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ERIE READER

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Simply Planning a Wonderful Christmastime

A guide to Erie's holiday happenings

Harnessing the Charitable Spirit

The impact holiday giving has on local nonprofits

Where Were You in 1968?

What Erie can learn by looking back 50 years

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From the Editors

How the holidays never fail to stir up "the warm embrace of kith and kin"

Christmas is right around the corner, and that's no news. As soon as Halloween closed its coffin, you could hear it being punctuated by sleigh bells (sorry, Thanksgiving!). It was easy to deny for a bit, but then pretty soon we had the first big snowfall so early in November. At that point, it was at the very least on our mind. The Christmas creep came early, as it continues to do inch by inch every year. December, however, is when you're almost legally *required* to get into the holiday spirit.

Pretty much the entire month of December has been systematically engineered to make you happy. Pavlovian memory triggers can be found for all the senses. Red and green everywhere in sight, the smell of pine needles, the taste of candy canes, the feel of warm mittens, and that inescapable music.

We recently took a poll and asked some of our readers to name their favorite holiday tunes, and we were met with unmitigatedly happy responses. Memories and reactions to these kind of things are overwhelmingly positive. Much like music, the thoughts of some movies give us that welcomed comforting feeling every time.

"General opinion's starting to make out that we live in a world of hatred and greed, but I don't see that. It seems to me that love is everywhere," explained a fake prime minister as he talked about the arrival gate at London's Heathrow Airport.

"This is *Christmas*, the season of perpetual hope!" shouted an exasperated mother, desperate to see her son, this time at a closer airport, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International.

"It's the time of miracles. So be of good cheer," reasoned a mysterious German to his associate Theo. This time in a tall building in Los Angeles.

"Lovely, glorious, beautiful Christmas, upon which the entire kid year revolved," an unseen man explained, looking back on his life as a child growing up in Hohman, Ind. (though his house was actually located in Cleveland, Ohio).

"The most enduring traditions of the season are best enjoyed in the warm embrace of kith and kin," opined a happy father embracing his family, about to take home a Christmas tree.

There are so many things to do around the holidays. This issue, Matt Swanseger tackles the Yuletide calendar, in search of the best seasonal reasons for getting out of the house.

Perhaps you, like so many others every year, are moved by the charitable spirit that wafts among these candled nights. Ben Speggen takes a look at a couple of places you might be inclined to help out at, and how that help affects their business throughout the year.

As 2018 comes to a close, Liz Allen looks back 50 years into Erie's history, to reflect on how things have changed, and in some cases, stayed the same. The feeling of nostalgia that we have during the holidays can be undeniable sometimes.

It's hard not to succumb to the good tidings. And aside from being contrarian, you're probably better off not fighting *all* of it. Happiness, at its element, 'tis a good thing. That sounding joy brings people together. It encourages a giving spirit, and it just may make these cold days a little bit warmer.

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Where Were You in 1968?

What Erie can learn by looking back 50 years



1968 aerial photo (top) by Bus Scott / 2017 photo by MenajErie Studio shows a drastically changed Erie Bayfront. Comparisons like this are possible due to the work of the late Scott, whose work is archived by his son John, owner of Scott Historical Photos: Erie from the Air and Land Since 1938.

By: Liz Allen

Andy Roth's review of 1968 prompted me to do my own bit of time travel.

Then, James and Deborah Fallows' sky-high view of Erie made more memories take flight.

Combine the two ah-ha moments and I realized that we have much to learn from long-ago and high-altitude views of our community.

Roth has divided his research about 1968, the year that shocked our sensibilities and reshaped the American story, into six themes. He has delivered his lectures at the Jefferson Educational Society, where he is a scholar-in-residence, and at the Chautauqua Institution. He will give a condensed version of his talks on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Erie County Historical Society.

I attended one of Roth's Jefferson lectures because I'm an aging baby boomer who has arrived at that stage in life where I want to distill and savor memories of being young and idealistic. Later, I sat down to interview Roth at Brew Ha Ha at the

Colony Plaza, because I wanted to learn more about his sweeping view of 1968, so I could look at that time frame from an Erie perspective.

In 1968, my biggest issues were learning to drive my father's AMC Rebel with the stick shift and trying to save money from my 50-cents-an-hour babysitting jobs to pay for car insurance, which jumped \$40 because my parents now had a teenage driver. Oh, and I remember being mad at my brother Mike after he traded my Jimi Hendrix album to his friend for a Steppenwolf record. I wasn't born to be wild 50 years ago.

But Roth's work isn't about fostering nostalgia for the good old days. "This isn't just an antiquarian tour down memory lane," he says. Rather, he wants to help us understand how we got to today's "angry partisan politics" and to illuminate why racial progress stalled and then retreated. He also has interesting takes on the women's movement, the counterculture, music and what he describes as the "mediated America" — that is, what unites us rather than divides us.

To get an early taste of today's nasty cable TV shows, Google the exchange between Gore Vidal and William F. Buckley Jr. at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, he advises. "They just lacerated each other."

To trace the timeline from bipartisan compromise to bitter partisanship in Washington, study the outcomes of that Dem convention, along with Richard Nixon's Southern strategy.

Roth marks 1968 "as the beginning of the end of the great progress on civil rights," despite passage of the Fair Housing Act that year, which followed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "In 1968, you begin to see the (George) Wallace phenomena, the white pushback," he says. "Donald Trump is the grandson of George Wallace."

The 1968 presidential race started out as a debate about the Vietnam War, then "morphed" into a battle over law and order and rising crime rates, he says. "That signaled the retreat on civil rights," he says.

Roth also calls 1968 the year of "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll," but who could have predicted then that 50 years later, marijuana would be legalized, decriminalized, and used for medical treatment?

From Roth, I learned a lot about "second-wave feminism," as he talked about revolutionary advocates for women's liberation, including Carol Hanisch, Robin Morgan, Shulamith Firestone, and Kathie Sarachild. How often have I

said, "Sisterhood is powerful," without knowing that Sarachild coined that phrase?

After Roth's lecture at the JES, another phrase from that era popped into my head: "All politics is personal." This set me off on a quest to learn more about how the events of 1968 influenced my own interest in politics and journalism.

In May 1968, at the end of my junior year at Villa Maria Academy, I wrote a letter to the editor to complain about why the newspaper only reported bad news about teenagers. Instead of printing my letter, Larie Pinte, the editor of the Morning News in Erie, called to invite me to "hang out" in the newsroom that summer. "It's not gonna be glamorous, like Brenda Starr in the comics," he growled, or something to that effect.

"Hanging out" would be the equivalent to job-shadowing today, but with much looser rules. All I had to do was to show up at the Times Publishing Co. building at E. 12th and French streets at 5:30 p.m., trudge up the stairs and find a seat at a messy array of desks to listen to the police scanner, watch reporters bang out stories on their typewriters, and pay attention to the clanging teletype machines. I got a ride home about midnight.

I was in heaven — or so I thought, until one reporter, a college student himself, beckoned me to ride along so he could pick up a photo of a young Erie man who had been killed in Vietnam. At age 16, I was confronted with one of the hardest tasks of being a reporter — calling upon a bereaved family. After we left the house, with tears in my eyes and quivering lips, I asked the reporter how he got used to that job. "You never get used to it," he said, teaching me that while you have to be tough to be a reporter, you don't have to relinquish your humanity.

To show the editor I had what

it took to become a reporter, I did a series of stories that summer about teenagers in Erie working on both presidential and congressional campaigns. After Roth's lecture, I decided to try to find my old stories by going through the Morning News microfilm in the Heritage Room at Blasco Library.

I started with the June 1968 edition of the Morning News, but I quickly realized that my project — to find my stories and to document what Erie was like in 1968 — would take months, not hours. Instead, I scrolled through some headlines from January, June and December.

As the "reds" reportedly stall peace talks about Vietnam in Paris, the war is being felt close to home. In January, the U.S. Selective Service announces plans to draft 72,000 men in 1968, while in Erie, "51 answer Erie, area draft call," a headline reads. "They fill the quotas for men set by the Selective Service System for Local Boards 63 and 65," the story says.

In June, two young men from Erie and one from Guys Mills are killed in Vietnam; another Erie man is seriously wounded. In December, a 19-year-old Erie GI is killed in Vietnam, five days after he was supposed to be discharged.

There is lots of news about presidential politics, including George Wallace's claim, reported in a Jan. 4 wire story, that he had amassed a "following of over 100,000 in California," and this ominous headline in the same paper: "Ku Klux Klan Membership Now at Highest Point."

