentation didn't address the direct impact on the neighborhood in attendance.

The presentation at the JFK Center, according to those who had attended previous sessions on Erie's west side, was the standard overview of the East and West Bayfront neighborhoods where restoration plans are already in place and being carried out by the Bayfront East Side Taskforce and Our West Bayfront. These organizations have corporate support that enables them to address blight and economic stress in considerably more proactive ways. Neither of those plans — nor the city's presentation of *Erie Refocused* — addressed the future of southeast Erie, where the community meeting was held.

Many of the people at that meeting — including those public school students — were waiting to hear what it means for them that much of their neighborhood had been classified as beyond repair within the context of *Erie Refocused*. The report labeled homes — and in some cases entire neighborhoods — with a color coding system of green, yellow

and red. Green is positive, yellow areas should be targeted for improvement to mitigate decline, and those marked in red are the hardest hit and, therefore, the most difficult and expensive to repair. Many of the attendees at the JFK center, whether east-siders or west-siders, live in neighborhoods with substantial tracts of red. Does that mean that the city will do nothing to address blight and abandonment where they live? How long will it take for progress in downtown Erie to reach them? Will it ever come?

Questions like these permeate meetings like the one held April 24. Unfortunately, the successes and impending success of the East and West Bayfronts do not come close to providing answers.

The mayor's office deserves credit for promoting the possibility of action to come from City Hall. At this point in time, a majority of city residents would agree that the mayor does seem to have new clothes. But if he spends more time talking than listening, one of the students in the audience is likely to question whether anything has changed at all.

Jim Wertz can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @jim_wertz.

By: Jim Wertz

For the past few months, Erie Mayor Joe Schember and company have been making the rounds at community forums to carry out a campaign promise that his administration would engage the public in conversations about the future of Erie, specifically as those conversations and his administration's plans relate to *Erie Refocused*, the city's comprehensive plan.

Schember's predecessor, Joe Sinnott, under whose watch *Erie Refocused* was procured and shelved, showed little interest in making that plan part of a community dialogue. As a result of that approach, many who trade stock in public interest and engagement surrendered their faith in the office of the mayor and *Erie Refocused*

equally.

Schember, for his part, has been a model of transparency. He's begun to hold weekly press conferences, he's hired a digital media director who has moved the city into the middle of the last decade with Twitter and Facebook accounts — noted with peace and love since this is a wildly awkward advancement in 2018 — and he's kept a social schedule that would be laudable for a mayor half his age.

Given these cultural changes in City Hall, the efforts to restore public trust in both the office and the plan itself is not an insurmountable task. Since January, the component parts of the mayor's office have been in a state of constant motion to remind the public that the lights are on and someone is, indeed, home. That includes outreach beyond *Erie Refo-*



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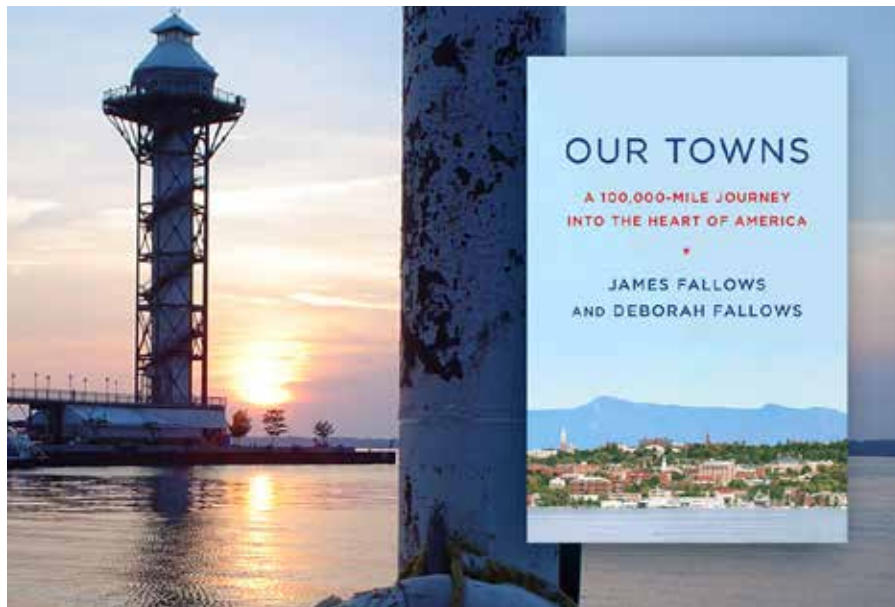
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Our Towns, Reviewed

James and Deborah Fallows capture a different, more resilient side of America



ADOBE STOCK/STEPHENIE DILIZIO, PANTHEON BOOKS

By: Ben Speggen

An impulse for soon-to-be readers clutching a copy of *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America* will be to wonder whether they've visited or lived where James and Deborah Fallows have traveled over the course of four years. It's hard not to, with a map of the country populated with color-coded pins on the front interior of the book, published by Pantheon Books and which is available for purchase now.

Anything highlighted in red was visited by the husband-wife team (and authors of many previous works) in 2013. Yellow, 2014. Green, 2015. Blue, 2016.

But whether or not you've been to, lived in, or passed through any of the places Jim and Deb write about, *Our Towns* offers a delightfully refreshing — and very-much-needed-right-now — look at the *other* America, a local America less divisive and divided, one less embittered by politics, both in terms of lesser known places and under-reported narratives, than on the national level. This serves as a reminder of how much America there is and how different yet similar our American stories can be.

On that map, there are a few recognizable, larger cities, like Pittsburgh (where the Fallows note the impact of art in community with an account of Henry Reese's City Asylum of Project in a city often reported on for its post-

coal tech renaissance) and Washington, D.C. (the Fallows' home base and the airports from which they often depart and begin their stories).

There are lesser reported-on places like Greenville, South Carolina, known initially for its General Electric plant, as well as Michelin and BMW facilities but now boasting innovative educational opportunities such as the A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering, which, yes, "folds engineering into every available step of [its] traditional academic curriculum," as Deb notes.

In places like Fresno, California, where the community's launched a creative positivity civic campaign of "Fres-yes", and Dodge City, Kansas, a "red" spot in the country that's been — surprisingly, perhaps to some only versed in national tropes of red country favoring national anti-immigration policy — welcoming of immigrants.

There are plenty of fascinating places populated by interesting people endeavoring to push progress at the local level. This is the main thrust of *Our Towns*: Things at the local level (creative funding models, civic leaders exploring new initiatives to build stronger communities, vibrant art groups effecting positive change, etc.) do not mirror the national level (discordant rhetoric widening the chasm between liberal and conservative, left and right, blue and red diametrically opposed forces that must seemingly be at odds

Erie was just one of many cities large and small James and Deborah Fallows visited in the process of writing their travelogue *Our Towns: A 100,000 Mile Journey into the Heart of America*. They were mesmerized by the beauty of the Bayfront and Presque Isle at first glance and heartened by the drive for progress despite obvious challenges.

with each other at all times).

What makes *Our Towns* an engaging read is the blend of both boots-on-the-ground reporting (once they get their land legs, Deb often heads to local libraries and YMCAs while Jim takes off in search of economic development centers during their mostly week-long stays in these towns and cities) and a bird's-eye view (both write beautifully of their observations from the Cirrus SR22 single-engine plane Jim pilots to get them from one town to the next). Readers experience the places the Fallows visit and the people they encounter through their eyes (Jim's sections marked by a plane icon; Deb's with a pen quill).

The Fallows' reporting is uplifting without being Pollyannaish. Their writing gives hope without ignoring the present challenges these communities face.

Take, for instance, Erie, Pennsylvania, which the Fallows visited in 2016.

On the flight in, Jim contrasts the first-impression beautiful view of Presque Isle with the sobering sight of decaying, dilapidated factories. Of the latter, he notes "these were all signs of the Erie that, as we came to know, would dominate election-cycle coverage of this part of the country: the declining mainly white Rust Belt settlements where the loss of jobs meant the rise of resentment and fuel for Donald Trump."

Erie, in various ways, Jim notes, mirrors national narratives, but he and Deb — which is often the case in *Our Towns*, get beneath the surface. Rather than parachuting in (despite actually traveling to regions with a parachute on their plane) to report the doom-and-gloom overplayed tear-jerking tropes for a quick bit before moving onto the next down-and-out town, they look beyond that.

"We found other equally compelling threads of the story of Erie, matching much of what we had seen in our trav-

els across America," Jim writes.

"Erie feels like a work in progress, but one that is clearly progressing," Deb adds.

They give nods to "two of Erie's visionaries, who are putting their muscle and money behind plans for a vibrant, composed downtown," calling attention to Velocity Network President and CEO Joel Deuteran and Tom Hagen, chairman of the board of Erie Insurance, the region's sole Fortune 500 company.

They note the start-up climate, referencing Radius CoWork, "a high-tech shared work space of the sort you would expect to find in Brooklyn or San Francisco," Deb writes.

They make mention of the Erie Reader, calling it "a must-read among the progressive-minded population [for] its long-form reporting and opinions," also citing the annual 40 Under 40 issue indexing young business, cultural, and civic figures.

Jim observes the challenges of the K-12 educational system, talking with then-Superintendent Jay Badams about Erie's Public Schools' funding crisis. He weighs that against "the explosion" of postsecondary opportunities, which he writes "has brought youthful drive and intellect to Erie, and with that, a natural spillover of optimistic attitude and culture" adding: "This new Rust Belt phenomenon of positivity and activity is well under way but is often drowned out as the more familiar older-school, older-generation refrains of despair and anger hang on."

Highlighting the "novel and apparently successful way" Erie uses its gambling revenue for "wide-spread civic goals," Jim outlines economic and technical renewal initiatives led by Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's Perry Wood, such as GO College, Ignite Erie, Tech After Hours, and the Summer Jobs program.

He notes the opportunity afforded to outsiders in Erie, recounting the story of Ferki Ferati, who arrived in Erie in 1999 from Kosovo when his family fled Serbian forces in the late 1990s, landing his family first in Macedonia, then a refugee camp in Fort Dix before Erie. After attending a local Erie high school, two local universities, and completing

his doctorate in nearby Pittsburgh, Ferati has since become the president of the Jefferson Educational Society, which Jim notes as “symbolic of Erie’s progressive youthful culture.”

Deb writes about Erie’s inclusiveness towards immigrants, reporting on the work of Dylanna Jackson of the International Institute, Erie’s field office for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, and Paul Jericho of the Multicultural Community Resource Center.

In one of the more poignant passages in the book, Deb writes about the Zkrit family, who fled the conflict in Syria after their neighborhood in Aleppo was bombed by Bashar al-Assad’s forces. They landed in Erie in 2016, and the patriarch of the family, Muhammad, is looking for any work he can find.

But his optimism in the opportunity of the new life he now has reminds us of what America means not only within our own borders but more broadly.

“We are treated as human beings,” he tells Deb through a translator. “America is a dream country.”

