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ERIE READER

OCT. 2022 // Vol. 12 No. 10 // ErieReader.com

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THE JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY'S GLOBAL SUMMIT 2022

Sunday, October 23 – Monday, December 12

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022
AT 7:30 P.M.**

The Future of Collegiate Sports
John Calipari & John Wertheim

In the new era of NIL – Name, Image, and Likeness – how has the future of college sports changed? What other driving factors are affecting today's student athletes, college coaches, and universities?

Location Cathedral Prep Auditorium
250 West 10th Street



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WEEK ONE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Karl Rove Political strategist, columnist, policy thinker, and teacher to discuss today's national political scene. **The Future of the GOP**

Location: Cathedral Prep Auditorium
250 West 10th Street



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Elizabeth Strickler An expert in the metaverse, a virtual universe where users have access to digital avatars that let them "live" in that digital world, Strickler brings an insider's perspective on media innovation. **Future of the Virtual World: Strategies for Business, Storytelling, Culture, Cryptocurrency**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Rashawn Ray Senior Fellow at Brookings Institution speaks to ways that inequality can be dampened through activism and social policy. **The Future of Race in America**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room
Waldron Campus Center



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Anahita Panahi Expert on the challenges facing new Americans offers insights. **The Future of Immigration in America**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room
Waldron Campus Center



WEEK TWO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

The Future of Tradeskills Tom Bodett, author, humorist, and longtime voice of Motel 6, joins the talented lineup of the Jefferson Global Summit 2022.

Location TBD.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

José Muñoz Expert will talk about innovative strategies for schools. **Community Schools: A Model Locally, a Model Nationally**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.

Fiona Hill Former foreign policy adviser to three American presidents testified at former President Trump's first impeachment trial. **Policy, Politics, and International Affairs: From U.S.-Russian relations to her critically acclaimed book, 'There Is Nothing for You Here'**

Location: Gannon University's
Highmark Events Center, 620 Peach Street



WEEK THREE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Jay Cost Conservative writer and author focuses on politics, election, and public opinion at the American Enterprise Institute. **James Madison: America's First Politician**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

John C. Austin Expert on Great Lakes and Midwest economies helped transform Michigan's economy. **Rejuvenating Industrial Heartlands: Key to Heal Polarized Politics and Strengthening Western Democracy**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room
Waldron Campus Center



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

James Fallows and Deborah Fallows

Authors, writers, and friends of the Jefferson specialize in coverage of news, culture, and trends.

How America's Towns are Writing the Nation's Future

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room
Waldron Campus Center



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Rev. Charles Brock This year's recipient of the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award will discuss democracy in crisis. **John Milton, Abigail Adams & Thomas Jefferson: Revolution Yesterday and Tyranny Today?**

Location: Jefferson Educational Society



WEEK FOUR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

John Dickerson

Chief political analyst for CBS News and senior national correspondent is also a writer and author.

Future of the American Presidency

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room
Waldron Campus Center



MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff

National media personalities and spouses Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff comment on American politics **An Evening with Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff**

Location: Gannon University's Yehl Room
Waldron Campus Center



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 AT 7:30 P.M.

The Future of Maps: How the Art and Science of Mapmaking Continues to Evolve

Respected geographer, cartographer & storyteller Allen Carroll is the featured speaker in the Summit finale. Location TBD



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CONTENTS

OCTOBER 5, 2022

From the Editors: This is the One I'll Be Remembered For – 4

How running a paper can feel like directing the worst movie ever made

Erie At Large: The Dog Whistle of Being 'Tough on Crime' – 6

As midterms loom, Republicans channel the racism of Willie Horton-era attack ads

Three Ways to Welcome Autumn – 9

You can take it and leaf it

SB 106: Wrong on Content, Wrong on Process – 11

State Representative for Pennsylvania's 3rd District weighs in on the dangers of proposed amendments

Six Years, One Special Bird, and 27 Chicks Later – 12

Since 2017, piping plovers and common terns have made themselves a home at Gull Point

Think Globally, Learn Locally at Global Summit XIV – 15

Jefferson Educational Society's annual conference welcomes big names, big opportunities

The Trailblazing Practice of Dr. Adelle B. Woods – 18

Learning more about Erie's first female physician

Erie's "Urban Playboy," Pretty Boy Smooth is Making Moves and Changing Lives – 22

The professional wrestler turned actor turned philanthropist offers insight

Spotlight on Erie – 24

The ghosts will spook, The spooks will scare, Why, even Dracula will be there!

Talking Big and Small with Fran Lebowitz – 32

A Q&A with the iconic author, New Yorker, and cultural jukebox prior to Oct. 6 MIAC date

Halloween Activities to Get You Into Spooky Season – 36

Plenty of local spots for scare junkies and autumn-lovers alike

It Did Happen Here: The Zappa / Erie Collection – 39

Talking to archivist and Erie native Joe Travers about the recent six-disc box set

Podcast Picks – 41

Helpful hearing amidst difficult times

Book Reviews – 42

Rough-and-tumble roustabouts and mysterious gothic woods

Film Reviews – 44

This time, brunettes have more fun

Local, Original Comics – 45

From Melissa Sullivan, Brad Pattullo, John Bavaro, Bryan Toy, and Tommy Link

Album Reviews – 46

Yes, that's Steve and Robin from the Starcourt Mall food court

Crossword Puzzle – 47

The latest stumper from David Levinson Wilk

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From the Editors

This is the one I'll be remembered for (how running a paper can feel like directing the worst movie ever made)

Allow me to drop the veil of "the Editors" for the moment.

This is being written by Nick Warren, managing editor of the Erie Reader, and it's the last time I'll be able to say that.

So? You ask, why are there B-movie creatures on the cover? I'll get to that soon.

In the meantime, I've accepted another position. It's still right here in town; I'm just shifting ever so slightly, trading editing for marketing. While I'm looking ahead with eager eyes towards what the future holds, now seems to be the proper time to get a little sentimental about the past, and I love to get sentimental.

The past six years in which I've served as managing editor have been nothing short of incredible. For the better part of a decade, I have lived and breathed this job. It's been so much more than a paycheck for me — being able to boost up local musicians, artists, and businesses has been something I wouldn't trade for anything.

I hope I've made a difference for the better. I tried, honestly I did.

Perhaps you've noticed, but this is our de facto Halloween issue, being in October and all. For more than a decade, "Monster" Mark Kosobucki has been providing the art for our Halloween issue, and this year is no exception. A friend of mine since college, Mark is one of the most talented illustrators I've had the pleasure to work with. He also gets Halloween like no one else.

As a concept, I suggested taking a cue from the worst movie ever made, *Plan*

9 From Outer Space (And before you correct me, yes, I know that the cover actually portrays characters from *Robot Monster* and *King of the Rocketmen*, but just bear with me).

For all its flaws, I love *Plan 9* deeply (as does Kosobucki, not to mention fellow contributors Brad Pattullo and Forrest Taylor).

More so, however, I love the movie it inspired, Tim Burton's 1994 classic *Ed Wood*. It is without a doubt, my favorite movie of all time.

The titular director, Edward D. Wood Jr., is played by Johnny Depp. His character exaggerates certain aspects of Wood's real personality, and it's so much more beautiful than the already captivating reality.

Aside from Don himself, Wood is the definition of quixotic. While Quixote fought against windmills, Ed Wood fought against any obstacle in his way to make his art and vision a reality. He makes stupid decisions, ones that are laughable and absurd. He makes compromises, cuts corners, and has a positive attitude the whole time.

"Mr. Wood, I only got one hour of sleep," a weary crewmember says. Wood replies "Yeah? Well I got no sleep, and I feel great!"

But the thing about Ed Wood was that no matter what Hollywood threw at him, he got it done. He's forever in the history books because he wouldn't give up until he saw his film on the silver screen.

And it wasn't just about him. He made a family out of misfits. He gave Bela Legosi his last role before he passed



ED WOOD PROD. / VALIANT PICTURES

For all its flaws — and there were enough to garner the dubious distinction of "worst movie ever made" — *Plan 9 from Outer Space* won the hearts of audiences regardless, most famously Director Tim Burton (*Ed Wood*) and Erie Reader Managing Editor Nick Warren.

away. He hired Maila Nurmi, better known as Vampira, even though she refused to speak. And wrestler Tor Johnson, even though he barely could. Wood was a transvestite himself, and welcomed people like Bunny Breckinridge, an openly gay man and drag queen in the 1950s into his family, giving him his only film role, as the ruler of a planet.

While people booed Wood's earlier works like *Glen or Glenda* and *Bride of the Monster*, *Plan 9* found its audience. Welcomed by the hearts of fellow oddballs and weirdos decades later, it became one of the big "midnight movies," filled with lively comments, paving the way for both *Mystery Science Theater 3000* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

At the end of *Ed Wood*, Depp watches as his film is screened for the first time, and says with conviction that

"this is the one. This is the one I'll be remembered for.

He was right.

So far, my time at the Reader has been perhaps my greatest joy. I'm also grateful to say that I've found my chosen family amongst the weirdos, artists, and musicians of Erie.

I've been here a while. As I step down, I'm the longest-serving managing editor. I've written the most articles. I've designed the most covers. The Reader is going to be hard for me to leave.

So, I won't.

I'll be happy to be contributing to the Reader for as long as they'll have me. In the meantime, the future is in good hands. Stay tuned to find out more.

Because as the great Criswell once said "we are all interested in the future, for that is where you and I are going to spend the rest of our lives."

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Erie At Large: The Dog Whistle of Being ‘Tough on Crime’

As midterms loom, Republicans channel the racism of Willie Horton-era attack ads

By: Jim Wertz

As we move toward Election Day on November 8, one thing becomes increasingly clear: Democrats have a once in a generation opportunity to buck long-held midterm trends that place them at an electoral disadvantage.

Traditionally, the party that won the previous presidential election and the majority in the House of Representatives almost always loses seats in — and often control of — the House. The energy of the opposition party routinely trickles its way down ballot, affecting gubernatorial and state house seats as well.

But this year, in particular, Democrats appear to be well-positioned to break this cycle. It's due in no small part to the list of objectionable characters that the Republican Party has nominated to uphold their anti-democratic, anti-American, white Christian nationalist agenda.

Across the country, these new(ish) standard bearers of racism and authoritarianism are so unbecoming that the Republican Party is spending almost no money promoting its candidates. Instead, super-PACs, like Mitch McConnell's Senate Leadership Fund and the Congressional Leadership Fund, have taken control of Republican spending, launching attack ads on Democrats.

Here's the thing: the super-PACs aren't bringing much substance to the conversation. They're pulling from the same playbook that gave us the Willie Horton ads in 1988 and are using similar ads in tight races across the country — and right here in Pennsylvania — to try and save Trump-endorsed candidates who lag behind their Democratic opponents in fundraising and polling.

These ads are little more than dog whistles attempting to use unsupported claims about crime to fan the flames of racism and insecurity that undergird American society. The ads feature images and video, mostly of people of color, engaged in criminal acts, and accuse the Democratic candidate of being “soft on crime.”

The Willie Horton ads of 1988 were the brainchild of Republican Strategist Lee Atwater, who was working then for George H.W. Bush, the Republican nominee for president after serving two terms as vice president under Ronald Reagan. Bush's opponent, Michael Dukakis, was the governor of Massachusetts.

Willie Horton, a Black man, was a convicted murderer who raped a white woman and stabbed her boyfriend while on weekend release from prison in Massachusetts.

The Willie Horton commercial juxtaposed images of Bush against images of Dukakis and Horton.

“Dukakis not only opposes the death penalty, he allowed first-degree murderers to have weekend passes from prison,” says an ominous voice.

But the truth was that furlough programs like the one in Massachusetts were common in all 50 states in the 1970s and 1980s. It wasn't exclusive to Massa-



The “Willie Horton” attack ad rhetorically marries a Democratic candidate with alleged laxity on crime, stoking fears rooted in racist sentiment. This model of political advertising was first used in 1988 during the presidential campaign of Republican candidate George H.W. Bush, who would go on to win the office.

chusetts or to Dukakis' term as governor. Similar incidents happened twice in California when Ronald Reagan was governor. Reagan defended the furlough program and told the press that “nobody's perfect.”

Nevertheless, Atwater was intent to make sure Dukakis owned responsibility for Willie Horton in the eyes of the American public. He famously quipped that by the time the campaign was over, American voters would think that Willie Horton was Dukakis' running mate.

The Willie Horton ad became a model for Republican candidates at all levels of government. They pick a Black face and a bad act and rhetorically marry the two together before attaching it to a Democratic candidate. In many ways, it reshaped political advertising and policy making on issues of crime.

While the regularity of such ads had diminished, but not disappeared, the model was fully revived during the 2016 presidential contest when then-candidate Trump applied similar imagery and rhetoric to sell racist tropes aimed at issues including immigration and racial justice.

In the last week of September 2022, Republican Senator John Kennedy punctuates a campaign commercial composed mostly of video featuring criminal acts and Black Lives Matter protests by telling the audience that “if you hate cops just because they're cops, the next time you're in trouble, call a crackhead.”

A recent ad by the Senate Leadership fund in Pennsylvania features some of the same clips used in the Kennedy ad and parrots statements made by Republican celebrity senate candidate Mehmet Oz accusing Lt. Governor John Fetterman of wanting “to release one-third of dangerous criminals back into our communities.”

Fetterman chaired the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons where he advocated for the release of nonviolent drug offenders who were given excessive sentences because of mandatory minimum sentencing. That's an important topic for another article, but the Republican accusations are unfounded. According to the Poynter Institutes fact-checking website PolitiFact.com, he never called for releasing one-third of the prison population.

Fetterman responded to the attack ads with his own commercials promoting his record of crime reduction and increased police funding during his tenure as the mayor of Braddock.

But here's the larger issue. Candidates and political action committees can say whatever they want in their advertising. There are few checks and balances on the images they use or the statements they make, and as long as they can afford to pay the multimillion dollar invoices to television stations and digital marketers, the ads will run. Unchecked.

So until there's a revolution in campaign finance and regulations that limit explicit lies in political advertising, the Willie Horton tropes are here to stay because the people who would have to change the rules are the same people benefiting from the game.

Just remember, the race-baiting Republicans who pay for these commercials are the same people willing to give a pass to the insurrectionists who maimed and murdered cops at the Capitol on January 6.

So much for being tough on crime.

Jim Wertz is a Contributing Editor and Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Party. He can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com and you can follow him on Twitter [@jim_wertz](https://twitter.com/jim_wertz).



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Three Ways to Welcome Autumn

You can take it and leaf it

By Liz Allen

For leaf-peepers, autumn means a leisurely drive to admire the foliage, but this season I fell for the pleasures of fall at a branch library, a Sunday brunch, and a farmers' market.

In September, Jessica Stefano, manager of the Iroquois Library, organized a bunch of tree-centered activities, including an energizing and educational stroll in leafy Lawrence Park Township.

Mark Spitulski, owner of MKS Arborist Services, led the walk and promised that within about an hour, we would see up to 30 different species, arching over streets, growing in front yards, and populating the township's treasured Elbow Tree Park.

As we walked, we sampled red fruit from Kousa dogwoods, learned that crabapples are edible, and that we could also eat acorns, although they "taste terrible," said Stefano, a former environmental educator at Asbury Woods. Hickory nuts are sweet enough to nibble, too; Native Americans used them to create a drink akin to almond milk.

Spitulski pointed out serviceberry trees, which produce edible fruit and are a great alternative to ornamental Bradford pears. As a bonus, they also attract birds such as cedar waxwings.