On June 6, newspaper readers awoke to the news that Bobby Kennedy had been shot after winning the Democratic presidential primary in California the night before. Kennedy died 26 hours after being shot by an assassin. Erie residents, still reeling after the April 4 assassination of Martin Luther King

Jr., mourned RFK's death and wondered what the world was coming to.

Racial discrimination is a big issue in Erie, too. In 1968, Erie City Council debates, then finally passes, a fair housing ordinance, but enforcement is stalled. Citizens, black and white, organize to fight bias against black students in Erie's public schools, and tenants in "slums," as the stories note, push for a rent withholding ordinance, which also gets tangled up in the City Hall bureaucracy.

Erie Mayor Louis Tullio dodges repeated requests to help renovate the old Booker T. Washington Center on East 18th Street before finally caving to make the renovations. After claims of a bias in a trial, a local investigation is launched to see "how many Negroes are called" for jury duty in Erie.

The Philadelphia Inquirer breaks an "exclusive" story that six college students who reportedly went blind after staring at the sun while tripping on LSD are from Edinboro College; a few days later, the paper reports that the LSD story was a hoax perpetrated by an official from an agency for the blind in Pennsylvania.

The want ads are divided into male jobs, female jobs, and male-female jobs. A local column in the society section says: "Women Realtors host dinner

honoring male associates." Stewing chickens are 17 cents a pound at Erie County Farms and *Andy Griffith* and *Peyton Place* are playing on TV.

In Youngstown, Ohio, a bail-bondsman is on trial for performing a 1966 abortion on an Erie girl in a hotel room. Mario Bagnoni, detective captain of the Erie police, is set to testify. In Ripley, New York, a lawyer is arrested for performing an abortion.

Back in Erie, a 22-year-old woman claims in December 1968 that she has had "relations" with a number of police officers. "Who would you believe? Some broad ... some pig ... or a responsible high-ranking officer?" asks the city's safety director. Later, "truth serum" exonerates one of the officers but others are given suspensions.

Throughout 1968 in Erie, there are battles over urban renewal. The Urban Coalition is created to deal with housing, employment, education, political, civic action and "image-building" issues. To its credit, the coalition includes black members. There are, however, no women on the coalition.

The Erie Redevelopment Authority announces in June that it will demolish the Lawrence Hotel, the Shea Theatre, and Pulakos Candy in downtown Erie. "It will mean the loss of 65 years of work and a million

dollars in damages," says owner Gus Pulakos in protest about the plan to take down his store at 926 State St.

In December, Erie is battered by a snowstorm, which causes major damage at Presque Isle State Park.

It's the Presque Isle story that makes me think about James and Deborah Fallows, the closing speakers at the Jefferson Educational Society's Global X Summit on Nov. 30. They are the authors of *Our Towns: A 100,000-mile journey into the Heart of America*, which includes their optimistic chapter about progress and civic engagement in Erie. Deborah Fallows talked about the experience of flying into small and medium cities across the country, and about the thrill of seeing Presque Isle from the cockpit of their single-engine private plane. She spoke of the need for Erie to make Presque Isle and the waterfront accessible to all, as Lake Erie was when she grew up in Vermilion, Ohio, where everyone had access to low-cost boat rentals and sailing lessons.

Her observation made me realize that we are lucky in Erie to have had a birds-eye views of our community for decades, thanks to the prolific aerial photography work of the late Bus Scott. His 78-year-old son, John Scott, is the archivist of his dad's work, which was pub-

lished in the local newspapers and is featured in 15 books by local authors. John Scott has thousands of negatives of his dad's work, arranged by chronology and geography, and shot with 13 different types of cameras.

From the air, you can see what Erie used to look like downtown and along the bayfront. There's the Commerce Building, now gone. The Lawrence Hotel, now gone. The grain elevators, now gone. The McAllister Building, which the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority wants to tear down.

You can also see how close Presque Isle is to Erie — and think about how far away that special place is for those who live in the inner city, without access to cars or the means to pay the Water Taxi fare of \$10 round-trip.

Look to the east of downtown from the air and we would see neighborhoods neglected by red-lining, and on both the west and the east sides, what our city looked like before the Bayfront Parkway and Bayfront Connector carved up and divided us — even while providing access to the waterfront.

Imagine what we might learn if we overlaid Bus Scott's photos from 1968 on the images that the Fallows took away from Erie during the reporting for their book. We would see much civic progress. And we

would realize that much work remains to be done.

Liz Allen remembers 1968 like it was yesterday, but 50 years after she got her driver's license, she often mislays her car keys. You can reach her at lizerie@aol.com

Check it out

John Scott, son of the late aerial photographer Bus Scott, has partnered with designer Denise Walker to create custom jewelry made by local entrepreneurs. You can see their work and meet Scott at Beachcomber Jewelry, 3445 W. 12th, during Gallery Night on Friday, Dec. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m.

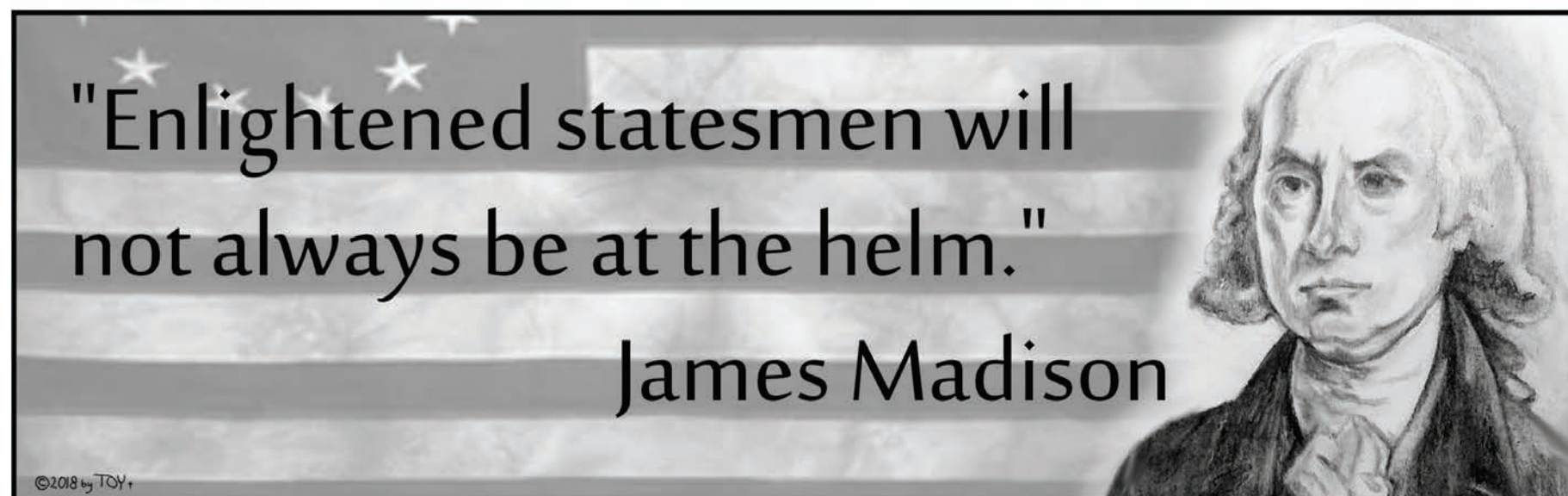
The Beachcomber is one of 21 venues that will be open for Gallery Night. For more information, visit www.erieartmuseum.org.

Learn more

The Erie County Historical Society will sponsor a talk by Andy Roth, Ph.D., scholar-in-residence at the Jefferson Educational Society, called "The Far Side of the Moon and the Birth of the Culture Wars: America in 1968" on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. The talk will be at the Watson Curtze Mansion at the Thomas Hagen History Center, 356 W. 6th St.

Admission is free for ECHS members, or \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$5 for students. Call 814-454-1813, extension 33, for more information.

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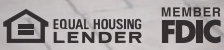
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Harnessing the Charitable Spirit

The impact holiday giving has on Erie's nonprofits



Breanna Adams (left), along with volunteers Debbie, Ed, Janis, Alex, and Sean helping out at the Erie Free Store.

There are plenty of additional organizations and institutions out there. We encourage you to share their stories and their work with us and the community.