It’s the simple but profound moments like this the Fallows capture that make *Our Towns* a must-read book of-the-now. They do not project what we could be but acknowledge what we currently are: An already great America filled with people who endeavor to make their hometowns even better.

The Fallows, amidst apparently turbulent and trying times if you watch any amount of CNN, MSNBC, or FOX News, remind us that there’s more to America than meets the 24-7 news channel eye and it’s splendid, gorgeous, and inspiring — and importantly: the towns and cities here are part of a large chorus of optimistic opportunities being sung countrywide and waiting to be further explored.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bSpeggen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.

Disclosure: The author is under the employ of the Jefferson Educational Society as its Director of Operations. He is also mentioned in the Acknowledgments of Our Towns.

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Breaking the Stigmas

Fairview School District 'says something' about mental health



depression and anxiety. The lies I told because of the surrounding stigmas were a toxic symbiotic relationship.

Little did I know, I wasn't the only one struggling. Too late did I discover that my friend and teammate Peter also suffered. Peter and I were more alike than I thought. You would have never labeled us as kids who silently ached with anxiety

and depression. Peter was Fairview's football athlete of the year, he played basketball, and ran track. He was one of the most outgoing personalities in our class. Yet, side by side working out together everyday ... we had no idea that the other one's mind and heart were on fire. This past November, Peter became one of the 800,000 people who take their own lives from depression every single year. If only we could have felt like we could speak to each other.

While it is easy for a teacher to see the signs of a stereotypical troubled child who needs help, Peter and I were the last students they would think they needed to reach out to. For the students who silently suffer, maybe we can allow them to feel comfortable enough to come to us, through genuine compassion and making the entire student body's mental health as much of a priority as their grades. Solitary confinement is one of the cruelest punishments we can inflict upon a human

being; simply cutting a person off from interacting with other humans can cause that person to literally go insane. Solitary confinement doesn't have to be four walls made of concrete. The walls can be made of harsh nicknames and false rumors; the barred window can be a phone screen that harasses you and shows you everything you're missing out on. Talking out loud about mental health is the first step to building the key to letting those students out of that room.

On March 22, 2018 I returned to Fairview High School to be a part of their district community panel on mental health "Say Something." In just the past three years alone, the district's administration has seen a staggering increase of anxiety and depression in their students. As a result, they are consciously investing in mental health support for their students.

In addition to counselors, they created a "refocus room" devoted to mental health support with two Sara Reed employees, options for outside counseling services, and a school psychologist. The panel was part of the Fairview School District's strategy to bridge the support between two key groups — the school faculty and the parents of the community — to create a unified team working around the clock on student's mental health. In addition to the district's principals, counselors, and teachers, Fairview enlisted two speakers for the panel. First, myself an advocate and public speaker for mental health,

followed by Kimberly Morrow, a local mental health therapist who has been training professionals and presenting workshops nationally for over 10 years.

The people who put together this panel realize that we cannot ignore this problem. They realize we do not have *time* to treat violence and addiction as the illness anymore, when they are actually the *symptoms*. A wise person once said, "What is more deadly — a gun or a thought? A gun gives the opportunity, but a thought pulls the trigger." Funding mental health is the cheapest, fastest, and most efficient way we can keep our schools safe.

Just 10 years ago when Peter and I were students, there was no such thing as events to discuss the students' mental health. Counselors and their resources were not advertised half as well as they are today. Now, even professional athletes and celebrities are speaking out; most recently Kevin Love from the Cleveland Cavaliers told the world his story about having a panic attack during a game. Although depression, anxiety, and school shootings are on the rise, so are the resources to combat them. Not every school district may have the money to invest in the professional resources Fairview can, but there is one thing even more powerful they are doing that no amount of money can buy — showing genuine compassion for their students.

Derick Fiedler can be contacted at djf4506@gmail.com

By: Derick Fiedler

When I was in high school just 10 years ago, anxiety and depression were subjects reserved for private conversations with your therapist or if you were lucky enough, your immediate family. Publicly announcing: "I see a therapist" would be cause for judgment. The trend of Columbine was still in incubation and the mental health crisis was only a concern in the minds of individuals suffering every day. Not being able to speak out about your illness is like taking in a big breath of fresh air, yet never being able to release it. This past month, I got to exhale as I witnessed firsthand how the stigmas of mental health have changed since I was a teenager.

In high school I played sports year around. The old school mentality of sucking up my feelings is what prevented me from telling coaches, teammates and friends that I suffered from

Just Toyin' Witcha - By B. Toy



Pressed for Success

Looking beyond the cover of Erie's new independent bookstore



NICK WARREN

By: Brianna Lyle

Tracey Bowes is blonde, brightly blue-eyed, and stands maybe 5 feet and 3 inches tall. She's very fit — she says she enjoys running and playing tennis. Her voice is soft and unassuming. She is a self-proclaimed book snob (she's currently reading an advance copy of a novel entitled *Baby Teeth*) and enjoys playing cards (euchre and spades to be exact).

It's hard to imagine her yelling, or demanding in a courtroom, but before she sold her soul to the world of bookselling, she was a successful litigation lawyer in Pittsburgh and Erie, later taking time off to focus on raising her children.

Eager to jump back into work now that her kids are older, she's opening Erie's newest independent bookstore, Pressed, in the Greengarden Place plaza,

Pressed in the Greengarden Plaza is representative of the quiet renaissance that independent booksellers have enjoyed since 2009. The newly-opened store encompasses 4,000 square feet of "pure book bliss."

situated across from Frontier Park and directly next to Romolo Chocolates. The store is nestled amongst three other female-run and owned businesses: PopLuck Gourmet Popcorn, Trellis, and Donatos Pizza.

"I sort of always wanted to open a bookstore but in the vague way that everyone who reads thinks would be a fun dream job," she recollects. "I'm in a book club, and we would talk a lot about what was going on in our personal lives and mine was, 'what am I going to do next?' It was just perfect timing that we had space and it was available. It was now or

never."

The store, which also hosts unique gifts for people of all ages, opened April 25th (just in time for this year's Independent Bookstore day the following Saturday) and has 3,000 square feet of pure book bliss, with another 1,000 square feet dedicated to the attached café that her husband Casey, who owns the plaza, insisted they include in the store — which will also host unique gifts for people of all ages.

After a few minutes it becomes clear that Bowes is smart, articulate, and well-read. She's deeply dedicated to providing Erie with a quality shopping experience. There is a sense that she puts this much intensity and energy into all of her endeavors.

Of course she's a lawyer. Never judge a book by its cover.

The bookstore includes 1,000 square feet of children's books where a small tree house is tucked in the corner. Bowes has gone out of her way to decorate the room with whimsical wallpaper equipped with ceiling lights that look like the tops of trees.

In fact, the entire open-concept store is rife with details. There's a lime green accent wall by the bathrooms that hosts book-printed wallpaper, checkered black-and-white tile in the café (a design aspect her husband actually chose), and clean Scandinavian lines throughout.

"We started this over a year

ago; it's been a long time planning" she says laughing, perhaps in awe of her own endurance. "This was just a blank space, which is great because you can make it your own, but on the other hand, nothing's done, so every little thing has to be picked out and made."

Although one bookstore doesn't constitute a grand resurrection, it does speak to the quiet revival of independent bookselling in the United States. And it's the community-based, brick-and-mortar shops that are on the upswing, not the presumed, large book chains.

This is an ironic turn from a few years ago, when publishers and consumers alike projected that the rise of big, online shopping sites like Amazon, and also the digital era of book reading, would obliterate independent bookstores. Instead, the American Booksellers Association actually reported a 20 percent increase in independent bookstores from 2009 to 2014 (during the recession).

Meanwhile, Barnes & Noble is a decaying entity, reporting to the U.S. Census Bureau a 6.4 percent decline in sales during the 2017 holiday season, and Borders (R.I.P.) went bankrupt in 2011. (It should be noted that there is a similar trend in music sales. For the first time in two decades, the U.K. saw vinyl sales surpass digital music sales in 2017.)

Bowes mentions our culture of screen fatigue. "People are

starting to seek out tangible experiences again," she states. The tech era — where digital copies of magazines and music are as common as Trump saying his name and Google glasses were believed to be a good idea — dare say it, isn't cool anymore.

People want their pages back. They want to go to a physical store and walk around, because online retailers cannot offer this experience; you're less likely to happily stumble upon a new author or publisher while searching Amazon, you have to know exactly what you're looking for. It could be argued that part of the evocation of literature is partially the buying process itself — the art of browsing!

"I want to make it pleasant and satisfying, and more of a fulfilling experience, to actually go into a store and talk to a person and look around," says Bowes.

Future plans for the store include a children's story time, birthday party rentals, author book signings, and readings from local and national writers. "One thing that has struck me about the bookstore community is that everyone really wants to help and see each other succeed," says Bowes. "It's not at all competitive or cutthroat." This sentiment most certainly differs from the courtroom.

Brianna Lyle can be contacted at BLyle@ErieReader.com

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Summer Music Festival Preview 2018

Your guide to fun-filled weekends in the sun



MSR PRODUCTIONS

By Nick Warren

That first day that *really* feels like summer, that's when you start to get the festival cravings. There's actual, tangible proof that winter is ending, and it's not too soon to look ahead. For some places, that happens in March, but for Erie, it's May. That gap is just all the briefer; as the last few weeks of the year's fifth month start to inch close, it's already time to pack.

Music festivals — they've become a part of life for some of us. They're a part of summer at least, an important part. They're a time to connect with friends and like-minded people who share your musical tastes. Walking in the summer sun (note: always bring shades and sunscreen), hearing the distant bass and aggregate roar of the crowd (note: bring earplugs), you know you're going to find something good when you get to the stage, not ready to go to bed until the dew of the morning starts to form on the flap of your tent.

Last year, music festivals reached a critical mass. The notorious fate of the Fyre Festival signaled the end of an era for the festival boom. No longer a sure-fire investment, some have folded, even canceling weeks before the scheduled date, like Buffalove and Pennsylvania's ambitious Karoondinha. We lost a few over the course of the year. Scranton's Susquehanna Breakdown, Columbus' Fashion Meets Music Festival, The Mad Tea Party Jam (along the Potomac), Pittsburgh's Thrival Innovation + Music Festival, Slyfest at the Heron campgrounds in

Sherman New York, and Toronto's Way-home all will not be happening this year.

From Coachella to Glastonbury, the art of the music festival is far from a lost one — it's just getting more specialized. What began as a congregation of jam and folk bands (note: just take a peek at the early Bonnaroo lineups) is seemingly over the mainstream hump section of the bell curve.

Still, there are *many* places all around our city where you can get this experience, and of course, places around the nation. If you're willing to travel, the world is your festival oyster (note: probably not the best food to pack for a festival). For the auto-faring public at large, a driveable fest seems to be the best bet, an easier way to make a home away from home. Sure, you can make the seven-and-a-half hour trip to LOCK'N or Firefly (note: almost exactly equidistant despite one being in Arrington, VA and one being in Dover, DE, respectively), but there are dozens of great ones a short jaunt away.