Locust trees serve like a natural pergola, providing shade and filtering light.

Don't worry about the bark peeling from sycamore trees, he said. That's part of the natural process. "Shedding its bark is kind of like a snake shedding," added Stefano.

But Spitulski cautioned that certain gardening habits, like piling on too much mulch, will damage healthy trees. And if the same species are planted and aligned along streets for beautification, the trees will age out about the same time. "Biodiversity is so important right now," he said.

Stefano is a huge fan of ginkgo trees, which she described as "living fossils," and also the red oak, which she described as the No. 1 tree in the U.S. for biodiversity. Although not native to this country, it's not invasive, and red oaks provide a "huge food source for other wildlife," she said.

Spitulski said that autumn is a good time to evaluate your own trees for insects and diseases, when you can see bare branches and observe the crown for signs of stress. Arborists don't do treatments in the fall but "scout this time of year, identify those problems, then have a plan for next spring," he said.

Spitulski also described threats to specific species: insect galls and *Rhizosphaera* (a needle cast fungus) on spruces; beech leaf disease; spider mites and the wooly adelgid on hemlocks, Pennsylvania's state tree. The Emerald ash borer remains a threat in the Erie area but infected trees can be treated and saved. He expects the spotted lantern fly to make its way here, harming grapevines and orchards.

"Trees are a living thing. The sooner you find out what the problem is, the better it is in the long run,"



Arborist Mark Spitulski (front center) stops at Elbow Tree Park during a Sept. 12 tree walk in Lawrence Park Township, sponsored by the Iroquois branch library.

he said.

Of course, tree walks are meant to be fun as well as informative, and Spitulski, who spends "all day, every day, looking at trees," also pointed out the good things he spotted along our route, such as the graceful drooping of Norway spruce branches and the art-y leaves of tulip poplars.

To boost your tree IQ, you can organize your own walk, he suggests — at the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, Asbury Woods, or at your church, school, neighborhood, or nearby university campus. Take notes. Compare what you see. Delight in the sights, and remember that being around trees makes people healthier. Some countries, he said, even have a name for the tree-human connection: forest bathing.

Janet Woods, co-founder of Hurry Hill Maple Farm and Museum, 11424 Fry Road in Edinboro, is well aware of the health benefits of trees — specifically, maples.

Hurry Hill is abuzz with activity during maple sugaring season in March, but fall is also a great time for a self-guided walking tour of Hurry Hill's woods. Visit hurryhillfarm.org for a printable map or to scan QR codes for the 14-stop trail. You will learn about the trees that were cleared to create the original farmland, the maple stands that started to take root in 1998 for the sugaring operation, and the big ancient maple that is more than 200 years old.

In the museum, you can immerse yourself in the story of *Miracles on Maple Hill*, the Newberry Award-winning children's book by Virginia Sorensen, set in Edinboro. You will also find Woods' new cookbook, *Maple Syrup Recipes*, featuring 10 food categories and 170 recipes, from appetizers to entrees. I felt

like a farm-to-table proprietor when I recently served homemade waffles with pure maple syrup from Hurry Hill for Sunday brunch.

Woods reminds her readers that Pennsylvania residents should hold a special affection for trees. "Sylvania is Latin for forest. So Pennsylvania means Penn's Sylvania or Penn's Woods," she writes in her book. "Maples give us the spectacular fall yellow, red and orange colors."

She sprinkles maple-themed facts on every page of her book. This is where I learned that Grandma Moses was in her 80s when, in the 1940s, she painted her beloved "Sugaring Off" art depicting the old-fashioned syrup-making process. Hailed as an exemplary example of primitive art, it sold for \$1.2 million in 2006.

Fredy Huaman Mallqui also employs beautiful trees in his art but at a different stage of their existence — after they've been damaged or died.

A classical woodcarver since age 9 in his native Peru, "I've been doing this my whole life," said Huaman Mallqui, 42, who lives in Erie with his family.

He likes working with walnut or basswood for his art, which includes fine furniture pieces, but when the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network asked for proposals to repurpose a damaged maple tree, he applied and was picked for the project.

His tree carving is part of the landscape of the SS-JNN's Field of Dreams in the 300 block of West 18th Street, where the weekly Little Italy Farmers Market has just wrapped up its season.

"When a storm damaged the tree ... but left the trunk intact, we immediately saw the potential for a new form of public art we'd never before been able to install," said Heather May Caspar, SSJNN executive



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NEWS & VIEWS



Jessica Stefano, manager of the Iroquois branch library, shows off some of her favorite tree reads for readers young and old.

director.

"As with many of our public art projects, we published a request for proposals, and we met Fredy simply as one who responded to our RFP. Of course, his submission blew us away and was the clear choice," she said. "Fredy had previously taken time to observe exactly how we and the neighbors already used the space as a farmers market, and created a remarkably thoughtful sculpture that captured the growth and caring and life-sustaining mission behind our market's goal of increasing access to locally-grown, healthy produce," she said.

Huaman Mallqui's design began as "a one-dimensional image" on paper, he said. "The challenge is how to translate one dimension into three dimensions."

The tree trunk also presented another obstacle — it couldn't be moved around as he worked with a variety of grinders (but no sanders) to create a sculpture that features a face, hands, sun, flowers, and seeds. Huaman Mallqui is also an art teacher, including at the university level, and he invited people to join him as he worked. "At almost any time there were two or three others there working alongside him, which was unanticipated and also wonderful to see," said May Caspar.

Huaman Mallqui's sculpture stands in good public art company. "Fredy's piece joins an interactive art fence installed by Designs in Iron, a triptych mural designed by Tom Ferraro and Ed Grout, and some beautiful flowers and landscaping on site," May Caspar said.

"Art is meant to make you 'feel' something, and all these elements do just that. The fence is playful; the mural tells a story linking the past, present, and future of the neighborhood; and the landscaping changes with the seasons," she said. "Fredy named his sculpture 'Nest of Dreams' and when you look closely, you see the entire trunk is made to look like it's full-to-bursting with seeds. It truly makes you want

to reach out and touch — literally feel — the forms and textures that represent growth and life and potential."

Huaman Mallqui knows that each observer will walk away with their own interpretation of his wood carving. But he hopes that they will "think about life itself, how we repurpose nature, and how that nature gives us everything we have."

How fortunate we are to have Erie people who help us all to see the forest and the trees.

Liz Allen, who grew up climbing trees and building treehouses with her brother and their friends, can be reached at lizallenerie@gmail.com.

Learn more

When Jessica Stefano was hired as the branch manager for the Iroquois Library, she immediately noticed the abundance and variety of trees in Lawrence Park Township where the library is located. Libraries help to connect patrons to the places and things in the ordinary lives of patrons, so offering programs for both adults and children was a natural fit for the Iroquois branch, she said.

A former environmental educator at Asbury Woods, Stefano can recommend lots of good tree books from the library's collection, but two of her favorites are *The Nature of Oaks*, by Douglas W Tallamy, for older readers, and *Little Sap*, for kids, written by Jan Hughes and illustrated by Ruth Hengeveld.

"*The Nature of Oaks*," she said, "really digs deeply into the role of oak trees in the world and to biodiversity in both the forest and just the backyard."

Little Sap explains to kids how trees fit into the greater environment.



Fredy Huaman Mallqui, a classical wood carver originally from Peru, calls the sculpture he crafted from a storm-damaged maple tree "Nest of Dreams." It is part of the public art on display at the "Field of Dreams" property used by the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network for its farmers market, in the 300 block of West 18th Street.

SB 106: Wrong on Content, Wrong on Process

State Representative for Pennsylvania's 3rd District weighs in on the dangers of proposed amendments

By: Ryan Bizzarro

This past July, the Republican-controlled legislature passed SB 106, which contained a hodgepodge of potential amendments to Pennsylvania's constitution. The proposed amendments include issues from voter ID requirements to how lieutenant governors are chosen. Most notable is the proposal to change to the constitution to explicitly say that there is no constitutional right to an abortion in Pennsylvania. The passage of this language would legally clear the way for abortion opponents to ban the practice even in cases of rape, incest, or to protect the life of the mother. If the Republicans hold control of both houses of the legislature after the November elections, SB 106 will come up for another vote and if passed, the measure would go to the voters, probably next May.

I voted against SB 106 for several reasons that have to do with the content of the bill, but I also oppose the process by which our constitution is amended. First, my problems with the bill itself: With the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, the issue of abortion is playing a prominent role in elections across the country. We have all heard the nightmarish stories in the news about child rape victims being denied by certain states the ability to terminate a pregnancy and having to flee across state lines for the procedure. I don't want that situation to ever happen in Pennsylvania. I believe the extreme position that would deny a girl or woman the ability to access abortion in the case of rape, incest, or their lives being threatened is wrong. If the language of SB 106 is enacted, it will open the doors for the extremists on this issue to ban abortion in the commonwealth without any exceptions. I should know, because my opponent this fall

shares these extreme views and, as we saw in other states, when extremists have the ability to deny abortion services to everybody, they will.

I also believe the way the constitution is amended in Pennsylvania has to change. Presently, it takes both houses of the General Assembly to pass an amendment in consecutive legislative sessions by simple majority. After that, the proposed changes go to the voters. This is a much lower hurdle to clear than amending the U.S. Constitution. To amend nationally, both the House and the Senate require a two-thirds majority to pass an amendment, which then goes to the states for ratification. It takes three-fourths of the states to agree to the change. The federal system was set up in a manner that requires a veto-proof majority in Congress to kickstart the process. In Pennsylvania, the mere majority vote necessary in the General Assembly allows for the potential for unpopular policies to be sent to the voters. Furthermore, the date selected for the public to vote on these significant changes can be manipulated to fall on low turnout election days. There is talk in Harrisburg that the Republicans will look to a May 2023 date to put SB 106 to the voters. Republicans pretend that they want to give all of Pennsylvania the opportunity to weigh in, but the reality is they deliberately schedule this for low turnout primary elections when only a very small, partisan percentage of Pennsylvanians are voting.

To combat this, I am the prime sponsor of HB 2340, which would require a two-thirds majority in each chamber of our General Assembly to send a proposed constitutional amendment to the voters. I strongly believe this bill, if enacted, will allow for more thoughtful and diverse consideration of proposed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

State Representative Ryan Bizzarro (PA-3) expresses opposition to State Bill 106, which proposes several amendments to the state constitution involving voter ID requirements, the selection process for lieutenant governors, and the legal right to abortion access.

changes to our state constitution. It also puts up a roadblock for those cynical politicians who would look to jam significant constitutional changes without serious debate and by scheduling a statewide vote in a low-turnout, off-year primary election day. These are the reasons I oppose SB 106 and am working on changing how we amend our constitution.

Ryan Bizzarro has represented Pennsylvania's 3rd Legislative District since 2013. He can be reached at PAHouse.com/3/contact

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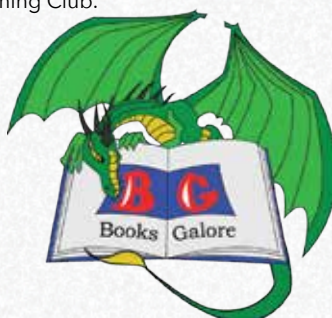
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Six Years, One Special Bird, and 27 Chicks Later

Since 2017, piping plovers and common terns have made themselves a home at Gull Point

By: Mary Birdsong

On April 18, I ran into an old friend on the shores of Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park. We've only known each other for seven years, but it feels like a lifetime. This friend, a shorebird called a piping plover and nicknamed Jerry, arrived there in 2016 and has returned every spring since. He is now considered a "pioneer" bird, the one who established the first nest in 2017 and has gone on to father 15 chicks in subsequent years. In the intervening years, these birds, along with state-endangered common terns, have kept us busy and our hearts full. As we learn more about each species, we have come to expect surprises, both delightful and heartbreaking. 2022 was no different.

Since Jerry and his mate had their first nesting success at Gull Point in 2017, there's been a lot of water under the proverbial bridge for the Great Lakes population of piping plovers. The fortunes of these federally-endangered birds have ebbed and flowed along with historically high water levels in the Great Lakes over the past several years. For example, in 2017, when water levels were lower, the number of fledged chicks in the wild was 96, and grew to a hefty 124 in 2018. But, it dropped again in 2019 and plunged to just around 87 chicks in 2020, which saw the highest levels of water inundating traditional nesting sites across the basin.

Now the water has receded and fledged

numbers are rebounding. Across the Great Lakes this year, there were 72 recorded pairs of nesting birds and 150 chicks fledged in the wild, a banner year for chick productivity. Here at the park, our plovers, since 2017, have contributed a total of 27 birds to that population.

Gull Point's plovers added to this year's yield with an exciting first. Rather than hosting a single nesting pair, Gull Point had two pairs of piping plovers nest there for the first time. Our stalwart Jerry had a nest with one female, and, interestingly, the second nest was fathered by his son from 2021. From those two nests, seven chicks hatched, but only five would be recorded as fledged due to assumed predation. Still, a great success.

Other developments brought even more surprises, though. Jerry, now a veteran breeder, acquired a wandering eye last year, attempting to nest with every available female around. He continued those ways this year with two additional unmated females. In an unusual occurrence, both females laid their eggs in the same nest. When a PA Game Commission biologist did a check, he found a nest with seven eggs in it, a sign something suspicious was going on, since a typical nest has three or four eggs.

It was determined that those seven eggs were in peril because plovers are not large enough to successfully incu-



LAURA-MARIE KOITSCH

After first reestablishing nests at Presque Isle State Park's Gull Point in 2017, the endangered piping plover population has enjoyed a modest but encouraging rebound.

bate that number of eggs. Plus, Jerry already had four eggs in a nest with the first female to which he needed to devote his time. As a result, the seven eggs were collected and transported to the captive rearing facility in Michigan that is operated by the Detroit Zoo in conjunction with the University of Michigan. There, four were considered viable and went on to hatch and fledge in Michigan. In all, Erie in 2022 contributed nine plover chicks to the imperiled population.

Their neighbors at Gull Point, the common terns, have not had the success the plovers have seen, but they are still making an attempt. Common terns are colonial birds which means they like to nest in groups that provide increased security. In recent years, the Gull Point common terns have attempted a small colony, but the eggs were taken by predators or storms before hatching. This year, only one pair attempted a nest and they successfully tended it until the eggs hatched, a first since at least 1966 when historical nesting was last recorded. For a short time, we were thrilled to get glimpses of tern chicks being fed or toddling around their doting parents. That delight did not last, however, and no chicks were seen after June 25.

Since 2017, I have been with these birds each year from April to August. I've blown through five or six pairs of water shoes, had to replace a deterior-

ating backpack and ragged hat, and I've walked approximately 2,500 miles on my daily circuit. I also now sport a likeness of my dear friend, Jerry, on my left ankle, inked there to remind me how lucky I am to have gotten to know him and his fellow shorebirds.

The exhilarating highs and the discouraging lows of the season will inevitably continue next year. We will be on the sidelines again, with fingers crossed and hearts ever hopeful.

Mary Birdsong can be reached at MBirdsong@eriereader.com

The creation of Erie Bird Observatory

The intervening years have produced a few changes for the human part of this equation, too. In 2017, my employer was Audubon Pennsylvania. As we were celebrating our 2017 nesting milestone, however, Audubon was making plans to close the Northwest PA office, leaving my job and a few others' work in jeopardy. To continue the research and monitoring we were committed to, Sarah Sargent, 40 Under 40 honoree Laura-Marie Koitsch, and I created a new nonprofit, Erie Bird Observatory, in 2018. EBO now operates the bird banding station at Presque Isle, monitors nesting marsh birds, continues the shorebird monitoring, which includes the piping plover and common tern recovery programs, conducts other avian research, and offers educational outreach to the community.