Erie Free Store, 2816 Elmwood Ave., Erie, Pennsylvania 16508

Housed in the Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Erie Free Store “is a store that is entirely free!” director and founder Breanna Adams notes emphatically.

Adams, an Erie Reader 40 Under 40 alum and employee of the Erie County Department of Health, founded the Erie Free Store in November 2016 after learning about Gisele Fetterman’s Free Store 15105 in Braddock, Pennsylvania. She read an article about Gisele’s husband, John, the mayor of Braddock, who, at the time, was running for the Democratic bid for U.S. Senate to face Republican incumbent Pat Toomey. John, who lost that Senate race but went on to win his bid for Lieutenant Governor of the Keystone State in 2018, mentioned the work his wife does, and that piqued Adams’ interest.

“After looking it up (I found at that Gisele had) started a store where donations were redistributed for free and it has grown to receive donations from retailers that cannot be sold,” Adams says. “These donations would otherwise be going into the dumpster. I called Gisele, who offered great advice, and got the ball rolling.”

Two years later, Adams has built a core team of six volunteers who’ve volunteered nearly every week for the past two years, helping to assist the average of 50 to 60 families who

visit the store weekly to obtain a wide range of goods. Volunteers mostly sort donations, stock the store, and assist customers.

Donations to the Erie Free Store are accepted on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. The Free Store accepts donations mostly consisting of clothing, blankets, linens, shoes, purses, toys, and kitchen items. The store does not accept large electronics or furniture.

“One of our busiest weeks there were 80 families there!” Adams says. “The amount of donations has been endless — Erie is the most generous place in the world.”

Those looking to connect with the Erie Free Store — to learn more, to find out about volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation — can find them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ErieFreeStore), where the team uses the page to post what items they’re running low on, as well as updates on what they’re well stocked up on, or send an email to ErieFreeStore@gmail.com. Adams also posts volunteer opportunities on the Get Connected Portal through United Way.

The most rewarding thing about the Erie Free Store to her and her team, Adams says, is “when someone finds just what they were looking for. The smiles on those people make every second worth it, and their whole day — or maybe even week — has been made better.”

Erie City Mission, 1017 French St., Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

For more than a hundred years, the Erie City Mission has endeavored to address hunger, homelessness, and addiction.

The City Mission, as Chaplain Andy Kerr tells it, “started in 1911 as a result of a revival

By: Ben Speggen

“This is the season.” These words can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people, but regardless of context, it’s the hallmark phrase bandied about around this time of the year when most of us shift from carving turkeys to making and checking gift-getting and gifts-giving lists at least twice.

Aside from thinking about our own personal gifts — the ones we’ll give to those we know and receive from those who know us — we tend, too, to think of others outside of our immediate social circles in need.

Need immediate proof? After Black Friday comes Cyber Monday, and following that is #GivingTuesday, a day dedicated to digitally reminding us

that the spirit of the holiday season goes beyond big box stores and online deals.

Whether you cite a stronger economy or growing compassion, Americans have given more over the past two years. According to Nonprofits Source, Americans gave \$410 billion in 2017, a 5 percent increase from 2016. And in 2016, Americans gave 4 percent more than the year before.

Too, Americans give more than simply from their bank accounts. They donate their time.

Nonprofits Source reported the national value of volunteer time at \$24.14 per hour, meaning that in 2016, Americans contributed \$193 billion of their time to the communities in which they live, work, play, and give.

Erie is no exception. A host of places and events offer locals

the opportunity to embrace their empathetic tendencies, whether that’s valued in money and goods or time and service.

In Erie there exist legacy institutions with roots more than a hundred years deep, as well as others just beginning to branch out to help the more than one in four Erie residents living at or below the poverty line. Of the former, Erieites can look to the Erie City Mission. Of the latter, the Erie Free Store.

While we at the Reader are using this as an occasion to encourage our readers to find outlets to support or engage with — whether it’s donating goods, contributing financially, or volunteering time — at any level they can, here’s a look at two organizations with notable impact and ample opportunities to contribute to.

JESSICA HUNTER

put on by Bill Sunday, the baseball player-turned-evangelist.” The story goes that Sunday, who had a promising professional baseball career in the 1880s with the Chicago White Stockings and the Pittsburgh Alleghenys, had a conversion experience, pivoting his point of focus from sports to ministry. Thus begot out of his rallies the Erie City Mission, with the purpose of “restoring hope and transforming lives (by) cultivating a community of new life, breaking the cycle of hopelessness, and building the Kingdom of God,” according to Kerr — who is also a professional life coach.

“We’re touching lives every day at various speeds,” Kerr says of the Mission’s dozen programs serving men, women, and children. In addition to the leadership team of seven and staff of 50 full-time and part-time employees serving

the Mission, volunteers (3,000 last year), Kerr notes, are a large part of how the Mission can diversify its services, ranging from addiction recovery programs to its shelter service to its Urban University aimed at improving the academics of at-risk youth to serving three meals per day 363 days of the year.

363 days?

“There are two days when we don’t do a public lunch: Thanksgiving and Christmas,” Kerr explains. “Many other organizations offer a lunch that day, so we’ve partnered with them,” noting that the Mission still feeds shelter guests those days. That’s part of the Mission’s mission, too: Building strong partnerships as not to duplicate services in the community.

Between partnering for those two days and serving public meals the remainder

of the year, the Mission cooks up, on average, 15,000 meals per month, according to Kerr.

“Everybody is more giving around the holiday,” Kerr says. “Our struggle is when January, February, March hit. People say, ‘I volunteered over the holiday, I’m done.’”

That’s done with just two full-time cooks along with volunteers and participants of the Mission’s addiction recovery programs.

While the Mission is open 365 days of the year, around the holiday season “there’s an increased need because everybody wants to provide

for their families around the holidays,” Kerr says. “We gave away almost 1,300 turkeys at Thanksgiving for the turkey bank giveaway.”

People can donate the usual needed items — food, clothes, toiletry items, and furniture — to the Mission, but “what people may not realize is that they can donate vehicles, houses, rental properties, stocks, bonds, and of course money. We’ve seen it all and it is all very helpful!” Kerr explains.

Like the Free Store, the Mission cannot accept appliances. Those looking to volunteer at the Mission should call 814.452.441 or visit the Mission online at www.ErieCityMission.org. Volunteers will go through an orientation and have the opportunity to explore the various ways to contribute, including spending time in the donation center, in the thrift stores, in the ad-

diction recovery programs for men and women, the Mission’s kitchen, and Urban University.

“Everybody is more giving around the holiday,” Kerr says. “Our struggle is when January, February, March hit. People say, ‘I volunteered over the holiday, I’m done.’”

Which is a friendly reminder that while giving and volunteering feel great this particular time of the year, that feeling needn’t be exclusive to November and December — and the Mission, along with the Erie Free Store and myriad other charitable organizations, serve the community year-round.

“Tis always the season — now is just a great time to kick off a year of donating, volunteering, and serving.

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

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Simply Planning A Wonderful Christmastime

A guide to Erie's holiday happenings



[top left] When he's not delivering presents or gorging himself on milk and cookies, Santa can be sometimes be found slinging back champagne (or mimosas) at brunch. [bottom right] The Erie Free Store's Santa Shop, in very un-Scrooge-like fashion, will feature a variety of charitably donated ornaments, decorations, and other goods.

of yourself (and your errands) while dinner takes care of itself in the Crockpot.

- **12/11:** Or take the pressure off yourself with **LifeWorks Erie's** (406 Peach St.) **No-Pressure Holiday Pressure Cooking** demonstration, hosted by VeganCheers' Lisa Rose from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

BOOZE COATS & UGLY SWEATERS

Drink and Be Merry

Need a bit of **liquid encouragement** to propel you into the holiday spirit?

- **12/5:** Never fear — unless the goat-demon Krampus is out and about, as he will for **Krampusnacht** at **Jekyll & Hyde's** (8 E. 10th St.) and other watering holes around downtown Erie, spanking bar-goers for their sins (unless, perhaps, you buy him a shot).

- **12/8:** Imbibe with a clearer conscience at the **Santa Bar Crawl**, beginning at the **Bourbon Barrel** (1213 State St.) from 3 to 6 p.m., before hitting **Docksider** (6 to 8 p.m.), **Big Bar** (8 to 10 p.m.), and wrapping up at **Resolution Nightclub** (10 p.m. to 2 a.m.) Only two stipulations — all merry-making must be done in uniform (regulation red-and-white) and a \$10 donation or unwrapped toy is asked of each San-

2 p.m.)

