



ERIE READER

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Brian Graham & Adam Welsh

Managing Editor:

Nick Warren

Copy Editor:

Matt Swanseger

Contributing Editors:

Ben Speggen

Jim Wertz

Contributors:

Maitham Basha-Agha

Mary Birdsong

Charles Brown

Jonathan Burdick

Tracy Geibel

Lisa Gensheimer

Miriam Lamey

Tommy Link

Aaron Mook

Dan Schank

Tommy Shannon

Ryan Smith

Jen Sorenson

Cara Suppa

Forest Taylor

Bryan Toy

Cover Layout:

Nick Warren

Photographer:

Maitham Basha-Agha

Intern:

Hannah McDonald

1001 State St. Suite 1315
Erie, Pa., 16501
contact@eriereader.com

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From the Editors

Erie, front and center

Mid-August in Erie means that civic pride takes center stage. From We Love Erie Days to Celebrate Erie, our send-off to summer has traditionally coincided with showcasing our assets as a community and a region. Our local businesses, our schools and universities, our arts and culture scenes, our waterfront, our food, our music, our people — these aren't props; they're very real markers of our collective identity. It's crucial we portray ourselves in our best light.

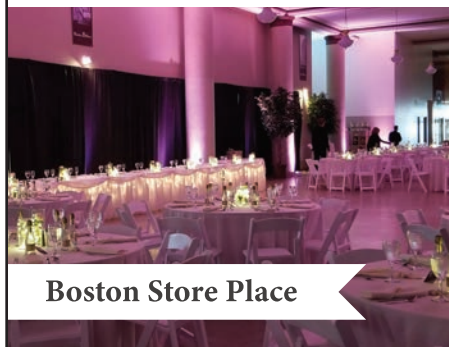
With an impressive lineup of talent across the disciplines of dance, music, and theater, the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture has long helped Erie's image shine. This year's program again proves that world-class performances *can* and indeed *should* be enjoyed here. The string of sellout crowds at MIAC events in recent years affirms that stellar entertainment — of interest not only to Erieites, but also folks beyond our city limits — *will continue* to be accessible here.

Speaking of beyond city limits — how about Florence, Bologna, Pisa, Modena, Ferrara, Naples, and Rome, Italy? These are the cities that sent student representatives to the ninth annual Giovanni Mazzotti Anatomy Conference at Gannon University this summer. In just 12 days, these foreigners cultivated a strong appreciation of all Erie has to offer, and reminded columnist Liz Allen of our legacy as a city and a nation of immigrants and new Americans. It's not always easy to see the good from the inside looking out, under the glare of hot stage lights, our inner critics deafening. Sometimes it takes a little outsider perspective to revive our enthusiasm and motivate us for the encore.

Lest we forget why we're here, how we got here, and who preceded us, writer Jonathan Burdick is eager to jog our memory. The indigenous Erietz tribe, "masters of the south shore of Lake Erie" and our city's eponym, clued European settlers (outsiders) in on what was an excellent resource and highly desirable location. Although many of the area's indigenous peoples were dispatched or displaced, their descendants still live on and carry on their customs while adapting to a drastically different 21st century lifestyle. The new Seneca-Iroquois Museum, which opened earlier this month in Salamanca, N.Y., is an \$18 million and 33,000 square-foot monument to the cultural and historical imprint these Native American confederations left on the region.

We've all been outsiders at some point — and while that can be scary or intimidating, it can also be exciting and invigorating. Step outside your longhouse, wigwam, ranch, or Cape Cod and take in the scene with a fresh perspective. Sometimes we owe ourselves a round of applause.

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That's Amore

Italian students fall in love with Erie



Medical students from the universities of Florence and Bologna, Italy, pose in front of Erie City Hall, which was one of the sites they visited during their anatomy studies at Gannon University this summer.

By: Liz Allen

This is how a request for a key to the city unlocked some delightful insights for me about Erie.

The story begins with a boisterous group of Italian medical students cheering at an Erie SeaWolves' Buck Night, alights briefly on new bestsellers by James and Deborah Fallows and Maria Shriver, includes a taste of Dungarvan, Ireland, and winds up at the Nuova Aurora Club.

During my travels, in person and via print, I've been impressed anew with the lessons we learn when we open our hearts and our homes to people from around the globe, even when the visits are short.

At the baseball team's Buck Night on July 23, one of my usher colleagues, John Pirrello, introduced me to two 21-year-old University of Florence students, Laura Meliante and Camilla Bechini. They were attending the ninth annual Giovanni Mazzotti Anatomy Conference, held at Gannon University this summer. John explained to the young

women that fans of America's pastime don't cheer nonstop and at ear-splitting volume, as soccer fans like to do, then he switched the conversation from baseball to politics.

"Liz is a bigwig official now," John boasted, as he told them that I serve on Erie City Council. "She can get you a key to the city!"

I do have a key that unlocks the door to the City Council chambers, but I had no idea how to get a key to the city, although Mayor Joe Schember later told me that he and his staff had discovered a stash of such commemorative gifts somewhere at City Hall.

Instead, the students and their advisor, Dr. Marion Olivieri, said they would be happy if I could give them a tour of City Hall.

But between their anatomy classes, my work schedule, and their plans to move on from Erie to visit Niagara Falls, Toronto and New York City, we didn't have time to arrange a tour.

As an alternative, I offered to talk to the students outside of City Hall on July 25, before

they headed to dinner after a long day in anatomy class and after I had ushered at a daytime doubleheader at UPMC Park.

I learned from Olivieri that the Mazzotti Anatomy Conference is one of many programs offered by Chartered Professors, a private organization that provides international educational experiences for both students and adults. Gannon hosted this year's anatomy conference, allowing students to get hands-on experience in the cadaver and gross anatomy labs at Gannon's Morosky Academic Center. In Italy, Olivieri said, medical school training is more theoretical.

Students came in two groups — the first with 53 students, the next with 62 students. They were selected in a competitive process, based on grades and English language skills, from universities in Florence, Bologna, Pisa, Modena, Ferraro, Naples and Rome. Not only would they be studying in a foreign land; they would be making new friends from their home country while staying in Erie. "It was great to see other

They visited Presque Isle for a beach concert, sang "Volare" at the Sloppy Duck, cheered for the World Cup at Calamari's, ate American-style pizza and bowled at the Nuova Aurora, among other social activities.

"Italian people sing a lot. They just have a real love of life," said Olivieri, who made sure the students had a guitar, so they could "sing in the van, sing in the house, sing in the courtyard (of the dorm)." The students even did an *Abbey Road*-like pose for a photo in the crosswalk connecting Gannon's campus on West Seventh Street, between Peach and Sasfras streets.

My talk outside the State Street entrance to City Hall might have seemed dull compared to their other activities, but the students, dressed in navy blue scrubs, were attentive as we gathered in front of the plaques that commemorate Erie's sister cities: Merida, Mexico; Zibo, China; Lublin, Poland; and Dungarvan, Ireland.

I explained that Mayor Schember is committed to reviving Erie's relationships with Erie's four sister cities,

then used that topic to segue into discussing Erie's efforts to welcome refugees, immigrants and new Americans.

The Italian students, in turn, praised their stay here. They found Erie people to be "very kind" and "welcoming," they said.

Their observations reminded me of something Maria Shriver writes about in her new book, *I've Been Thinking ... Reflections, Prayers, and Meditations for a Meaningful Life*. Shriver's mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, had introduced her daughter to Sister Joan Chittister, OSB. Shriver now counts Chittister as a close friend and has spent time on retreat with the Benedictines in Erie.

In her book, Shriver writes about flying into Erie and being warmly welcomed by the sisters. Then she goes further: "Everywhere I go in Erie, people are like that, gracious and kind. It actually kind of throws me ... What is it, I wonder? What is it about these nuns and this community that makes it such a haven of loving kindness?"

I wasn't fishing for compliments about Erie from the smart, outgoing Italian medical students, but their affection for Erie was genuine and they had picked up on the same vibes here that Shriver has felt.

Then one student really nailed it. "In Italy, we see (America) through the media only the metropolises," said Yusuf Ahmed, 25, a second-year medical student who plans to become a hematologist. But in Erie, "I have seen the real America," he said.

Without knowing it, he had summed up the quests by a number of writers who have journeyed to Erie in recent years to connect with the "real America." His take on Erie reminded me of *Our Towns*, the new book by James and Deborah Fallows, with its subtitle, A

LIZ ALLEN

100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America.

In their chapter on Erie, Deborah Fallows writes about new leaders emerging here: "Erie feels like a work in progress, but one that is clearly progressing." She also writes: "Erie finds a hypercharged boost of optimism and energy from another sizable portion of its population, refugees and immigrants."

Coupled with the Fallows' observations about Erie, one of my takeaways from my visit with the Italian students is that it's important for Erie's older citizens — descendants of immigrants — to connect with newcomers, even if those newcomers are only here for a short time. That's what happened at the Nuova Aurora Society, where the Italian students mingled with club members one evening to swap stories about the regions in Italy where Erie relatives had once lived and to compare dialects.

Still, I wasn't sure whether my mention of Erie's sister cities was a significant piece of information to impart to the students, until the next morning when I attended Mayor Schember's weekly news conference, which kicked off with a rousing musical perfor-

mance by veterans of the Erie Playhouse.

The Playhouse performers had just returned from Dungarvan, Erie's sister city in Ireland, where they had performed *The Glorious Ones*. Here I am at City Hall, where talented Erie musicians, fresh from Ireland, are singing a musical number set in Venice. Is that kismet? The Italian students weren't at the news conference but the Rev. Shawn Clerkin, associate professor of theater and fine arts and director of Gannon's liberal studies program, sang at City Hall and was also in the audience at Gannon's Yehl Ballroom the next afternoon, when the students received certificates and awards for completing the anatomy conference.

Clerkin told me that I was "preaching to the choir" about the importance of "global connections and intercultural sharing," especially at a time when many in our country are pulling away from world affairs and issues in favor of America first.

He shares a sense of pride in what we have to offer other cultures and what we, in turn, can learn from those cultures. His beliefs have been shaped by his experience when, as a

high school student in Johnsonburg, he was an exchange student in Argentina and when, later, he and his wife Almi hosted students from Russia, China, Italy and Belgium.

The Playhouse, under the initiative of Don Baxter, has had a relationship with the Dramatic Club of Dungarvan since 2007. The Erie group has been there twice and the Dramatic Club has visited here once. Now the two groups are working on a possible radio and live theater production about the Irish role in building the Erie Canal.

"It started off as a cultural exchange and it is now a friendship," Clerkin said.

Hundreds attended the Playhouse performance of *The Glorious Ones* on July 4 and 5 in Dungarvan, he said. The Erie show had finished in the top 10 of a national competition in the U.S. and, because it required minimal sets or costume changes, it was a "show meant to travel," he said.

At the mayor's press conference, the Playhouse group presented a certificate to Schember commemorating the Erie group's visit to Dungarvan. But the sister city relationship is about more than photo ops,

Clerkin said.

"Dungarvan is a waterfront city redefining itself," he said. "They have very distinct moments of success. They can share strategies and successes ... and how they have found solutions," he said.

And as for visit by the Italian students to Gannon, Clerkin said he is "very appreciative that they enhanced our campus."

His words were echoed by Rev. Michael Kesicki, Gannon's associate vice president for mission and ministry, who addressed the Italian students at the closing ceremony. "You have joined us and enlivened our campus," Kesicki said, before switching to the Italian dialect he had learned "at my mother's knee."