JASON LYMAN GROVER

This year, a pair of Gull Point common terns attempted a nest and they successfully tended it until the eggs hatched, a first since at least 1966 when historical nesting was last recorded.



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Think Globally, Learn Locally at Global Summit XIV

Jefferson Educational Society’s annual conference welcomes big names, big opportunities

By: Matt Swanseger

For years, the Jefferson Educational Society’s Global Summit has invited a world of thought to Erie. Although the annual event’s scope has expanded significantly since its inception, the goal has always been the same — “to welcome civil civic dialogue in the community,” according to Dr. Ferki Ferati, JES president.

Beginning as a two-and-a-half day conference at JES headquarters in 2009, the event now spans months and draws thousands of attendees annually, hosted at venues across Erie County. Audiences are drawn to listen and engage with some of the most prominent minds on topics such as politics, race, immigration, digitalization, economic development, foreign policy, and other vital issues facing not only our nation, but nations around the globe.

Inspired and modeled after the Chautauqua Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries (in nearby Chautauqua County, N.Y.) that was the focus of Dr. Ferati’s dissertative work, the Jefferson Educational Society champions high-quality civic discourse in towns just like ours — the Global Summit is the culmination of that vision. Guests and speakers have noted a growing energy and excitement around the conference, and some — like James and Deborah Fallows of the Our Towns Civic Foundation (OTCF)— have wondered how they might replicate it in similar areas elsewhere.

To that end, JES and the OTCF are partnering on a pilot program to host Global Summit events in Redlands, Calif. in association with the University of Redlands and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) later this year. “We are grateful to our partners there for opening the doors of their community to us, and believe that what we will accomplish there this year will serve as a model to other communities that JES Global Summit programming can happen there, too,” expressed Dr. Ferati.

The JES has successfully settled into new territories before — including satellite locations across Erie County and the World Wide Web (the all-vir-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Jefferson Educational Society’s Global Summit XIV will again invite audiences to listen and engage with some of the world’s most prominent minds on topics such as politics, race, immigration, digitalization, economic development, foreign policy, and other vital issues facing not only our nation, but the world. This year’s guests include [top row, left to right] John Calipari, L. Jon Wertheim, Karl Rove, Rashawn Ray, [middle row, left to right] Elizabeth Strickler, Anahita Panahi, Tom Bodett, José Muñoz, [bottom row, left to right] Reuben Jacobson, Brian Polito, Fiona Hill, and Jay Cost.

tual Global Summit XII in May 2021) — so it’s easy to be optimistic about this latest venture. Nonetheless, Dr. Ferati encourages locals to take advantage of what’s being provided right here.

“The Global Summit ensures that Erie-area residents have access to some of the best and brightest minds right in their own backyard,” Ferati says. “What’s more, the Summit draws residents from throughout the region to Erie. It provides a place where people can be active participants in the learning process. They can absorb new ideas and exchange thoughts with fellow patrons and speakers. The Summit gives those in the Erie region — and now Redlands — the opportunity to think globally by learning locally.”

Globalize your mind at any one of the following lectures or panels below. General admission to all events is \$25 (early bird) or \$35 (regular); VIP admission is \$50 (early bird) or \$60 (regular) and includes a meet-and-greet reception with the speakers.

TUESDAY, OCT. 11 The Future of Collegiate Sports with John Calipari and L. Jon Wertheim

Global Summit XIV tips off with an appearance from Basketball Hall of Famer and three-time Naismith College Coach of the Year John Calipari, who has helmed the University of Kentucky men’s program since 2009, winning an NCAA championship in 2012. Joining him will be *Sports Illustrated* Executive Editor L. Jon Wertheim to discuss the status of college sports in the era of NIL — Name, Image, and Likeness. What does the future look like for student athletes, college coaches, and universities? Watch them air it all out on the court (but really in the auditorium) at Cathedral Preparatory School. 7:30 p.m. // Cathedral Preparatory School, 225 W. 9th St.

SUNDAY, OCT. 23 The Future of the GOP with Karl Rove

Can our country build any kind of stable future on the tremulous polit-

ical landscape of today? How does/should the modern Republican Party brand itself? Ask the “Architect,” aka Karl Rove, one of conservative politics’ most revered minds. Currently a Fox News and Wall Street Journal contributor, Rove was one of former U.S. President George W. Bush’s most trusted counsels, directing the Offices of Strategic Initiatives, Political Affairs, Public Liaison, and Intergovernmental Affairs during dual appointments as Senior Advisor (2000-07) and Deputy Chief of Staff (2004-07). 7:30 p.m. // Cathedral Preparatory School, 225 W. 9th St.

TUESDAY, OCT. 25 Future of the Virtual World: Strategies for Business, Storytelling, Culture, Cryptocurrency with Elizabeth Strickler, MFA

As more and more of the world goes virtual, what sort of metaversal principles should we all abide by? Ask Elizabeth Strickler, founding director of the

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Additionally appearing at this year's JES Global Summit XIV will be [top row, left to right] John Austin, James and Deborah Fallows, Rev. Charles Brock, Avi Loeb (Redlands, Calif.), Dawn Wright (Redlands), [bottom row, left to right] John Dickerson, Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff, Allen Carroll, Josh Fryday (Redlands), and Baher Ghosheh (Redlands).

Creative Industries Blockchain Lab and Director of Media Entrepreneurship at Georgia State University. From this position, she explores extended reality (XR) innovations in education, in addition to the ways Web3, blockchain, and NFT strategies can be employed to uplift the future of business, storytelling, and the cultural economy. Speaking at the Global Summit for a second consecutive year, Strickler's lectures offer plenty of food for thought — we hope you (and/or your avatars) are hungry. 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26
The Future of Race in America with Rashawn Ray, Ph.D.

The mechanisms that produce and sustain racial and social inequality are deeply embedded into our society, and Dr. Rashawn Ray has made a career of prying the lid off and exposing those inner workings. Dr. Ray, a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution and a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park (where he directs the Lab for Applied Social Science Research), returns for another speaking engagement after the Jefferson's Digital Summit (aka Global Summit XII) in 2021. The widely published author and academic will discuss how

activism and social policy can help level the playing field. 7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

THURSDAY, OCT. 27
The Future of Immigration in America with Anahita Panahi, M.A.

Being a New American isn't exactly new — after all, the United States is a nation of immigrants. But being a New American in the 21st century brings some unprecedented challenges, which Anahita Panahi is well-acquainted with as a daughter of refugees. The refugee campaign manager for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) will speak to these issues from first-hand experience, drawing from a career in activism and advocacy that has taken her to Turkey, Iran, and Spain. She currently lives in California where she continues to passionately advocate for immigrant and refugee rights. 7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3
Community Schools: A Model Locally, A Model Nationally with José Muñoz

Expanding upon the support offered at public schools, the community schools model integrates stakeholders

throughout the community for the holistic betterment of students and their families. Of course, what this looks like and how it manifests may vary. Take it from José Muñoz, director of the Coalition for Community Schools initiative at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) since 2017. During his time as the executive director at the ABC Community School Partnership in New Mexico, he added 22 new schools to that program while tirelessly pursuing funding and partnerships between state and local governments, school districts, teachers' unions, and local businesses. 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

FRIDAY, NOV. 4
Policy, Politics, and International Affairs: From U.S.-Russian Relations, to Her Critically Acclaimed Book 'There Is Nothing for You Here' with Fiona Hill, Ph.D.

What's up with Russia? It's been the preeminent question in our foreign relations department for the better part of the last century, and certainly now as Russian President Vladimir Putin wages war against Ukraine. The answer, of course, is "it's complicated." Dr. Fiona Hill, an expert in U.S.-Russian relations and a scholar

of Russian history who has served the past three presidential administrations, will lend her insights to her first-ever Global Summit audience. The author and academic is currently a senior fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe in the Foreign Policy program at The Brookings Institution. 7 p.m. // Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

MONDAY, NOV. 7
James Madison: America's First Politician with Jay Cost, Ph.D.

What does James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, have to do with today? More than you might think, actually, and Dr. Jay Cost is able to draw some intriguing parallels, even having written a book on it (*The Price of Greatness: James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and the Creation of American Oligarchy*). In addition to provocatively-titled books, the scholar of civic republicanism also regularly writes columns for National Review, The Weekly Standard, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, while also co-hosting the podcast *Constitutionally Speaking*. He returns to the Global Summit for the first time since 2017. 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9

**Rejuvenating Industrial Heartlands:
Key to Heal Polarized Politics and
Strengthening Western Democracy
with John Austin MPA**

Industry and agriculture are the nuts and bolts/bread and butter of the Midwest's cultural and economic identity, and politicians have long latched onto these hooks to turn sentiment in their favor with each election season. This can have a powerful impact at the polls, especially in the swing states surrounding the Great Lakes. John Austin MPA, director of the Michigan Economic Center and former president of the Michigan State Board of Education, will discuss how a divided electorate might rally around a "Green and Blue" sustainable economy, with the bountiful assets of the Great Lakes at its center.

7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's
Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10

**How America's Towns Are Writing
the Future of the Country with James
and Deborah Fallows**

Several years ago, the husband-and-wife team of James and Deborah Fallows climbed into a Cirrus SR22 single-engine plane and methodically made their way across the country. During that trip, they landed in more than 20 small to mid-sized cities, and also upon an epiphany — that these municipalities (including Erie) were the truest barometer of the America to come. The co-pilots became co-authors shortly thereafter, releasing *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, a 2018 best-seller that was later adapted into an HBO documentary. The longtime friends of the Jefferson make their latest fly-by at Global Summit XIV.

7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's
Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

FRIDAY, NOV. 11

**John Milton, Abigail Adams, and
Thomas Jefferson: Revolution
Yesterday and Tyranny Today? with
Charles Brock, M.Litt.**

The Rev. Charles Brock — Jefferson Educational Society founding board member and longtime educator and minister — is this year's distinguished Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award honoree. Born in Erie in 1935, Rev. Brock has maintained an active curiosity in political science and religion well into his 80s, acting as a senior research associ-

ate at Penn State Behrend, director of the Institute on the American Dream, and founding director of the Brock Institute at the Jefferson, for which he writes and presents regularly. This lecture, first delivered at Oxford University earlier this year, reexamines key figures from the American Revolution in a modern light.

7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational
Society, 3207 State St.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

**Future of the American Presidency
with John Dickerson, B.A.**

There may not be a person more heavily scrutinized than the President of the United States of America. John Dickerson, chief political analyst and senior national correspondent for CBS News, definitely understands the gravity of the position, having covered every presidential campaign since 2005 (for *Slate* magazine from 2005-2015, for CBS thereafter), culminating in moderatorship of two presidential debates between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in 2016. In this Global Summit appearance, he will pull insights from his recently published third book and New York Times best-seller, *The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency*.

7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's
Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

**An Evening with Al Hunt and Judy
Woodruff**

Journalists Al Hunt and Judy Woodruff are the exemplification of power couple, each with media careers spanning over 40 years. Hunt made his imprint with Bloomberg News, Bloomberg Television, and the Wall Street Journal, covering policy and politics. In addition to continued contributions to Bloomberg, he co-hosts the *Politics War Room* podcast with James Carville. Woodruff, a veteran of network, cable, and public television news, has covered every presidential election and convention since 1976. The founder of the Internal Women's Media Foundation now serves as anchor and managing editor of *PBS NewsHour*. Collectively, these two have seen a lot, making them well worth seeing.

7:30 p.m. // Gannon University's
Yehl Ballroom, 124 W. 7th St.

Stay tuned for schedule updates at jes.org. Matt Swanseger can be reached at mwsanseger@eriereader.com



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The Trailblazing Practice of Dr. Adella B. Woods

Learning more about Erie's first female physician

By: Jonathan Burdick

In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. It's not that women *hadn't* been in the medical field already. As the World Health Organization recently stated, "Women are the backbone of health care systems." That was true of the 19th century as well. Women were already an indispensable part of the medical field in the United States, but there had been systemic barriers preventing women from obtaining the degrees and licenses needed to have the official titles and pay grades of their male counterparts.

Blackwell's shattering of the glass ceiling came with significant challenges — and plenty of pushback, such as from one "country gentleman" who stated in a medical journal that women should stick to "looking after the latest Paris fashions" — but by 1857, she and her sister Emily proved the naysayers wrong. They founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children and spent the rest of their lives advocating for equal educational access.

Meanwhile, in Erie County, Pennsylvania, a young girl named Adella Isidore Brindle was desiring an education beyond her elementary years. She was the granddaughter of Matthias and Elizabeth Brindle who moved to Northwestern Pennsylvania from Franklin County in 1801. On their 400 acres of land, they had built their "wilderness home," raising their family along Raccoon Creek and Lake Erie in what would become North Springfield, just west of Girard.

Matthias was very active in expanding the community. He involved himself in local politics, co-founded the Presbyterian Church, and helped establish the village's first cemetery. He and Elizabeth had 13 children together. Their son Samuel, born in 1807, would eventually meet and marry a woman named Mary Ebersole. They had four children: Catherine (who tragically died as a toddler), Samuel, Adella, and John.

Adella's childhood in Springfield was simple. The township was split into three villages with close to 2,000 residents by mid-century. They lived among fields of wheat and potatoes as well as grazing lands for cattle. The

Brindles worked their land and the children received a basic education. Then in 1865, when Adella was 14, her parents moved the family to East Millcreek, just outside of Erie on Buffalo Road. The timing was ideal. The teenage Adella, determined to continue her education, was thrilled to learn that the new Erie High School was set to open on East Seventh and Holland.

She convinced her parents to let her attend and her mother rented a room for her on State Street where she lived during the week. After three years of studies, she and Ottomar Jarecki (who would go on to take over his father's downtown jewelry store and become a professional photographer) became the high school's first graduating class in 1869. Each received a "diploma of honor." Adella then went back one more term and in June 1870 earned the "diploma of distinction" alongside a class of eight students.

For the next few years, she taught in the city schools, but clearly longed for more. She eventually decided that, like Elizabeth Blackwell before her, she would practice medicine. This was a time in which, as one 1871 newspaper put it, a woman being a doctor was viewed by many as "ludicrous" and "disgusting." One book describing the differences between men and women argued that women didn't have the "physical strength and moral courage required" to be a doctor and were better off as nurses because that instead required patience and endurance.

Regardless, Adella was accepted into the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Later in life, she would recall how women on campus had to remain "modest" and "unobtrusive" in an attempt to keep the peace with male students. "I remember with contempt the loud and boisterous behavior of the 500 men 'medics' when we women (35 in number) entered the lecture room," she wrote.

In a University of Michigan journal published in 2000, it was described how women in the medical program were "unwelcome" during these years. The journal quoted a classmate of Adella's, Emma Call, who explained that of the seven professors in the medical school, only one favored admitting women into the program — although all except



ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY/HAGEN HISTORY CENTER

After graduating from the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia in 1876, Dr. Adella Brindle Woods returned to Erie as the city's first female physician. Practicing for 35 years, she built up an excellent reputation as both a doctor and community leader. She was selected as one the Woman's Club of Erie's inaugural "Twelve Greatest Women" for her pioneering work in medicine and her philanthropy.

one were generally respectful and even inspiring. That one though, according to Adella, was an "antiquated" chemistry professor who viewed women on campus as "monstrosities." Still, the difficulties they faced were less from the faculty and more from male students who "were not accepting and expressed their disapproval loudly, vehemently, and often rudely."