Santa Snacks

Playing Santa's helper this year but fearing for your roof's structural integrity? A **couple of cookies** won't weigh you down too much (just don't binge during your Hallmark movie marathons). Better yet, take your kids out on the town to eat them in front of you. Parenting is about sacrifice.

- **12/8 (with hot cocoa):** Yehl Ballroom at Gannon's Waldron Campus Center, 109 University Sq. (11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

- **12/8 (with milk):** Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe, 402 State St. (1 to 3 p.m.)

BONUS: Many of these activities feature crafts, party favors, and/or photo ops with the big guy himself! For more details (or links to more details), it's always worth sniffing around the Erie Reader's extensive online database at eriereader.com/calendar.

Culinary Clauses

Showing up to and supporting as many of these events as possible means you will need to become the model of efficiency. Outside of owning a flux capacitor, one of the best ways to master time management is **in the kitchen**.

- **12/6:** The **Whole Foods Co-Op** (1341 W. 26th St.) will be hosting a **Slow Cooker Class** with an emphasis on immune-boosting meals at 6 p.m. Take care

By: Matt Swanseger

Spontaneity has its charms, but nothing says holiday magic like obsessively plotting your life down to the millisecond. Well, you're in luck, boys and girls, because we here at the Reader are about to help you light up your day planners like a regular Clark "Grids"world. You'd better hope for some orthotics in your shoes this St. Nicholas Day, because there is a bustle of activity to keep up with these next few weeks. But if Santa can do it, so can you. (For those with pedometers, Erie is 3,316 miles south of the North Pole, or 7.5 million steps — so your benchmark is set).

SEASON'S EATINGS

If you're going to go the distance, you're going to need the fuel.

Stomach Stuffers

Say "Happy Hollandaise" with a broad selection of **breakfasts and brunches with Santa**. On Comet, on Cupid, on Donuts and Blintzes!

- **12/8:** Junior's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

- **12/15:** Mercyhurst Preparatory School, 538 E. Grandview Blvd. (10 a.m. to noon)

- **12/16:** Applebee's, 4002 Buffalo Rd. (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

- **12/16:** Bolero, 16 W. 10th St. (11 a.m. to

ta, both for verisimilitude and to benefit the children of the Sarah Reed Children's Center.

- **12/8:** A more relaxed (but still formal) dress code accompanies the annual **Barber Christmas Ball** at the **Bayfront Convention Center** (1 Sassafras Pier), benefiting the children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, per the Barber National Institute's mission. Each ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, dessert, soft drinks, and two complimentary cocktails (a cash bar is also available).

Drink and Be Ugly

It's always important to dress warm this time of year, but it's even more imperative to dress ugly. Hideously woven from the threads of '70s and '80s nostalgia, tacky fashion has been elevated to savvy fashion with the rise of the **"ugly sweater party."** In the event your friends are too cold and humorless to invite you to one of their own, these venues are ready to welcome you into their wooly, putridly-patterned arms.

- **12/7:** **Dramashop** (1001 State St., Ste. 210) is hosting the third iteration of their **Ugly Sweater Holiday Party**, running concurrently (but unconnected) with the year's final Gallery Night from 7 to 10 p.m. Snacks and entertainment provided.

- **12/15:** Join the **Jesse James Weston Trio** at the **Mound Grove Golf Course Clubhouse** (10760 Donation Rd., Water-



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JESSICA HUNTER

ford, PA 16441) for their **Ugly Christmas Sweater and Rock and Roll Extravaganza**. Rock around the Christmas tree — or rock with a Christmas tree around you, blinking lights and all — it matters not. Just rock.

- **12/19: The Plymouth Tavern** (1109 State St.) will offer prize giveaways for the cringiest attire at their **Ugly Sweater Party**, kicking off at 9 p.m.

DECKING YOUR HALLS

Picture this: your neighbors have had their lights up since the day after Halloween. Their stockings have been hung by the chimney with care since Thanksgiving and their shopping lists have been made, checked out, and checked over twice. In stark contrast, your home is more “30 Days in the Hole” than storybook North Pole. Don’t you just resent them even the tiniest bit? If you’re experiencing these feelings, it could be that you’re what psychiatric experts call “repressed festive as fudge” (omitting the “f-dash-dash-dash” word here to avoid soap poisoning). Take the wire cutters to the barbed wire fence around your soul and **liberate the industrious elf inside** with these events.

Being Your (S)elf

The quickest way to embolden the inner elf is through hands-on experience (unless, of course, you want to be a dentist). Here are a few opportunities to **craft your own decor** (or craft vicariously through offspring or pets):

- **12/8:** Children can harness their hol-

iday spirit animals (or interact with live examples from the Erie Zoo and Tamarrack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center), bedazzle cookies with the Erie Kiwanis Club, and create accessories for your mantelpiece at the **Tom Ridge Environmental Center’s** (301 Peninsula Dr.) **TREC the Halls**, with activities beginning at 10 a.m. Revisit the TREC on Dec. 9 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for a **Beach Glass Ornament Workshop** or on Dec. 15 for a **Natural Ornament Workshop** from 1 to 3 p.m.

- **12/8:** Family is the clay that holds us together, especially at the latest iteration of the **Erie ClaySpace Family Workshop** (1505 State St., 3rd Floor), where parent-and-child pairs will collaborate on holiday-themed slab projects from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

- **12/11 and 12/18: Claytopia** (924 W. Plaza Dr.) is not one to screw the pooch (or their parents), offering Tuesday appointments (between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) to create **paw print ornaments** with your pup.

Shelling Out For Your (S)elf

Studies show that inner elves also respond well to **retail therapy**. In case you missed our previous “Shop Local” issue, here are a few **pop-ups** you can peruse during this season of yule.

- **12/5, 12/12, and 12/19: Ember + Forge** (401 State St.) will host **Boutique Nights** on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. through Christmas.

- **12/7: Blossom’s Clay Studio** (138 E.

You’ll have done a good job celebrating the holiday season by patronizing these events.

26th St.) will hold a **Holiday Art Show & Sale** from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **12/7 and 12/8: The WLD Ranch** (7351 Woolsey Rd., Girard, PA 16417) is operating its **Kids’ Christmas Shop** for two days (Saturday 4 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) With prices topping out at \$10, it’s friendly on an amateur driveway shoveler’s budget.

- **12/7: The Palace Hardware Building** (915 State St.) will house the **Palace Holiday Market** from 4 to 10 p.m. featuring handmade gifts (and gift cards) from Erie’s own.

- **12/9:** Less well-to-do folks can embrace the **Erie Free Store’s Santa Shop** gift giveaway from 2 to 6 p.m., located at Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church (2816 Elmwood Ave.)

SANTADISIACS

Dutifully adhered to all the consumerist protocols and *still* can’t get in the yuletide mood? Perhaps you just need to relax and let it happen. Lights, dancing, and music are all known Santadisiacs — stimulate your senses and get excited for the season again.

Aural Santadisiacs

- **12/5 and 12/8:** The voices of the **Mercyhurst Concert Choir** join in angelic harmony for two performances of “**A Storybook Christmas**,” the first (Wednesday at 7 p.m.) at **St. Mary’s Chapel** in North East (48 N. Pearl St., North East, PA 16428) and the second (Sunday at 4 p.m.) at the **Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center** (501 E. 38th St.) in tandem with the **Mercyhurst Civic Orchestra**.

- **12/10:** Even if you do not own a single Hawaiian shirt or pair of fitted Capri shorts, you’re probably familiar with the sun-drenched, carefree sounds of Jimmy Buffett. Making his way to Bethlehem via Margaritaville is longtime Parrothead guitarist **Peter Mayer with Stars and Promises**. Drawing from a variety of genres, Mayer’s Christmas outfit hopes to be the lost shaker of salt to melt your icy disposition on Dec. 10 at **First Alliance Church** (2939 Zimmerly Rd.), beginning at 7 p.m.

- **12/15 and 12/16:** Marius Petipa and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s **The Nutcracker** has been enchanting audiences for generations with its whimsical set pieces and musical score. In keeping with that tradition, the **Lake Erie Ballet** will present two performances at the **Warner Theatre** (811 State St.), on Saturday evening (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday afternoon (2:30 p.m.)