His speech was lovely and lyrical but I must confess: The only word I understood was the last one, "Amen."

Liz Allen hopes to visit Cortona, Italy, someday to learn about the Italian heritage of her orphaned mother. If she goes, one of the Italian students has promised to treat her to dinner at her family's home in Florence. You can reach her at lizerie@aol.com

Learn more

The Giovanni Mazzotti Anatomy Conference is in its ninth year but was held for the first time this summer at Gannon University. Walter Iwanenko, Ph.D., Gannon's vice president for academic affairs, helped to facilitate the partnership between the conference and Chartered Professors LLC, an organization of academics that provides international educational experiences for students at a variety of levels, including adults returning to school.

"We're good teachers, that's what we are," said Olivieri about the organization, based in Buffalo, N.Y. Teachers who work with Chartered Professors all hold doctorates in S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering or math) fields, she said.

The group is also involved in educational tourism and is working to arrange a trip for Americans to Florence to study the history of medicine, she said.

For more information, visit www.charteredprofessors.com.

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - BY B. TOY



Expand your horizons

If you would like to learn about other cultures, Celebrate Erie, which runs Thursday through Sunday, is the perfect venue to do so.

While the multicultural marketplace takes place on State Street, there will be an Erie Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Town Hall meeting inside Bagnoni Council Chambers on Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

The town hall is sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the city of Erie and organized by Niken Astari Carpenter, executive assistant and refugee and immigration liaison for Erie Mayor Joe Sember, and Anjali Sahay, Ph.D., associate professor of political science at Gannon University.

At the town hall, participants can air concerns and ask questions, including queries about operating a business. "In my country, if I have money and want to sell kabobs, I open a barbecue," says Astari Carpenter, who is from Indonesia. In this country, prospective business owners have to know about zoning, licensing and other requirements.

Although the town hall is focused on Asian Americans, it will be of interest for anyone in Erie seeking to learn more about diverse cultures. It will be especially useful for those for whom English is a second language, she said. — Liz Allen

Erie AAPI: Asian American & Pacific Islander Community Town Hall

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Not Gone, Not Forgotten

Area's Native American population, culture very much still alive



This map from 1758 shows the distribution of Native American territories around Lake Erie. The Erie Indians, who once occupied the southern lakeshore, were largely scattered or absorbed into other nations of the Iroquois Confederacy.

By: Jonathan Burdick

For many children in the United States, the first stories they learn involving Native Americans often include the tale of the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth or the voyage of Italian explorer Christopher Columbus. Columbus, as that story is commonly told, sailed valiantly across the Atlantic Ocean and discovered America — a wondrous new land scattered with primitive, uncivilized people.

"I could conquer the whole of them with fifty men and govern them as I pleased," wrote Columbus in 1492.

Of course, in academic circles, such portrayals of native peoples are viewed as one-dimensional and categorically inaccurate. To native people living today, such simplistic and widespread perceptions are detrimental.

Dr. Edward A. Jolie is an assistant professor of anthropology and archaeology at Mercyhurst University. He is also of Oglala Lakota and Hodulgee Muscogee (Creek) descent. He believes that many of the misconceptions people have about Native Americans stem from popular culture.

"I think a lot of public misunderstandings today come from a legacy of stereotypes perpetrated by Hollywood and old books that are full of a lack of understanding about the diversity [of] Native American peoples," he says.

Dr. Benjamin G. Scharff, professor of history at Mercyhurst, agrees. "Historically, Americans have perceived native peoples in one of two ways — either as the noble savage or simply the savage," he says. "Both of these perceptions are

inaccurate, as native peoples were just that: people [with] many distinctive cultures and customs."

In recent decades, bestselling books such as James W. Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me* and Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* have helped reframe the narrative in the public consciousness — for instance, try googling "Christopher Columbus was a genocidal maniac" — but the stereotypes remain prevalent.

"American Indians have been the most lied-about subset of our population," Loewen wrote. "Native Americans are not and must not be props in a sort of theme park of the past."

His book, while flawed, is commendable in its call to action for more "honest and inclusive history." When history is written from a less Eurocentric perspective, it expands the narrative — and in the case of Native Americans, it is easier to view how their diverse and complex histories are essential to rather than on the periphery of American history.

"Native Americans were not monolithic," says Dr. Richard Aquila, history professor at Penn State Behrend. "Tribes spoke different languages, some of which were more different from each other than English is from Chinese. ... Indian cultures, food, shelter, and clothing varied depending upon geography and climate."

Jay Toth is the tribal archaeologist with the Seneca Nation Historic Preservation Office in Salamanca, New York. He notes that many Americans have no idea that native peoples have

occupied this land for 15,000 years. Many, he believes, completely misjudge how advanced past native societies were. "They were very knowledgeable about land management and self-sustaining agriculture, the origins of life, geometry, and science in general," he explains.

The City of Erie owes its own name to its indigenous population. The Erie people were several connected tribes, Iroquoian both linguistically and culturally, who inhabited the lands south of Lake Erie. Their population stretched from Western Ohio, through Pennsylvania, and into New York as far east as the Genesee River.

The various recorded names for the Erie people have included an assortment of spellings and pronunciations, including Erielhonan, Eriehronon, Eriez, Heries, Rhierrhonons, Riquer-onon, and Kahkwa. The French first referred to them as the Nation du Chat — or "the cat nation" — in 1632. Some have speculated that this was referencing wild panthers, pumas, or lynx that once roamed the region. Others have argued convincingly that it refers to raccoons, which the Erie people frequently hunted for food and furs.

Most of what is known about the Erie people originates from archaeological evidence, oral tradition, and the secondhand writings of Jesuits, who never actually had direct contact with the Erie people.

They lived primarily in longhouses along the southern lakeshore, usually near rivers or streams. One Jesuit account estimates they had nearly 30 villages and another dozen fortified towns. Their population totaled 15,000. They were experts at slash-and-burn farming techniques for growing corn, squash, and beans. They hunted deer, elk, bear, and smaller game in the dense forests and fished the rivers, streams, and lake. They ate the various nuts and fruits indigenous to the region including berries, plums, grapes, and cherries.

They were the "masters of the south shore of Lake Erie," wrote Harry Forrest Lupold in his 1975 book *The For-*

gotten People: The Woodland Erie.

The story of the Erie people is long and intricate (and one that deserves to be told and heard), but their fate is what is most often remembered. The story varies by source, but in the 1650s, the Erie were led by their Queen Yagowania (also referred to as Gegosasa) and a warrior chief named Ragnotha. Following a series of conflicts with neighboring nations — kidnappings, murders, and revenge killings — tension was high between the Erie and two other Iroquoian peoples, the Onodaga and Seneca. Eventually in 1654, the opposition united with the other three nations of the Iroquois Confederacy — the Cayuga, Oneida, and Mohawk — to fight the Erie.

Most versions of the story conclude with the Erie people being wiped out completely, all killed in dramatic and fierce battles and raids. The reality is that surviving Erie were scattered all over, some captured while others escaped as refugees, eventually being absorbed into other nations.

"Rarely is the story ever so simple as a people were completely wiped out," Dr. Jolie explains. "Yes, there is no federally recognized Erie Nation [today], but their genes persist and they have descendants alive today, even if they or others don't use the label 'Erie.' Like any other human society, Indians met other Indians, exchanged greetings, goods, genes, and germs. ... It's a reality of the human condition that shared group social identities like ethnicity are fluid and change over time."

The story of the Erie people, along with the other nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, have been an indispensable part of our region's history. "Many tribes of the Eastern Woodlands of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio were excellent farmers, skilled hunters, wise diplomats, and accomplished warriors," explains Dr. Aquila. "The Iroquois Confederacy [nations] were among the most successful [and] had a tremendous influence on early American history."

Dr. Scharff stresses that when one thinks of Native Americans, their immediate association should not be with the past. "People need to understand that the native peoples who inhabited our region are still here," he says. "Not



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

only do we have Seneca communities just to our east, but individuals of native heritage are living amongst us [in Erie]."

"Native peoples haven't gone extinct but are living vigorous cultures, carrying on traditions thousands of years old while adapting to a rapidly changing contemporary society like everyone else," adds Dr. Jolie. "If people today continue to think there are no 'real' Indians left, it's because they never were given the chance to hear Indians speak for themselves or put too much stock in Hollywood portrayals."

Salamanca, New York is only an eighty-minute drive from Erie, located within the Allegany Reservation of the Seneca Nation. A museum dedicated to the Seneca opened there in 1977, largely due to fears that the Seneca's history and culture was endangered. After all, it was only the previous decade that the Kinzua Dam was built, purposefully and tragically flooding one-third of Seneca reservation land (including the historic Cornplanter Tract) and displacing hundreds.

They soon outgrew their museum. The Seneca Nation opened their new state-of-the-art Seneca-Iroquois National Museum on August 4, 2018, a massive \$18 million and 33,000 square-foot building that houses over a million artifacts.

The new facility, open seven days a week, is designed to be a "living cultural center." It displays an immersive presentation of Seneca history and culture through numerous exhibits. It also includes a 600-person auditorium, an expanded gift shop with native-made products, and the first Seneca-built longhouse erected since 1820.

The new Seneca-Iroquois Museum in Salamanca, N.Y., which opened Aug. 4 at a cost of \$18 million, was designed to be a "living cultural center" and houses over a million artifacts.

"The best place to learn more is from the people themselves as opposed to a book or someone else telling their story for them," says Dr. Jolie. "That's why this new museum is so important — it's a celebration of Seneca culture, sovereignty, and survival, told by the Seneca themselves and not someone else looking inward from the outside."

Jay Toth, who is involved with the new museum, wishes there were more interaction between native and nonnative children. "The communities of Erie need to have their youth interact with Seneca youths to promote respect and understanding between the two people," he says. "Otherwise Senecas are just pictures in a book, even though they are only a short drive down the road."

"I think we can do more to celebrate the richness of Indian cultures by updating what is taught to our children," adds Dr. Jolie. "I'll hope to see busloads of kids from Erie visiting the new museum in the future. I'm excited for the Seneca, but also for the diverse publics who will have this great new opportunity to learn about not just what it's like to be Seneca, but an Indian in today's America."

Learn more about the new museum at senecamuseum.org and more about the Seneca Nation today at sni.org.

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

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By Edward Albee

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Putting the Erie in Celebrate Erie

The annual festival prepares to take over downtown with scores of events



The chalk walk is perennially one of the major draws at Celebrate Erie, which runs from Thursday, Aug. 16 through Sunday, Aug. 19 this year.

By: Nick Warren

From the chalk walk at 9th Street all the way down to the mainstage at 4th Street, this year's edition of Celebrate Erie is brimming with activities. From Thursday, Aug. 16 to Sunday, Aug. 19, the streets of downtown Erie will see locally-sourced art, food, music, and culture for a weekend of free, family-friendly activities.

Celebrate Erie is a different kind of festival. It's put on by the city, and more specifically, the mayor's office. The event began in 1976 under the guidance of Erie's then-mayor Lou Tullio. Of course then — as many will be eager to point out — it was known as "We Love Erie Days." We bet you dollars to Mighty Fine donuts that you still hear people still call it that too. It evolved throughout the years, and during the term of Rick Filippi, it was relaunched as "Celebrate Erie." Now, in the wake of the Sinnott administration, new mayor Joe Schember and his staff are hoping to inject even more local flavor into the festival. Taking a look at the full map and schedule for the festival at celebrateerie.com, one could expect it

to taste like pepperoni balls and sponge candy — metaphorically speaking, of course. Still, the organizers of the festival, particularly Media and Events Coordinator Aaron Loncki, were already looking ahead as soon as they got into office. For all the shifts the festival has taken since last year (including a colorful and elegant new logo), Erieites can expect even more in 2019.