Another classmate, Eliza Mosher, described how the opposition increased her "power of resistance" and "deepened her determination" to become a physician. The adversity also had its advantages. "My acquaintance with men both as professors and students," Mosher explained, "gave me a conception of the workings of men's minds which has been most helpful in my dealings with them in my later life."

Adella was an excellent student despite the antagonism and continued her studies at the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia. After gradu-

ating in 1876, she returned to Erie as the city's first woman physician. The following year, she married Dr. Arthur Woods, a jail physician, future city health inspector, and, eventually, head of the Erie Health Department. They had two children, Bertha and Ethel.

As Dr. Adella Brindle Woods, she built a practice that she would run for the next 35 years. In a 1909 local history, John Miller wrote that she had "an excellent reputation and practice."

She was known for her attention to detail as well as her kindness. She also became one of Erie's most vocal public health advocates and she had a particular interest in disease prevention and was a passionate advocate for improving hygiene. Community bathing pools were opened in the city to promote personal cleanliness.

The Erie County Medical Society describes how she worked "tirelessly" in support of milk pasteurization. Unpasteurized milk was often contaminated



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FEATURE

and could cause outbreaks of diseases such as typhoid fever and tuberculosis. Such advocacy eventually led to not only pasteurization requirements at the federal level, but also to Erie's Board of Health passing numerous dairy-related ordinances in the early 1900s: yearly herd inspections, cleanliness and sterilization standards (especially in relation to manure removal), ice box requirements, and forbidding the sale of milk with additives such as borax, formaldehyde, and other chemicals.

The doctor also championed medical examinations in Erie's public schools. She promoted immunization for the city's children. In 2019, the Erie Times-News described how Dr. Woods was "instrumental in establishing a central water pumping station and filtration plant to ensure a pure water supply for the city." Previously, Erie's water supply was deeply contaminated with sewage pollution. After efforts to reduce this contamination, chlorination of the city water supply was also introduced in 1911 during a particularly nasty typhoid epidemic.

Her marriage didn't work out and she and Arthur divorced. Meanwhile, Ber-

tha graduated from Erie High School and attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Ethel graduated and attended Drexel Institute in Philadelphia. Both daughters eventually found their way back to Erie.

Around this time, Adella and another woman ran for school board director, both the first women in their wards to do so. While they both lost, Adella made what was described in the newspaper as a "surprising run," losing by only 91 votes. "[T]he ungallant, unyielding man who scoffed at the idea of petticoat influence ... must awake to the fact that there is a majority opinion extant in favor of giving women a voice and a vote in the management of the public schools," the Erie Daily Times editorialized, adding that she had proven wrong those who had viewed her candidacy as a joke.

In 1915, the catastrophic Mill Creek flood ravaged Erie, destroying over 250 homes and killing at least 36 people. Adella helped organize and lead the Flood Relief Committee, which provided food, coffee, shelter, and necessities to those affected. A few years later, during the deadly influenza epidemic

that killed over 500 city residents, her knowledge of communicable diseases assisted greatly.

Like her grandfather had been in Springfield, she was extremely active in the community, traveling around the city with her horse and buggy. She was a member of the Erie County Medical Society. She became president of the local Women's Club, which boasted 200 members. She advocated for expanding voting rights with the Northwestern Pennsylvania Suffrage Association. She frequently gave lectures around the city.

As she became older, she traveled often. She visited New York City. On her way to Toronto, she marveled at Niagara Falls, describing its "ceaseless roar" as "an emblem of eternity" that reminded her of "the insignificance of one's own self." She took a trip through New Orleans and then onward through the west and north along the Pacific Coast in California. She traveled to Egypt, traversed the Nile River, and saw the pyramids. She took another trip to Panama where she witnessed the construction of the canal. She credited the lifesaving measures of medical professionals who spread awareness about the dangers of

diseases spread by mosquitoes and noted how workers, aware of the dangers, now "walk[ed] the narrow path of hygienic righteousness."

When the First World War began, she and many Erie women came out against it. At the Masonic Hall in 1915, the Woman's Club of Erie held a conference, in which the speaker made a "vigorous appeal" for peace and the "destruction of militarism." The doctor helped establish the Erie chapter of the Woman's Peace Party, a pacifist organization with prominent members such as Jane Addams, Jeannette Rankin, and Florence Kelly. The group used public demonstrations as a direct action strategy. In Erie, events were held throughout town to explain the "horrors of war." Adella herself addressed audiences on the "terrible cost" of war on not just society then, but how it would negatively affect the "coming generation."

Yet, as the war waged on and the United States joined the conflict, she had a change of heart. The Women's Peace Party fractured and some continued embracing pacifism and hopes for a peaceful resolution. Others, such as Adella, became more hawkish and

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worked to raise funds for the war effort. While her beliefs are not entirely known, by 1917, she seemed sure that a peaceful resolution was not possible and the U.S. and its allies *had* to win the war. She joined the Liberty Loans Committee and began assisting in the sale of Liberty Bonds and thrift stamps.

She publicly scolded those still embracing pacifism as well as those sympathetic to Germany. "[T]here is no place in America for a pacifist," she warned, "and when our boys begin to come home maimed, we will not deal gently with those who have pro-German tendencies."

She began receiving letters after giving a speech at the Women's Club in support of Liberty Bonds. "These people only half read the papers and only understand in a small degree what they are trying to criticize," she told the Erie Daily Times, shrugging her critics. Some

vote, government should no longer be a means for exploitation and special privilege, but provide "an opportunity for the growth of the human being." Adella spoke at the event as well, giving a speech saying that the Women's Party welcomed people of all political parties who "believe in equal rights and that well qualified women should be in congress as well as men." The Erie Daily Times described her as having "a fine sense of justice mingled with shrewd wit."

In the autumn of 1929, Adella became sick and over the following months her health declined. That January, at age 78, she died at her home at 121 W. Ninth Street. In a tribute, the *Michigan Alumnus* noted that she had "realized her lifelong dream of studying to become a doctor."

"A firm believer in women, she desired for them equality with men in all re-

Dr. Adella B. Woods was known for her attention to detail as well as her kindness. She also became one of Erie's most vocal public health advocates and she had a particular interest in disease prevention and was a passionate advocate for improving hygiene.

letters were threatening. Others stated that she should leave the country and that she didn't know right from wrong. Another said that her pro-war views would lead to civil war or even revolution.

"The first was the most threatening of any, but they all surprise and amuse more than frighten me," she told the Erie Daily Times. "I thought my speech at the Women's Club was quite mild."

Following the war, she continued advocating for educational opportunities for women. A scholarship fund was also set up in her name, meant to "assist young women in obtaining a college education." She also promoted women running for office. She helped organize events promoting women running for Congress. In 1924, she presided over an event for the National Women's Party, the organization of Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, at the Hotel Lawrence. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and playwright Zona Gale spoke, where she said now that women had the right to

spects," the Erie Daily Times wrote in 1930, adding that she had been "one of the city's most widely known and highly esteemed residents."

The following year, the Woman's Club of Erie selected from 120 nominations their inaugural twelve "Greatest Women." Adella was selected alongside Sarah Reed, Mother Ambrosia Powers, Mrs. Peter Cauley, Jane Pressly, Jennie R. Cleveland, Carrie T. Watson, Lovisa Card Catlin, Angelina Kilbourne, Bertha Kunz-Baker, Laura G. Sanford, and Jean A. Hard.

She was selected, they wrote, for being a "pioneer" in medicine as well as for her philanthropy. Dr. Adella Brindle Woods was someone who "in her quiet way, reached into the heart of her community, and befriending one, and helping another, won the everlasting tribute of a people."

Jonathan Burdick runs the historical blog Rust & Dirt. He can be reached at jburdick@eriereader.com.



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Erie's "Urban Playboy," Pretty Boy Smooth is Making Moves and Changing Lives

The professional wrestler turned actor turned philanthropist offers insight

By: Amy VanScoter

If you haven't heard of Paul Bilbo, perhaps you've heard of "The Urban Playboy" aka Pretty Boy Smooth, Bilbo's ring name. The 30-year-old independent professional wrestler, actor, and philanthropist is making quite a name for himself as he travels around the country winning wrestling matches and the hearts of his fans.

Standing at 6-foot-9 and weighing in at 270 pounds, Pretty Boy Smooth is a force to be reckoned with. Trained by WWE's John Gargano at the Absolute Intense Wrestling Academy in Cleveland, Pepper "The Blade" Parks of All Elite Wrestling at Grappler's Anonymous in Buffalo, and Aaron Draven with Pro Wrestling Rampage, Smooth wrestles in an Athletic Powerhouse style, mainly known for powerful strikes, a handful of submissions, and the ability to toss his opponents around the ring with ease. His finisher, "The Player's Club," is a Fireman's Carry Spinebuster variation that no opponent has been able to kick out from. Smooth is no stranger to high pressure situations, winning the Ryse Grand Championship at the Ryse Anniversary show, besting a total of six opponents in one night. He earned his nickname of "The Urban Playboy," due to his flashy style and the women who adore him, using both to his advantage in his tongue-in-cheek marketing and on social media.

"After six years of trial and error, I was able to cultivate "The Urban Playboy," which is essentially my personality from my college days, but dialed up to level 10. The Urban Playboy is a ladies man with metrosexual attributes, but isn't scared to throw down. I draw inspiration from Will Smith's character in the

Bad Boys series, Youngblood Priest in the more recent version of *Superfly*, and the movie *Pootie Tang*, along with other forms of entertainment I've enjoyed and can relate to. I also have another layer to my wrestling character called The ETHER, which is the more unhinged version of me, kind of similar to a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde vibe," Bilbo said.

Bilbo has been a professional wrestler for about six years and says it has been one of the most challenging but rewarding things he's ever done in his life. "To people that only have a surface level understanding of it, they assume we just dress up in fancy outfits and pretend to fight each other. However, what we do is far more complex than that," Bilbo explained. "We tell stories. We take fans on an emotional rollercoaster. Professional wrestling is supposed to be watched like a live action film, rather than boxing or UFC. We create larger-than-life characters with the purpose of making the crowd *feel* and suspend disbelief, the same way they do when they go into a movie theater."

Detailing the behind the scenes skills necessary in the line of work, Bilbo noted that "for those of us that take the profession seriously, a lot of work goes into our physical appearance, learning the fundamentals, beating our bodies up so they get used to the contact — which a lot of times hurts more than you could imagine — and learning how to get comfortable in front of the camera." Comparing it to a musical or play, Bilbo keyed into the nuance needed to play to the crowd. "We are tasked with taking you on that emotional rollercoaster and if something isn't working, we need to figure it out in real time and change



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paul Bilbo, aka "Pretty Boy Smooth," has made quite the name for himself as an independent professional wrestler, actor, and philanthropist.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mercyhurst graduate Pretty Boy Smooth unleashes "The Player's Club" on an opponent, a Fireman's Carry Spinebuster variation that put the exclamation point on many victorious matches.

direction, which in my opinion makes what we do way more 'real' than we get credit for," said Bilbo.

That ability to make the crowd feel and suspend disbelief is working well for Bilbo as he harnesses the skills he's learned in wrestling into film acting, a natural transition with his first opportunity performing action scenes in the indie film *Pact of Vengeance*, directed by Len Kabasinski and starring All Elite Wrestling Superstars Diamante and Peter Avalon. "It was really fun to work with them on the fight scenes and I quickly realized that a lot of the 'entertainment' skills I learned with pro wrestling are transferable to acting. Although you won't always be in front of a live crowd, actors still have to connect with their audience through the screen they are watching from. Actors are able to take themselves out of their normal selves and elevate to perform, just like we do in professional wrestling, and although it may be less taxing on the body, the same amount of hard work and effort is needed to truly be good at it. I was literally in love with being on set," said Bilbo.

Bilbo was also involved in the comedy-horror anthology called *Shingles*, based on a book series by the collective known as Authors & Dragons, directed by Steve Rudzinski. "Steve and I met by a chance encounter on Twitter, and after bonding over our ideals about the journey of the independent artists, he allowed me the opportunity to video audition for Smasher, a tall



“The Urban Playboy” PB Smooth is a ladies’ man with metrosexual attributes, but isn’t scared to throw down — or in this case, throw an opponent over the ropes.

and jacked linebacker who is part of the Omicron Phi Fraternity,” said Bilbo. “Without giving away too much of our anthology tale, ‘Aliens Wrecked My Kegger,’ I was tasked with going from playing a football player that couldn’t construct a basic sentence in the English language, to him becoming a smooth and intellectual person by the back half of the film. It was really awesome to have lines to memorize and bring to life, so I wasted no time getting to work.”

Smooth and intellectual isn’t too much of a stretch for Bilbo. Born in Hempstead, N.Y., he played basketball at St. Dominic High School in Oyster Bay, N.Y., where he helped lead his Bayhawks team to a 52–24

record in his last three seasons. Bilbo later played Division I basketball at Hofstra University. He finished his collegiate career at Division II college Mercyhurst University, receiving a bachelor’s degree in communications (2013) and a master’s degree in organizational leadership (2015). In recent years, he created the PB Provides Scholarship Fund at the university and is making a real difference in the lives of the recipients.

“Being able to effectively communicate with others is such a very underappreciated skill in today’s society and I would like to help change that. Also, I feel it is my duty as part of my marginalized community to do what I can to help more Black youth get into positions where they can succeed.” — PB Smooth on his Mercyhurst scholarship fund

As a philanthropist, Bilbo created the college fund to provide financial assistance for Black students already attending or recruited to Mercyhurst University, with the intent of pursuing a degree in communication. “Being able to effectively communicate with others is such a very underappreciated skill in today’s society and I would like to help change that. Also, I

feel it is my duty as part of my marginalized community to do what I can to help more Black youth get into positions where they can succeed, as well as help diversify my alma mater,” said Bilbo. To date, the scholarship has been awarded to two students and contributions to the scholarship are continually being accepted on his website.

Bilbo credits his years as a grad student for getting the ball rolling on his wrestling career. “I’ve always loved it because my dad and grandmother got me watching at a young age,” he said. But while finishing grad school and after attending an independent wrestling show, Bilbo says he started attending shows himself and things progressed from there. He is currently ranked by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* at #262 out of the top 500 wrestlers among both television and independent leagues. He previously won the Revenge Heavyweight title in Erie against current AEW superstar Wardlow, and holds the Ryse Wrestling Grand Championship for Ryse Wrestling in Pittsburgh. He will have the gold in his possession at the upcoming ComiCon Erie.

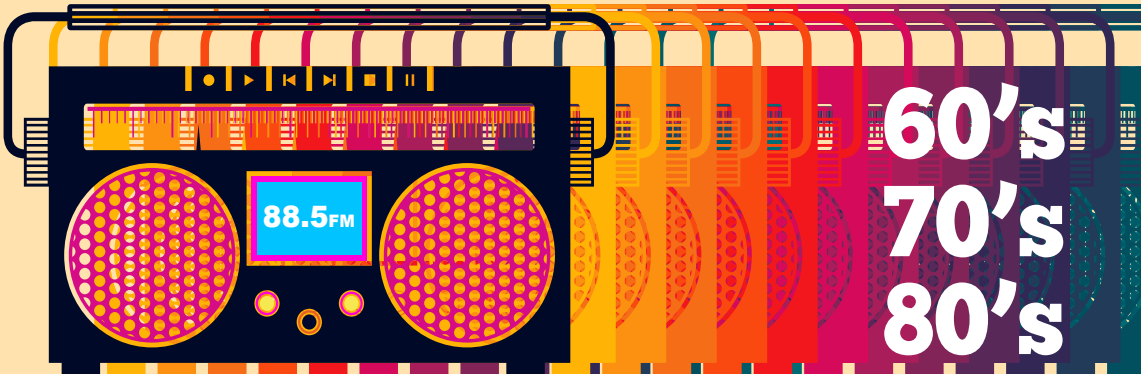
“I have faith that if I continue on the road I am on, I will end up on bigger platforms for both professional wrestling and acting. I am learning to embrace the journey and enjoy every step,” said Bilbo.