- **12/20:** Speaking of standbys, how about catching **A Very (The) Standby Christmas** at **PACA** (1505 State St.) on Dec. 20, presented by the **Andromeda Agency**? The headliners’ energetic brand of emo-indie will provide an alternate take on your holiday favorites, and perhaps resuscitate your run-over-by-a-reindeer feels. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Visual Santadisiacs

- **12/7:** Witness **Perry Square Park** illuminated in full glory as **Downtown D’Lights** kicks off at 5 p.m. Free hot chocolate and horse-drawn carriage rides will be available throughout the night (as well as photo ops with Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Boston Store).

- **12/8:** What’s more powerful than a locomotive? A massive display of miniature trains evoking memories of Christmas past. The **Lakeshore Model Railroad Association** presents its **Third Annual Open House** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Eastminster Presbyterian Church**, 2320 E. Lake Rd.

- **12/8:** Freight can be borne via the waterways as well, and vessels carried everything from coal to Christmas trees in the Great Lakes’ heyday. The **U.S. Brig Niagara** will be decked out for the holidays for its annual **Christmas Tree Ship** program, with Chris Kringle and his caribou crew arriving at 5:45 p.m. Unlike the real Christmas Tree Ship, the *Rouse Simmons*, there will be no sinking — only uplifting — here. Climb aboard outside the **Erie Maritime Museum** (150 E. Front St.)

- **12/13 and 12/14:** Yes, joy and cheer are available in drive-thru format, for less than the cost of a Crunchwrap Supreme, at **Erie First Assembly’s Christmas Town** (8150 Oliver Rd.) Enjoy charming displays and light shows after 6 p.m. absolutely free of charge.

- **12/14 - 12/16:** Take a walk through **Asbury Woods’ Winter Wonderland**, a quarter mile of synchronized lights and music winding through one of the best pockets of nature the Erie area has to offer (for more details, see our Spotlights section).

Well, ingest any more Santadisiacs and our Christmas spirits will be so a-bulge we’ll be staring at emergency lap band surgery. For more great suggestions, take a gander at this edition’s Calendar and Spotlight sections or visit eriereader.com

Matt Swanseger has tried his best, but not always been a good boy this year. Send him questions, comments, and/or coal at mwsanseger@eriereader.com

CALENDAR

The Beach Boys' Christmas Love Songs



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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

The Beach Boys are, by no overestimation, one of the most culturally significant acts ever — arguably the greatest American musical group of all time. Their output, specifically in the 1960s, changed the world. For their special “Reason for the Season” tour, The Beach Boys will come to the historic Warner Theatre. Debuting in 1961, the band has gone through significant changes and evolutions in their 57-year history, a rollercoaster of events, tragedies and literal trials that would be able to fill as many episodes of *Behind the Music* as one would like. The founding members

of the group were Brian, Carl, and Dennis Wilson, with Al Jardine and the Wilsons’ cousin Mike Love. In 1965, Brian Wilson stopped touring with the band, famously spending more and more time in the recording studio. For live performances, he was replaced by vocalist Bruce Johnston. The group performing at the Warner is led by members Love — who released the corresponding album *Reason for the Season* in October of this year — and Johnston, and is similar to the version of the band that appeared at Celebrate Erie in 2006 (think more “Kokomo” than “Wouldn’t It Be Nice”). The rest of the band is rounded out by Jeffrey Foskett, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill, Keith Hubacher, Christian Love, and Scott Totten. For decades, there has been a distinction between the stated lineup of the band and the touring lineup, aside from the 2012 50th Reunion Tour. It’s worth noting that there is another quite significant Christmas tour going on at this very same moment (sadly, without an Erie stop), one with Brian Wilson at the helm. — Nick Warren

7:30 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // \$44 - 77.50, VIP packages available at mikelove.com // thebeachboys.com

Matilda The Musical Showcases that Everyone has Power Within



RICK KLEIN

THURSDAY, DEC. 6

After a four-year run on Broadway, Roald Dahl’s *Matilda The Musical* is now at the Erie Playhouse. “It’s not often Erie gets something first, but when we saw the opportunity to be one of the first community theaters to put this show on, we took it,” says Richard Davis, director of the show.

If the name *Matilda* sounds familiar, it should. Originally based on the story by Roald Dahl, then later adapted into a movie, *Matilda* is a story that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

The show’s protagonist, Matilda Wormwood, is a child with a powerful mind. Her self-involved parents are unable to see her extraordinary talent. Her principal, Miss Trunchbull, asserts her authority in the cruelest way possible. Despite the odds against her, Matilda is

ultimately a story of triumph about finding your inner strength and standing up for yourself.

This show hosts a double cast because “there were so many incredibly talented young actors that auditioned. I couldn’t make up my mind, so I decided to have them perform on different nights,” says Davis. Avery Fiscus and Olivia Clinton are both making their main stage debuts as Matilda. “It’s easy to forget how young they are when you see and hear them carry the show,” says actor Jawn Gross.

Gross can be seen on stage as Mr. Wormwood, Matilda’s father. “He’s probably one of the funniest characters I’ve ever played. He’s the type of character that the audience has a love-hate thing with. He thinks he’s incredibly smart, but in fact he’s a dimwit. While he comes across as mean and abrasive to poor Matilda, he gets it right back in comical mishaps along the way,” says Gross. — Kalli Oberlander

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Expand Your Artistic Horizons at Erie Art Museum’s Gallery Night



AMANDA KOCHIRKA

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Gallery Night is a hallmark of the Erie arts community, and regular patrons will be pleased to hear that the next installment will be packed to the brim with events worth attending. Headquartered as always at the Erie Art Museum, folks can expect live music, \$2 beer, and an African Marketplace in partnership with the Urban Erie Community Development Corporation. Visitors to the Erie Art Museum will also be some of the first to see the museum’s complete private collection hung in a salon-style exhibition, covering nearly every inch of available wall space with works by artists like Chuck Close and Georgia O’Keefe.

Ember + Forge, which will celebrate its one year anniversary and host the work of Joel Quiggle as well as a “Latte Art Throwdown,” is just one of 16 participating locations in the final Gallery Night of 2018.

From there, downtown will be your oyster, as citywide participation will span 16 locations, each offering something fresh and unique. Take for example 419 Artifacts, where vintage Christmas items will be showcased and accompanied by live piano music and caroling. Elsewhere, at B4 Gallery and Gifts, you can shorten that holiday shopping list while supporting The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Erie Beer and Presque Isle Wine Cellars will also be present, providing beer and wine tastings, respectively.

At the Renaissance Centre, on the tenth floor, “Architectural Details” will be presented, featuring recent works by artist Justus Cotterill.

Downtown coffee shop Ember + Forge will be celebrating their one-year anniversary, along with a brand new display featuring artist Joel Quiggle, as well as a “Latte Art Throwdown.” Southward, another freshly-opened coffee shop, the Topsy Bean, will showcase their coffee and cocktail combinations, along with photography from Nicole Cummins and music from Ethan Howell. Erie Art Gallery will see the opening of “Endless

Possibilities” featuring work from the Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern PA (PASNWPA), and music from Acoustic Ear Candy.

Aside from exploring a world of artwork from a handful of the city’s most talented creators, Gallery Night also provides a wonderful opportunity to network. Perhaps you’ll meet your next work connection at BLOOM Collaborative, which will be representing over 100 artists — some of whom will be in attendance. Or maybe you’ll meet your next client at Schuster Gallery, where Gannon Students have prepared a fascinating exhibition showcasing nostalgic advertising from the likes of Kohler Beer, Erie Insurance, Pulako’s, and Hallman Chevrolet, among others.

Fortunately for the whole community, there is no shortage of variety spanning Gallery Night. Members of the community will have access to a barrage of artistic expression, from jewelry, various forms of paintings, and ceramic works to metal work and live music. We’ve only listed the tip of the iceberg here, so whether you’re a repeat visitor or a first-time patron, there’s something for everyone at the Erie Art Museum’s Gallery Night. — Aaron Mook

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. // 20 East 5th Street // Free All-Ages Event // erieartmuseum.org/events-gallery-night



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- Music, new holiday village, and fun begin at 5 PM.
- Stay warm with free hot cocoa, coffee, and cookies!
- Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Mayor Schember will light up Perry Square and the new 35-foot community tree for the holidays at 6:05 PM and 6:15 PM.
- Afterward, join Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Boston Store for FREE keepsake photos, refreshments, activities, and entertainment courtesy of UPMC Health Plan.
- Activities continue in Perry Square until 8 PM, including ice carvings, holiday trivia, and music.