All prices reflect a standard, full-weekend pass. Distance was measured from the center of Erie, PA. Single day passes are available for all events.

Downtown Edinboro Music & Art Festival

May 17 - 20

Edinboro, PA (30 minutes away)

Headliners: Donna the Buffalo, Jim Donovan and the Sun King Warriors, Driftwood

Kicking off a few days after spring commencement, Edinboro's ever-growing

The crowd swells at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park in Garrettsville, Ohio during their Spring Badfish Music Festival. All over the region, festival-goers happily flock to stages and campgrounds as festival season ramps up.

Spring Badfish

June 8 - 10

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: Badfish

celebration of music and art is happy to be the unofficial start of festival season. Spread out over four days and six stages throughout the borough, the wonderful college town will be pumping out folky sounds from every corner. Featuring a roots-driven lineup of some regional favorites, it's also a great way to check out work by talented local artists.

Edinboroartandmusic.com // Free (no camping)

LionFire Music Festival

May 26 - 27

Slippery Rock, PA (1 hour 21 minutes away)

Headliners: Moon Taxi, The Floozies

This year will be inaugural installment of the LionFire Music Festival, one that has all the trappings and idiosyncratic flourishes to get it noticed. The festival takes place at Cooper's Lake Event Venue and Campground, a 450-acre space alongside I-79, and a popular spot for medieval reenactments. In fact, that theme will come into play at the festival, with games inspired by the era, along with blacksmithing and fire performances.

lionfirefestival.com // \$80 (plus camping fees), children under 6 free // VIP options available

Three Rivers Arts Festival

June 1 - 10

Pittsburgh, PA (2 hours 5 minutes away)

Headliners: Mavis Staples, Valerie June, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder

Taking more a non-traditional festival approach, the Three Rivers Arts Festival provides 10 days worth of free events in locations all around the city. It's a coordinated effort put on by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, with help from sponsors like Dollar Bank. In addition to dozens of musical performances — including Erie's own Charles Brown on Jun. 7 — the lengthy cavalcade of events has slews of visual art and creative activities to be part of.

TRAF.trustarts.org // Free (no camping option)

The first on this list of five weekends at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park (NLQP), Spring Badfish gives fans a healthy double dose of the popular Sublime tribute band, along with acts with a similar vibe to the Long Beach legends. The beloved location provides a beautiful backdrop for a full weekend of outdoor activities like volleyball, basketball, and of course, the quarry's iconic cliff diving.

TicketQuarry.com/events // \$85 gate, \$70 advance (camping included)

LaureLive

June 9 - 10

Russell Township, OH (1 hour 39 minutes away)

Headliners: Foster the People, Brandi Carlile, Fitz & the Tantrums, Cold War Kids

In its third year, LaureLive shows no signs of slowing down. Run in association with Laurel School (a K-12 school for girls in Shaker Heights) and the Elevation Group (a locally-based promotions company) the city festival's tagline is "Music with a Mission." The two-day fest features a solid middle card of artists, as well. Some, like Twiddle, and X Ambassadors, would easily be able to headline other festivals.

Classic Fest

June 15 - 17

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: Several Species, Kashmir

This event at NLQP promises to be an entertaining one, full of convincing acts faithfully playing hits from your favorite rock bands of all time. While headliners pay homage to Pink Floyd (Several Species) and Led Zeppelin (Kashmir), others will offer up sets by the Janis Joplin (Ball & Chain), The Allman Brothers (Whippin' Post), and more, all amidst the welcoming natural atmosphere of the quarry.

TicketQuarry.com/events // \$85 gate, \$70 advance (camping included)

LaureLive.com // \$115 (no camping option) // VIP options available.



STEVE LEITZINGER

Cambridge Springs Music Festival

June 15 - 17

Cambridge Springs, PA (42 minutes away)

Headliners: Jim Donovan and the Sun King Warriors, Adam Ezra Group

After the tragic fire at the historic Riverside Inn, the legacy of the Riverside Music Festival continues. Though the loss of the 133-year-old hotel was devastating, the Cambridge Springs Fire Department and event organizer Justin Moyer are determined to bring local music to the town. With four stages over three days, this will be the destination for anyone who supports local music in Erie County, rebuilding that welcoming feeling that made the Riverside so special. CambridgeSpringsMusicFestival.com // Free (no camping option)

Freedom Fest

June 29 - July 1

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: Mike Love, Jones for Revival

During the weekend before the 4th of July, NLQP will be lit up. A fireworks show will take place over the water to celebrate the holiday. It's a unique opportunity to catch some great music in a beautiful location.

TicketQuarry.com/events // \$100 gate, \$80 advance (camping included)

Great Blue Heron

July 6 - 8

Sherman, NY (42 minutes away)

Headliners: Donna the Buffalo, The Felice Brothers, Suitcase Junket

After the fireworks, it's time to head over to Heron's hallowed grounds. Now in its 27th year, this weekend provides an oasis of folk and authentic

American music that's some of the best in the world. Talk to anyone in the area about this festival and their eyes are sure to light up. From the gorgeous location (home to an organic farm) and the family-friendly atmosphere, it's easy to have a "happy heron" at this festival. Greatblueheron.com // \$130 gate, \$115 advance (plus camping fees) // Youth options available

Slightly Stoopid

July 6 - 8

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: Slightly Stoopid, Stick Figure, Pepper

Much-adored California band Slightly Stoopid has been making loveable, weird music since 1995. The band will bring its signature sound to NLQP for three massive nights of music. This weekend will prove to be a perfect opportunity for fans both casual and dedicated to cut loose and enjoy the scenery. TicketQuarry.com/events // \$140 gate, \$120 advance (camping included)

INKcarceration Festival

July 13 - 15

Mansfield, OH (2 hours 39 minutes away)

Headliners: Rise Against, Bush, Clutch

At the historic Ohio State Reformatory which served as the location for the Shawshank Prison in *The Shawshank Redemption*. Featuring 30 bands between

[top] Edinboro's own Tiger Maple String Band takes the stage at the 2017 Great Blue Heron Music Festival, long one of the area's favorites, now in its 27th year. [right] The lights buzz at 2017's Fall Badfish Festival at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park.

two stages and three days, as well as more than 70 tattoo artists on hand, this may prove to be the most unique hard rock festival of the summer. Inkcarceration.com // \$165 (plus camping fees) // VIP options available

Cobblestone Live

July 15 - 16

Buffalo, NY (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: Broken Social Scene, Turkuaz, The Sheepdogs, Aqueous

In its sophomore year, Cobblestone Live is once again assembling dozens of fantastic bands at one of Buffalo's hippest places. With plenty of bars, restaurants, and venues residing in the Cobblestone District, having a festival there just makes sense. Kevin Drew and company are sure to put on an amazing show, as well as winning undercards like Golf Clap and Ratboys. CobblestoneLive.com \$45 (no camping option) // VIP options available.

The Gathering at Chaffee's

July 27 - 28

Girard, PA \$60 (28 minutes away)

Headliners: The Werks, Mungion

One of the longest-running music festivals in the United States, the 38th annual Gathering at Chaffee's is sure to be a defining moment of the summer. Featuring a veritable who's-who of local talent in addition to popular regional bands like Chestnut Grove and — of course — ekoostik hookah, the festival is a favorite of the Erie music scene, and when you're there, it's easy to see why. TheGatheringatChaffees.com // \$80 gate, \$70 advance (camping included)

Erie's Blues & Jazz Festival

August 3 - 5

Erie, PA (8 minutes away)

Headliners: TBA

In its 27th year overall, the Erie's Blues and Jazz Festival is in its second year as a three-day experience. Formerly known as the Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival, it's now being spearheaded by Erie Arts and Culture, with the Art Museum's John Vanco still at the helm supervising the music. Continuing the tradition of excellence, all of Erie is welcome at the free Frontier Park event for what is an iconic local experience. Stay tuned for full, exhaustive coverage in our August 1 issue.

erieartsandculture.org/bluesandjazzfest // Free (no overnight camping option)

Freakstomp

August 9 - 12

Medina, OH (2 hours 16 minutes away)

Headliners: Tropicidelic, Afroman, Bumpin' Ugliers

Now in its second year, Freakstomp is a festival founded by Cleveland's own favorite party band, Tropicidelic. Named after a track on their 2015 recording *Police State*, the two-day event also features many like-minded acts the band has met along their way. <http://thefreakstomp.com> // \$65 (camping included)

Summer Hookah

August 10 - 12

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: ekoostik hookah

Featuring two nights of music from one of the region's most iconic, and long-running bands, this weekend at the quarry is great way to spend the weekend. Formed in 1991 in Columbus, ekoostik hookah has built up a loving fanbase, one that will get to enjoy all the features of this wonderful backdrop. TicketQuarry.com/events // \$70 gate,



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\$55 advance (camping included)

Night Lights

August 23 - 25

Sherman, NY (42 minutes away)

Headliners: TBA

As summer starts to wind down and September lurks right around the corner, Night Lights provides one last hurrah just in time. Taking place on the same beautiful campgrounds as the Great Blue Heron, Night Lights provides feasts for the eyes as well as the ears. As some of the top jam and electronic bands take the stage, luminary decorations adorn the wooded grounds, hence the name. It'll be lit.

NightLightsFest.com // \$99 (camping included).

There are also plenty more fests worth checking out within a five hour radius.

Dome Festival

May 17 - 19

Bedford, PA (3 hours 42 minutes away)

Headliners: Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, Broccoli Samurai, The Magic Beans
domefestival.com // \$100 (plus camping fees)

Dark Star Jubilee

May 25 - 27

Thornville, OH (3 hours 58 minutes away)

Headliners: Dark Star Orchestra, Los Lobos, Hot Tuna
DarkStarJubilee.com // \$158 (camping included) // VIP options available.

Nelsonville Music Festival

June 1- 4

Nelsonville, OH (4 hours 38 minutes away)

Headliners: George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic, The Decemberists, Ani DiFranco.
NelsonvilleFest.org // \$150 (plus camping fees) // VIP options available.