Though the days are filled almost exclusively by local talents, the nights still called for a few big names from around the country (and one group of hometown heroes). The headliners will start off with the Erie All Stars, who will do a special set featuring the music of the late Tom Petty on Thursday night.

Friday will reach across the western border to bring in the Ohio Players. You might be familiar with them thanks to hits like "Love Rollercoaster" and "Fire." The R&B Hall of Famers found great success in the mid-1970s, charting three platinum records between 1974 and 1975 alone. These days, the remaining members of the original lineup are guitarist Chet Willis, drummer James "Diamond"

Williams, keyboardist Billy Beck, and percussionist Robert Jones, with many new talents in the mix as well.

Saturday will feature arguably the most well-known name of the weekend, Sugar Ray. The California pop-rock quartet had quite a few hits in the late 1990s, like "Someday," "Every Morning," and "Fly." Frontman Mark McGrath became a celebrity in his own right thanks to reality TV and game shows like *Don't Forget the Lyrics*, *Celebrity Big Brother*, *The Apprentice*, and *American Idol*.

Following the trend that the festival has followed in recent years, Sunday will be the more "country" day. To help that, duo Dan + Shay will close out the last day of the weekend. The pair has released three albums, with their third, eponymous record having come June 22, landing at the top of the U.S. Country charts. The "Dan" half of the group, Dan Smyers, has some regional roots, having spent most of his life in the Pittsburgh area, while Shay Mooney part grew up in Arkansas. The two are known for tracks such as "From the Ground Up," "19 You + Me," and this year's "Tequila."

Aside from the last three headliners, the Highmark Mainstage will be all local acts. The Pennsylvania Lottery Stage, in west park stage at Perry Square will host a complete roster of local bands, as will the multicultural stage at East Seventh Street.

The festival is organized into themed districts. The UPMC Art District will include the ever-popular chalk walk, "artist

alley" located around the Perry Square fountain, and the "kids zone" along East Fifth Street outside of the Erie Art Museum.

The Culture District will include the Erie Insurance Multicultural Marketplace on State Street (from South Park Row to Seventh Street), with food, artisans and more from our diverse international communities (as well as the info tent). The Giant Eagle Food & Beverage District will house Taste of Erie on the west side of Perry Square, with nine local restaurants, ten local breweries, and beer purveyors being stationed around Perry Square. Eleven food trucks in total will be in the vicinity, with five along South Park Row at the edge of Perry Square, on North Park Row, and one in Artist's Alley.

In addition to Taste of Erie, ten local restaurants and bars (as well as one downtown, locally-owned coffee shop) that surround the festivities will be partnered up with Celebrate Erie.

The Highmark Music District is represented by the aforementioned Mainstage and the Pennsylvania Lottery Stages. State Street between Seventh and Eighth Street will be home to the Business District, with 19 local companies setting up booths.

Aside from certified service animals, the festival does not permit dogs. Unlike years past, there is no fireworks display planned for 2018.

Thursday - Sunday // Downtown // Free // for a full schedule and map, pick up a brochure at the event or go to celebrateerie.com

Nick Warren can be contacted at nick@eriereader.com, or seen on the mainstage at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday

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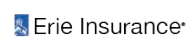
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Seann Clark & Colette Bone to Conclude Goodell Garden's Summer Concert Series



STEVE LEITZINGER

FRIDAY, AUG. 17

Goodell Gardens will wrap up its summer concert series with an "Erie region supergroup," according to assistant director Amber Wellington.

Seann Clark, Colette Bone & Friends will bring their talents together for an end-of-summer performance Friday, Aug. 17.

The show will mark Bone's debut at the Edinboro-based botanical gardens but be somewhat of a coming-home for Clark, who grew up down the road and has previously performed there with his other projects including Basket Eddy, and with singer Brenna Bone (who happens to be Colette's niece).

"I'm really excited to hear them play," Wellington said.

Gates open at 6:45 p.m. The gardens are closed from 5 to 6:30 p.m. to allow time for set up.

The Chameleon Food Truck will be available to purchase food. People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Goodell Gardens receives grant funding from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to offset the cost of the concerts.

Wellington called this summer's series "amazing" and expressed gratitude to those who helped organize and attend the event.

"We realize that there are countless places to enjoy live music on Fridays during the summer and are honored that folks choose to attend our events," she said. — Tracy Geibel

7 p.m. // Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. // \$5 adults, \$3 seniors (55+), \$2 age 5-11, free for members, Edinboro University students & anyone under age 5 // 734-6699 // goodellgardens.org

Donate and Laugh During All An Act's *Run For Your Wife*



FRIDAY, AUG. 17TH - SUNDAY, SEPT. 9TH

In times like these, laughter is a priceless commodity, and what could lift spirits more than the opportunity to give back while escaping with a bit of comedy? Fortunately, All An Act's upcoming production of Ray Cooney's *Run For Your Wife* is offering exactly that. For each ticket sold, one dollar will be donated to Community Shelter Services and Erie's Homeless.

This 1983 classic comedy centers around John Smith, a cab driver with a highly irregular work schedule. At first, Smith uses this schedule to his advantage, seeing two different wives in separate areas around London. But then, following a string of curious events in-

volving a head injury and a photo in the paper, Smith must do everything in his power to keep his double life from being exposed.

Produced with special arrangements by Samuel French of New York, *Run For Your Wife* has long been lauded as a mile-a-minute comedy, with The New York Post commending on its "virtually continuous laughter" and one employee of WMCA Radio claiming, "I was exhausted from laughing so hard."

The play features Dave DiCola, Amy Welker Rowe, KC McCloskey, and many others alongside director David W. Mitchell, who returns for his final role as John Smith. Fans of productions such as *Caught in the Net*, *Not Now, Darling!*, and *Two Into One* ought to love the show considering they all carry over Cooney's unique sense of humor. With rave reviews and final performances in the mix, *Run For Your Wife* is bound to be one of the must-see shows of All An Act's 2018 season. — Aaron Mook

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. // 652 W. 17th Street // Adults \$12, Students & Seniors (55+) \$10, Children \$5 // allanact.net

MUSIC

Gem City Jazz Band

Aug. 15 — noon to 1 p.m.
The 22-member Gem City Jazz Band of Erie, Pennsylvania will perform at the Erie Art Museum as part of their weekly midday concert series.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Whiskey for 3

Aug. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunk-andgoattavern.com.

Scarlett Ledbetter

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

A Killer's Confession, Brotherhood of the Jam

Aug. 16 — 9 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com.

When Particles Collide

Aug. 16 — 9:30 p.m.
Heavy-touring rock duo (and couple) Sasha Alcott and Chris Viner to play frenetic and

inventive originals.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Green Jelly

Aug. 17 — 6 p.m.
Surrealist heavy metal and punk band Green Jelly makes stop in Erie during Eastern U.S. tour.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com

Geek Army

Aug. 17 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Sam Hyman

Aug. 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Jesse Weston

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

Jeff Glover + Friday Nite Nitro

Aug. 17 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

The I-90s

Aug. 17 — 9 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State

St. facebook.com.

The Route Band

Aug. 17 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Rodger Montgomery

Aug. 17 — 9:30 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

The Groove

Aug. 18 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd, North East PA, 16428 pennshore.com.

Malpractice

Aug. 18 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row facebook.com.

Dionisio/Colette Bone

Aug. 18 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Heat Stroke 2018

Aug. 18 — 6:30 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com

Spiritual Rez

Aug. 18 — 7 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Refuge

Aug. 17 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Paolello & Gone Trio

Aug. 17 — 9 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com

The Hangover Band

Aug. 18 — 9 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com.

The Probables

Aug. 18 — 9 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com

Gem City Revival

Aug. 19 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing, 8398 West Main Road (Rt. 20), Westfield, NY 14787 fiveand20.com.

Claire Stuczynski

Aug. 19 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Musician & Artist Mixer, Open Mic

Aug. 19 — 6 to 11:30 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Rachel Short

Aug. 19 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Ship Show 2.0

Aug. 19 — 7 p.m.
The Stormalong Scoundrels, Erie's merry band of pirates, and local ska-punk sextet the Filthy Casuals take to the seas for a second edition of punk rock by boat.
Sallywags Pirate Adventures, 2 State St.

FemmeZeppelin

Aug. 21 — 6:30 p.m.
Highmark Amphitheater at Liberty Park, porterie.org.

Gideon w/ Polaris, Varials + Chamber

Aug. 21 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com

Philharmonic Wind Quintet

Aug. 22 — noon to 1 p.m.
A small ensemble from the Erie Phil will serenade your lunch break at the Erie Art Museum's free concert series.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Alex Kates

Aug. 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunk-andgoattavern.com.

Ron Yarmon

Aug. 23 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St, Edinboro, PA 16412 edinborolakeresort.com.

Radio Age

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

The Ruby Port Band

Aug. 24 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Upon A Burning Body

Aug. 24 — 6:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com

Tommy Link

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

The Breeze Band

Aug. 24 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Adam McKillip + Friday Nite Nitro

Aug. 24 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Ozzmageddon

Aug. 24 — 9 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State St. facebook.com.

Cruisin'

Aug. 24 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Mala Sangre, Coffin Bangers, Black Static Eye, Maniacal

Aug. 24 — 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Duke Sherman Blues Band

Aug. 25 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd, North East PA, 16428 pennshore.com.

Katie & Jesse

Aug. 25 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd, Clymer, NY 14724 pknpk.com.

Small Town Revolution

CALENDAR

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SATURDAY, AUG. 18

Don't give up the shipping materials — they make for wonderful, whimsical watercraft. Well, *ideally*.

The cardboard boat regatta originated in 1962 with the Design Department at Southern Illinois University, where the senior class was charged with constructing cardboard vessels that could survive a voyage of 100 feet without getting their single passengers wet. Fast-forward half a century later and similar events have surfaced all over the world, including in Erie, where the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC) has hosted its Cardboard Boat Regatta since 2010.

"Cardboard boat" is a bit of a misnomer, according to Rich Eisenberg, executive director of the BMC. "The correct term is 'corrugated fiberboard.'"

But no one has time for all those extra syllables, not when there are calculations to be made. The regatta

Makeshift boats — including the ill-fated *SS Reluctant* (right) — race in last year's Bayfront Maritime Center Cardboard Boat Regatta as the public looks on with rapt fascination.

perfectly jibes with the BMC's mission for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning and luring people to the waterfront. "Somewhere along the way, Erie lost its connection with the water," said Eisenberg, in part implicating the environmental ramifications of our industrial past. While the ecosystem is not in mint condition, it has improved markedly in the ensuing decades. Eisenberg says it's time for us to return to Erie's reason for being. "What we have here shouldn't be just for yacht club people; it should be for everyone."

While not quite *everyone* has shown for the BMC's Cardboard Boat Regattas over the years, it's not uncommon for hundreds to line the East Canal Basin to watch the follies unfold just outside the BMC boat shop. The key to avoiding folly, of course, is to design a craft that takes to the water without taking on water. It may seem like a challenge to construct a durable hull from only corrugated fiberboard ("cardboard" actually refers to the thin material used for cereal and Kleenex boxes), tape (such as duct or Gorilla tape), glue, and paint. However, three of the boats on display in the shop — *Black Mamba*, *Lono*, and *Lightning Bolt* — have endured for multiple regattas.