You can follow Pretty Boy Smooth on Twitter and Instagram as *PrettyBoySm00th*, on YouTube as *Pretty Boy Smooth*, or visit his website *PrettyBoySmooth.com*. He can also be reached by email at *pbsmoothbookings@gmail.com*

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EVENTS

Great Lakes Beach Glass & Coastal Arts Festival Returns

Making waves at the Bayfront Convention Center

BEGINNING SATURDAY, OCT. 8

The Great Lakes Beach Glass & Coastal Arts Festival is back, hosted for the sixth time at the Bayfront Convention Center by local beach glass and jewelry shop Relish.

Both days of the festival are set to host not only vendors, but also a full schedule of lectures and music for all to enjoy. Topics include “Identifying Unusual Beach Finds,” “Odd Glass!,” and “Everyone Has a Story to Tell,” with the lectures held at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. both days. Indie-folk singer and songwriter Tommy Link will be performing throughout the day.

The festival brings in artists regional, national, and international — one vendor hails from Nova Scotia, Canada — promising an unforgettable weekend getaway. More than 70 vendors have signed on for this year’s event, and while many specialize in beach glass, there are many more booths to explore: stoneware, beads, clay, and woodworking are just some of the other media that will be featured.

Among the participants are some well-known local names, including Flagship City Press, Lake Erie Candy Company, and of course, Relish. There is also a good number of emerging women artists



RAFINADE

who will bring their talents to the festival: Belinda Rogers Art, Broken EGG Clay, Jamie Keim Studio, Jessie Simmons Clay, Paper Owl Press, Politisticks, Sarah Everett, Sealed by Nature, Time & Tides, and Wicks and Wax will all feature tables at the event.

Other highlights include wine tasting courtesy of Courtyard Winery, a collector’s area, bottle or shard ID, and the opportunity to see the largest ever (at a weight of 275 pounds) piece of beach glass ever found on Lake Erie. — Ally Kutz

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier // Tickets will be \$7 each for general admission, with VIP Admission available for \$15 (limited to 200 tickets) // For more information or to purchase tickets, visit relishinc.com

Clue: Not Just A Game Anymore

Erie Playhouse stages the quick-witted whodunit show for the whole family

BEGINNING FRIDAY, OCT. 14

Perhaps you might remember the 1980s classic film *Clue* starring Christopher Lloyd, Madeline Kahn and Tim Curry. The hilarity that ensued and the clumsiness of the characters made the movie a standout in its time, with a life well beyond its theatrical release.

Fast forward to October 2022, and the Erie Playhouse has transformed into Hill House. If you frequent the Erie theater scene, you’ll know that this cast is just as delectable as those who made the 1985 movie what it was. With all of the literal moving pieces of this production (whole rooms are mobile on the stage) it’s been a challenging, but inspiring time for the *dramatis personae*, and they’ve become excited for Erie’s theater fans to be able to experience this exhibition of talent.

Nora Schillinger is playing wealthy socialite Mrs. White, and had some insight on how the process is going and what audience members should expect: “Physical work is always an interesting aspect of any show. There is very little ‘combat’ in this play, but there is a lot of slapping, falling, and physically carrying people. We’ve been spending a lot of time together working on these facets to ensure that everyone is safe during the show, and that we can deliver the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inspired by the classic Parker Bros. board game and 1985 film, *Clue* brings the quick-witted whodunit to the Erie Playhouse stage beginning on Friday, Oct. 14.

best performance we can, each night.” She continues, noting that “the play itself is pretty chaotic, so channeling that energy has been fun. Make sure to watch out for what characters are doing in the background.”

So, if the month of October is looking a little glum for activities, try giving the Erie Playhouse a visit. A great date night, mother-daughter night, or just a “Treat Yourself” night out. Spooky season vibes, without being too spooky. — Jordan Coon

Oct. 14 through 30 // Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. // Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10 St. // \$17-\$27.50 // All Ages // For tickets and more information including full showtimes, go to erieplayhouse.org

Brooke Surgener Crafts Immersive Album Release Show

Local songwriter creates a full experience to bring new full-length to life

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Local indie pop singer-songwriter Brooke Surgener is ready to have audiences see and hear her new album in big ways.

The 11 tracks of *Moon Waves* came together over time, each written in a different place, both emotionally and physically.

“Each song tells a different story about a collection of events I’ve written about over the years,” Surgener explains. “The name of the album represents the songs I’ve written in that time frame experiencing love, loss, friendship, doubt, depression ... everything we all experience, bringing me to who I am today.”

For years, Surgener has been a multi-hyphenate talent. In addition to being one of the most talented and accessible original songwriters in the region (playing guitar, bass, banjo, and more), the 2014 40 Under 40 honoree records and edits her own tracks (with help on the new record from Zach Zurn at Carpet Booth Studios in Rochester, Minn.) She’s even taken to recording songs in the place they were written — whether it be a cabin in the woods, or her own living room — to recreate and capture the specific emotions she felt when penning each song.

Surgener has grown into a formidable YouTube presence as well, both directing and editing videos for herself

and other local musicians. An avid cosplayer, she created detailed outfits drawing from pop culture for many of her earlier videos.

Surgener’s latest videos this year include album cuts “Tidal Waves,” “Gimme Gimme,” “I Hate You the Least,” and “For My Dog” (not to mention the previously released single “Be Your Babe” which also appears on the album), each one with its unique look and theme.

Those videos, along with behind the scenes footage, will be projected during her album release show.

“The venue will be decorated to the color scheme of (purples, blues, pink and gold) of the album to bring everyone into the vibes,” Surgener noted. She hopes that guests will “get lost in the atmosphere I tried to represent through my music in the album, hoping that everyone can walk away from this show taking away something from it.”

The tracks on *Moon Waves* cover a wide range of emotions and issues. There are more lighthearted (and perhaps coincidentally, older) tracks such as “Dirty Girl” and “Be Your Babe” paired with the emotional catharsis of “Tidal Waves,” in which Surgener directly deals with the tragic loss of her father, Brad.

It’s that complex combination of vulnerability, honesty,



ZACH RUDE

Local singer-songwriter and multidimensional talent Brooke Surgener will celebrate the release of her new full-length album *Moon Waves* on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the 10/20 Collective.

and humor that makes Surgener’s songs hit as well as they do.

Joining her for her album release will be two songwriters who know that combination very well. Pittsburgh’s Halloway Williams will open the show, followed by Optimistic Apocalypse — the quartet fronted by McKenzie Sprague, Surgener’s friend of many years. Both songwriters have a dense lyrical style that expertly deals with complicated feelings and concepts, deftly weaving them together with emotionally resonant music. — Nick Warren

Doors at 7 p.m., music at 7:30 p.m. // 10/20 Collective, 1020 Holland St. // \$10 pre-sale, \$12 at the door // All Ages // For more information, go to linktr.ee/brookesurgener

EVENTS

Finding Jenn's Voice Sheds Light on Partner Homicide

SafeNet and Film Society of NWPA host award winning film at PACA

MONDAY, OCT. 17

Homicide is a leading cause of death during pregnancy, but no one talks about it. During this Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Erie domestic violence agency SafeNet is shedding light on this statistic with the assistance of the Film Society of NWPA. *Finding Jenn's Voice* (2014), a film that will be shown at PACA, aims to spread awareness of the characteristics of coercive and controlling relationships.

Finding Jenn's Voice is an award-winning film that tells the story of a woman silenced. Jennifer Snyder was murdered in 2011 by her married boyfriend after he learned she was pregnant. Directed by Tracy Schott, the film features conversations with experts and survivors of intimate partner homicide and attempts to provide a picture of the anatomy of abusive relationships while law enforcement and the people who loved Jenn alert us to the signs that she missed. Along the way, the media is taken to task for its ineffective reporting of domestic



VOICES4CHANGE

violence homicides. Ultimately, it is the voices of survivors who help us to find Jenn's voice, leaving the viewer with a message that is hard to forget.

Viewers of the film will have the opportunity to ask questions and participate in a discussion after the film with Robyn Young, executive director of SafeNet, as well as other experts. Art and poetry created by domestic violence survivors will be on display in the gallery.

— Amy VanScoter

Reception with refreshments 6 p.m., screening at 6:30 p.m. with Q&A to follow // PACA, 1505 State St., 2nd floor // Free // safenerie.org

All An Act Theater Celebrates 100th Production with 'The Play That Goes Wrong'

The award-winning comedy's show-within-a-show faces endless farcical pitfalls

PREMIERING FRIDAY, OCT. 21

One hundred is a big milestone by any reckoning, whether you're celebrating 100 years of life or 100 years in business.

Or, in the case of the All An Act Theater in Erie's Little Italy neighborhood, the 100th production to hit the stage, and this one is a showstopper.

Directed by David W. Mitchell, AAA is pleased to present *The Play That Goes Wrong*, a 2012 comedy written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, and winner of Best New Comedy at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards.

It takes place on opening night of the Cornley University Drama Society's latest play, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, a murder mystery set in the 1920s; the production is the result of a significant bequest, made after the company has triumphed with such hits as *Cat* and *James and the Peach*.

The show-within-a-show quickly goes awry, though, from a wobbly set (which does not make it to the end), to a cast who forgets its lines, to a leading lady who gets knocked unconscious and a replacement who won't yield the part when she returns.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"It's divinely daft, gloriously preposterous and utterly silly," writes the London Theater in its four-star review.

All An Act's performance of *The Play That Goes Wrong* features production mainstays Adele Crotty, KC McCloskey and even director David W. Mitchell; they are joined by fellow castmates Dave DiCola, Chad Santos, Ben Robson, Josh Herrera and Zach Mota.

Opening nights can be rough, of course, but as All An Act Theater celebrates its 100th production and 100th opening night — well, we can hope they're a mite more successful than the Cornley University Drama Society.

— Cara Suppa
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. through Nov. 27 // 652 W. 17th St. // Adults: \$15, Seniors: \$12, Students: \$12 and Children: \$5 // For tickets and full showtimes visit allanact.net

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EVENTS

New Moon Mindfulness

The Dollhouse at Pointe Fourre hosts Erie's first boutique yoga event

SUNDAY, OCT. 23

October is the month we enter Scorpio season, which is about getting to the core of issues and understanding our authentic truths. This month, as the Scorpio new moon propels us to move forward into a new season of our lives, The Dollhouse at Pointe Fourre will host Erie's first boutique yoga event, New Moon Mindfulness. This workshop aims to prepare you for the New Moon in Scorpio, connecting you with your inner self and resetting your mind, body and spirit for the next season ahead.

The event starts with Slow, Mindful Yoga led by (yours truly) Amy VanScoter, RYT. Yoga is a system for living that starts with looking inward and being fully present. The class will include slow, mindful movements, aromatherapy, self-mas-

sage, and acupressure techniques to boost the immune system and calm the nervous system. It is suitable for all experience levels. The event will transition into an intention-setting practice with moon water intention jars, which will be given to attendees, courtesy of Moon Water Medicine's CEO, Amanda Antolik. Antolik is currently studying Ayurveda Wellness and Integrated Health at Maharishi International University. Moon Water Medicine features products aimed to cleanse and replenish. From the mat to the showroom, New Moon Mindfulness is infused with fashion by Dollhouse owner, Emily George, and will include a private shopping experience after the event with discounts for attendees. Dare to live a life you love. — Amy VanScoter



AMY VANSOTER

Beginning at 11 a.m. // The Dollhouse at Pointe Fourre, 423 State St. // \$40 // For tickets and more information visit eventbrite.com/e/new-moon-mindfulness-the-dollhouse-tickets

Beethoven's 'Ode To Joy' at the Erie Philharmonic

Composer's ninth symphony to open orchestra's symphonic season

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

The Erie Philharmonic will open their 2022-23 Symphonic Season with Beethoven's "Ode To Joy" along with "Oceans" by Icelandic Composer María Huld Sigfúsdóttir. The Philharmonic Choir, under the direction of Thomas Brooks, will join alongside Daniel Meyer to perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in its entirety.

"As Beethoven's crowning symphonic achievement, the Ninth Symphony looms large with its orchestral might, celestial beauty and spiritual grandeur," reads the concert description.

The quartet of soloists will consist of soprano Amy Shoremount-Obra, alto Joan Peitscher, tenor Wesley Lawrence, and baritone Mark Steven Doss. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which draws inspiration from German poet Friedrich Schiller's "Ode To Joy" and is dedicated to King Frederick William III of Prussia, first premiered on May 7, 1824 in Vienna.

Alongside the symphony, the Erie Philharmonic will also perform "Oceans" by María Huld Sigfúsdóttir, which is described by the symphony as "a colorful and evocative work inspired by the Arctic Ocean. With a deft touch and keen ear for sweeping soundscapes, Sigfúsdóttir's music captivates with its shimmering effects and churning musical waves."

Sigfúsdóttir is a Grammy-award winning composer, writing for film and television along with works for orchestra and choir. "Oceans" was performed by the Icelandic



KARL JOSEPH STIELER

Symphony Orchestra and featured on her album *Concurrence*, which was named by the New York Times as one of the best classical music albums of 2019. She graduated from the Reykjavik College of Music in 2000 as a violinist, and would go on to obtain her bachelor's degree in composition from the Iceland Academy of the Arts. Five years later, Sigfúsdóttir won a prize at the International Rostrum of Composers (IRC) for her work "Sleeping Pendulum."

Along with performing and touring in the bands Amiina and Sigur Rós, she has worked with groups such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, and the London Sinfonietta. — Thomas Taylor

8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // Tickets \$23 to \$56, students \$12 // For tickets and more information, go to eriephil.org/calendar/beethoven9

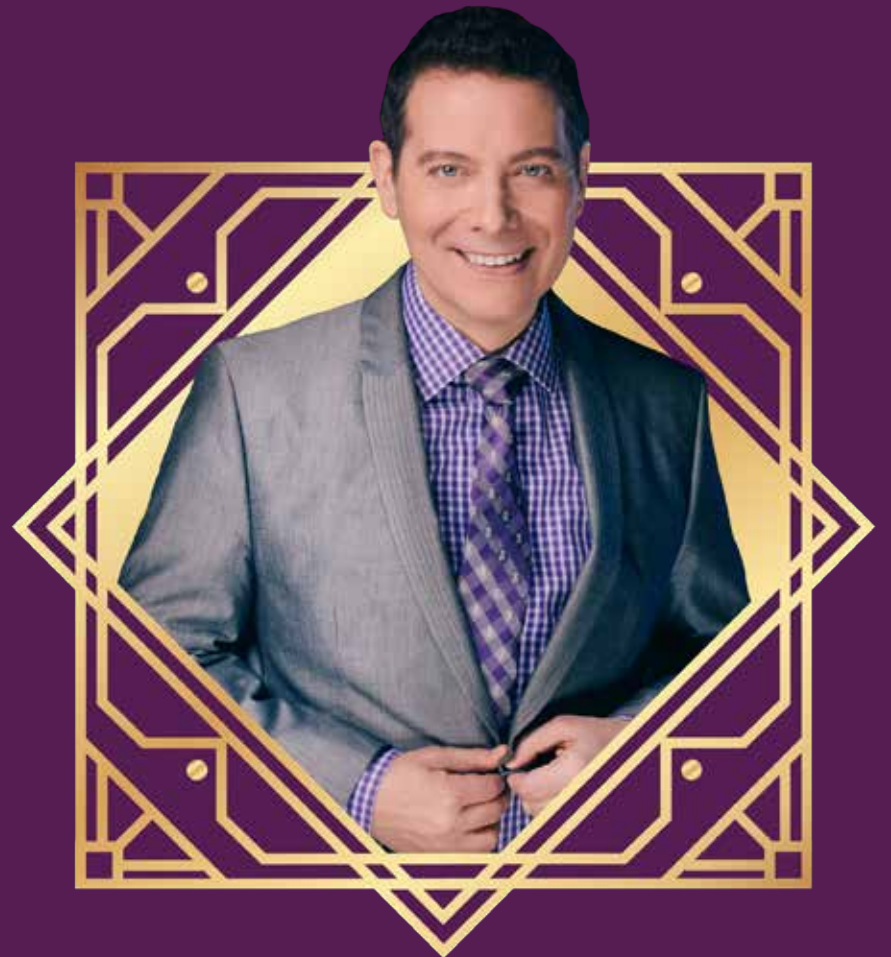


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EVENTS

That Little Ol' Band From Texas Still Making It Big

ZZ Top drops by Warner Theatre in support of new album 'Raw'

SUNDAY, OCT. 23

ZZ Top's *Raw* is as close to being an accidental album as it gets.