Big Dub

July 25 - 29

Artemas, PA (4 hours 10 minutes away)

Headliners: Caspa, Modestep
bigdubfestival.com/lineup // \$195 (plus camping fees)

MO POP

July 27 - 28

Detroit, MI (4 hours 1 minute away)

Headliners: Bon Iver, The National,

Portugal the Man, St. Vincent
mopopfestival.com // \$145 (no camping option)

Flood City Music Festival

Aug. 3 - 4

Johnstown, PA (3 hours away)

Headliners: Blues Traveler, The Devon Allman Project with Duane Betts
floodcitymusic.com // \$50 (no camping option) // VIP options available

Veld Music Festival

August 4 - 5

Toronto, ON (3 hours 17 minutes away)

Headliners: DJ Snake, Marshmello, Martin Garrix, Migos
Veldmusicfestival.com // \$199.50 CAD (no camping option) // VIP options available

The Werk Out

Aug 4 - 5

Thornville, OH (3 hours 45 minutes away)

Headliners: The Werks, Umphrey's McGee
theworkoutfestival.com // \$149 (camping included) // VIP options available

Curveball

August 17 - 19

Watkins Glen, NY (3 hours 11 minutes away)

Headliners: Phish
phish.com/curveball // \$250 (plus camping fees) // VIP options available

Resonance Music and Arts Fest

Sept. 20 - 22

Thornville, OH (3 hours 58 minutes away)

Headliners: Papadosio, Sunsquabi, Kung Fu
resonancemusicfest.com // \$150 (camping included) // VIP options available

Cayuga Sound

Sept. 21 - 22

Ithaca, NY (3 hours 45 minutes away)

Headliners: X Ambassadors, Young The Giant
cayugasoundfestival.com // \$99.50 (no camping option) // VIP options available

Nick Warren will be attending as many of these festivals as humanly possible, and can be reached at Nick@eriereader.com

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Original Musical Kicks Off at Station Dinner Theater

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9



The Station Dinner Theater will debut an original production, written by Erie's own David Durst. *My Heart Is So Full of You* is a "musical love story" featuring the songs of famed Tin Pan Alley songwriter Frank Loesser. Best known for the music and book of *Guys and Dolls* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, Loesser is also well-known for writing the now-questionable Christmas standard "Baby, It's Cold Outside."

The story centers around the fictional town of Melody, Pennsylvania, where

a local library is about to hold a fundraiser. Complete with intertwining storylines and star-crossed lovers, the cast of characters themselves devise and perform a musical featuring the work of Loesser, which comprises the second act.

Bringing established songs together for a unique and cohesive storyline, the production falls under the "jukebox musical" designation, in good company with shows like *Mamma Mia*, *Buddy — The Buddy Holly Story*, and *Jersey Boys*.

The production stars Dust, as well as John Burton, Karen Nasca, Pam Durst, Emily Jude Olszewski, and Riley Drone. — Nick Warren

Runs May 9 through 27 with another run Oct. 9 through 14 // 4940 Peach St. // 864.2022 // for full dates and times, go to canterburyfeast.com

Party with the Punks in Some Kind of Nightmare, Dysmorphia, and More at 9th Street Beer Cafe

THURSDAY, MAY 10

This week, Alex Harilla's Gimp Guy Underground Promotions will host their debut show at the 9th Street Beer Cafe, featuring San Diego-based Some Kind of Nightmare alongside locals Dysmorphia and Insult to Injury. Some Kind of Nightmare arrive on their Damaged But Not Broken! Tour, supporting a recent single "Generations Dead" as well as their half of a recent three-song split with Swift Knuckle Solution of Violent Breed Records.

Each band's sound and self-identified labels make it perfectly clear that this is a punk show, with varying descriptors (Dysmorphia referring to themselves as "riot groove punk," Insult to Injury calling themselves "melodic punk," and Some Kind of Nightmare going with "politically charged punk"). — Aaron Mook

8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. // 832 State Street // Free Show // 21+



Hometown Heroes Mires, Barlow, and Wave Trails Return to Kings Rook Club

FRIDAY, MAY 11



This week, a trio of Erie natives will return for one of the Kings Rook Club's most anticipated shows of the season. The now Pittsburgh-centric Mires and Barlow return with necessary doses of doom-metal desolation and noise-rock antics, respectively, and joining them will be local favorites Wave Trails, a band who regularly blesses Erie's bar scene and venues with unpredictable, psyche-

delic live shows.

"I'm excited to be back in Erie, back at the Rook and to see some familiar faces," says Richie Colosimo, principle songwriter behind Mires (alongside other projects). "This will be a pretty different show than the KRC's usual fare, but that ought to make it all the more interesting."

Mires appears in anticipation of an upcoming follow-up to 2017's *Loom*, while Barlow frontman Ethan Oliva has recently teased a new Barlow EP alongside a new solo record (his first since 2015's *Findlay*) later this year. If we're lucky, between the three of them, fans and Kings Rook regulars alike will be graced with some new tunes from these hometown heroes in just a few days. — Aaron Mook

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

Country Singer Brantley Gilbert Saddles Up for Erie Show

SATURDAY, MAY 12

Hailing from Jefferson, Georgia, singer Brantley Gilbert will stop at the Erie Insurance Arena Saturday, May 12 as part of The Ones That Like Me Tour. The tour, designed to cater to his long-time fans, will feature Gilbert with special guests Aaron Lewis and Josh Phillips.

Gilbert's most recent album *The Devil Don't Sleep*, released in January 2017, includes songs like "Three Feet of Water" and "You Could Be That Girl," but he might be better known for some of his earlier hits.

His debut album *Modern Day Prodigal Son*, featuring "My Kinda Party" — which has become somewhat of a country anthem — was released Oct 2009. Other popular tunes by Gilbert include "Bottoms Up," "You Don't Know Her Like I Do," "One Hell of An Amen" and "More than Miles."

Lewis is known for songs like "Travelin' Soldier" and "That Ain't Country," and fans might know Phillips for "When She Does It Like That." — Tracy Geibel

7 p.m. // 809 French St. // \$32.75+ // 452-4857 // erieinsurancearena.com

MUSIC

Jay Baumgardner

May 10 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St,
Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Some Kind of Nightmare, Dysmorphia and Insult to Injury

May 10 — 8 to 11:30 p.m.
9th & State Beer Cafe, 832
State St. facebook.com.

Alex Kates

May 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W.
Main St, North East, PA 16428
skunkandgoattavern.com.

The Groove

May 11 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Big Bar, 14 E. 10th St.
facebook.com.

The Highlife

May 11 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St,
Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

You Will Be Found

May 11 — 7 p.m.
Luther Memorial Church, 225
W. 10th St. news.psu.edu.

String Is In The Air

May 11 — 7 p.m.
Sean Lafferty of WJET/24 and
FOX/66 is set to host this event
featuring violinist Chloé Trevor

as she performs IL Grosso Mogul by Vivaldi, with a reception following the concert.
First Alliance Church, 2939
Zimmerly Rd. facerie.org.

Small Town Revolution

May 11 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State
St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

The Gilligans

May 11 — 9 p.m.
Four red-shirted buddies
playing rock classics
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry
Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Hard Luck Story with Black Moon Mistress

May 11 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State
St. facebook.com.

Whiskey Daredevils and Gabba Ghoulies

May 11 — 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Country-tinged Punka-
billy from Cleveland
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301
German St. facebook.com.

Wave Trails, Mires and Barlow

May 11 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.com.

Lloyd & Layton Greene

May 12 — 6 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State
St. erieevents.com.

Theory of Evolution

May 12 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Big Bar, 14 E. 10th St.
facebook.com.

Paper Matches and Friends

May 12 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145
W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Brooke Surgener

May 12 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St,
Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Brantley Gilbert

May 12 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809
French St. brantleygilbert.com.

The Probables

May 12 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State
St. facebook.com.

The I-90s

May 12 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry
Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Brotherhood of the Jame, Big Ugly and Gelatin Skeleton

May 12 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State
St. facebook.com.

Tyler Smilo

May 12 — 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Local indie folk songwriter
fresh off two album releases
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301

Celebrate Charles Brown's New EP with a Live All-Star Band at Kings Rook Club

SATURDAY, MAY 12



This weekend, Charles Brown (formerly known as C.Brown, local hip-hop artist and contributor to this publication) will celebrate the release of his new EP, *The Evaluation*, with a free performance and release party at Kings Rook Club. *The Evaluation* is Brown's third EP and sixth project overall.

"It differs from all of my other works because it's my first self-produced installment," says Brown. "I made all the beats and recorded myself rather than having an engineer record me. All songs were recorded right at home in my dining room."

Performing with Brown will be a live

band filled with Erie all-stars, including Ralph Reitingger, Eric Brewer of Eric Brewer & Friends, and Ken "Stix" Thompson. While Brown has performed against a backing track in the past, he also has a history of collaborating with some of Erie's finest artists, and feels this particular backing band will bring a special groove to the show.

"Over the years, I've ended up playing with bands such as Teatime For Three, This American Song, the Erie All-Stars, Galactic Duo, etc. They all believed in me and felt like it would be a great opportunity to work with one another. The feeling is mutual. And I don't think there is anything wrong with performing with backing tracks seeing that I have done that for most of my 'career' — if the music is right, the people will listen — but you definitely can't go wrong with a live band. That's a different type of energy."

As most artists will tell you, consistent growth is key, and Brown has a simple tagline to offer when it comes to his upcoming project:

"This new CD is for everyone because we all need to take a look into ourselves and I believe that we're all fighting an unseen war." — Aaron Mook

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

Lloyd to perform at Warner Theatre

SATURDAY, MAY 12



This year, the Warner Theatre is celebrating Mother's Day in a unique way.

Rhythm and blues singer Lloyd will perform Saturday, May 12 with up-and-

coming musical artist Layton Greene in what's being called a "Mother's Day Concert Event."

Fans might recognize Lloyd Polite Jr. — better known just by his first name — for songs like "Southside," "Lay it Down," "BedRock" with Young Money and "You" with Lil Wayne. He released an EP *Tru* in December 2016, and his fifth full length record *Out My Window* is slated for release on Empire Records soon. Raised in New Orleans, but cutting his teeth in Atlanta, Lloyd got his start in the boy band N-Toon, going solo in 2003.

Greene became popular after going viral for singing a cover of Kodak Black's "Roll in Peace." Since then, she's successfully continued to work towards making a name for herself in the R&B music scene. —Tracy Geibel

6 p.m. // 811 State St. // \$29-99 // 452-4857 // eriewarnertheatre.com

Flagship Flea Returns to Independence Hill

SATURDAY, MAY 12

The Independence Hill area is no stranger to eclectic and local shopping experiences and has been bringing them to Erie for some time now, having steadily become one of the most interesting sections of the city.

In its second year in operation, Flagship Flea returns, and it's larger than ever. If you're wondering what to expect, just know that it offers a uniquely original shopping experience that emphasizes the products of small business owners and local artisans. This event gives these people just the platform to sell their goods to both the community and out of town day trippers looking for an exceptional experience.

The event will be returning May 12 and running through September on the second Saturday of each month. It will be held along the sidewalks and parking lots of Peach Street spanning from 18th to 26th. Join the crowds as you shop, eat and explore local talent.

If you are a local food vendor/food truck, artisan or small business owner feel free to email flagshipflea@gmail.com to apply for a spot. Keep up with the special events and check out behind the scenes work by following [@flagshipfleas](https://www.instagram.com/flagshipfleas) on Instagram. — Roman Sabella

Every second Saturday of the month until Sept. 8, 1 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Independence Hill

German St. facebook.com.

C. Brown Album Release with All Star Band

May 12 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Patio Drive

May 13 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Celebration of Unity with One World Tribe

May 13 — 3 to 9 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

Scarlet Ledbetter

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

The Bunny The Bear, It Lies Within, Hold On Hollywood and Dead Noise

May 15 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Pat & Abby Doyle

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

Simply Because

May 17 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Jazz Erie's Next Generation Concert

May 17 — 6:30 p.m.
General McLane High School, 11761 Edinboro Rd, Edinboro, PA 16412 jazzerie.com.