There are various approaches to building a boat, but the aforementioned vessels have prevailed by being well-sealed (painting the inside is crucial) and well-

shaped (a longer, sleeker boat will tend to go faster). The curvature or angling of the bottom can have a huge effect on stability. *Lono*, last year's Adult Division winner, has a flat bottom and great straight-line speed but is slow to turn. *Lightning Bolt*, last year's Youth Division winner, has angled sides and a gentle V-shaped bottom, which aid with cornering ability (be warned: a V-shape that is too deep will rock too much and capsize). But even if you design a dud, do not despair — you may be in line for the "Most Dramatic Sinking" award (last year that dubious honor went to *The SS Reluctant*, fashioned from an octagonal Wegmans watermelon box).

Eisenberg suggests building a small-scale model of your intended design and testing it in a sink or bathtub before being unpleasantly surprised when you climb aboard the real deal. Trophies will be awarded to the fastest finishers in each division (Youth, Teen, Adult, and Mixed Ages), with special distinctions for "Most Creative" and "Crowd Favorite" (in addition to "Most Dramatic Sinking"). A record eighteen teams have already pre-enrolled (there is no limit to team size, just be aware your boat has to support the extra weight!), but most show up the day of. Stick around for the slalom race (new this year) and the traditional "redemption race" to cap off the festivities. In the meantime, relish items from the Cluk Truk, Sticks N' Bricks, and Northern Scoop food trucks. You know, whatever floats your boat. — Matt Swanseger

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (registration at 10 a.m.) // 40 Holland St. // \$35 per boat // bayfrontcenter.org

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

TK Blues Company

Aug. 25 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St,
Edinboro, PA 16412 edin-
borolakeresort.com.

Doug Phillips + Old Skool Saturday Nite

Aug. 25 — 9 p.m.
Erie acoustic artist Doug Phillips will perform on the Rook's patio with food by Curry Point Food Truck.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.com.

1000 HP (Godsmack Tribute)

Aug. 25 — 9 p.m.
Sherlock's, 508 State
St. facebook.com.

Whiskey Road

Aug. 25 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presquesiledowns.com.

Gem City Revival

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

Rankin & Schell

Aug. 26 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co.,
11727 E. Main Rd. North East,
PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Clever Norman

Aug. 26 — 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Grill, 508 Erie St,
Edinboro, PA 16412 edin-
borolakeresort.com.

Abby Paulson & Brooke Surgener

Aug. 29 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State
St. erieartmuseum.org.

DANCE

Tap Dance

Aug. 15, 22, 29 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach
St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Swings

Aug. 16 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St.
.bourbonbarrelerie.com.

EDC Open House

Aug. 18 — 10 a.m. to noon
Erie Dance Conservatory,
8335 Edinboro Rd. eriedanceconservatory.org.

Latin Night

Aug. 18 — 6:15 to 10 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church,
2216 Peach St. facebook.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Happy-Appy Food Tour

Aug. 15, 22, 29 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Bolero, 16 W. 10th St.
eriefoodtours.com.

Yappy Hour

Aug. 17, 24 — 5 to 8 p.m.
The Brewererie at Union Station,
123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

Chicken BBQ

Aug. 18 — 2 to 7 p.m.
Fairview United Methodist Church, 4601 Avonia Road, Fairview, PA 16415 wearefumc.org.

Cupcakes and Clay

Aug. 18 — 3 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St., 3rd Fl. http://www.erieclayspace.com.

North East Food Tour

Aug. 19 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Bean Coffee Shop, 12 S. Lake St, North East, PA 16428 eriefoodtours.com.

Downtown Erie Food Tour

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

Beer in the Vineyard

Aug. 25 — 5 to 8 p.m.
A local outdoor beer tasting will be hosted at Arundel Cellars & Vineyard with food options by The Cluk Truk, The Big Cheese and Que Abides food trucks.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing,
11727 E. Main Rd., North East,
PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

ArborEAT'em

Aug. 25 — 6:30 p.m.
For LEAF's 20th birthday, they are teaming up with ArborEAT'em for their annual fundraiser, complete with food, drinks, games, and fireworks.
Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Wags, Whiskers & Wine

Aug. 26 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 Singer Rd., North East, PA 16428 facebook.com.

Mind, Body, Beer

Aug. 28 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

MOVIES

The Death Kiss (1932)

Aug. 16 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Bio Zombie (1998)

Aug. 24 — 8 p.m.
Enjoy games, food and comedic horror with Slaughter Film's *Bio Zombie* at the Erie Movie House.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Dunkirk (2017)

Aug. 26 — 1:30 p.m.
The 2017 war film *Dunkirk*, directed by Christopher Nolan, is being played at Blasco Public Library.
Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Amazon Adventure

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

Earthflight

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

biggreenscreen.com.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

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

Aircraft Carrier

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

VISUAL ARTS

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition

Opening Aug. 20 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cummings Art Gallery at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Erie's Historic Lakefront: from Harbor to Point

Ongoing through Sept. 2
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Maria Spaeder Haas: Paintings & Assemblages

Ongoing through Sept. 4
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. Fifth St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

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CALENDAR

Don't Be Afraid of a Little Spiritual Rez



SATURDAY, AUG. 18

Hailing from Boston, the captivating sound of Spiritual Rez plucks styles from all over. Primarily blending the Jamaican strokes of ska and reggae, they bring together heaping helpings of West Coast rock, jam, and fair touches of metal. But, to borrow the words of another upbeat Bostonian band, "Let's face it." That's the type of recipe that usually leads to eye-rollingly regrettable results. There's something special about Spiritual Rez, though. Those lucky enough to catch their headlining set at the 2017 Gathering at Chaffee's can attest to the galvanizing grooves that the band is able to deliver.

This is the first scheduled indoor show at the King's Rook Club since Consider the Source in May. Interrupting the regular patio summer nights, this show is appropriately worthy of

attention before the weekly bands take up residence again in mid-September. With widespread talk of a breakup going around last year, accompanied by a touring hiatus, Spiritual Rez are set to return in a big way. Taking place at the venue's downstairs concert complex, the palm trees and assorted tiki flair will provide an ideal backdrop for the band's tropical vibe. Vocalist Toft Willingham fronts the band with the laid-back grit of a Long Beach all-star, the inescapable, frenetic spirit of the whole band consuming every corner of the venue. With three full-length albums under their belt, the last being 2016's *Setting in the West*, fans are able to bookend the band's recorded evolution over the course of a decade, as the titular closing track of their 2006 debut EP was aptly named "Rising in the East."

Opening up the show will be the similarly-toned Pittsburgh quartet, Stationary Pebbles, playing their brand of reggae, funk, and rock. After the show, DJ Jonny Evans (of The LEC) will bring it on, hosting an after-party into the wee hours of the night. — Nick Warren

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // \$12 for members, \$15 for new/non-current members // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Vintage Neon: Images by Chuck Biddle

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

Archiving Ephemeral Beauty

Ongoing through Sept. 15
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St.
erieartmuseum.org.

Mary Beth McKenzie: A Life in Art

Ongoing through Sept. 24
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St.
erieartmuseum.org.

Gary Spinosa: Divine Instinct

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

James McMurray: Faces and Paces

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

THEATER

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Aug. 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 — 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 19, 26 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th

St. erieplayhouse.org.

Run For Your Wife

Aug. 17, 18, 24, 25 — 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 19, 26 — 3 p.m.
All An Act, 652 W. 17th St.
allanact.net.

Bedside Manners

Aug. 18 — 5:30 p.m. & Aug. 19 — 2:30 p.m.
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St.
carterburyfeast.com.

Erie Playhouse Youth Theatre Auditions

Aug. 20, 21 — 5 p.m.
Erie Playhouse Rehearsal Hall, 1158 E. 12th St.
erieplayhouse.org.

Anne of Green Gables

Aug. 23, 24, 25 — 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 26 — 2 p.m.
Taylor Little Theatre at Mercyhurst Univ., 501 E. 38th St.
miac.mercyhurst.edu.

SPORTS

Erie SeaWolves vs. Bowie Baysox

Aug. 17, 18 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 19 — 1:30 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St.
milb.com.

Crossfit FBO Great

Lakes Challenge

Aug. 18
Perry Square crossfitfbo.com.

Cycle Circus Live

Aug. 18 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428
https://www.cyclecircuslive.com/

27th Annual Father Cooper Golf Classic

Aug. 18 — 7 a.m.
North Hills Municipal Golf Course, 1450 N. Center St., Corry, PA 16407
stthomastheapostle.church.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks

Aug. 20, 21 — 7 p.m.
UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St.
milb.com.

PA Bass Nation Open Buddy Tournament

Aug. 25 — 6:30 a.m.
Marina Bay Launch at PI State Park
pabassnation.com.

Presque Isle Sprint Triathlon

Aug. 25 — 8 a.m.
Beach 10 is the start and transition point for all three events during Presque Isle's annual triathlon.

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CALENDAR

Night Lights Shines Bright



THURSDAY, AUG. 23 – 25

A music-and-light-driven, socially conscious, cozy, uniquely mind-bending and soul-mending gathering of good, groove-minded people: Where else would any festival fan want to find themselves kissing August goodbye? I’ve asked that question each of the last few summers, and with the 2018 Night Lights Music Festival coming right up around the bend, I’m asking it again (and again).

Eli Winderman, keyboardist for the Boston-based jam band Dopapod, will perform a Pink Floyd tribute with an all-star cast of jam musicians to help close out Friday at the Night Lights Music Festival in Sherman, N.Y.

And the lineup consistently answers: *Night Lights*, buddy. Headlining Saturday will be the space rock masters and jam scene legends Lotus. Friday will feature the hot-hot-hot-firing funk machine The Motet from Denver. Ever-expansive, always-amazing prog-jam wizards, Aqueous, will hit the stage both nights. Popping up and sitting in with bands will be artist-at-large Pappy Biondo, banjo player and frontman for the now-indefinitely-hiatused Americana band Cabinet. Fearless, a Pink Floyd Tribute set, features members of a few of the best bands in the festival scene (moe., Aqueous, Dopapod, Mungion, etc). Rounding out the lineup with tons of other sonic crackerjacks like DynoHunter, Space Junk, LeSpecial, Lazlo Hollyfeld, Octave Cat, Tropidelic, Funktional Flow, and — well, the list just goes on — it’s safe to reiterate,

once again, that the good people behind Night Lights have damn fine taste in music, and, man, they know how to put on one spectacular get-down. All that said, Night Lights will be shining sound-and-sight wonder throughout nearby Sherman, N.Y.’s historic, hallowed Great Blue Heron festival grounds for three days. It has continued to grow over the last eight years into a small-but-big, completely one-of-a-kind, not-to-be-missed annual addition to the region’s festival scene. “Night Lights carries a really specific vibe that makes it a super-unique event that we look forward to each year,” Aqueous’ Mike Gantzer said. “[Beyond] the diverse/eclectic lineups — that range from a ton of great local bands to some heavy-hitters from the national circuit — to the trippy layout of the forest, and how they light it up, I’d have to say the main thing is [its] communal vibe. It’s rootsy, and comfortable, and awesome!” Music. Roots. Art. Nature. Yeah. Awesome. — Ryan Smith

Thursday – Saturday, all day // 2361 Wait Corners Road, Panama, NY // nightlightsfest.com

Beach 10 at Presque Isle State Park facebook.com.