The album, which arrived on July 22, is drawn from a session at Gruene Hall in New Braunfels, Texas in which singer/guitarist Billy Gibbons, bassist Dusty Hill and drummer Frank Beard played versions of such familiar songs as "La Grange," "Tush," "I'm Bad, I'm Nationwide," "Gimme All Your Lovin'" and "Legs" in the most live, spontaneous and basic setting possible.

The performances were filmed for use in the recent ZZ Top documentary celebrating the band's 50-year history with its classic lineup, *That Little Ol' Band from Texas*. When the trio unplugged and left Gruene Hall that day, they thought it was mission accomplished. The footage was shot and recorded, end of story.

"The tunes on that occasion unfolded quite in the moment," Gibbons said, recalling the session in a new email interview. "Our director, Sam (Dunn), wanted a sequence where we played in the present day as a balance to the film's historical narrative. We got in there and did what we did and later, much later, realized we had an album."

As Gibbons indicated, upon further review, the performances captured something that was worth hearing in its entirety — the unmistakable Texas blues-rock boogie of ZZ Top in its most authentic state. And the *Raw* album became a reality.

The album figures to take on some significance as one of the last live documents of ZZ Top with Hill, who passed away last July. A hip injury had prevented Hill from joining Gibbons and Beard for last summer's tour, and long-time guitar tech Elwood Francis had stepped in on bass. When Hill died, the band barely took time off before resuming the tour, knowing that's what Hill would have wanted.

Nevertheless, Hill's death came as a shock.

"It was quite sudden and we remained under the assumption he'd rally, recover, and rejoin us," Gibbons said. "There was no anticipation mental or otherwise. We just had to deal with the reality of departure and the quick turnaround helped reinforce 'the show must go on' ethos. Our crew, our friends, fans, and followers have been a huge source of comfort."

Now ZZ Top, with Francis considered a long-term third member, are back on tour this summer promoting the *Raw* album with what promises to be a show that touches on all 50-plus years of the band's history.

"We know we'll go as far back as possible... perhaps 'Brown Sugar' or 'Just Got Back From Baby's' from the cleverly titled ZZ Top's *First Album* or even Willie Brown's *Future Blues* that predates us by 40 plus years," Gibbons said. "Of course, (we'll include) a few of the ones well-known like "La Grange" and "Legs." What's certain is the famed adage of 'something old, something borrowed and most definitely something blue' (will apply)."

ZZ Top's longevity is notable enough, but the fact that the classic lineup remained intact for 50-plus years makes ZZ Top a rare example of stability and sustained creativity and quality in what is often a volatile reality of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With multiple platinum-selling albums to their name, legendary blues-rock band ZZ Top will have plenty of source material to pull from during their Warner Theatre performance on Sunday, Oct. 23.

being a rock band.

The ZZ Top story is told quite colorfully in *That Little Ol' Band from Texas*, during which Gibbons, Hill and Beard take viewers on a trip through ZZ Top's 50-year history. The film hits a lot of highlights, including how the trio came together, how the group got its distinctive high-powered sound, and their initial commercial breakthrough. From there, the film visits a late '70s period that included a hiatus and Beard's battle with addictions and moves onto the 1980s, when ZZ Top incorporated synthesizers and sequencers into their sound and hit a commercial grand slam with the 1983 album, *Eliminator*, before reaching into the present day.

ZZ Top made their first big impact with the 1973 album *Tres Hombres* and its single, "La Grange." Subsequent early hits like "Tush," "Tube Steak Boogie" and "Cheap Sunglasses" helped the band notch a string of five gold or platinum albums during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Then a convergence of factors — the arrival of sequencers and other recording tools, the debut of MTV (which aired the groundbreaking videos for the

hit songs "Legs," "Gimme All Your Lovin'" and "Sharp Dressed Man") and some inspired songwriting — made ZZ Top mega-platinum superstars (with Gibbons and Hill debuting their newly grown outsized beards).

But since reaching their commercial peak with *Eliminator* and the sonically similar *Afterburner* (1985) and *Recycler* (1990), ZZ Top have returned to more of a stripped back bluesy guitar sound on their most recent albums — *La Futura* (2012), *Mescalero* (2003), and *XXX* (1999). Sales of those albums have fallen off, but ZZ Top remains a touring powerhouse.

With Francis on board, Gibbons considers ZZ Top a band that still has plenty to say musically. He's hinted that an album of new material could happen.

"Elwood is certainly in with us for the long haul," Gibbons said. "It's still ZZ Top, not ZZ Top 2 or ZZ Top with an asterisk. The genuine article abides!" — Alan Sculley

7:30 p.m. / Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // For seating and pricing, visit ticketmaster.com

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More info: paca1505.org/live

EVENTS

Michael Feinstein Celebrates Judy Garland at MIAC

Revisiting the singer’s career on her 100th birthday

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26

Judy Garland’s life was many things, especially for those invested in old Hollywood and theater: tragic, endearing, and iconic. Now, her life and 100th birthday are being memorialized in a show executive produced by Liza Minnelli. Join “The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook” Michael Feinstein in a career-spanning celebration that will include film clips, new photos, audio recordings, and of course, lots of laughter. This unique multimedia show is centered around Feinstein’s secondhand stories of the legendary actress from Minnelli and other close friends, accompanied by nostalgic musical segments and previously unheard arrangements.

For the uninitiated, Feinstein is a singer, pianist, and music revivalist, and five-time Grammy-nominated recording artist. He’s best known as archivist and interpreter for the Great American Songbook, making him the perfect host for

this spectacular show honoring one of Hollywood’s most beloved leading ladies. Readers will recognize Garland from her unforgettable role in *The Wizard of Oz* (as well as her timeless performance of “Over the Rainbow”), but it should also be noted that during her lifetime, she starred in a number of MGM produced films, including *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Harvey Girls*, and *Summer Stock*. She also starred in the original film adaptation of *A Star is Born* as well as her own Emmy-nominated series, *The Judy Garland Show*. In 1961, Garland became the first woman to win a Grammy Award for Album of the Year; over 60 years later, she remains an icon for theater lovers, and one deserving of this very fitting tribute. — Aaron Mook

7:30 p.m. // Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. // Tickets start at \$40 with discounts for seniors, students, and children // For tickets and more information, go to miac.mercyhurst.edu



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Feinstein has an impressive resumé as a singer, pianist, music revivalist, and archivist and interpreter for the Great American Songbook. On Wednesday, Oct. 26 he will pay musical homage to iconic leading lady Judy Garland at Mercyhurst’s Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center in honor of her 100th birthday.



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EVENTS

Talking Big and Small with Fran Lebowitz

A Q&A with the iconic author, New Yorker, and cultural jukebox prior to Oct. 6 MIAC date

By: Nick Warren

For decades, Fran Lebowitz has provided brilliant and biting cultural commentary. Rising to public prominence with her best-selling books *Metropolitan Life* in 1978 and *Social Studies* in 1981, Lebowitz later established herself as a well-loved guest on *Late Night with David Letterman*, *Charlie Rose*, and *The Late Show with Conan O'Brien*. Hilarious and acerbically insightful, Lebowitz became a de facto ambassador to her beloved New York City for those outside the city the world over.

In 2021, she gained an entire new generation of fans with her docuseries *Pretend It's a City*, directed by her close friend (the great) Martin Scorsese. Heralded by the 2010 HBO documentary *Public Speaking*, this collaboration between the two served to give Netflix audiences a chance to hear Lebowitz' takes on everything from public transportation to politics to the value of art itself.

We got the chance to talk with Lebowitz via phone in preparation for her speaking date with the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture on Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.

Nick Warren: Hello! How are you doing today?

Fran Lebowitz: I haven't decided yet.

NW: I hope it will turn out for the best.

FL: We always hope that.

NW: It's a pleasure to talk to you, I'm looking forward to your appearance at Mercyhurst in our fair city soon. So, have you found that strangers have a tendency to open up to you more than they would the average person?

FL: I certainly notice that people tell you personal things about themselves, but I don't think it's specific to them telling me. I've just noticed in general, that the culture is full of people telling you their innermost thoughts, everything that happened to them, and I really think this is a thing of generations. People my age — the ones that are still alive — we were taught not to do that. But kids, and by which I mean someone that's 35 [laughter], they have been taught "tell us how you feel, tell us what you think." So, yeah, people do tell me this stuff about themselves. People tell me this stuff about themselves when I do these speaking dates, like I'm doing there. I take questions for an hour from the audience. And lots of times people precede their question by telling me something about themselves, especially their age, very often someone says "I'm 22," and then they tell me some-



@BRIGITTE LACOMBE

Known for her acerbic wit and incisive cultural commentary, Fran Lebowitz will be sure to pull no punches during her Thursday, Oct. 6 speaking engagement at Mercyhurst University.

thing. And so I just think it's a thing of generations. I don't think it has to do with me.

NW: Do you think social media might be to blame?

FL: I think possibly, but I also think it's their parents. I think that people my age who had kids, and then all the people younger than them who had kids, encourage their children to talk to them. Truthfully, people my age, our parents, they weren't that interested in us. I don't mean just my specific parents, but I mean, in general, parents when I was a young kid. They just weren't that interested in us. They didn't ask us questions. First of all, children were almost never asked questions when I was a kid, because what could they know, they're children? [laughter] But everyone younger than me, which is now everyone [laughs], their parents ask them "How do you feel? What do you think?" So that they're just used to doing it.

NW: I love that. And then, this kind of goes into it, but have you found that you've successfully avoided small talk in your life?

FL: Well, I don't think anyone wholly avoids it [laughs]. I also think the definition of small talk has changed quite a bit. So lots of talk that seems like "big talk" to me seems like small talk [laughs].

NW: So you're always small-talking?

FL: Because a lot of news — for instance — in newspapers, for people who still read them, and I'm one of them. It doesn't matter where you get your news, but a lot of the news, when I was young, what is now broadcast as news used to be these little things called human interest stories. There's a cat in a tree, or there's a dog that people thought they lost and then he walked 400 miles to find the family, all that kind of stuff. To me, that is like, actually not even small, it's minute. [laughs] And this occupies actual space in newspapers and other kinds of news. I just think that people are so busy telling you about themselves, as you mentioned before, that I don't think people make these distinctions anymore. I have bad news for you; you probably noticed this.

NW: Unfortunately, and that's to the detriment of some "journalism," too.

FL: I mean, even the Times — the New York Times — used to be, like all newspapers really, they just told you what happened. "There's a fire on 23rd Street." That's the news. Now they tell you, there's a fire on 23rd Street. And then they interview someone who lived in that building. What do you feel about that? What do you think, my building burned down? I think that jour-



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nalists, newspaper reporters, used to be not only discouraged, but forbidden from putting that kind of stuff in news stories. And now, they're encouraged to do that. Because I think that everyone thinks you can't hold someone's attention unless you tell them a story. A story that has people's feelings in it, or their reactions in it. I just think that's everything. I don't think that is peculiar to any newspaper, or any TV station or anything. It's just they're encouraged to write. Newspaper reporters were discouraged from writing, and now they're encouraged to.

NW: Do you think it's more or less interesting now?

FL: Well, truthfully, if I am looking at the front page of the New York Times, and I want to know what's happening in Ukraine, I'm guessing without looking that the people in Ukraine are not happy. You don't have to give me examples of all the unhappy people in Ukraine. Like who wouldn't be unhappy if they're *bombing* your country? So [laughs] I would prefer since I'm reading this stuff, and because I want to know what's happening there, can we just assume that the people are devastated?

NW: Yes, across the board, maybe too.

And even I ask that question — Is news even supposed to be interesting?

FL: I think truthfully, what is interesting to me is that, in this era, when people have access to *every* kind of information on the planet Earth, they are less and less interested. The number of people who are ill-informed is actually greater than it used to be — even though they have the opportunity to be *amazingly* well-informed. But also because politics in this country especially, has become so *debased*. It's almost like when I was a child, the summer camps, there were some attempts to have this thing called "color war" where they divide the entire camp. You're the green team, you're the blue team. And then the whole summer, these kids would fight with each other. I didn't go to such a camp, because my parents wanted to avoid that kind of situation [both laugh]. But it now seems like that's American politics. That's Congress.

NW: Now it's red versus blue.

FL: Yeah, now it's red and blue, but it's *really* dangerous.

NW: I'll go more random. What do you think makes great art worth talking about, and remembering?

FL: Well, I know you're never allowed to

say this anymore. But unfortunately, it's *talent*. This is a word that seems to have gone off into obscurity, but it is talent. Which people say, "Well, who can define that?" I would say, me! Ask me, I will tell you. Americans really don't *like* the idea of talent, because you can't *get* it, you can't buy it. You can't work for it. You can't be connected to it. It's so random, talent. It's just randomly distributed throughout the population of the world. And so I think that's discomfoting to Americans. But, to me, it's the most democratic thing there is. But it's not a thing that people really talk about much anymore. Because, first of all, there's this idea that you shouldn't judge. It's judgment.

Even so-called critics are not really critics anymore. They're not making all these distinctions. They're basically telling you the biography of the person who painted the painting or wrote the song—that's not criticism. I feel like, I decide, and of course, no one listens to me, but that's always been the case. [laughter] So, it's talent, which is not something to go to school for. I'm sure you're aware that there's like zillions of these graduate programs now in writing. When I was young, I think there was only the University of Iowa. But I al-

ways say to people, "I have news for you, you cannot *learn* this. I mean, you can learn *grammar*, which of course, no one learns anymore. [laughter] But you can't learn this — and these schools cost a fortune, by the way. So whenever kids ask me about this, I say do not go. Don't go. Take the money and buy books, read! That's how you learn how to write.

NW: Yeah, it seems to be that talent is the answer, if people are saying, "How, how can I make it out there?" I think that's also the answer, whether or not they want to hear it.

FL: Well, it's not necessarily how you succeed, by the way — talent. That's available. That's for sale. But [talent determines] whether or not you're *good*, that is for sure. And if you want to know who decides that? It is me.

Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. // The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center // Adults: \$45, \$35, \$30; Seniors: \$40, \$30, \$25; Youth: \$35, \$25, \$20; Non-Mercyhurst Students: \$35, \$25, \$20
// For tickets and more information, visit miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/evening-fran-lebowitz

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. For a full-length transcript of this interview, visit ErieReader.com. Nick Warren can be reached at Nick@eriereader.com

Halloween Activities to Get You Into Spooky Season

Plenty of local spots for scare junkies and autumn-lovers alike

Eeriebyss Factory of Terror

Boasting “over 1/2 mile of terror... all under one roof,” the former Griswold factory gets a chilling makeover. Geared towards adults with a healthy appetite for horror, expect plenty of jump-scares and shocking sights right in the heart of Erie.

Running until Oct. 30 // Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m. to midnight, Sun. 6 to 10 p.m. // 1053 W. 12th St. // \$20, last tickets sold 30 min before closing // For tickets and more information visit eeriebyss.com

Ghost Lake at Conneaut Lake Park: 13 Levels of Fear

Featuring attractions like the Blood Moon Meat Market, Carnival of Rust, Rott’s Emporium, St. Lucien’s House of Evil, The Devil’s Playground, and many more, Ghost Lake is situated on the site of Conneaut Lake Park in Crawford County. Twisted for terror, this their levels are not for the faint of heart.

Running until Oct. 30 // Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m. to midnight, Sun. 7 to 11 p.m. // 12382 Center St., Conneaut Lake, PA // \$25 // For tickets and more information visit ghostlake.net

Port Farms Fall Harvest Festival

Family-friendly fun featuring a corn maze, slides, a ball zone, hay rides, a trike track, animal exhibits, and more at the picturesque Waterford farm.

Running until Oct. 30 // Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. // 2055 Stone Quarry Rd., Waterford, PA // \$11.95 general admission weekdays, \$14.95 weekends // For more info and multiple pricing options visit portfarms.com

Sisson’s Pumpkin Patch

Old-fashioned fun at this Girard farm with pedal cars, a corn maze, a straw fort, obstacle course, and even a pumpkin smash through October, plus much more.

Running until Oct. 30 // Saturdays and Sundays. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. // 11244 Springfield Rd., Girard, PA // \$10, \$5 for seniors, ages 2 and under free, \$27 for a season pass // For more information visit sissonspumpkinpatch.com

Brewerie Haunted History Tours

Get a look at what lurks beneath the heart of Erie in its underground tunnels. Starting at the historic train station, guests are given a frightful and informative tour of the history and mysteries surrounding Union Station and beyond.

Running until Oct. 28 // Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. // 123 W. 14th St. // \$20 per person // RSVP at 814.454.2200 // For more information visit brewerie.com

Mason Farms Pumpkintown

Come down to Peninsula Drive and see Mason Farms’ garden section transformed into an autumnal cornucopia, with a petting zoo, a corn maze, and bouncy houses the kids will love.

Running until Oct. 31 // Sunday through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. // 839 Peninsula Dr. // Free admission, individual ride tickets \$1.50, \$14 ride-a-rama // For more information visit masonfarms.com

Sparrow Pond Haunted Hayride

The Waterford location offers a spooky journey through dark fields and more. A family-friendly way to celebrate the season with some good-natured scares.

Running until Oct. 29 // Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 to 10



NICK WARREN

As usual there will be bales and bales of autumnal activities transpiring in Northwestern Pennsylvania throughout the month of October, including the Port Farms Harvest Festival (above) and Mason Farms’ Pumpkintown (below).

p.m., Sunday, Oct. 9 7:30 to 9 p.m. (end time reflects last ticket sold) // 11103 Rt. 19 Waterford N, PA // \$12.95, hayride not recommended for children under four // For more information visit sparrowpond.com

The Rocky Horror Show at the Academy Theater

Richard O’Brien’s cult classic live and in the flesh performed by Meadville’s best, complete with a full band. Catch the live action, Broadway-style performance directed by Ted Watts Jr. or stay waiting in antici...

Running through Oct. 29 // Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 at 10 p.m. // Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA // \$18 - 23, senior and student discounts available // Recommended for mature audiences // For more information visit theacademytheatre.org

Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm and Corn Maze

For one of the most serious corn mazes around (which also helps feed the buffalo over the winter), look to Edinboro’s Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm. Be sure to bring a flashlight and some older shoes, because you may just be in there for a while.

Running through Nov. 6 // 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. // Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm, 5970 Koman Rd., Edinboro, PA // Adults 5 to 55 \$8, Seniors age 56 and up \$5, group pricing available // For more information visit woodennickelbuffalo.com

ZooBoo 2022

One of the largest child-friendly events around, costumes are encouraged as you mix and mingle among the animals of the Erie Zoo.

Running from Oct. 12 through Oct. 30 // Wednesdays and Fridays 6 to 9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays noon to 9 p.m. // Member Treater: \$9, Member Non-Treater: \$7, Non-Member Treater: \$13, Non-Member Non-Treater: \$11 // For more information visit eriezoo.org

More Murder and Mayhem Erie Walking Tour

Brought to you by the Hagen History Center, join author Justin Dombrowski while he leads a true crime tour of Erie, with everything from deaths, terror, and even grave robbing. See the real locations associated with The Phantom Burglar’s Reign of Terror, the 1911 extortion of the Strong family, and the strange death of Virginia Gibney.

Running through Oct. 29 // Fridays and Saturdays at 6:45 p.m. // Tour begins at the Erie County Courthouse, 140 West 6th St. // \$25, \$20 for Hagen History Center members // For tickets and more information visit hagenhistorycenter.square.site



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Edward, who resides in Pittsburgh, is active in the Allegheny
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It Did Happen Here: The Zappa / Erie Collection

Talking to archivist and Erie native Joe Travers about the recent six-disc box set

By: Larry Wheaton

Zappa/Erie was released in June of 2022. It’s a collection of performances by Frank Zappa from the times he played in Erie and Edinboro, a box set spanning six discs and featuring a full color hard-cover book. The anthology includes the May 8, 1974 performance at Edinboro State College, the November 12, 1974 concert at Gannon Auditorium, and the November 12, 1976 performance at the Erie County Fieldhouse. The reason for such a groovy release with a distinct local tie is due to the fact that the Zappa vault “Meister,” Joe Travers is from the Gem City. Travers is a Grammy award-winning drummer (which he won for his performance of “Peaches en Regalia” with Zappa Plays Zappa). He has gone on to play with The Zappa Band, Zappa Plays Zappa, Duran Duran, Billy Idol, Lisa Loeb, Joe Satriani, and Rich Robinson of the Black Crowes, among many others.

Joe Travers started playing drums from an early age and after years of practicing the drums and ended up playing in Z, a band featuring Zappa’s sons Dweezil and Ahmet. He entered the fold as a musician and fan, but it was his knowledge and respect for the Zappa catalog that impressed the family and landed him the role of the Vault Meister for the Zappa estate. He talked with me about how the pandemic gave him an opportunity to explore the tapes recorded in his hometown.

“I knew the tapes were in the vault, but never really took the time to document them,” Travers said. “It’s kind of funny to think that, wow, you are from Erie and you knew they were there. I was curious but I never really came around to them until the pandemic happened and I had a lot of extra time. I thought, *I am finally going to get around to these*. So I spent the time digitizing all



JEAN LUC

Virtuoso guitarist and musical genius Frank Zappa performed in the Erie area three times during the 1970s, captured and commemorated in the CD box set *Zappa/Erie*.

that stuff, and realized that they were good shows. With me being a part of the family for so long, I thought this would be a really cool idea to lump them together. So I hit Ahmet up with it and he was really into it, and now it’s a reality and it’s out there.”

With a collection as massive as Frank’s, one that

Shows and Events You Won’t Want to Miss

Highlights for October’s shows and more

Murder Mystery!

Friday, Oct. 7 // 6:30 to 9 p.m. // Radius CoWork, Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St., Ninth Floor // \$3740 including food and drinks // For tickets and more information, visit erieplayhouse.org/events/murder-myster-ren-center/

Requiem For Oblivion, Veronica, Matthew Morton & The Merrick Strain

Friday, Oct. 7 // Doors at 8 p.m., music at 9 p.m. // Philly on the Rocks, 401 W. 18th St. // \$5 // For tickets and more information find the event on Facebook

34th Annual Fall Fest at Peek’n Peak

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 8, running Oct. 9, 15, and 16 // 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. // Peek’n Peak Resort, 1405 Old Rd., Clymer, NY // Free // For more information, visit pknpk.com/fall-fest

Of Night And Light with Maroon River

& Psycho Hosebeast

Saturday, Oct. 8 // Doors at 8 p.m., music at 9 p.m. // Philly on the Rocks, 401 W. 18th St. // \$6 pre-sale, \$10 day of show // For tickets and more information find the event on Facebook

Something Involving A Monkey, DredNeks, Spades, Ice Cream Socialists & Ish

Saturday, Oct. 15 // Doors at 6 p.m., music at 6:30 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$10 pre-sale, \$13 day of show // For tickets and more information find the event on Facebook

Cole Swindell: Back Down To The Bar Tour

Thursday, Oct. 20 // 7 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // Starting at \$37 // For tickets and more information visit erieevents.com

Time’s Up! MadClock’s Final

Performance Event (feat. Ashby & more)

Saturday, Oct. 22 // Doors at 7 p.m., music at 8 p.m. // Philly on the Rocks, 401 W. 18th St. // \$6 pre-sale, \$10 day of show // For tickets and more information find the event on Facebook

Magic Beans wsg: Phunkademic

Saturday, Oct. 22 // 8 to 11 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$15 // For tickets and more information find the event on Facebook

Halloween Show with This American Song, Ladders, PennyRacer, and TracethePattern

Friday, Oct. 28 // Doors at 7 p.m., Music at 7:30 p.m. // The Bunker at Lavery Brewing Co., 128 W. 12th St. // 21+ // \$5 // For more information find the event on Facebook

Basement of Terror: Odd Atrocity,

Halfpace, Stoned Apes, Gelatin Skeleton, and Performance Software

Friday, Oct. 28 // Doors at 7 p.m., Music at 8 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // 18 + // Price TBD // For more information find the event on Facebook

The Tradesmen, Mala Sangre, Bastard Bastard Bastard & Massive Denial

Friday, Oct. 28 // Doors at 8 p.m., Music at 9 p.m. // Philly on the Rocks, 401 W. 18th St. // \$6 presale, \$10 day of show // For tickets and more information find the event on Facebook

Blouses, Shiver, Crew Life, and Reflect & Reform

Saturday, Oct. 29 // Doors at 7 p.m., Music at 8 p.m. // The Bunker at Lavery Brewing Co., 128 W. 12th St. // 21+ // \$10 // For more information find the event on Facebook

MUSIC

spans decades, you run into all sorts of media that performances were recorded on.

Travers explains how he transfers those performances into the digital format, especially when time affects the quality of the tapes: "When it comes time to release them, you have to remember that there was only one tape machine rolling, so the engineer in real time is changing tape, while the band is still playing. So, it's important to have some reel backup shows from that time period transferred as well, so that if there is a section of song that's not a solo and an actual passage of written material, you can grab that from another show and insert it in for continuity."

He continues: "If it is a solo, I just find the right edit point in time to join them so it's seamless and you would never know, unless there was a bootleg of the show out there. So, that's the secret of getting those tape gaps taken away. However, what happens when it comes to those four-track tapes, you are pretty much married to that sub mix that engineer made at that time. You don't really have a lot of options, you have a stereo mix on channel one and two, then on channel three you would have either an isolated bass guitar or you would have an isolated guitar track, or an isolated audience track for ambience, and that's all you really have. It changed from engineer to engineer and from tour to tour, so you end up sending it to a mastering engineer and supervising them to ensure they're doing the right thing."

When asked about the condition of the Erie tapes, Travers said, "They were great, all of them, the Edinboro

show and both Erie tapes were all playable and didn't need to be baked. There were zero problems".

Zappa's performance at Edinboro University was a widely bootlegged performance among fans for years. The songs "Son of Orange County" and "More Trouble Everyday" were even commercially released on the 1974 live Zappa/Mothers album *Roxy & Elsewhere*, but the whole show hadn't been released until now. It's a lineup of musicians that Joe Travers says is one of his favorite variations.

"I have to say that band, at the Edinboro show, that is a band that really wasn't featured much by Frank, only about 10 minutes of material on *Roxy & Elsewhere* features that group...and that group is unbelievable," Travers admitted. "The arrangements changed so much for that particular tour with the layers the Fowler brothers, Jeff Simmons, and Don Preston added. That 10th anniversary band was a really, really special band, and it's one of my favorites because of all that instrumentation added. Frank was such a genius at molding all those different sounds, all those different instruments to make an unbelievable sound. His arrangements were so genius and that concert shows them off a lot."

Frank Zappa would only return to Erie two more times, playing at Gannon University and the legendary Erie County Fieldhouse, facing issues that most touring bands have. Nonetheless, they still put on memorable performances. "He only played Erie a few times and I don't think it was the best experience for him the

both times he played there. The first time he was sick and the crowd was kind of disrespectful," Travers reasoned. "The next time that he played it was a horrible snowstorm and half the equipment didn't show up, so they had to rent the equipment and all that stuff. Then Crack The Sky was the opening band and something happened with them, so Frank had to go out and do a warm-up set, which wasn't recorded. He never came back after the '76 performance, but played the surrounding areas."

While Travers himself didn't catch Zappa live in Erie, he did eventually get to see him on Frank's final tour in Cleveland in 1988. He packed the *Zappa / Erie* box set full of Erie memorabilia, featuring a book that includes images of the reel-to-reel tapes from the Erie shows, pictures of the concert posters, news articles, and even a signed picture of Frank Zappa from an Erie performance (The pic was discovered by Travers' mother at a local estate sale). There are many classic Zappa songs like "Wowie Zowie," "Don't Eat the Yellow Snow," "Dupree's Paradise," and "Muffin Man" played by three different Zappa bands. With the release of *Zappa / Erie* we now have the honor of being a part of the vast live catalog from one of the most interesting musicians from the last century.

Zappa / Erie is one of the few CD sets Larry Wheaton has purchased in recent memory, while his vinyl collection grows larger every week. He can be reached at wheaton1138@gmail.com.

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PODCASTS

The Ringer Podcast Network's Tributes to Jonathan Tjarks

Multiple podcasts // theringer.com



Following the death of basketball writer and podcaster Jonathan Tjarks, The Ringer (his media home for the past few years) filled their programming with tributes. Shows like *The Mismatch* did extended segments, while all Ringer podcasts had a dedication at each episode's beginning along with a call for family donations. *The Bill Simmons Podcast* invited several of Tjarks' friends onto the show, where they dove deep

on what made the man special. From his humble blogging beginnings, to his penchant for unique and nuanced basketball "takes," to heartbreaking final interactions, it's an honest discussion about processing grief. As relayed by J. Kyle Mann, despite being in his final days, Tjarks was still content and happy talking about the recent FIBA international basketball tournament. It's a heart-wrenching story, yes, but there's slight relief knowing he still took solace in basketball during times of great pain.

Despite podcasting being an intimate relationship — you're spending hours and hours with someone's voice, after all — we can still forget that you're listening to human beings and that loss will inevitably impact them. I'll miss hearing Tjarks talk about the Dallas Mavericks (his favorite team), and I'll miss him previewing the NBA Draft. I'm sure his friends and family will miss him much, much more, and it was inspiring to hear them talk about that loss. — Christopher Lantinen

You can donate to Tjarks' family, here: gofundme.com/f/Lets-help-our-friend-jonathan-tjarks

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Gentlemen Prefer

Blonde is a Beautiful Empty Shell

★★

Andrew Dominick will forever earn my respect for taking one of the most mythologized figures in American history and telling a thoughtful, unique, and compelling story about him. That film, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* will be remembered as one of the great character studies of its time. Sadly, he couldn't do the same with another over-mythologized American icon, for *Blonde* tells us nothing about Marilyn Monroe beyond the tired cliché that behind the beauty and glamor there was actually a sad, lonely woman. Despite some impressive (though overwrought) filmmaking, this is the story we've heard a hundred times before.