The Groove

May 18 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Junction PA Band

May 18 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Consider The Source and Tony Grey's Galactic Duo

May 18 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Kevlar CD Release Party with Never Wake and The Impurity

May 18 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Paul Anthony Project, Slow Motion Breakdown and Elektra Kings

May 18 — 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Americana rock and roll from New York City, funky reggae rock from Warren, PA joined by local surf rockers
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Bound By Fate

May 19 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Metal from Cleveland's Bound By Fate along with locals Requiem For Oblivion, Brotherhood of the Jam, Synaptic Rage, and Save Yourself
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

The Groove

May 19 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The Magic Beans and This American Song

May 19 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Old school jamband from Colorado along with local alt rock six piece
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Immoral with White Out

May 19 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Roger Montgomery

May 19 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Local legend with killer blues licks
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Symphonic Singers of Erie Spring Concert

May 20 — 3 p.m.
Holy Cross Catholic Church, 7100 West Ridge Rd, Fairview, PA 16415 dells@roadrunner.com.

Daniel J. Stockwell

May 20 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Abjection Ritual, Stonecutters and Fog Giant

May 21 — 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Local death industrial, heavy metal from Kentucky, and Erie doom and psychedelia
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

DANCE

Parkinson's Dance Program

May 15, 22 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Springhill Senior Living Center, 2323 Edinboro Rd. jenniferdennehy.com.

A Celebration of Dance Stardust Showcase

May 19 — 5:30 to 10 p.m.
ReaLife Assembly, 3902 W. 38th St. facebook.com.

FOOD & DRINK

All About Tea

May 9 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Beer Garden BBQ

May 11 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

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One World Tribe Celebrates Unity and Diversity

SUNDAY, MAY 13



One of Erie's favorite bands is gearing up for a special Celebration of Unity. One World Tribe will fill the stage at the Bourbon Barrel for one of their relatively rare performances. Formed in 1994, the band features a large array of instrumentalists blending danceable styles from around the globe.

This year's event was organized by Ashley Chow of Little Shop of Chow, with local teacher and realtor Jarrod Groves, and grew out of the Unity Ball. Now dubbed the Celebration of Unity, it brings together creative offerings, all in the name of benefiting Erie's Multicultural Resource Center.

"This event will encourage everyone to celebrate our differences," Chow proclaimed. "Beyond raising money for a great cause, The Celebration of Unity

intends to create awareness of multiculturalism in the Erie community."

It's nearly impossible to imagine a band more suited to deliver that message than One World Tribe. A truly multicultural ensemble, the band blends reggae, ska, hip hop, and world music together for an infectious beam of progressive energy. Chow elaborated, explaining that "the message of social change and unity represented by One World Tribe complements the message that the variety of performers from all over the world will be coming to represent."

The event will also feature a cultural fashion contest, showcasing vibrant clothing from a multitude of ethnic communities. There will also be a "Candy Bar," (read like salad bar) featuring cookies, cupcakes, and of course, candy. "Dreams do come true!" Chow laughed. Many local businesses have donated baskets for Chinese Auctions, and there will be a special menu thanks to chef Ashley Sayre de Rivas. Star 104's DJ Kwame will host the proceedings, in what should prove for a packed event designed to bring every part of the region together. — Nick Warren

3 p.m. to 9 p.m. // 1213 State St. // \$10 admission, \$5 for students

Short Runs, Small Batches and Beer Coasters

MONDAY, MAY 14



Members of The Lake Erie Ale Trail will be taking part in a national celebration known as American Craft Beer Week. Championing independent craft brewers, there will be a plethora of interesting events going on for the discerning drinker — and of course, their designated driver.

All week long, local breweries will run promotions and specials, including the first pint night of 2018 and the season opening of Bird courtesy of Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing on Thursday, and "Cellar Night" at the Brewerrie at Union Station on Friday. North East's Arundel Cellars and Brewing will debut their new smooth black IPA, "Black Sheep," and host SASS Acoustics on Saturday evening, starting at 6 p.m., and Mike and Marie

Miller, along with Harry Parker on Sunday afternoon beginning at 1 p.m. Going the distance, Erie Ale Works will host its 2nd annual 0.01 k, or a run that translates into just under 33 feet. It should be a photo finish for the charity event for the Humane Society of Northwest Pennsylvania.

The keystone event of the week will be the "Beer Coaster" at Waldameer Park. Starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, the much-loved amusement park will treat guests to pairings of craft beer and gourmet hot dogs.

Over the past two years, the Lake Erie Ale Trail has seen its roster grow, adding three new members to its fold: Ripley's 7 Sins Brewery, Erie's Black Monk Brewery, and Titusville's Orr's Brewing Company. The association also includes Arundel Cellars and Brewing Company, Blue Canoe Brewery, The Brewerrie at Union Station, Erie Ale Works, Erie Brewing Company, Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, Lavery Brewing Company, Millcreek Brewing Company, Sprague Farm & Brew Works, Timbercreek Tap & Table, and Voodoo Brewing Company. — Nick Warren

For more details, visit lakeeriealetrail.com/acbw/

Winemaker's Dinner

May 11 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co.,
11727 E. Main Rd. North East,
PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Mother's Day Brunch

May 12, 13 — 10 a.m.
Celebrate Mother's Day with a filling and beautiful brunch at Edinboro's own Goodell Gardens with four times available to attend.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead,
221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA
16412 goodellgardens.org.

Downtown Erie Food Tour

May 12 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Brain Teaser Brunch

May 12 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Brewerrie at Union Station,
123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

American Craft Beer Week

May 14 through May 20
Various Locations, lakeeriealetrail.com.

Cocktails 101: The Golden Age

May 14 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Happy-Appy Food Tour

May 16 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St.
eriefoodtours.com.

Gourmet Popcorn & Craft Beer Pairing

May 18 — 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free tasting of Samuel Adams beers and PopLuck Gourmet Popcorn as well as a prize wheel will be open to visitors in celebration of American Craft Beer Week.
Pop Luck Gourmet Popcorn,
1535 W. 8th St. facebook.com.

A Charming Weekend in Lake Erie Wine Country

May 18 — noon to 5 p.m. & May 19, 20 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Taste some of the area's most delicious wines while you collect a charm at each of the 22 wineries along the way to complete your own bracelet.
Various Locations, lakeerieawinecountry.org.

Drink-along, sing-along

May 18 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Millcreek Brewing Company,
4102 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Cellar Night

May 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.
The Brewerrie at Union Station,
123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

Beer Coaster

May 19 — 4 to 8 p.m.
Waldameer Park, 3100 W. Lake Rd. brewerrie.com.

North East Food Tour

May 20 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Bean Coffee Shop, 12 S. Lake St, North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com.

Purse and Pearl Luncheon

May 22 — 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier mcwerie.org.

Mind, Body, Beer

May 22 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12 St. facebook.com.

MOVIES

Flight of the Butterflies

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Earthflight

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

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing — 1 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental

Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Aircraft Carrier

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

I, Tonya

May 9 — 5:30 p.m.
Margot Robbie plays the part of figure skater Tonya Harding in this mockumentary-style biographical film that is chock full of laughs and fourth wall breaks.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Patti Cake\$ with Ne'Richa

May 16 — 5:30 p.m.
This underdog story tells the tale of aspiring rapper Patti, nicknamed Dumbo, as she moves from Bergen County, New Jersey into the big leagues despite her obstacles.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Mad Max: Fury Road Black & Chrome

May 23 — 5:30 p.m.
Experience one of Hollywood's most over-the-top blockbusters in brilliantly rendered

black-and-chrome as Max Rockatansky takes on the evildoers of the apocalypse.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

VISUAL ARTS

By Tooth and Nail

Ongoing through May 11
Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall,
215 Meadville St, Edinboro,
PA 16444 brucegallery.info.

Senior Art Thesis Exhibition

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

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

Ongoing through May 15
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Plastics Lost and Found

Ongoing through May 28
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

95th Annual Spring Show

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

Gary Spinoso: Divine Instinct

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

James McMurray: Faces and Paces

Ongoing through June 10, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Second Sundays

May 13 — 2 to 4 p.m.
View the beautiful landscape and portrait paintings in James McMurray's exhibit "Faces and Paces" before making your own colorful bouquet of tissue paper flowers.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Kate Nash, Paintings

May 18 through Jul. 3
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Vintage Neon: Images by Chuck Biddle

May 18 through Sept. 9
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Gallery Night

May 18 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Various Locations, erieartmuseum.org.

Sr. Angelica Cummings

May 21 through Aug. 10

Consider the Source and Get Yourself There at the King's Rook Club

FRIDAY, MAY 18



Within the universe of the NYC trio of avant-jam masters known as Consider the Source, music itself is a dance.

The sounds made by the brainchildren of (fretless double neck) guitarist Gabriel Marin, bassist John Ferrara, and drummer/percussionist Jeff Mann effortlessly marry old, deep Middle Eastern and world influences with jazz, metal, funk, and a gamut of musical techniques — including all the best elements of the Information Age-inspired new school of improv-based live music-making.

They say — and they're right, I've seen it — that all kinds of people, from hippies and freak folks to metalheads and prog nerds, can really dig where they go and what they do.

They've been pushing the edges of the sonic envelope and expertly making a good joke of any standard genre typi-

fication since 2004. And, well, they're pretty damn amazing.

This is how they've put it themselves: "If intergalactic beings of pure energy, after initiation into an order of whirling dervishes, built some kind of pan-dimensional booty-shaking engine, powered by psychedelics and abstract math, it'd probably just sound like a CTS tribute band."

As you should expect, then, Consider the Source is straight-up awesome live, so catching them in their elements — especially when they're gathering those elements up right here in Erie — is, well, most definitely worth considering.

And word that the stellar Galactic Duo of bassist Tony Grey and drummer Ian Maciak (two more world-renowned improv masters who call Erie their central command) are also performing on the same night and in the same place would make the call good and done.

CTS and Galactic Duo are taking a couple of fantastic voyages both upstairs and down at the Kings Rook Club on Friday, May 18.

We recommend you get in there (er, get out there) if you can, because it's most likely gonna be a grand evening of mind-bending music at the Rook. — Ryan Smith

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

Library Comic Con Returns to Origins

And it's as titanic, colossal, and ginormous as ever

SATURDAY, MAY 19



If the devastating juggernaut known as *Avengers: Infinity War* didn't get you all riled up last month, here comes the Erie Library Comic Con (ELCC), back for its fourth year and, happily, back to its original location at the Raymond M. Blasco Memorial Library right on Erie's beautiful bayfront.

This nerd-tastic event is described as a celebration of "geek culture and literacy," a joint effort by the Geek ERIE, a nonprofit literacy organization, and the Erie Public Library. While the ELCC proper is held Saturday, the hosts are kicking things off on Friday with the Cos-Prom, a family-friendly, free event which will be held for the first time in the same location as the convention itself. Guests are invited to dress up in their favorite pop culture costume and boogie the night away.