Western Pa. Reining Horse Assoc. Show
Aug. 26 — 10 a.m.
Tailwind Equestrian Center, 7280 Sterrettania Rd., Fairview, PA 16415 <http://treceries.org>

COMMUNITY

Chalk Pastels Workshop
Aug. 15, 22 — 10 a.m. to noon
Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. neighborhoodarthouse.org.

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon
Aug. 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Pontoon Boat Launch at PI State Park trecpi.org.

Goodell Gardens Farmers Market
Aug. 15, 22, 29 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 goodellgardens.org.

Colorful Melted Wax Painting
Aug. 15 — 2 to 4 p.m. & 5 to 7 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Delirium & Dementia
Aug. 15 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Millcreek Municipal Building, 3608 W. 26th St. lifeworkserie.org.

The McBride Viaduct
Aug. 16 — noon to 1 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Back To School BBQ

Aug. 16 — 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Charter School of Excellence, 1309 French St. charter-school-of-excellence.org.

Master Builders
Aug. 16 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manches-ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog
Aug. 16 — 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. Ste. 280 erielibrary.org.

Disney Trivia Nite
Aug. 16 — 9 p.m.
Test your knowledge of Disney characters and movies at the Rook as part of Trivia Night with Erie folk musician Brooke Surgener. Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Reiki Therapy
Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie’s Maritime Roots
Aug. 17 — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Visiting professor at Mercyhurst University looks at Erie’ maritime roots as part of educational lecture. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Erie’s Colorful Political History
Aug. 17 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Join Patrick Cuneo, former reporter and editor for Erie Times-News and current coordinator of publica-tions at Jefferson Educa-

tional Society to discuss Erie’s political history. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Cruise-In
Aug. 17 — 4:30 to 8 p.m.
Greene Twp. Bldg., 9333 Tate Rd. 814-923-8417

Parents Night Out
Aug. 17 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Sovereign Ballet, 2217 Peach St. facebook.com.

Candlelight Ghost Walk
Aug. 17, 18, 31 — 8 p.m.
Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com.

2018 Fall Vendor Craft Show
Aug. 18 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fairview Presbyterian Church, 4264 Avonia Road, Fairview, PA 16415 facebook.com.

AARP: Refresher Smart Driving Class
Aug. 18 — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

A Walk in the Park
Aug. 18 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Iroquois Ave. Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

WWII Paratrooper Reenactment
Aug. 18 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The Sturgeon House, 4302 Avonia Rd., Fairview, PA 16415 <http://fairviewhistory.org/>

Single Mom Empowerment Support Group
Aug. 18 — 11 a.m. to noon
The Juice Jar, 2620 W.

8th St. facebook.com.
Cardboard Boat Regatta
Aug. 18 — 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. bayfrontcenter.org.

Game On!
Aug. 18 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manches-ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Purple Martin Roost Kayak Tour
Aug. 18 — 7 p.m.
Vista 3 at PI State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Erie AAPI: Asian American & Pacific Islander Community Town Hall
Aug. 19 — 1 to 3 p.m.
The Office of the Mayor and Gov. Wolf’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs are sponsoring a town hall meeting featur-ing discussions with Ryan Bizzarro, Liz Allen and more. Erie City Hall, 626 State St. facebook.com.

Made in Erie
Aug. 19 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Find out what’s made in Erie and how that has made the city what it is today with a lecture from Dr. Judith Lynch. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

The Evolution of Downtown Erie
Aug. 19 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Learn how Erie has changed through the decades and see pictures of this change during an educational lecture

with Jerry Skrypzak, retired lieutenant of the City of Erie Bureau of Police. Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Little Italy Farmers Market
Aug. 20, 27 — 3 p.m.
Sponsored by Sisters of St. Joseph NWP, SSJ Neighbor-hood Network is hosting a farmer’s market in Little Italy. Little Italy, 331 W. 18th St. facebook.com.

Goodness and Godliness
Aug. 20 — 5 to 6 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Cruise the Bay
Aug. 20, 27 — 6 p.m.
Bayfront Park & Ride Lot, Liberty Park, porterierie.org.

Violin for Adults
Aug. 20, 27 — 6 p.m.
Don’t have a violin but would like to learn to play one? No problem with World of Music’s four-week adult course. World of Music, 1355 W. 26th St. facebook.com.

Soma Erie Acroyoga
Aug. 20, 27 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Soma Erie, 2601 Peach St. 2nd Fl. somaerie.com.

The Exchange: Preview Night
Aug. 21 — 7 to 9 p.m.
The Exchange Erie, 7300 Grubb Rd, McKean, PA 16426 theexchangeerie.com.

Massage & Paraffin Wax Hand Treatment
Aug. 22
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St. lifeworkserie.org.
Vegan Cooking Demo
Aug. 22 — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Are You Stressed?
Aug. 23 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Paint Nite w/ Alyssa
Aug. 23 — 8:30 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

WQLN Road Trip: Frank Lloyd Wright N.Y. Architecture
Aug. 24 — 6 a.m. departure
Take a tour of Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural master-pieces located across upstate New York with the local public radio station’s annual road trip. WQLN, 8425 Peach St. facebook.com.

Evening Bicycle Tour
Aug. 24 — 7:30 p.m.
Cookhouse Pavilion at PI State Park trecpi.org.

Lantern Fest
Aug. 25
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr., North East, PA 16428 thelanternfest.com.

Life of a Trapper, Joe Root History
Aug. 25 — 10 a.m.
Beach 11 Pavilion at PI State Park trecpi.org.

Erie Corgi Convention
Aug. 25 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Happi Corgi is hosting Erie’s Corgi convention, an event

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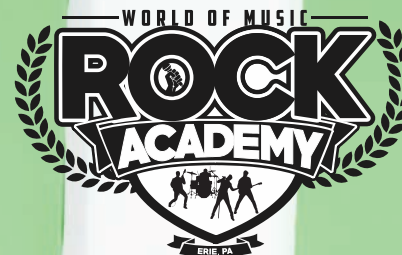
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CALENDAR

Zabawa Has Lot of Pole with the Locals



Zabawa attendees have been dancing the polka for 25 years at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, and with an authentic menu and music locals love, they show no signs of stopping soon.

completed and dedicated, and in 1953 a social center was added to the complex. This structure still stands.

Many of the Polish families that once occupied the surrounding neighborhoods

have since dispersed, but Zabawa (Polish for "fun") has little trouble pulling them back in. In fact, for the last 25 years, the annual Polish festival has drawn all sorts of folks — after all, "fun" is fairly easy to get a read on, regardless of your comfort with unwieldy consonant clusters. Aiding in the translation is the music (polka sounds lively), the food (the pierogis, potato pancakes, pigs-in-the-blanket, goulash, and paczki smell tasty), and the visual reinforcement of attendees looking and leaving happy.

Entertainment includes Squeezebox (featuring Ted Lange and Mollie B.) on Friday, Lil John and the ATM Band, The Boys, and Mar-Vels (providing music for the 5 p.m. polka mass) on Saturday, and DynaBrass on Sunday. DJ Ken Olowin will fill in the gaps while you fill your bellies — and maybe your hearts, too — with the pleasure of community. — Matt Swanseger

Friday: 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday: noon to 10 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 6 p.m. // 2220 Reed St. // holytrinityrc.org

FRIDAY, AUG. 24 - 26

The Gem City has never lacked Polish — at least from the late 19th century onward. That's when the United States experienced the first major wave of Polish immigration, the so-called *za chlebem* (for bread) Poles fleeing impoverished districts in Germany, Austria, and Russia for blue collar jobs and often quite literally bread (and food in general). Erie's reputation as an ascendant manufacturing center had a certain magnetism to the Poles, and by 1901 as many as 800 families had established residence here.

The Polish community had outgrown St. Stanislaus Parish, its original religious gathering point, leading a committee to submit a petition to Bishop John Fitzmaurice for a second church. The new parish, dedicated in December of 1903, was christened Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Originally encompassing six lots on the corner of East 22nd and Reed, this too eventually proved inadequate as many of Erie's Polish families entered their third generation. In early 1941, a brand new edifice was

full of activities for both you and your short-legged pup, in Frontier Park. Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. facebook.com.

Beat Beethoven 5K/ 1 Mile Walk and Street Fair
Aug. 25 — 9 a.m. to noon
Perry Square, 601 State St. eriephil.org.

Victory Ride
Aug. 25 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Belle Valley VFD, 1514 Norcross Rd. ehca.org.

Penny's Pin Up Party 2018
Aug. 25 — 1 p.m.
Conneaut Lake Park, 12382 Center St, Conneaut Lake,

PA 16316 facebook.com.

Wildlife by Pontoon
Aug. 26 — 9 a.m.
Pontoon Boat Station at PI State Park trecpi.org.

2018 Erie Muscle Walk
Aug. 26 — 10 a.m. to noon
PI State Park Cookhouse Pavilion musclemwalkmda.org/erie.

Genealogy Websites to Explore
Aug. 28 — 10 a.m. to noon
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Creative Aerobics
Aug. 28 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Westward Expansion: Chinese Immigrants
Aug. 28 — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Dog Days of Summer
Aug. 28 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Rd., Fairview, PA 16415 registrationdesk.asburywoods.org.

Life of a Sailor, Perry's Fleet Construction
Aug. 29 — 10 a.m.
Perry Monument at PI State Park trecpi.org.

CALENDAR

Upon A Burning Body Are Bringing the Rain



FRIDAY, AUG. 24

The Entertainment Collective is bringing another monster metal showcase to Erie, with Upon A Burning Body headlining over regional metal bands.

Forming in San Antonio, Texas in 2005, Upon A Burning Body have made their mark in the world of metal, with each of their four albums reaching various U.S. music charts, most notably their second album, *Red. White. Green.*, which climbed to the No.1 spot on the U.S. Heatseekers chart. Upon A Burning Body's sound has shifted over time, evolving from straightforward metal-core to something more nuanced and diverse. They've added elements of Southern metal and nu-metal in recent albums, and their latest album,

Straight from the Barrio, incorporates breaks of classical Latin music into even the heaviest songs.

Opening bands for the night include the self-described "punch you in the face metal" of Pittsburgh's Shrouded in Neglect, Rochester, N.Y. post-hardcore band Reformer, and fellow Pennsylvanian metal bands A Moment in Pompeii and Design the Void, from Beaver Falls and Kane, respectively.

With a big name metal band coming to town, and support from great bands from our region, this show is an excellent opportunity to support the scene. Come bang your head with the best of them. — Tommy Shannon

6:30 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St // \$15 pre-sale, \$17 doors // All Ages // facebook.com/basement.transmissions

Punk Rock Mash About to Arrive at Scotty's



FRIDAY, AUG. 24

With three of Erie's heavy hitters and an import from Cleveland, Scotty's Martini Lounge is bound to be overflowing with energy. The Coffin Bangers, Revelation, and Mala Sangre will be joined by Black Static eye for an evening of hard, fast rock and roll.

Returning from the grave for their first show of the year, The Coffin Bangers are fronted by Erie's own Bob Kellogg.

While he's been spending his time with The Gabba Ghoulies as of late, Kellogg is known to many from his days as the frontman of My 3 Scum.

Lead by seven-string bass player Frank Ferko and guitarist/trombone player Brian Gray, Revelation tends to color outside the lines when it comes to musical genres, and always proves to be an exciting act. Cleveland's Black Static Eye have a buzzsaw sound of groovy chaos, for what's sure to be a set to catch. Punk trio Mala Sangre will sound off as they always do, filling the back room of Scotty's with their raw, powerful punk rock sound. — Nick Warren

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 301 German Street // \$5 // 21+ // facebook.com/scottys.martini



The Mercyhurst Theatre Program presents a new adaptation of Lucy Maud Montgomery's cherished tale of family and community.