Downtown d'LIGHTS is a free, public event made possible by Erie Downtown Partnership, UPMC Health Plan, Perry Square Alliance, The Boston Store, Connoisseur Media, ECGRA, EMTA, City of Erie, Erie Community Foundation, Erie Downtown Development Corporation, and DJ Bill Page.



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A True Soul Powerhouse: Danielle Ponder



FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Let's face it: A good bit of what may sometimes pass as modern funk and soul — while often fun to get down to, no doubt — gives off a sort of anodyne (ya know, familiar and safe-as-milk) kinda feel.

Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People ... don't.

The Rochester-based fantastic front-woman and her band have poured booming, heart-deep sound from their truly (and truly original) funky souls on stages in and around Erie before — at a supporting gig at the King's Rook Club last spring, and during a daylight set at the Night Lights Music Festival in nearby Sherman, N.Y. the summer prior.

And they amazed, well, everyone.

This time around, they're center-stage, headlining for the first time at the King's Rook's downstairs concert complex on Friday, Dec. 7 with up-and-coming Connecticut-based funksters West End Blend opening.

It's about damn time — to get seriously spellbound and down. — Ryan Smith

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // \$7 for members, \$10 for non-current members // 21 + // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Holiday Village Looks to Downtown for Winter Cheer



FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Let's be frank; Peach Street is a mess this time of year. With the road work, displaced snow mounds, and excessive holiday traffic, shopping along Route 19 has become more hellish than happy.

Working to create a more positive shopping experience and promote local businesses, the Erie Downtown Development Corporation — a privately funded nonprofit organization — has put together Holiday Village for Dec. 7, 14 and 21.

PopLuck, Pulakos Chocolates and

Pressed will be ready to fill burning bellies after shoppers have visited Luminary Distilling in Perry Square during the first installment of the event. The second Saturday will feature a plentiful variety of handmade goods by Erie Public Schools. The Cathedral Prep-Villa Maria Spirit will be there alongside Werner Books and Gypsy Jewelry Box. Just four days before Christmas, the final Holiday Village will host Erie Apparel, Pointe Four Vintage Boutique, Iron Empire Clothing, and Romolo Chocolates.

Live performers will also be playing to keep the mood light and festive. More details in regard to this are yet to be announced.

Vendors and entertainment will be available and entertaining in the square at 5 p.m. each week. — Hannah McDonald

Sat. Dec. 7, 14, 21, 5 p.m. // Perry Square, 6th and State St. Erie, PA // Free // All Ages

MUSIC

Dave VanAmburg and Friends
Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Sing We Now of Christmas
Dec. 5 — 7 p.m.
St. Mary's Chapel, 48 N. Pearl St., North East, PA 16428
miac.mercyhurst.edu.

The Beach Boys: Reason for the Season Christmas Tour
Dec. 5 — 7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriewarnertheatre.com.

Open Mic Nite
Dec. 5, 12, 19 — 10 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

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

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

Small Town Revolution
Dec. 7 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Doug Phillips, Eric Brewer
Dec. 7 — 7 p.m.
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Danielle Ponder & The Tomorrow People

Dec. 7 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Whiskey Daredevils, Lords of the Highway
Dec. 7 — 10 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Last Pharaoh, Corners of Sanctuary
Dec. 8 — 6 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com.

Celtic Holiday
Dec. 8 — 6 p.m.
Louis C. Cole Auditorium, 205 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444
Events.edinboro.edu

Hibsters
Dec. 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro, 1402 W. 10th St. facebook.com.

The Groove
Dec. 8 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Monica Lewis
Dec. 8 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Tipsy Bean, 2425 Peach St. facebook.com.

Handel's Messiah
Dec. 8 — 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 250 W. 7th St. eriephil.org.

McKenzie and Friends
Dec. 8 — 9:30 p.m.
Scotty's Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Brown Dog Acoustics

Dec. 9 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428
skunkandgoattavern.com.

Gem City Revival
Dec. 9 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428
arundelcellars.com.

Christmas Concert
Dec. 9 — 3 p.m. & Dec. 16 — 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. (Girard Alliance Church)
Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Rd. 814-440-9115

A Storybook Christmas
Dec. 9 — 4 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Mallory Run. Overgrow, Castlefield, Rare Candy, Corbin Giroux
Dec. 9 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. facebook.com.

Peter Mayer's Star's and Promises
Dec. 10 — 7 p.m.
First Alliance Church, 2939 Zimmerly Rd. blend-edspiritsranch.org.

Open Mic Night
Dec. 11 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

New Horizons Music Project
Dec. 13 — 1 to 2 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

Whiskey for 3

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

Geek Army
Dec. 14 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

North East Choral Club Concert
Dec. 14, 16 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Park United Methodist Church, 30 N. Lake St., North East, PA 16428
nechamber.chambermaster.com.

Night of the Singers
Dec. 14 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Five vocalists with talents in alternative folk, hip-hop, jazz and more will join The Stephen Trohoske Quartet.
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Breeze Band
Dec. 14 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Erie's Breeze Band brings R&B, Motown, classic rock and blues, all full of soul, to State Street.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. facebook.com.

Flight
Dec. 15 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

King of the Grind Hip-Hop Challenge
Dec. 15 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com.
Dave Callaghan
Dec. 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428
skunkandgoattavern.com.

Sam Hyman
Dec. 16 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428
arundelcellars.com.

The Faceless, Rings of Saturn
Dec. 16 — 5 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11 St. facebook.com.

Christmas Cantata
Dec. 16 — 7 to 9 p.m.
The Camp at Findley, 2334 Sunnyside Rd., Findley Lake, NY 14724
thecampatfindley.com.

DANCE

Senior Creative Dance Residency
Dec. 7, 14 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

A Long's Family Christmas
Dec. 8 — 6 p.m.
Rainbow Gardens, 220 Waldameer Park Rd. long-schoolofdance.net.

Parkinson's Dance & Movement Classes
Dec. 11 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Spring Hill Sr. Living Community, 2323 Edinboro Rd. jenniferdennehy.com.

Disney On Ice: Frozen & Friends
Dec. 13, 14 — 7 p.m. & Dec. 15 — 11 a.m., 3 p.m., or 7 p.m. & Dec. 16 — 3 p.m.

Join Anna, Olaf, Kristoff and Sven at the Erie Insurance Arena for a frigid and unforgettable trip to find Anna's sister, Queen Elsa.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. disneyonice.com.

Chromatic Dance Workshop
Dec. 15 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. chromaticdance.org.

The Nutcracker
Dec. 15 — 8 p.m. & Dec. 16 — 2:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Repeal Day
Dec. 5 — 4 to 11 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Krampusnacht 2018
Dec. 5 — 6:30 p.m.
Jekyll & Hyde's, 8 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Slow Cooker Class
Dec. 6 — 6 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfserie.coop.

Free Slider Friday
Dec. 7, 14 — 5 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Christmas Around the World
Dec. 7 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Woman's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. eriewomansclub.com.

Breakfast With Santa

CALENDAR

Whiskey Daredevils Offer Up a Shot of Punkabilly at Scotty's



FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Looks like some demons and deities of the rock 'n' roll variety will be dropping in at Scotty's Martini Lounge soon — and it's likely to get really quite raucous.

Cleveland-based quartet Whiskey Daredevils have fired up plenty of Erie stages throughout their nearly 15-year span of playing what they say is the U.S. of A.'s very finest punkabilly, and this time around, they'll be bringing the psychosurf/punk/rockabilly backup of Lords of the Highway (also of Cleveland, and no slouches either). Both groups boast a boisterous stage presence, finely honed from years of experience, and this year, the Daredevils are sporting a new guitarist — Hex Mattos. Long-time fans of both bands will of course remember that the Daredevils' bassist Sugar Wildman played in the Lords of the Highway prior to 2011.

It may not be a religious experience by any means (maybe to some?), but hey, it's probably gonna get pretty loud. And it's probably gonna get pretty fun.

And nobody's gonna yell at you for sinnin'. — Ryan Smith

10 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 301 German St. // facebook.com/ScottysMartini

The Erie Philharmonic Gets a Handel on the Holiday Season



SATURDAY, DEC. 8

The Erie Philharmonic Chorus will spread Christmas cheer Saturday, Dec. 8 with its traditional show at the First Presbyterian Church of The Covenant on West Seventh Street.

The chorus will join musicians from the Erie Philharmonic and several guest soloists to perform George Frideric Handel's Messiah, an oratorio composed in 1741 that may not have been written for Christmas, but is now associated with the holiday season, even by casual listeners, thanks in no small part to its instantly recognizable "Hallelujah Chorus."