The main event, of course, is the ELCC on Saturday, upon which the Market-

ing Director for the Geek ERIE and all-around Erie Amazon — known far and wide by her alias, Diana Prince — remarked, "We are also opening up to other avenues of pop culture and having a lot of interactive demos and games." Her enthusiasm for this event began during its inaugural run in 2015, when she hosted a panel, and has grown exponentially with each passing year.

"The evolution has been so much fun to witness and participate in... [it] supports our core message of literacy. Our free and inclusive event promotes healthy relationships with local vendors and artists as well as young people and families," Prince said.

In addition to all the activities event-goers have come to know and expect, such as the Retrocade in the Admiral room, tons of vendors throughout, panels, lectures and films, and intense gaming, this year will feature miniature painting workshops, a staged reading of Joss Whedon's *Wonder Woman* script (with commentary) and even more food trucks than ever before, with The 'Que Abides, The Big Cheese and the Sor-ERIE pulling up and dishing out to the hungry masses. — Cara Suppa

Cos-prom: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; ELCC main event: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday // 160 E Front Street // [Free // thegeekerie.org](http://thegeekerie.org)

Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

THEATER

My Heart is So Full of You

May 9, 16, 22, 23 — noon & May 11 — 7 p.m. & May 12, 19 — 5:30 p.m. & May 20 — 2:30 p.m.

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

Junie B. Jones

May 11, 12, 18, 19 — 7 p.m. & May 12, 13, 19, 20 — 2 p.m.

This musical adaptation of Barbara Park's best-selling book series is sure to bring the world to life with its comical and not-just-for-kids set-up.

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

Driving Miss Daisy

May 11, 12, 18, 19 — 7:30 p.m. & May 13, 20 — 2 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

A Comedy of Tenors

May 11, 12 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & May 13 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Buck Fever

May 11, 12 — 8 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Peppa Pig Live Surprise

May 16 — 6 p.m.

Fans of this Nick Jr. show will love this family-friendly, fully immersive theatrical experience that has already sold over 400,000 tickets to date.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. peppapigliveus.com.

SPORTS

Erie SeaWolves vs Harrisburg Senators

May 9 — 11:05 p.m.

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

Erie Spring Classic

May 11, 12, 13

Various Locations, eriesportscommission.com.

Nonprofit Games Erie

May 12 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Penn State Behrend Junker Center, 4701 College Dr. nonprofitgameserie.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs Reading Fighting Phils

May 18, 19, 21 — 6:05 p.m. & May 20 — 1:35 p.m.

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

Kayak Anglers Bass on the Bay

May 19 — 6 a.m.

Kayak Anglers tournament heads to Presque Isle for this major tournament for professional and amateur fishers alike. PresqueIsleStatePark.com.

Keystone Hoops Group Beast in the East National Qualifier

May 19, 20

Penn State Behrend Junker Center, 5103 Station Rd.

eriesportscommission.com.

COMMUNITY

2018 Presque Isle State Park "Big Month" Birding Competition

Ongoing through May 31 Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecepi.org.

Time with James R. Clapper

May 9 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriebar.com.

Read to a Therapy Dog

May 9 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum Street, Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

America's Most Contentious Presidential Elections

May 9, 16, 23 — 4 to 6 p.m. Historian and author George Deutsch shares some of the most infamous campaigns in American history includ-

ing some of the country's most iconic presidents.

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

Remarkable Women: Henrietta Lacks

May 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

May 10 — 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Yehl Ballroom at Gannon University, 109 University Sq. facebook.com.

Al Stone Lecture Series

May 10, 15 — 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Thompson, a professor of rhetoric and composition at Penn State Behrend, presents her lecture titled "Peril, Paradox, and Promise: The Rhetoric of the Anti-Establishment Movement in America."

Dr. Conti, a professor of legal studies at Edinboro University and former District Attorney of Erie County, presents his

lecture titled "Arming Teachers and School Personnel: The Potential Civil Liability for School Districts."

Edinboro University's Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St, Edinboro, PA 16444 events.edinboro.edu.

Adult Art Classes

May 10, 17 — 1 to 3 p.m.

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

American Short Stories

May 10 — 4 to 6 p.m.

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

Mental Health Awareness Walk

May 10 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Perry Square, 601 State St. facebook.com.

Jazz in post-WWI Germany

May 10 — 7 p.m.

Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

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May's Gallery Night a Springtime Delight

FRIDAY, MAY 18



Art lovers will again be in their element as the Erie Art Museum and participating partners put on another Gallery Night.

up across our great city this May. Blooming with particular brilliance is the Erie Art Museum's May edition of Gallery Night, a veritable pleasure garden of visual, audible and culinary treasures spread from one end

of Erie to the other. Downtown, the Erie Art Museum will debut two new exhibits: the first is the 95th Annual Spring Show, and the second is called "Vintage Neon," a collection of "mid-century signage" pho-

tographs by Pittsburgh-based Chuck Biddle. The photographer himself will be on hand starting at 7:15 to discuss his work, while poets like Chuck Joy and Kim Noyes will recite original poetry inspired by the Spring Show.

Elsewhere, 20 different boutiques, galleries and shops will open their doors to the public for rare nighttime hours. Close to the Erie Art Museum and perfect for a nighttime stroll, Glass Growers Gallery will feature the works of Kate Nash in an exhibit called "Parsing Beauty," a celebration of "drama, strength, form, and color" in the form of close-up paintings depicting flowers from the artist's own garden. Gallery Night also extends up State, where PACA will host Fairview High School's annual photo and art exhibition; to Peach and Independence Hill,

where Pointe Four Vintage Boutique will present Rachel L. Berlin's first solo show, with the incredible Rebecca Mae on hand; westward to the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant Community Gallery, which will feature art that speaks to and of 12-step recovery; and lakeside, too, at the Bayfront Gallery, now in its 23rd season.

This is just a broad overview of everything happening on Gallery Night, many of which include light refreshment and live music, so whatever the weather decides to do, nothing can dampen or dim the evening's many delights. — Cara Suppa

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. // Various locations throughout Erie // Free // erieartmuseum.org/events-gallery-night

It's here — spring is finally here, and while April's showers more closely resembled something out of the Night King's (the icy overlord of the dead from *Game of Thrones*) vacation photos, there are all kinds of flowers sprouting

Roles in Starting a Global War

May 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

National Public Gardens Day

May 11 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Trash to Treasure Sale

May 12 — 7:30 a.m. to noon
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu.

The Art of Zentangle

May 12 — 9 to 11 a.m.
Women's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. eriewomansclub.com.

Master Gardener 13th Annual Plant Sale

May 12 — 9 a.m. to noon
Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. extension.psu.edu.

Adopt A Beach Program at Presque Isle

May 12 — 9 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Pontoon Boat Fishing

May 12 — 9 a.m. to noon
Pontoon Boat Station in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Women's Care Center Heroes for Life 5K Run & Walk

May 12 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Beach 7 in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. wccerie.org.

Little Leaves

May 12, 19, 21 — 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Flagship Flea

May 12 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. facebook.com.

Create a Magical Fairy Garden

May 12 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Club Catholic Charities Night

May 12 — 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Erie Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier clubccnight.com.

Mother's Day Pontoon Ride

May 13 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Pontoon Boat Station in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

The Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties: A Primer

May 14, 21 — 4 to 6 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Master Builders

May 14 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

Great Books

May 15, 22 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Adult Beginner Mountain Dulcimer Class

May 15 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Lakewood United Methodist Church, 3856 W. 10th St. facebook.com.

May Work Day for Operation Christmas Child

May 16 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Grace Church, 7300 Grubb Rd. samaritanspurse.org.

GECAC Tri-Boro Senior Center Cyber Security

Presentation

May 16 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
GECAC Tri-Boro Senior Center, 7555 W. Ridge Rd, Fairview, PA 16415 gecac.org.

8th Annual VA2K Walk & Roll

May 16 — 11:20 a.m. to 1 p.m.
2nd Floor Pavilion at the Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E. 38th St. erie.va.gov.

Erie County Court of Common Pleas: A Discussion and Overview with President Judge

May 16 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
President Judge John Trucilla, serving his 16th year on the Erie County Court of Common Pleas, will provide an overview of the Court's structure, subject matter jurisdiction, goals, and initiatives.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival

May 17, 18, 19, 20
Downtown Edinboro, PA edinborartandmusic.com.

Read to a Therapy Dog

May 17 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

Silent Peace Walk

May 17 — 7 to 7:30 p.m.
Eastside Grassroots Coalition at the JFK Center Kid's Cafe, 2021 E. 20th St. eriebenedictines.org.

The Far Side of the Moon and the Birth of the Culture Wars: Part Two: War & Peace

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

Presque Isle Garden

Club Plant Sale

May 18 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
West Ridge Fire Department, 3142 W. 26th St. greeneriepa.org.

North East Community Yard Sale

May 18, 19 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
North East Area Chamber of Commerce, 44 W. Main St, North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

Gospel Hill Garden Club Plant Sale

May 18 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wesleyville Borough Hall, 3421 Buffalo Rd. facebook.com.

2018 Festival of the Birds at Presque Isle

May 18 — 1 to 8 p.m. & May 19 — 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. & May 20 — 6:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

2nd Annual 0.01K

May 18 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12 St. facebook.com.

Cos-Prom

May 18 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Bike Around the Bay

May 19 — 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Join friends and family for Environment Erie's signature fundraiser and enjoy biking on Presque Isle's bike trail, which has been named the third-best in America by *Coastal Living Magazine.
Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. environmenterie.org.

Indoor Garage Sale

May 19 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Belle Valley Social Hall, 1514 Norcross Rd. facebook.com.

Spring Rummage Sale

May 19 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community Access Television, 142 W. 12th St. catverie.org.

Great Strides Walk

May 19 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Beach 1 in Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Erie Animal Network Plant Sale

May 19 — 9 a.m. & May 20 — 11 a.m.
Burhenn's Pharmacy, 861 E. 38th St. facebook.com.

Erie Library Comic Con 2018

May 19 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Erie Zoo Parade

May 19 — 10 a.m.
WQLN has partnered with the Zoo this year to provide activities and some special mascot visitors for the official start of the Zoo season.
Downtown Erie, State St. eriezoo.org.

Let's Find a Letterbox

May 19 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Garden Stones

May 19 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Master Builders

May 19 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum Street, Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Barrels of Hope-Fundraiser for Great Lakes Hospice

May 19 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. upmc.com.