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Sunday, Aug. 26 • 2 p.m.

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CALENDAR

Get Pumped Up for Penny's Pin-Up Party



SATURDAY, AUG. 25

From iconic vintage cars, to retro jukebox music and pin-up fashion, these pieces of Americana are being preserved at Penny's Pin-Up Party, hosted by The Great Lakes Bombshells and Pin-up Erie Photography.

Retro-loving folks of all ages are invited to the newly revamped vintage venue, Conneaut Lake Park and Hotel Conneaut for a day of delight. Starting at 1 p.m., there will be activities such as a classic car cruise, DJ sets, food and pin-up contests for young ladies and gents.

There are opportunities for all attendees enjoying vendors, carnival games and more, to be picked as "Best Retro Dressed" for multiple categories.

When the sun goes down, the pin-up party goes up a notch. The second half of the day long event will begin at

8 p.m. in the lower ballroom of Hotel Conneaut. The theme of this 21+ event is "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend."

Glittering gals can dress up in their most glamorous, vintage Hollywood garb and take to the dance floor for music by headlining band Kickstart Rumble and burlesque performances by Moon: Variety Artist and Eden Ivy. During this time the crowning of Miss Pin Up Erie 2018 will take place.

The gala is a place for more than just the Miss Pin Up Erie contestants to strut their stuff, said Penny Shaut, owner and photographer for Pin-Up Erie. "We believe there is a Bombshell in every woman and she deserves to feel special in her own skin."

All proceeds from Penny's Pin-up Party benefit Boro Women & Family Services, an organization which helps women and families in crisis situations.

Hotel rooms are available for purchase for those interested in staying the night. Nighttime car security is available so attendees can sleep soundly, knowing their classic car is safe. — Hannah McDonald

1 p.m. to 1 a.m. // Conneaut Lake Park,
12382 Center St. Conneaut Lake, PA //
facebook.com

Keeping the Lights On



SATURDAY, AUG. 25

Before assuming that the floating, yellow lights filling the sky are fictionally-large fireflies, check what direction you're looking on Aug. 25. You might be witnessing The Lantern Fest taking place at Lake Erie Speedway in North East.

With the public generating a buzz over the event already, in actuality, it would be pretty hard for the average imagination to confuse the surplus of

lights for something other than hundreds of lanterns being released.

Before nightfall, attendees can enjoy food which can be purchased inside the event, live music, face painting, balloon artists and more. When the sun sets, lanterns will be let go.

To ensure that your lantern isn't late to take off, attendees are advised to arrive early for parking and picking out the perfect place to set up their blankets and chairs to enjoy the show.

For those who have not yet bought tickets to the event, they are \$60 per person. This includes a lantern, marker and s'mores kit. One box of matches will be given per party. — Hannah McDonald

4 to 9 p.m. // Lake Erie Speedway
10700 Delmas Dr. North East, PA 16428
// \$60 per person, \$10 parking fee to
be paid separately //facebook.com/
LakeErieSpeedway

Ludwig-crous Speed

Erie Philharmonic sponsors the Beat Beethoven 5K Run and Street Fair

SATURDAY, AUG. 25



For all his virtues, Ludwig Van Beethoven was never known as much of an athlete. We can infer from portraits that his waistcoats and pantaloons were impeccably fitted, but without any surviving fitness logs or mirror selfies, there’s no telling if he *even lifted*. That’s okay, though, because when it came to music, he more than carried his weight, running circles around most of his contemporaries. His career, without question, definitely *worked out*.

That career made serious gains with Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, otherwise known as the “Symphony of Destiny” or the “Victory Symphony” (from World War II onward). From its ominous and urgent opening motif to its triumphant finish, Beethoven’s Fifth is a musical journey from the gloomy depths to the glorious heavens. Critics were effu-

sive in their praise, including E.T.A. Hoffman, who wrote this in 1813: “How this wonderful composition, in a climax that climbs on and on, leads the listener imperiously forward into the spirit world of the infinite!”

This year, the road to the spirit world of the infinite goes through Perry Square. The Erie Philharmonic invites all able-bodied men, women, and children to participate in the Beat Beethoven 5K run (or 1-mile walk). Not coincidentally, the run will be conducted in tandem with the Fifth Symphony, beginning on the downbeat. Runners will predominantly follow West Sixth Street to Cascade, then loop back around over West 10th Street.

Those who finish before the applause will receive a free concert ticket. Standers-by are more than welcome to choose from an array of vendors, food trucks, and activities as the music plays.

To the unseasoned runner, competing in *any* race may seem like the gateway to unending pain and sorrow, but take solace — a typical performance of Symphony No. 5 finishes in between 31 and 34 minutes (not bad for a 210-year-old). With a bit of conditioning and proper footwear (running shoes are much easier to find now than in the early 1800s), you should be able to make the curtain call without a hitch. Beethoven will never hear you coming. — Matt Swanseger

9 a.m. to noon (symphony/race begins at 10 a.m.)
// Perry Square // \$20 // eriephil.org

134th Annual Erie County Fair a Weeklong, Fun-Filled Affair



MONDAY, AUG. 27 – SATURDAY, SEPT. 1

The 134th annual Erie County Fair will feature plenty of food and fun every day of the weeklong celebration.

The festivities kick off Monday, Aug. 27 and continue through Saturday, Sept. 1 with a variety of family friendly entertainment.

“We try to do something for everybody,” said Junior Hartner, longtime fair board president.

On Thursday evening, cowboys will compete in a rodeo. Friday evening, crowds can watch truck pulls. The fair finishes Saturday with its popular WNY Pro Pulling Series Smokin’ Tractors & Truck Pulls.

The fair board was unable to secure a big-name musical act this year. Hartner says it wasn’t profitable, but local musical groups will be featured instead at the gazebo.

Other daily events include a circus and a BMX bike show. Daily fair admission is \$8 per person, which includes parking, rides, and grandstand events, except for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Children age 5 and under enter for free without rides or grandstand entrance. Weekly buttons can be purchased for \$10 without riding. Ride upgrades are \$5 per day. — Tracy Geibel

Times vary // Wattsburg Agricultural Society, 13993 Route 8 & 89, Wattsburg // \$8 admission, \$5 ride upgrade // 739-2232 // wattsburgfair.com



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MOVIE REVIEWS

Infiltrate Hate: *BlacKkKlansman* is a Period Piece with its Eyes Pointed at Us

★★★★★

Leave it to Spike Lee to make a film that is the most frank, direct and radical statement about America's current racial tensions. Ironically, he does this in a story that is 45 years old and exactly the point. His *BlacKkKlansman* is angry, inspired, confrontational and the best film that Lee has made in over a decade.

Set in Colorado in the early 1970s, the film follows Ron Stallworth (John David Washington), the first black officer in the Colorado Springs police department. Though still a rookie, Stallworth manages to get in contact over the phone with a member of the local Ku Klux Klan. With the help of another officer (Adam Driver), Stallworth successfully infiltrates the Klan and even becomes head of the local chapter!

Though technically a period piece, the film is not content with confining itself to one time. The problem with most films about racism set in the past is that they always make things seem like racism is something that only existed in our past. So many films address racism as something that has been overcome so that the audience can pat themselves on the back for being so much more enlightened today (I'm looking at you, *The Help*). Lee's film, on the other hand, deftly uses the story to allude to current events and today's political climate. He never wants you to think that this is something that has been eliminated. These problems are still problems we face today and, as the film's brilliant final sequence makes perfectly clear, things may have only gotten worse.

Directed by: Spike Lee // Written by: Spike Lee, David Rabinowitz, Charlie Wachtel, Kevin Willmott and Ron Stallworth, based on the book by Ron Stallworth // Starring: John David Washington, Adam Driver, Laura Harrier, Topher Grace, Robert John Burke, Corey Hawkins, Paul Walter Hauser, Jasper Paakkonen, Ryan Eggold, Ashlie Atkinson and Harry Belafonte // 135 minutes

Like, Y'know, Whatever: *Eighth Grade* is a Joyously Awkward Experience

★★★★★

I didn't grow up with YouTube, Twitter or Instagram so I figured that Bo Burnham's directorial debut *Eighth Grade* would only be enjoyable as an outsider's look into this new generation of kids. I never expected to become so emotionally invested in the story and to find such a familiarity with the central character. The film manages this feat by focusing on a teenage trait that transcends all generational lines: a little thing called awkwardness.

The film follows young Kayla Day (Elsie Fisher) as she tries to make it through the last two weeks of the minefield known as middle school. So far, her eighth grade year has been disastrous, but she tries to rectify that by attempting to make new friends, get the boy she likes to notice her and work on her life advice videos on YouTube.

It's all pretty standard coming-of-age stuff, but Burnham makes it truly engaging with some slick direction; shooting everything in close hand-held shots so that we're always in the headspace of our protagonist. However, the real standout is the film's lead actor. Elsie Fisher is an absolute joy to watch. From her voice, her mannerisms to the fact that she constantly avoids eye contact during conversations, Fisher perfectly captures what it's like to be a shy teenager who doesn't quite have a grasp on who she is yet. It's a wonderful performance in a wonderful film and if anyone is interested in reliving those confusing, uncomfortable but ultimately harmless days of middle school life, you can't do much better than *Eighth Grade*. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by: Bo Burnham // Starring: Elsie Fisher, Josh Hamilton, Emily Robinson, Jake Ryan, Fred Heichinger, Daniel Zolghadri, Greg Crowe, Catherine Oliviere and Luke Prael // 94 minutes



FOCUS FEATURES



A24

Mercyhurst Institute for Art and Culture’s 2018-19 Season

A preview of this year’s thriving, thrilling, and trailblazing acts

By: Cara Suppa

This past year, if you’ve been looking for something interesting to do around town, you’ve had options. There are always beer events, cultural festivals, concerts on the bay, celebrations on the beach, block parties (on the ... block), baseball games, hockey, imaginative theater performances — in other words, the Erie we have come to know and love. Once a month or so, though, an extraordinary event, something beyond the usual, might have caught your eye.

There was film and TV star Lily Tomlin. Music virtuoso Judy Collins. Broadway powerhouse Audra McDonald. They performed in Erie as part of the Mercyhurst Institute of Arts and Culture (MIAC)’s seasonal program, a series of evenings that seek to fulfill the MIAC mission statement: “[to strengthen] the vibrancy of the Erie region by presenting world-class performing arts experiences that lift the spirit, galvanize the intellect, stimulate the imagination and encourage the free exchange of ideas. By making these programs available and accessible to the broadest possible audience, the Institute strives to create an environment of richly varied, inclusive cultural experiences.”

Mission: Accomplished. And last year’s success has set the bar for this upcoming season.

“Because we sold out every MIAC Live performance last season, and received such an overwhelmingly positive response from patrons, the challenge became, ‘How do we maintain this level of programming?’” said Brett Johnson, programming director for MIAC.

Scheduling can be a challenge — Johnson tries to finalize the lineup for the upcoming season by the January or February before, as “the performers we bring to Erie are still at the height of their creative powers and have incredibly busy film, television, theatre, and concert schedules.” However, the people who comprise MIAC work together as a determined and well-oiled team, and this upcoming season promises showstopper after showstopper.

This comes in a time when schools are forced to cut arts programs or severely limit their budgets, greatly endangering our connection and accessibility to the performing arts, which not only entertain, but often illuminate truths about human nature or remind us of the very best of human possibility. Johnson is exceedingly grateful for “the support of the Mercyhurst administration” and “the generosity of our donors and members of The 501,” referring to MIAC’s membership society for patrons (named after the university’s address). He describes the model for MIAC as “sustainable,” ensuring that for years to come, the great, shining talents of the performing arts world will continue to light up the Flagship City.