Based on Joyce Carol Oates' controversial novel, the film concerns Norma Jean Mortenson (Ana de Armas) as she grows up surrounded by abuse and mental illness. As an adult, she re-invents herself as a movie star and sex symbol, but the character she creates — Marilyn Monroe — threatens

to consume Norma Jean entirely.

The film is over-directed and needlessly flashy (at times bordering on camp), but these techniques do not hide the fact that we learn very little about Monroe the person through the intimidating runtime. We see the expected scenes of abuse, addiction, and lustful stares from lecherous men, but Marilyn herself remains little more than a tragic icon; a hollow figure just as substanceless as the perfectly recreated scenes that pepper the film. I wish filmmakers would either do something interesting with this tragic story or let the poor soul finally rest in peace. *Blonde* is now playing in select theaters and is currently available on Netflix.

— Forest Taylor

Written and directed by: Andrew Dominick, based on the novel by Joyce Carol Oates // Starring: Ana de Armas, Adrien Brody, Bobby Cannavale, Garret Dillahunt, Julianne Nicholson, Xavier Samuel, Evan Williams, Scoot McNairy, Rebecca Wisocky, Lily Fisher, and Casper Phillipson // 166 minutes // Rated NC-17 // Netflix



Before Swine

Pearl is a Horror Film like No Other

★★★★

While working on his horror film *X*, director Ti West and his cast and crew suddenly found themselves stuck in New Zealand at the start of the COVID-19 lockdowns. He used this time to film, in secret, a prequel idea he had been working on with star Mia Goth. The result, *Pearl*, is a noticeable departure from its sleazy predecessor. While *X* takes inspiration from the "Porno chic" and exploitation films of the 1970s, *Pearl* is inspired by the films of Douglas Sirk and the Technicolor musicals and melodramas of Hollywood's Golden Age, resulting in a horror story that looks and feels unlike anything we've seen in quite some time.

Set in 1918, the film follows young Pearl (Goth) who is stuck on her family farm under the eye of her domineering mother (Tandi Wright), caring for her infirm father (Matthew Sunderland) and taking care of all farm duties while the farmhands are away at war. Pearl's only escape is regular trips to

the pictures which she has become obsessed with to the point of madness. This obsession, along with her repressed sexuality, begins to reveal itself in increasingly deadly ways.

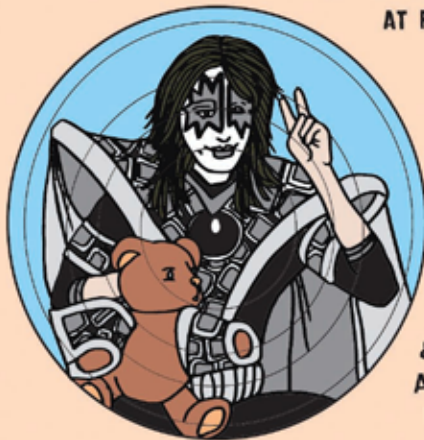
The beautiful cinematography helps give this film a classic, Old Hollywood feel, making it all the more jarring as the horror elements slowly reveal themselves. Goth also fully commits to the role, giving us a shrieking, wide-eyed, hysterical performance not seen since Patty McCormack's role in *The Bad Seed*. The mixing of the classical with the horrific may not be to everyone's taste but for those willing to get on the film's campy wavelength, *Pearl* can be a lot of sadistic fun. *Pearl* is currently in theaters and comes to the Eerie Horror Fest on Friday, Oct. 7.

— Forest Taylor

Directed by: Ti West // Written by: Ti West and Mia Goth // Starring: Mia Goth, David Corenswet, Tandi Wright, Matthew Sunderland, Emma Jenkins-Purro, and Alistair Sewell // 102 minutes // Rated R // A24



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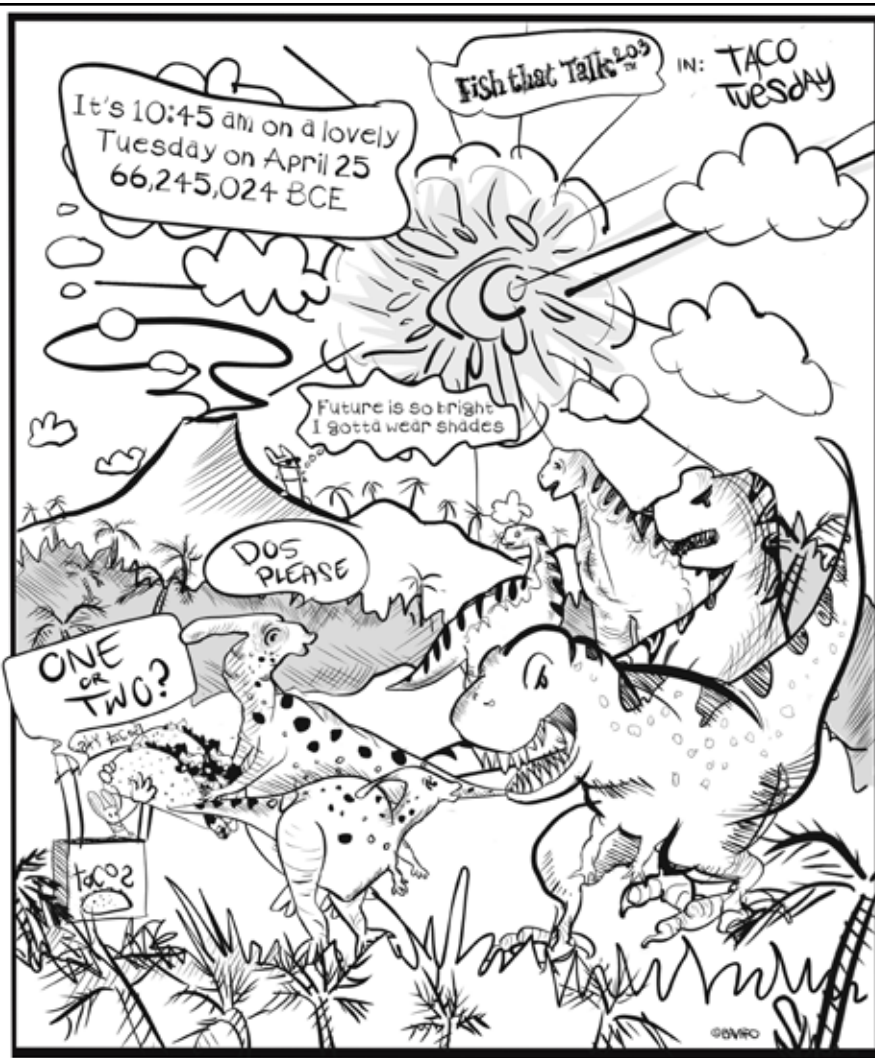
totally new concept in sound - disc 18



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READING THE PAPER BY BRAD PATTULLO



JUST TOYIN' WITCHA — BY B. TOY



ALBUM REVIEWS

Whitney
SPARK
Secretly Canadian Records
★★★★

Something changed for Whitney after their 2020 covers album, *Candid*. Their first two proper studio albums floated on upbeat, lo-fi indie-rock and vintage pop, anchored by drummer and lead singer Julien Ehrlich's unique falsetto. These albums were beautiful, especially their 2016 debut *Light Upon the Lake*, but *Candid* opened the band's world to genres beyond indie-pop. It's arguable that Whitney — the band resulting in Max Kakacek and Julien Ehrlich's endeavors after the breakup of the Smith Westerns — has always had an undercurrent of R&B in their sound, incorporating slinky keys, horns, and sultry melodies when the time was right, but their third album, *SPARK*, brings these elements to the forefront without abandoning the band's core sound.

Take for instance lead single "REAL LOVE," which opens with a kind of electronic bass beat that was previously foreign to the band, or "TWIRL," a dreamy highlight that pitches Ehrlich's voice down against atmospheric, Bon Iver-esque pianos. Unfortunately, with the exception of triumphant closer "COUNTY LINES," the second half of the album isn't nearly as memorable, but for Whitney fans who treasure the band's pop side, *SPARK* is an admirable detour for one of indie-rock's most reliable duos.

— Aaron Mook



Djo
DECIDE
AWAL Recordings
★★★★

Unless I'm missing something, it's unlikely that many would recognize the stage name Djo, although it's easy to place the face (and haircut) behind the moniker. The musical project of *Stranger Things* star Joe Keery is, well, more than just that. Keery is no stranger to music, having played in psychedelic garage-rock band Post-Animal in the mid-2010s, and as Djo, the singer-songwriter has picked up a few tricks from some of his favorite artists, both current and past.

On debut *Twenty Twenty*, Keery experimented with warbly bedroom pop, sharing some musical DNA with Mac DeMarco, but *DECIDE* is different. With synths and vocal quirks clearly at the forefront, Djo conjures up a pastiche of synth-pop that would make Pitchfork blush; from Daft Punk to The 1975, everyone is here. Take for example the Tame Impala-inspired undercurrent of opening track "Runner," or lead single "Gloom," which finds Keery doing his best David Byrne impression. If this all sounds a bit forced, it's really not; listeners might be surprised to hear some truly interesting synth tones and vocal melodies spread across Djo's sophomore album. It's easy listening, and a strong sign that before too long, Djo might finally stumble upon a sound that's entirely his own.

— Aaron Mook



Maya Hawke
MOSS
Mom + Pop Music
★★★★

The question really is, *would* we be talking about this album if it were done by someone else?

The fact is that the fearful symmetry of reviewing not one but two albums made by the cast of *Stranger Things*, not to mention the staff of that universe's Scoops Ahoy, was utterly irresistible. The almost frustrating reality is that this album is pretty damn lovable. Reading like Phoebe Bridgers on antidepressants, *MOSS* is objectively a lot of fun. The indie-folk guitar chimes mixed with Hawke's layered vocal harmonies are intoxicating. Unquestionably the child of supreme privilege, Hawke's father is actor Ethan Hawke, and her mother is Uma Thurman. Rightfully a model and a standout actress, Hawke is becoming a household name in her own right. While it may be frustrating to the general masses, there's no disputing that celebrity offspring can make some seriously great music (a la Josh Brolin's daughter Eden's fantastic band Atta Boy and Phoebe Cates and Kevin Kline's daughter Greta, better known as Frankie Cosmos). Whether it's knowing the right people, or buying your way into the press (still waiting for my check, by the way), this album might just be one of my favorites of the year, no matter who made it.

— Nick Warren



Editors
EBM
PIAS
★★★★

First off, let me address the fact that the temptation to review the new album by a band named Editors as my official *final* review as managing editor of the Erie Reader proved to be too great. Whatever, we already got *Deadpool*-level meta in the last review, so why stop now? Let me be clear, this album *slaps*. To both its favor and its fault, if you like 10 seconds of what you hear, you will like it all. More than any other Editors album, *EBM* is rhythmically similar from track-to-track, and I love it. While the six-piece band from Birmingham, England has put out six full-length albums, beginning with 2005's *The Back Room*, absolutely *none* of them have the unadulterated energy that *EBM* has. The album takes its title from both the band's addition of now full-time member Blanck Mass (whose previous collaboration with the band resulted in 2019's *The Blanck Mass Sessions*), and the acronym of the subgenre Electric Body Music. Imagine, if you will, finding yourself in a gay dance club, feeding uppers to The National until they become Interpol. They thusly evolve into Future Islands, where upon bags of further stimulants you arrive at *EBM*. Compared to past Editors albums, it's a veritable "Oops, All Disco Beats" with an average BPM of 130.

— Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
		20				21					22			
23	24			25							26			
27			28				29	30	31					
32							33							
34						35	36					37	38	39
					41						42			
		43	44					45	46					
47	48							49				50		
51						52	53	54				55		
56						57					58		59	60
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

Across

1. Toys with much assembly required
6. Opposite of a smash
10. "Super" campaign orgs.
14. Color between bleu and rouge on the French flag
15. Icicle spot
16. Joie de vivre
17. "Nature of a ____" (1991 Queen Latifah album)
18. At any point
19. Palindromic guy's name
20. Variety of tree that everyone loves?
23. Kimono closer
25. A third of tri-
26. Brief flash
27. Juliet's dosage unit?
32. "Laughing" carnivore
33. Employ
34. Bone, in Bologna
35. "Sailor Moon" genre
37. "On & On" singer Erykah
41. Bedroom poster figure, say
42. Carpentry shop gadgets
43. Doesn't treat Little Orphan Annie and her roommates well at all?
47. "A-a-a-and ____!"
49. Rowboat mover (and a homonym of 50-Across)
50. Yossarian's tentmate in "Catch-22" (and a homonym of 49-Across)
51. Hide-and-seek player's
- query ... or what the first word of 20-, 27- or 43-Across said to each answer's second word
56. Kind of sax
57. Falco with four Emmys
58. More balanced mentally
61. Travel aimlessly
62. Michael of "Arrested Development"
63. Shake an Etch A Sketch, e.g.
64. Dole (out)
65. One might speak under it
66. "Thong Song" singer

Down

1. Scale units: Abbr.
2. Country music's ____ Young Band
3. Lines to some stoves
4. Not fooled by
5. Shoulder blade
6. Get into a rhythm, informally
7. Flow that may be 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit
8. "Your turn," on a walkie-talkie
9. One in handcuffs, for short
10. ____ skills
11. Mostly online writing genre
12. Trading board game with "settlers"
13. Sty sound
21. Le Monde article
22. Eye rudely
23. Number of sides on a sign reading "ALTO"
24. Warehouse loading areas
28. Declaration made with a card in hand
29. Easter Island's country
30. Objective
31. Start to mature?
35. Freddy once hailed as "the next Pelé"
36. Directory info: Abbr.
37. Arm muscles, in bodybuilding lingo
38. At the first moment
39. Couple of bucks?
40. Name in a noted '90s breakup
41. [Nodding]
42. Causes of modern shutdowns
43. Use as a rendezvous point
44. Where to conform, as the saying goes
45. "And, uh, that about covers it"
46. His portrait hangs at Tiananmen Square
47. What locusts do
48. Sevigny of "Boys Don't Cry"
52. Art ____
53. Piece of mind?
54. Damaging gossip
55. Ginger at a sushi bar
59. Abbr. after a lawyer's name
60. Old auto with its founder's monogram



Answers to last puzzle

	M	E	L		S	I	P				M	D	C	I
N	I	N	A		O	R	R				G	A	I	L
O	L	D	S		M	O	K	E			S	E	N	S
A	L	E			E	T	S	Y			E	R	I	C
H	A	D	I	T			S	G	T	M	A	J		
			R	A	F	A			A	P	A		O	D
	C	C	S		L	I	E	S	I	N			C	O
P	H	O			T	U	R	N	K	E	Y		K	R
A	I	L			H	O	M	E	E	C		F	E	Y
C	A	D			E	R	E		T	E	T	E		
		T	I	R	I	N	G				O	U	I	J
S	P	U	M	E	D			O	R	B	S		T	A
M	A	R	G	I	E			D	O	O	H	I	C	K
O	R	K	A	N				R	P	G		T	H	E
G	R	E	Y					Y	E	S		O	Y	S

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LANDMARK

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