Fairfield Hose Company 2nd Annual Designer

MUSIC REVIEWS

The Weeknd

My Dear Melancholy
XO Records



At six songs and 24 minutes, is The Weeknd's latest album really an album? Is it more of an EP? A mini-LP? Does it even matter? One of several surprise releases to drop this season with only a week's notice, *My Dear Melancholy* is an intentional return to form meant to please fans of The Weeknd both old and new. Stylistically, it acts as a midpoint between the artist's beloved *Trilogy* mixtapes and 2016 pop-smash *Starboy*, splicing the smoky, atmospheric production of the former with the instant hooks of the latter. One of the album's strongest examples is the beat drop and subsequent chorus of opening track "Call Out My Name," which wastes no time signifying the return of an R&B-focused Weeknd. Even at six tracks, *My Dear Melancholy* manages to experiment with tempos and textures throughout, speeding things up on album highlight and obvious single choice "Wasted Times," which offers an irresistible chopped and screwed bridge of, "I ain't got no business catching feelings." *My Dear Melancholy* is the rarest form of fan service that actually incorporates the artist's past just as well as their present, revealing thrilling opportunities for the future. — Aaron Mook



Speedy Ortiz

Twerp Verse
Car Park Records



Twerp Verse is the third installment from the Northampton, Massachusetts four-piece Speedy Ortiz (named for minor character in Jaime Hernandez' *Love and Rockets* comic universe). This trilogy of offerings, along with numerous EPs and singles from the noisy indie rock band, have cemented their growing reputation as a consistently creative band to watch. The charm about *Twerp Verse* sneaks up on the listener. While there are plenty of hooks, intriguing lyrics (mentioning "booty pics" in the first 10 seconds), and hummable melodies — one of the strongest being "Lucky 88," the overall flow of the record simply is just incredibly *listenable* in its entirety. The fuzzy, chorused twinges of late 90s alt rock (particularly the work of Kim Deal) are retranslated with a beautiful eloquence that stands on its own by frontwoman Sadie Dupuis. Later album standouts like "Alone with Girls" and "Moving In" provide angular, midtempo guitar riffs that while densely complex when taken piecemeal, paint a larger picture that's a strangely perfect summer record — one that has the some of the biggest potential to be a personal sleeper hit, worthy of countless plays and low key recommendations. — Nick Warren



J. Cole

KOD
Republic Records



J. Cole has come a long way from the cornier, flow-biting tricks of his early days. No longer does the North Carolina-based rapper find it necessary to rely on one-liners about poop (or, at least not as much) to cut his more serious tracks. Rather, it seems that every project since 2014's *Forest Hills Drive* has been a significant improvement over the last, culminating with his latest experiment, *KOD*. Kids on Drugs? Kill Our Demons? King Overdosed? While it's been implied that the title could mean any of the preceding phrases, it reflects new lyrical ground for J. Cole and most of the time, it succeeds. Flush with organic beats, pitched-down vocals and spoken interludes, the biggest (and most common) strike against *KOD* is that, at its weakest, it plays like lighter amalgamation of Kendrick's last two LPs. But while Kendrick addresses drug use as a fact of low-income situations, J. Cole urges users to find another way out. Coming from someone who's made it to the top, it's a well-intentioned if at times condescending message, but one he delivers passionately. And while it may be silly to end this project with a diss track, there is more than enough here to applaud J. Cole for consistently putting his ambition first. — Aaron Mook



Janelle Monae

Dirty Computer
Bad Boy Records



Cyborg songstress Janelle Monae again plays up her human-machine dichotomy on *Dirty Computer*, following stints as the *ArchAndroid* (2010) and *Electric Lady* (2013). Monae and her cadre of producers have programmed a successful emulation of her predecessors, most notably Prince, whose classic output provides the script for much of the material here, both musically and thematically. "Screwed" echoes the nihilistic sentiments of "1999," rallying listeners to let loose with abandon in a world that has abandoned human interests. The playfully sexy "Make Me Feel" is the Prince song Robin Thicke wishes he wrote, featuring an irresistible groove and the funkier rhythm guitar breakdown this side of "Kiss." Monae's assertive android alter-ego commands most of *Dirty Computer*, resulting in an album that boasts a lot of shimmering synth-funk gleam, but lacks some of the mystery and atmosphere that made the alternate dimension sci-fi spy soundtrack *Electric Lady* so captivating. The lush, orchestrated ballad "Don't Judge Me" comes closest, as Monae admits to human doubts and vulnerabilities. After all, we all have a little dirt on our circuitboards. — Matt Swanseger



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



MOVIE REVIEWS

This is Your Life: *Tully* is a Dark Character Study Disguised as a Quirky Comedy

★★★★★

Jason Reitman teams back up with his *Juno* screenwriter Diablo Cody to give us *Tully*. Like *Juno*, *Tully* is also a look at motherhood but from a very different and, in my opinion, much more interesting perspective.



FOCUS FEATURES

The film stars Charlize Theron as Marlo, a mother of two (including a special needs son) who just gave birth to a new daughter. Already overwhelmed, Marlo must now endure the crying fits, late night nursing and total loss of sleep that comes with a newborn. As a result, her brother gifts her with a night nanny (Mackenzie Davis) to help take care of the baby while Marlo can get some rest. Hesitant at first, Marlo quickly develops a close bond with the quirky, intelligent and unconventional young woman.

It seems like a typical feel-good story so far, and it is until the film takes an unexpectedly dark turn which I won't spoil here. Then it becomes obvious that *Tully* is after deeper themes. Ultimately, the film is about the life, decisions and regrets of a woman for whom middle age has suddenly caught up with. Parenthood is an excellent stage in which to present the ultimate anxiety of life: that life is all about the choices we make but also the choices we don't make. The paths we take open up plenty of doors but at the same time they also close doors that can never be opened again. Of course the film is extremely funny but in the end, that dark revelation is what it is ultimately out to show. I think *Tully* might be best described as a horror film for parents. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Jason Reitman // Written by: Diablo Cody // Starring: Charlize Theron, Mackenzie Davis, Mark Duplass, Ron Livingston, Colleen Wheeler and Elaine Tan // 96 minutes

To Infinity ... and Beyond!: *Avengers: Infinity War* Gives New Definition to "Superhero Fatigue"

★★★

For ten years the "Marvel Cinematic Universe" has been working on an ambitious and unprecedented idea in movie-making: to make a massive series of unrelated films (nineteen and counting) all set in the same universe. It's been fun for the most part but it has all come to this; the moment when



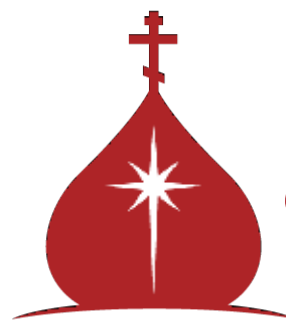
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all the subplots and characters come together for the mother of all battles. *Infinity War* is here and it's a long, periodically entertaining and surprisingly bleak affair.

Finally revealing the story only teased to us in the first *Avengers*, this film follows Thanos (Josh Brolin), a purple monster on a quest to retrieve six magic stones that he needs to wipe out half of all life in the universe and only the Avengers (with a few new friends from outer space) can stop him. But can Earth's mightiest heroes stand up against a being with seemingly god-like power?

Featuring enough characters to give Robert Altman a run for his money and multiple plots involving magic axes, space travel and robots, it seems like *Infinity War* should be a giant mess, but its subplots all flow extremely well. Also, plenty of the action set pieces and emotional character moments are very effective, making the punishing runtime go by a little easier. My only complaint is the fact that the film goes much too far in being the "dark and gritty" entry in the series. Coming from a cinematic universe as fun and exciting as this one, the film is shockingly dour and frankly depressing. It's a bold direction to take but it may have gone too far with the death and destruction. I feel weird for saying this, but this is a superhero film that you may consider *not* bringing young kids to see. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Joe and Anthony Russo // Written by: Stephen McFeely and Christopher Markus // Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland, Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Josh Brolin, Chadwick Boseman, Paul Bettany, Elizabeth Olsen and the voice of Bradley Cooper // 149 minutes



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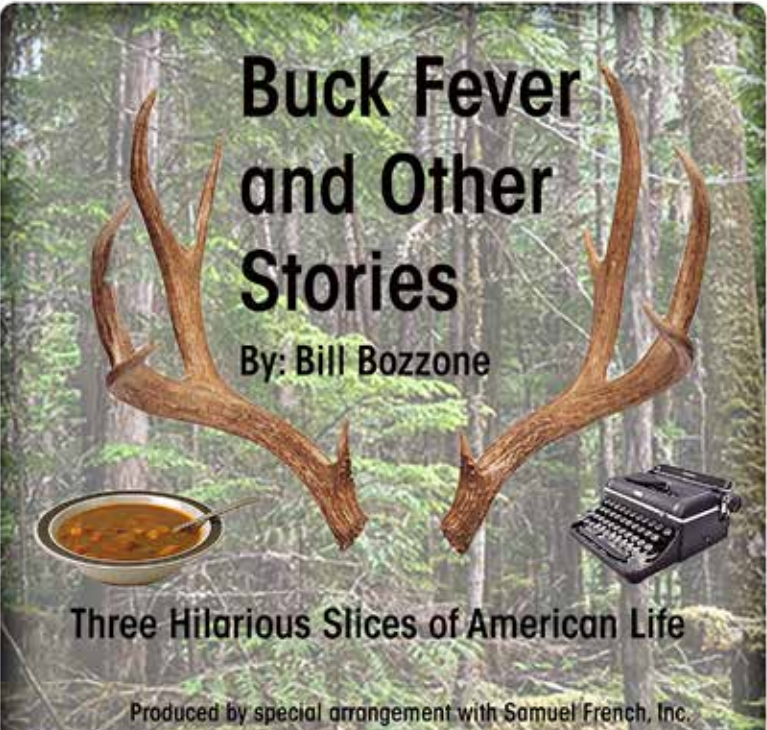