The show will be led by conductor Thomas Brooks, and soloists will in-

clude soprano Elizabeth Baldwin, mezzo soprano Joan Marie Peitscher, baritone Eddie Pleasant, and tenor Wesley Lawrence.

Baldwin has been called "ferociously talented" by the San Francisco Examiner and "mesmerizingly vulnerable" by the New York Times. Peitscher is known for her "rich sound and moving performances," and Edward Pleasant is considered "one of the most versatile performers of his generation."

Wesley Lawrence has appeared in shows across America and Europe. His accomplishments include performing as Rodolfo in Puccini's La Bohème in Italy and the solos in Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ.

People are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance, as seating is limited. — Tracy Geibel

7:30 p.m. // First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 250 W. 7th St. // \$24 for adults, \$13 for students // (814) 455-1375 // eriephil.org/the-messiah

Dec. 8 — 10 a.m.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. facebook.com.

The 7 Spiritual Laws of Cacao

Dec. 8 — 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Included in the ticket price for this chocolate-themed mini-retreat is a seven spiritual laws workbook, Guatemalan ceremonial cacao elixir, and a three-course lunch.
Sophrosyne Center, 551 W. 8th St. facebook.com.

Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Dec. 8 — 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Yehl Ballroom, 109 University Sq. facebook.com.

Milk and Cookies with Santa

Dec. 8 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe, 402 State St. facebook.com.

Santa Bar Crawl 2018

Dec. 8 — 3:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Cocktails and Clay

Dec. 8 — 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Sip N Paint

Dec. 8 — 6 p.m.
Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

Sunday Soul Brunch

Dec. 9 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Nourish your soul with brunch

food, cocktails, and spun vinyl with DJ Matt Texter.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Bloody Good Brunch

Dec. 9 -- 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cart/Horse Distilling, 12030 Edinboro Rd., Edinboro, PA 16412 facebook.com

No Pressure Holiday Pressure Cooking

Dec. 11 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. VeganCheers.com.

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 16 — 8 to 10 a.m.
Applebee's, 4002 Buffalo Rd. facebook.com.

Brunch with Santa

Dec. 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bolero, 16 W. 10th St. facebook.com.

Mind, Body, Beer

Dec. 18 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

MOVIES

RBG (2018) + Rust Belt New Americans (2018)

Dec. 5 — 5:30 p.m.
The story of the 'Notorious RBG,' a fierce women's rights activist and Supreme Court justice, will be opened by short film by MenajErie Studio.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Moulin Rouge! (2001)

Dec. 12 — 5:30 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. filmsocietynwpa.org.

Backyard Wilderness

Ongoing — 10 a.m., 1 p.m., & 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Amazon Adventure

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 2 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.

VISUAL ARTS

Mosaic Thursdays

Dec. 6, 13 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Art After Hours

Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Refuges

Dec. 6 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Bruce Gallery at Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444 brucegallery.info.

Hands On: Picasso, Matisse, and Dali

Dec. 6 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Holiday Art Show & Sale

Dec. 7 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Blossom's Clay Studio, 138 E. 26th St. bloom-collaborative.org.

Gallery Night

Dec. 7 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Various locations
erieartmuseum.org.

The Best of Erie's Past Advertisements

Dec. 7 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Schuster Gallery, 700 Peach St. gannon.edu.

Architctural Details

Dec. 7 — 8 p.m.
Renaissance Center (10th Fl.), 1001 State St. justuscotterill.com.

Artlore Studio Third Anniversary

Dec. 8, 9
Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Erie ClaySpace Family Workshop

Dec. 8 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Ceramics by Tom Hubert

Ongoing through Dec. 11
Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

PASNWPA: Endless Possibilities

Ongoing through Dec. 31
Erie Art Gallery, 24 W. 8th St. pasnwpa.org.

Victorian Holidays

Ongoing through Dec. 31 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hagen History Center, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.com/.

Gary Spinosa: Divine Instinct

Ongoing through Jan. 6, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Jamie Borowicz & Amy Hahn

Ongoing through Jan. 8, 2019
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Healing HeARTS

Ongoing through Feb. 17, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Donna Nicholas: The Space Between

Ongoing through March 10, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Tyanna Buie: Recollections

Ongoing through Apr. 2019
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

James McMurray: Faces and Paces

Ongoing through June 10, 2019
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATER

Matilda

Dec. 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 — 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 9, 16 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

Christmas Memories

Dec. 7, 14 — 7 p.m. & Dec.

8, 15 — 5:30 p.m. & Dec. 9, 16 — 2:30 p.m.
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

A Broadway Holiday

Dec. 7 — 7:30 p.m.
The Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut Street, Meadville, PA 16335 theacademytheatre.org.

The Quiltmaker's Gift

Dec. 8 — 4 to 6 p.m.
Strong Vincent Auditorium, 1330 W. 8th St. sovereignballet.com.

This Wonderful Life

Dec. 14, 15 — 8 p.m. & Dec. 16 — 2 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Met Opera Live: Verdi's La Traviata

Dec. 15 — 12:55 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

COMEDY

Backroom Misfits (Open Mic)

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

Open Mic Night w Kevin Ryan

Dec. 6 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Donnie Baker

Dec. 7, 8 — 6:45 or 9:30 p.m.
Bob and Tom Show star picks fun at life, others, and

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CALENDAR

Mallory Run Packs Them In at PACA



SUNDAY, DEC. 9

Mallory Run's last show at PACA was a milestone for the Erie music scene — selling out on a Wednesday night — and hopes are high for the local punk band's return to the venue.

Joining Mallory Run on Dec. 9 will be Columbus, Ohio's Overgrow and Ottawa's Castlefield. Overgrow is the alternative- and punk-inflected solo project of guitarist and singer Jake Ciccotelli. Overgrow's first EP coincidentally turns a month old on the date of the PACA show. Castlefield, an emo band, is hitting Erie as their last stop on a winter tour before taking a holiday hiatus. In

addition to these bands, Erie welcomes solo artists Rare Candy and Corbin Giroux.

Touring as Rare Candy, Alex Wieringa from Chicago's Belmont has "a [better] chance to slow down, and approach a song with more of a personal touch," than he does with the band. "It's more personal and I feel it connects to those listening in a way that's one-on-one," he said.

When Giroux tours alone instead of with his band Rarity he said, "I sing a lot softer and am a lot more vulnerable in the music."

Both solo artists are familiar with Erie, having made tour stops in the city with their bands and, as Giroux said, "honestly can't wait," to be back. — Hannah McDonald

7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. // 1505 State St. Erie, PA // 18+ // \$7 pre-sale; \$9 door // BYOB with ID // malloryrun.brownpapertickets.com

Living Nerdy: Brian Posehn at JR's



THURSDAY, DEC. 13 - 15

Comedian Brian Posehn has been a nearly omnipresent face in Hollywood for years, and an unforgettable one at that. Standing at 6'7" he's almost never without his trademark black frame glasses and thick beard. He's also become one of the most defining voices for nerd culture in decades, and it's essentially because he's being true to himself. A lifelong fan of comic books and heavy metal music, Posehn has carved out a voice by simply loving what he loves, and diving in deeply and unrepentantly into it to get to his punchline. In addition to being an experienced stand up comedian — famously appearing in the 2005 tour documentary *The Comedians of Comedy* with Patton Oswalt, Zach Galifianakis, and Maria Bamford — he's an actor who is con-

stantly working. Getting his start with guest spots on *Seinfeld* and *Friends*, he was a regular on the highly influential sketch comedy series *Mr. Show with Bob & David* in the mid '90s. He moved on to recurring roles in shows like *Mission Hill*, *Just Shoot Me*, and *The Sarah Silverman Program*, and more recently, widely popular shows like *New Girl* and *The Big Bang Theory*. Since 2012, he has hosted the podcast *Nerd Poker* (formerly on the Earwolf network but now available on Libsyn), one of the earliest and most high-profile Dungeons and Dragons-based podcasts, now a widespread premise for many shows. He released a metal album in 2006 on Relapse Records featuring Scott Ian of Anthrax among other special guests, and wrote a 45-issue run on the Marvel comic *Deadpool* as well. Always staying true to his favorite things, his latest offering is a 294 page memoir titled *Forever Nerdy: Living my dorky dreams and staying metal* that came out in October of this year. — Nick Warren

Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday at 6:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. // JR's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. // \$20, \$15 on Thursday // jrslastlaugh.com

Ken Falkenhagen's *Wonderful Life* Gets to Live Again



FRIDAY, DEC. 14

It's a Wonderful Life is about second chances. Sometimes these come after a dark, personal turning point on a bridge, and sometimes they come after a well-received local theatre run — they don't always have to be a bad thing, now do they? This year, Ken Falkenhagen returns with his one-man interpretation of the quintessential holiday film, *This Wonderful Life*, which graced the Performing Arts Collective Alliance (PACA) stage in 2016. Showcasing his humor and versatility, Falkenhagen inhabits the dozens of characters that appear in the film. He bounces around in a highly entertaining retelling of the story, adding his own observations about the film's quirks, foibles, and unforgettable moments.