While Erie might not seem like an obvious destination for a big-name star to come and perform — more like a detour off of a performance in Pittsburgh or Cleveland — Johnson and his team are incredibly proud of the fact that while audiences are wowed by the talent of the artists who come into town, “nearly every performer who walks through the doors of the Mary D’Angelo

Performing Arts Center comments on the beauty of the venue and its acoustics.” He added, “They also inevitably mention how wonderful our audiences are and how everyone, both on campus and in the community, has made them feel welcome.”

That also sounds like the Erie we know and love.

An Evening with Shirley MacLaine



Thursday, Sept. 20

If golden statuettes were the sole indicator of theatrical talent, one would assume Shirley MacLaine — who has nabbed one Oscar and seven Golden Globes throughout her illustrious career — represents the pinnacle of accomplishment. One would, in fact, be quite correct in that assumption. From her first film in 1955 (*The Trouble With Harry*), to her upcoming feature set to be released in 2019 (*Noelle*), Ms. MacLaine has been commanding the screen for decades, and come September she will reflect on that history, while revealing many insights and observations collected along the way.

Pink Martini



Thursday, Oct. 4

An “incredible diplomatic opportunity to represent a broader, more inclusive America ... the America which remains the most heterogeneously populated country in the world,” is one way that Thomas Lauderdale, the bandleader and pianist for music sensation Pink Martini, describes his dozen musician-strong outfit. Having



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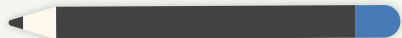
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traveled and performed around the world, featuring songs in a variety of languages and spanning genres such as classical, pop, Latin and jazz, Pink Martini is like the cocktail in its name: sophisticated, glamorous and playful.

Vienna Boys Choir



LUKAS BECK

Monday, November 26

The history of the Vienna Boys Choir dates back to the late Middle Ages, when this organization was officially established by the Emperor Maximilian I of Habsburg, who clearly felt the Mass could use a little melodic face-lift. Fast-forward through the centuries, and after performing with the likes of Mozart and Schubert, the 21st century Vienna Boys Choir actually comprises

four touring groups made up of boys ages nine to 14. While the boys perform across many genres, from the Medieval music of their origins to more contemporary tunes, they are perhaps best known for their renditions of Christmas standards, thus making the Vienna Boys Choir’s performance in Erie the perfect start to the holiday season.

Jane Lynch



Tuesday, Dec. 4

Whether you first saw her beside Steve Carell in *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, in her Emmy-winning turn as Sue Sylvester in *Glee* or, more recently, in her brilliant role as Sophie Lennon in *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*,

you have never seen Jane Lynch like this. With friends Kate Flannery (of *The Office* fame) and Tim Davis by her side, she performs “a comically kitsch throwback to the old WWII USO canteen...Christmas specials of yore,” backed by the jazzy Tony Guerrero Quintet. If you can’t wait until December, check out the *Swingin’ Little Christmas* album, released in 2016.

Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox



Tuesday, Jan. 29

Ever take a song you know very well and start singing it in a completely different genre than the original artist intended? (Imagine the 1812 Overture as a swing standard; you can’t unhear that now.) That’s kind of what Scott Bradlee continues to do with his Postmodern Jukebox, but to an expert degree, with a rotating col-

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lective of singers who perform his pop-gone-vintage arrangements that have garnered his YouTube channel more than 700 million views. After a sold-out show last season, Bradlee is back in Erie to lift the spirits during one of the coldest, snowiest times of our year.

Darlene Love



Saturday, Feb. 16

Just two days after Valentine’s Day, Darlene Love is bringing her joyful gifts to Erie for a perfect date night filled with pop and gospel music. With her successful solo career in the ‘80s, you might be surprised to learn there is a bevy of pop classics with which Love was associated in the ‘60s and ‘70s. As anyone who has seen the Oscar-winning documentary *20 Feet From Stardom* knows, her name might not necessarily have the immediate recognition that a Dionne Warwick commands, but Love was working just as hard as any of the pop superstars of those days, in a frenzy of recording and performing activity. As one of the most prolific back-up singers ever, with a voice like a “thunderbolt,” Love is now front and center, right where she belongs.

Golden Dragon Acrobats

Saturday, March 23

In the United States, we can have a difficult time contemplating things that happened 200 years ago, let alone 2,500 years in the past. So it is fortunate when



companies like the Golden Dragon Acrobats, who represent a tradition that is 25 centuries old, come through Erie to remind us all of the extraordinary techniques, untold discipline and love of performance that transcend time. Further, the Golden Dragon Acrobats have a firm commitment to “cultural exchange” with the communities they visit and the young people they engage with.

PigPen Theater Co.



Thursday, April 4

Some really talented artists in the realm of theater and music have emerged from Carnegie Mellon’s School of Drama over the years, and the PigPen Theater Co., a group which met there in their freshman year, is no exception — except, perhaps, for the fact that the company blends mediums with effortless

panache, and ties it all together with a brilliant, folksy bow. While the PigPen Theater Co. have made a name for themselves with their original dramatic productions on the stage in New York City, this intimate concert event will feature the group at their instruments, producing the same haunting sound that populates their albums.

Patti LuPone



Thursday, May 2

How do you define “legend?” Easy: check out Patti LuPone’s illustrious career and commanding personality. She got her start in the 1970s, after graduating from Juilliard and picking up plum roles in Broadway musicals. She has been attached to some of the most famous and popular Broadway shows ever produced, including *Evita*, *Anything Goes*, and *Les Miserables*, and she moves effortlessly between theater, film and television appearances. Her appearance in Erie, as the season closer, is nothing short of miraculous, particularly for fans of musical theater, who will be treated to a variety of show tunes, intermingled with LuPone’s reflections on her stage career, as well as musings on where Broadway might be heading. A singular, can’t-miss showstopper, from top to bottom.

Cara Suppa can be reached at csuppa@eriereader.com

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Schedule Highlights

THE CHRIS BOTTI BAND IN CONCERT



**August 18 at 8pm
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BETTY WHITE
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**August 21 at 8pm
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COMEDY

The Wild West of Comedy

Open-mic nights a test for joke-dealing desperadoes



Amateur jokesters often face tough and unforgiving crowds at stand-up open mic nights, such as this recent event at 9th & State Beer Cafe hosted by FUBAR Comedy. It is also not uncommon for professional comics, such as Erie native Ryley John Phillip (pictured here), to stop by to test new material.

By: Ryan Smith

Put yourself out in front of a bunch of humor-particular people, most drinking, all ready to judge you, and well.

Now, you — just, you — make those bastards laugh. Then (still just you) make them laugh again ... and again.

That's the basic set-up and goal of most stand-up comedy, wherever it's happening. No joke: That stuff is not easy to do anywhere — and not in our little city of Erie. And definitely not on a Tuesday night.

The sort of brutality of it all only mounts when that stand-up is of the shotgun-DIY, open-mic variety, put together and pulled off by a bunch of at-least-mostly perfect strangers to whatever crowd shows up. Or doesn't.

Compared to a polished big-venue gig presented by some well-known, contract-backed, salty-dog veteran comic to a presumably adoring — and ticket-buying — audience, well, it was like the Wild West up in there at the 9th & State Beer Cafe during one of FUBAR Comedy's most recent stand-up open-mic nights.

There was a heavy-browed, middle-aged fellow (a first-timer to the mic) who delivered his jokes via grumpy complaint, Archie Bunker-style. A long-haired dude (another first-timer) who, channeling a Steven-Wright-meets-Mitch-Hedberg vibe, deadpan-delivered some nice chuckle-worthy material.

There was a woman (not a first-timer) who told horror stories — funny, gross

horror stories — about her old days as a maximum security prison guard. Another (also not a first-timer) who wise-cracked little bits about things like turning 30, bearded men, neck massagers, and lady parts.

And there was one guy who, after talking a little bit about crack-cocaine getaways in Southern Pennsylvania, started "borrowing" a bit — like, a whole, classic comedic bit — from the very funny and very famous Dave Chappelle.

The room emptied a good bit at that moment: Cigarette break, anyone?

"He could've at least done it well," one of the breakers said as he stepped out the door and lit up.

Like I said, Wild West. Like horse thieves, there's no love for joke bandits. Hell yes. I like those rules.

After that, though, the rest of the evening got right back and stayed on the original track with performances by a couple of real-deal working comics, headliner and Erie native Ryley John Phillip and his funny pal Amber Maeda, who both traveled from their current home bases in Cleveland to road-test some of their own, unstolen material.

Both young people — through their respective irreverent, raunchy but well-read comedic lenses hit on everything from poor adulating and sad-boy culture (that's Maeda) to violence, sex-addict teachers, coming out, and growing up in the "Alabama of the North" (that's Ryley).

Traveling throughout the region to present their jokes, comedians like Ryley

and Maeda — and FUBAR host/organizer and local comedian Daniel Brady, among others — are becoming pros through footwork, word-of-mouth, and experience. They know funny, they know uncomfortable, and they know how to time and work a crowd with both.

"Believe it or not, this is what I wanna do for a living," Ryley told the crowd.

That's good work. Carry on.

And presenting that kind of work — from whoever's brave enough to try to do it, to get up there and risk deep personal embarrassment for the reward of some laughs from mostly-strangers — is a big part of what the FUBAR Open Mics are all about.

Meanwhile, JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club just hosted its fifth monthly open mic night, showing that Erie's headquarters for comedy is happy to get in the do-it-yourself game on occasion as well.

"I'm glad [organizers and venues] are finally doing this in Erie, getting a mic going," said Ryley.

Brady said the next Open Mic Night at 9th and State is set for Aug. 24.

And from there, he said, he's also more than happy to talk with other Erie bars and performance spaces — anywhere there are microphones that may be made, well, open — about setting up more stand-up events

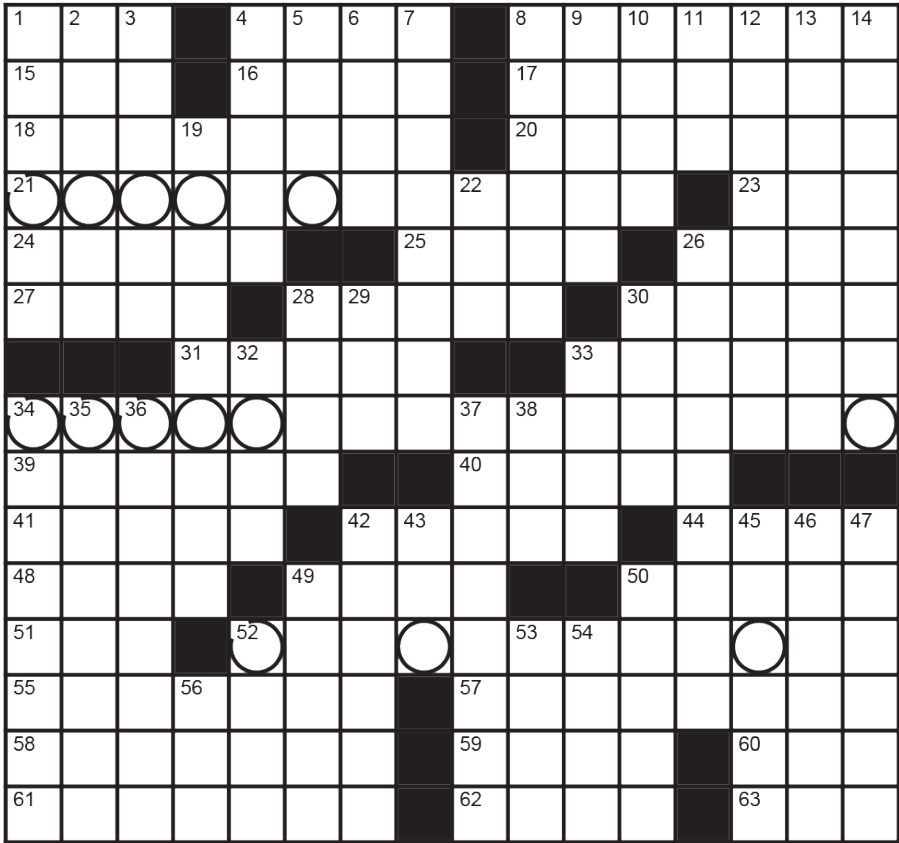
"I want a comedy scene in Erie," Brady — who also hosted a Comedy Night at PACA Theater featuring Maeda and other comics from around the region on Aug. 4 — told me after the recent show. "Everyone's lives would be so much better if they could just laugh once in a while."