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FIREWORKS

ARIENS



MON, MAY 21 • 6:05 PM

BUCK NIGHT

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FRI, MAY 25 • 6:05 PM

CHRISTIN STEWART HOME RUN KING BOBBLEHEADS

*FIRST 1,000 FANS

GAME OF THRONES NIGHT

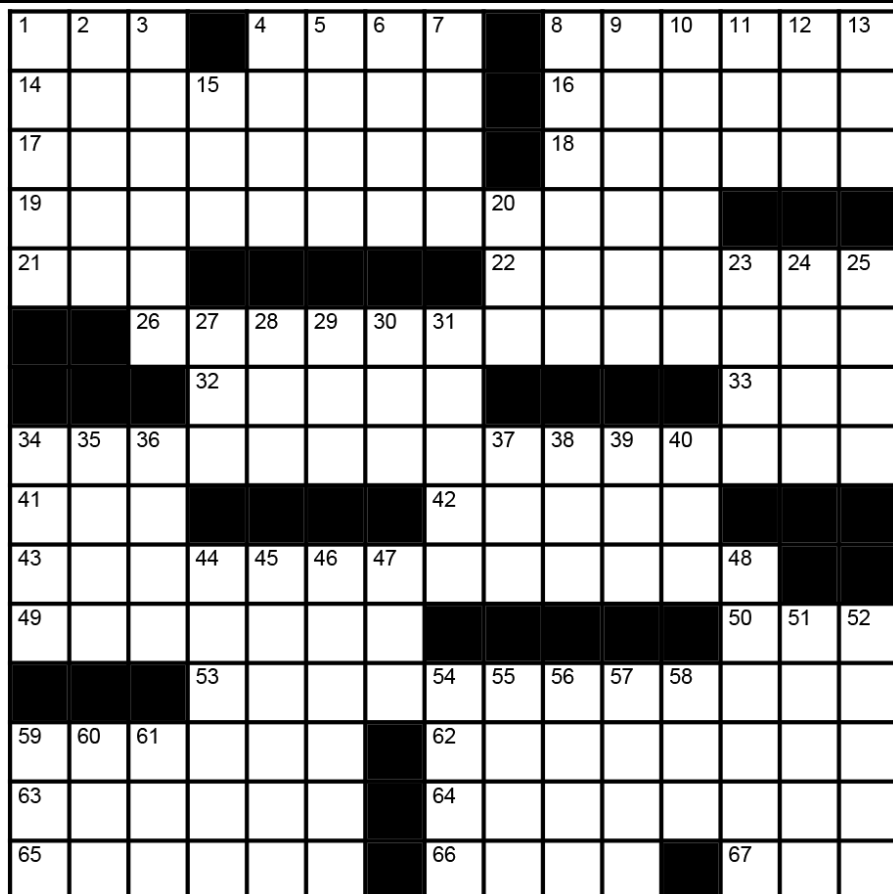


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Across

- 1. Stir-fry vessel
- 4. "The Bicycle Thief" director Vittorio De ____
- 8. They may be involved in close shaves
- 14. Neon or helium
- 16. City about 250 miles SW of Topeka, KS
- 17. Most gangly
- 18. Giving two tablets, say
- 19. Third-party candidates, typically
- 21. Suffix with planet
- 22. "Angela's Ashes" author
- 26. Feature of Garbage Pail Kids trading cards
- 32. Mexican artist Kahlo
- 33. Typical Scottish Brexit vote
- 34. Goes under fast
- 41. " ____ late!"
- 42. About 90% of people have one
- 43. Words of solidarity
- 49. Place with screwdrivers and rusty nails
- 50. Unit now known as a siemens
- 53. "Up All Night" boy band ... or something featured in 19-, 26-, 34- or 43-Across
- 59. Country crooner Randy
- 62. "If I may ..."
- 63. Patronize, as a restaurant

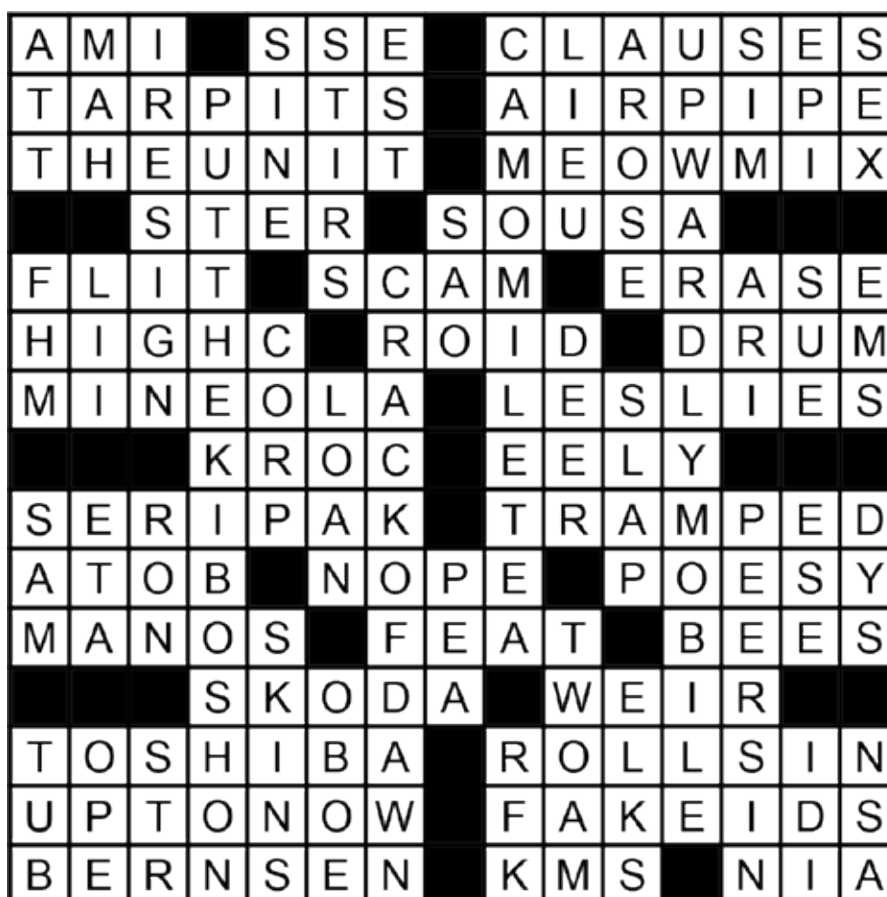
- 64. Worker's advocate
- 65. Refuses
- 66. Many an Instagram user
- 67. Suffix with sex

Down

- 1. Name hollered in the "Flintstones" theme song
- 2. Broadcasting sign
- 3. Saxophonist featured in the video of Katy Perry's "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)"
- 4. Awaken
- 5. The Beach Boys' " ____ Around"
- 6. Check alternative
- 7. Study of the heavens: Abbr.
- 8. Blue-pencil
- 9. Amount to "kick it up"
- 10. Wes Anderson's "The Life Aquatic with Steve ____"
- 11. Amo : I love :: ____ : I hate
- 12. Burgundy of "Anchor-man"
- 13. DreamWorks ____ (film studio)
- 15. Film studio once owned by Howard Hughes
- 20. Bird on Australia's coat of arms
- 23. "Let me think ... yeah, that's stupid"
- 24. Reddish-brown
- 25. Sequoia, e.g.
- 27. Subj. of the 2006 film "Bobby"
- 28. Surgery locales, for short
- 29. R.S.V.P. part
- 30. '80s missile shield plan
- 31. "The Great Dictator" Oscar nominee Jack ____
- 34. Admission evidence
- 35. College just north of New York City
- 36. Crime film genre
- 37. Two of nine?
- 38. Raid target
- 39. One-named singer with the 2016 #1 hit "Cheap Thrills"
- 40. Hamilton's place
- 44. Valuable discoveries
- 45. Lasting forever
- 46. Inflicts upon
- 47. Iraq War subj.
- 48. Composer Shostakovich
- 51. Subjects of some loans
- 52. Common lunch hr.
- 54. "Hmm, how shall ____ this?"
- 55. Artist Magritte
- 56. Pennsylvania's "Gem City"
- 57. "Quit your joshin!"
- 58. Gift on a 10th anniversary
- 59. Scores by RBs and WRs
- 60. Narrow inlet
- 61. " ____ day now ..."



Answers to last issue's puzzle





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PEOPLE & PLACES

Maitham's Corner

Youssif Almusawi, 24, Deputy Sheriff



Youssif Almusawi, the first Iraqi-American to work for the Erie County Sherriff, hopes that both he and local law enforcement can flex their muscles to the benefit of citizens of all backgrounds.

have passed. I feel like law enforcement is something I can do to give back to the community. If I can help or protect one person it's a job well done. The process wasn't easy but I did it. I went to Mercyhurst College for three semesters and went through the six-month Police Academy for credits to complete my Act120 and earn an Associates Degree.

MB: You are the first Iraqi-American to be working for the Erie County Sheriff. How does it feel?

YA: It is a great feeling because I feel like it's a stepping-stone in the Iraqi-American chapter for the City of Erie. Our (Iraqi) community isn't the biggest in the area but it's nice to show that we're working and trying to provide a positive image. As of a right now, the Iraqi community is in a good shape. We have busi-

nesses but we are missing a great representation in City Hall and the political field in Erie.

MB: The Iraqi community must be proud of you for holding such a position.

YA: From what I know, they are proud. They express it in different ways; I have had parents asking me to speak to their kids about law enforcement and what they can do to get involved. It's honestly encouraging having so many people who have gone through the same thing as you being proud of your achievements.

MB: What are you hoping to achieve in your law enforcement career?

YA: I honestly hope to be able to work for the City of Erie and be able to give back to my community and help the people I grew up with. But my end goal is to work my way up through the ranks and someday being the Chief of Police for the city. I want to be the chief because this is where I grew up and Erie is diverse. Mexicans, Arabs, Africans, Whites, Blacks. We got it all.

Maitham Basha-Agha can be contacted at Maitham@eriereader.com

By: Maitham Basha-Agha

Maitham Basha-Agha: Youssif, please tell me where are you from.

Youssif Almusawi: I was born in Raha, Saudi Arabia but my family escaped from Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War. My father refused to fight in the military and was against the ruling of Hussein's regime at the time. They shot my grandparents' house with weapons and bullets. My family, including my grandparents, had no choice but to flee.

We lived in a concrete house and didn't have much at the refugee camp. My dad was selling Kebab sandwiches to make ends meet. He tried his best to make life easy and better for us.

MB: How did you end up in Erie, PA?

YA: My family and I were assigned by UNHCR to locate to Erie, PA in 1996, which is also where many of the former Iraqi refugees who currently reside in Erie came from. I was three years old at the time. Upon our arrival, my dad's friends greeted us and I remember how happy we were to be in America. We arrived here with \$50. Life wasn't easy but we were happy and proud to be in

America.

MB: You are now an American citizen. Please tell us what it means to you to be an American.

YA: It actually feels great. I love this country and what it stands for. Different political issues may [skew] the views at times but the base core of this country is respect, love, and freedom. People are being put down in many ways, but at the end there are always people here to lift you up.

MB: Can you please tell us why you entered law enforcement and the process you had to go through?

YA: I chose law enforcement because of the neighborhood I grew up in. I was raised on the lower East side of town, which wasn't the best area in the 90s and early 2000s. There were a couple of shootings and my family was a victim to one. I remember an incident when a thief started shooting at my father with a gun. Luckily, no one was hurt and the thief was sent to prison.

Also, many of my childhood friends didn't choose the same path as I did. Many of them chose to get involved in gangs and drugs; some are in jail or



The 501 Summer Soirée

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**4pm to 10pm
10 winners every hour
Win up to \$1,000 Cash!**

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- One bonus entry for every 20 points you earn that day
 - Silver - 2x entries
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Post Time 5:25pm

- First 500 Fans through the gates at 4:30pm receive a free Smith's Hot Dog!
- First 500 Adult Fans receive a free T-shirt!
- First 500 Kids receive a free ice-cream!

Join us at the Winners Circle after each race for the baseball cap and plush pony toss.



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May 17 - The Acoustic-Jukebox • 8:30pm

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May 11 - Sam Hyman
May 12 - CareyOn
May 18 - Matt Gavula
May 19 - No Happy Hour - Preakness

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS • 9PM

May 11 - The Gilligans
May 12 - The I-90's
May 18 - Junction PA Band
May 19 - The Groove

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