He added, "We have some really funny people around here" with a knack for making that happen.

Again, that's good work. Keep shining a light on it. Er, putting a mic up in it.

Whatever. Carry on.

Ryan Smith doesn't know any good jokes, but he digs people who do. You can reach him at rsmith@eriereader.com, and follow him on Twitter @ryanmsmithplens.



Across

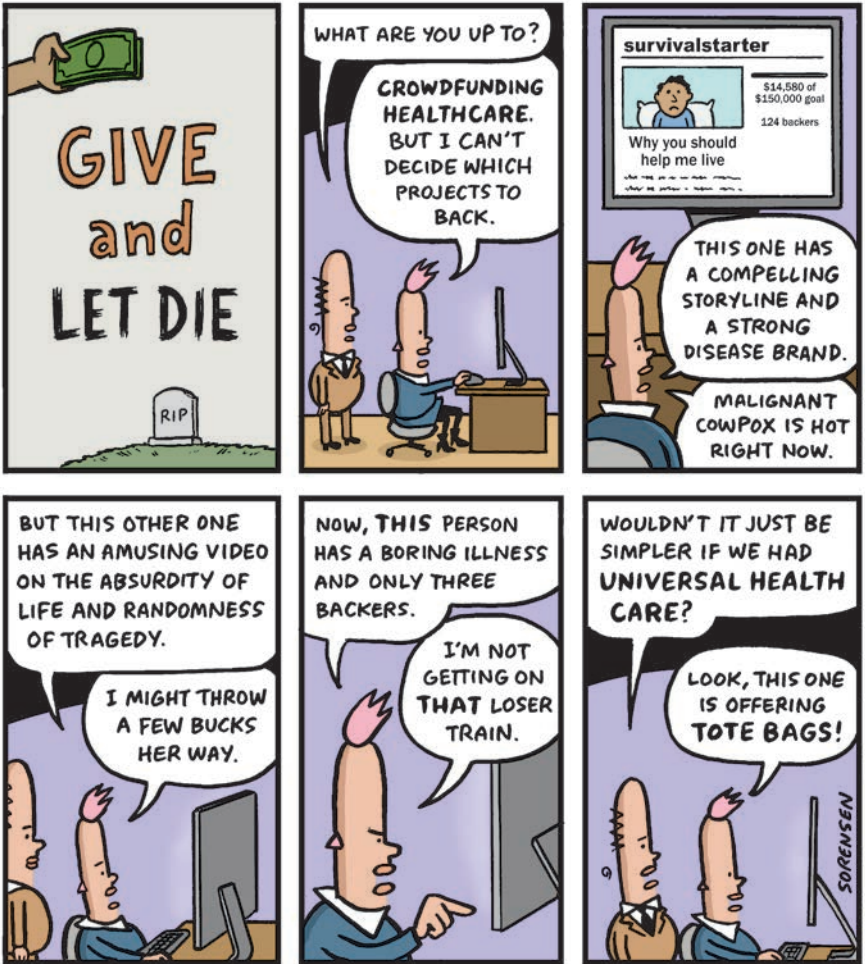
1. "Top Gun" target
4. Actor Driver of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi"
8. More swift
15. Japanese vegetable
16. Lush
17. "What's it gonna be?"
18. Kind of instinct
20. It's heard at some baseball games
21. She was prime minister of her circled letters from 1966 to 1984
23. Norm: Abbr.
24. Win by ____
25. Popular gin flavoring
26. Old Manhattan restaurateur Toots
27. Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
28. ____ beam
30. "Along ____ spider ..."
31. Way overweight
33. 1992 Grammy winner for "Constant Craving"
34. He was president of his circled letters from 2012 to 2017
39. Purple flowers
40. "This is ____!" (police cry)
41. Some gases lack them
42. Swing and miss, as a baseball pitch
44. Nickname for Angel Stadium, with "the"
48. Lean and sinewy
49. Dressed

50. Willie of "Eight Is Enough"
51. Portuguese writer José Maria de ____ de Queirós
52. He was president of his circled letters from 1869 to 1877
55. Owe at the bar
57. Precedes at a concert
58. "The Disrobing of Christ" painter, 1579
59. Squeakers
60. "____ seeing things?"
61. Outside the solar system
62. Repair shop figs.
63. Homer's next-door neighbor on "The Simpsons"

Down

1. Cardinal for 22 years
2. "Uh, no idea"
3. Celeb chef Ramsay
4. "Bird on ____" (1990 film)
5. Performer inclined to throw tantrums
6. "I hate to be ____ ..."
7. Epitome of slowness
8. Author Dostoyevsky
9. Café lightener
10. Morales of "Criminal Minds"
11. Years and years
12. Sanitation worker
13. In a tight row
14. Fit behind the wheel?

19. Person ahead of her time
22. Div. that manager Bobby Cox won every year from 1995 to 2005
26. Places to pick vegetables
28. Many August births
29. "Just ____ suspected ..."
30. Year Attila invaded Gaul
32. Emails discreetly
33. Group investigated in "Mississippi Burning"
34. Bloomed
35. Make fun of
36. One way to serve duck
37. Like some devils?
38. Guatemala gold
42. Pilot, slangily
43. Batteries for remotes, perhaps
45. "Your work is wonderful"
46. It wasn't mapped until 2003
47. Pippi Longstocking creator Lindgren
49. Typewriter sound
50. "____ of God" (1985 film)
52. Tribe that gave its name to a state
53. Protestant denom.
54. Splinter group
56. Sculptor/collagist Jean



Answers to last puzzle



MUSIC REVIEWS

The Cradle

Bag of Holding
NNA Tapes

★★★★★

Thoughtful and rooted in a different era, *Bag of Holding* is one of the best folk albums of the year, ideal for fans of anything from Elliott Smith, Sufjan Stevens, Ryley Walker, to Mark Kozelek. From the brain of New York songwriter Paco Cathcart, The Cradle is a band worth looking into. If nothing else, Erieites will get that mild kick that comes with being name-checked, as the album's sixth track, "The Opposite Way Pt. 3" mentions the city and the lake a few times. One of the standout tracks (regardless of local interest), it's a road-weary, diary-like meditation. The album begins with the soft reeds of "Sweet Dreams," with a dichotomy between the lulling sounds and the opening line of "40 dead in Istanbul." It's the special lyrical touches filled with specificity and some artful format-bending that help this album rise to the next level, ready to be happily picked apart by listeners with a penchant for literary analysis. The depressingly upbeat liveliness of "Cell Games and Beyond," with its evocative strings might be the most accessible point. The full orchestration, combined with impressive fingerstyle guitar work (the titular, D&D-referencing track and its sibling "Holding and Holding") make it a dark, instrumental dream. — Nick Warren



Mac Miller

Swimming
Warner Bros.

★★★

To Mac Miller's credit, the Pittsburgh-born hip-hop artist has come along way from the frat-rap he came up on in the late 2000s (as referenced on "2009"). In fact, just when it seemed like many had forgotten the substance-fueled party rapper, he surprised everyone with a newfound seriousness on 2015's *GOOD A.M.*, and ever more so on 2016's stellar *The Divine Feminine*. Despite having flirted with most of these textures and techniques on various EPs and mixtapes of the past, it seemed Miller had transformed himself into an artist with something to say overnight. It's no secret that at the center of this transformation was Miller's widely-publicized relationship with pop superstar Ariana Grande — a relationship that dissolved earlier this year. *Swimming* is, naturally, a bit of a breakup album, with feet planted equally in camps of self-pity and healing. Unfortunately, what sets *Swimming* apart from its sleeper hit predecessor is its experimentation with sonics and Miller's vocals. As a singing voice only, Miller could never make himself a household name, but he was capable enough to craft unique hooks in the past. Here, Miller mostly sounds off-key throughout, from lethargic single "Self-Care" to the abrasive flow of "Small Worlds." — Aaron Mook



Free Cake For Every Creature

The Bluest Star
Double Double Whammy

★★★★★

Anyone already familiar with the band Free Cake For Every Creature will already be on board for *The Bluest Star*. For those that aren't aware of the magic that songwriter Katie Bennett is capable of, they're in for a beautiful treat. Channeling the hushed whispers of Kimya Dawson and the freewheeling musical thrust of Frankie Cosmos, Bennett has found a wonderful footing. On this album, things are just a touch more upbeat, and that extra BPM or two goes a long way. Unlike her last two releases, the album begins with a steady and determined pulse. The first three tracks continue to climb in tempo, into the sugary twee energy of "Whole World Girl," with the ensuing bedroom hypnosis of "Shake It Out" being one of the most successful moments. Through its substantial 14 tracks, feelings cycle through, with Bennett illustrating her emotions with a tear-inducing brilliance. In what should be considered one of the top songs of the entire year, "Be Home Soon" pairs a stream-of-consciousness subway monologue with a simple and wonderfully repetitive chord progression that makes profundity out of the little moments that life holds. Sometimes it's the soft moments that hit you the hardest. — Nick Warren



Travis Scott

ASTROWORLD
Epic Records

★★★★★

The long-rumored follow-up to Travis Scott's polarizing debut, *Rodeo*, *ASTROWORLD* is an aptly titled project in the sense that it is filled to the brim with unexpected, over-the-top attractions (taking its name from a closed Six Flags park in Scott's hometown of Houston). Features and producers are often let loose on spacey instrumentals as Scott, the master of ceremonies, remains at the helm. Scott's merits have long been debated among hip-hop fans, with many detractors claiming the artist simply rides trends set by his peers (a criticism applicable to a large portion of mainstream hip-hop) while defenders point out that the already blossoming artist still has plenty of opportunities to continue growing into himself. A mentee of Kanye West, Scott's talents similarly lie with the way he corrals, edits, and applies his guests, crafting sonic sculptures alongside the likes of Drake ("SICKO MODE"), The Weeknd (featured on the Kevin Parker-produced psychedelic standout "SKELETONS"), and Nineteen85 (on the vulnerable, hypnotic closer, "Coffee Bean"). A landmark project with widescreen scope and diverse, ensemble credits, it's no stretch to imagine *ASTROWORLD* becoming the *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* of trap music. — Aaron Mook



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK

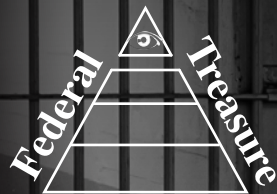




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