People never thought that *It's a Wonderful Life* was going to be a hit. In fact, it

really wasn't. The 1946 Frank Capra film actually lost over a half a million dollars at the box office, and was regarded as mostly forgettable "Capra-corn" for its overt sentimentality and moral messaging. It wasn't until decades later, when a clerical error from the National Telefilm Associates failed to renew the film's copyright, sending it into the public domain in 1974. For the next 20 years, it was nearly inescapable on network television during the holidays. For anyone who grew up in front of a television during those times, it became an indelible part of their lives — young and old (since the mid '90s NBC has held the exclusive broadcasting rights to the film). Falkenhagen is certainly one of these people, and it's very clear that the film holds a warm place in the actor's heart. There's a certain indescribable magic about the movie that will continue to remain special to people for decades more to follow. And don't forget, PACA is BYOB, so bring your mulled wine, heavy on the cinnamon, and light on the cloves. — Nick Warren

8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 23 // PACA, 1505 State Street, second floor // \$15 // paca1505.com

Asbury Woods Plans Celebration Perfect for the Season



FRIDAY, DEC. 14

Asbury Woods is embracing the snowy weather through its upcoming Winter Wonderland.

The Winter Wonderland features a quarter mile trail with scenic views and a light show synchronized to holiday music.

This year, the display is open from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Dec. 16 and again Thursday, Dec. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 30.

Additionally, families can visit the Discovery Zone, located inside the Nature Center, for a hands-on experience with outdoor exploration and to see a model train.

Hot chocolate and s'mores will be available around a bonfire every night, and on Friday nights, Erie Beer Company will offer samples of spiked hot apple cider,

called Knockin' Noggin,' to adults age 21 and older.

Tickets are available at the door, but pre-sale tickets are available and encouraged for those who'd like to skip the lines. People are advised to dress warmly.

All proceeds will be used to further Asbury Wood's mission of providing meaningful environmental, educational and recreational experiences that inspire a greater sense of environmental awareness, sustainability and stewardship. — Tracy Geibel

6 to 9 p.m. Friday Dec. 14 through Sunday, Dec. 16 and Thursday, Dec. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 30 // Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. // \$5 for Asbury Woods members, \$8 for non-members, free for children age 3 and under // asburywoods.org

anything else possible for four weekend shows.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

Brian Posehn

Dec. 13 — 7 p.m. & Dec. 14, 15 — 6:45 or 9:30 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

SPORTS

Marsha Marsh Roundball Classic

Dec. 7 — 6 to 9 p.m. & Dec. 8 — 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
McDowell's Paul Goll Gymnasium, 3580 W. 38th St. eriesportscommission.com.

Erie Otters vs. Flint Firebirds

Dec. 7 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

Erie Otters vs. Saginaw Spirit

Dec. 8 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

COMMUNITY

Hatha Yoga 1

Dec. 5, 12, 19 — 11 a.m. to noon

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

Holiday Fun at Claytopia

Dec. 5 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Claytopia, 924 W. Erie Plaza Dr. LifeWorksErie.org.

E + F Boutique Night

Dec. 5, 12, 19 — 4 to 6 p.m.
Ember + Forge, 401 State St. facebook.com.

Adult Art Classes

Dec. 5 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

WQLN Road Trips: NYC

Dec. 6, 7, 8
WQLN, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

PRSA Mingle All The Way

Dec. 6 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Room 33, 1033 State St. facebook.com.

Christmas Vacation Trivia

Dec. 6 — 6:30 p.m.
Take a break from trimming the tree, collect your team, and test your knowledge of this Chevy Chase classic to earn prizes.
Voodoo Brewery Erie, 101 Boston Store Pl. facebook.com.

Simple and Elegant Crafts

Dec. 7 — 10 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

Downtown D'Lights 2018

Dec. 7 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Perry Square, visiterie.com.

Kids' Christmas Shop

Dec. 7 — 4 to 8 p.m. & Dec. 8 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WLD Ranch, 7351 Woolsey Rd., Girard, PA 16417 wldranch.com.

Palace Holiday Market

Dec. 7 — 4 to 10 p.m.
Palace Hardware Bldg., 915 State St. facebook.com.

Fashion for Unity

Dec. 7 — 7 to 10 p.m. & Dec. 8 — 4 to 8 p.m. & Dec. 9 — 2 to 5 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Ugly Sweater Holiday Party

Dec. 7 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Dramashop, 1001 State St. Ste. 210 facebook.com.

Here Comes Santa

Dec. 8, 15
Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com.

Santa Hustle 5K

Dec. 8 — 8:30 a.m.
Perry Square Park, 601 State St. santahustle.com.

Holiday Trees Storytime & Santa Program

Dec. 8 — 9:15 a.m. to noon
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Horse-Drawn Sleigh and Wagon Rides

Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16 — 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Port Farms, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 portfarms.com.

TREC the Halls

Dec. 8 — 10 a.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Holiday Trees Storytime & Santa Program

Dec. 8 — 10 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Coloring for Grown-Ups

Dec. 8 — 10 a.m. to noon
Multiple library locations erielibrary.org.

LMRA Christmas Open House

Dec. 8 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 2320 E. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Playtime Sing-Along

Dec. 8 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Pics with Santa

Dec. 8 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Peninsula Pups Doggie Daycare, 801 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Santa's Magical Mission

Dec. 8 — noon to 2 p.m.
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Fabric Mosaic Workshop

Dec. 8 — noon to 4 p.m.
Iroquois Ave. Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. erielibrary.org.

Christmas in the Park

Dec. 8 — noon to 7 p.m.
Albion Borough Park, Albion, PA 16401 facebook.com.

Erie ClaySpace Family Workshop

Dec. 8 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. erieclayspace.com.

Pokemon League

Dec. 8 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Blasco Writers' Group

Dec. 8 — 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160

E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Christmas Tree Ship

Dec. 8 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. Ste. 100 flagshipniagara.org.

Chakras 101

Dec. 8, 15 — 6 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

2018 Barber Christmas Ball

Dec. 8 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier barberinstitute.org.

Santa Paws

Dec. 9 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Pet Supplies Plus, 1010 W. Erie Plaza Dr. facebook.com.

Christmas Party

Dec. 9 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd., North East, PA 16428 piwine.com.

Beach Glass Ornaments for Kids

Dec. 9 — 2 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Second Sundays:
Celebrate Africa
Dec. 9 — 2 to 4 p.m.

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CALENDAR

Becoming Ghosts with The Faceless at BT

SUNDAY, DEC.16

The Faceless are headlining a night of extreme metal at Basement Transmissions.

In 2017, The Faceless finally released their fourth studio album, *In Becoming a Ghost*, after making fans wait for half a decade following the release of 2012's *Autotheism*. After finding himself the last remaining member of the group (on two separate occasions), songwriter Michael Keene assembled a Los Angeles-based group to join him in touring across the country, and they are now coming to Erie.

In Becoming a Ghost highlights the band's technical proficiency, with lightning fast musicianship; and their creativity, with experimental and sometimes avant-garde songwriting structures, like the unexpected flute solo in the song "Digging The Grave."

Hailing from Austin, Texas, Rings of Saturn take the second spot on the bill. The progressive deathcore band humorously refers to themselves as "aliencore" due to their sci-fi themed lyrical content. The music video for "Margidda" shows the band playing on an alien planet alongside low budget, direct-to-video-esque extraterrestrials.

Other acts on the bill are deathcore bands The Last Ten Seconds of Life and Vale of Pnath, instrumental technical melodic death metal band Interloper (featuring two members of Rings of Saturn), and one of Erie's favorite death metal bands, Bravura. — Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St // \$20 advance, \$23 doors // All Ages // facebook.com/basement.transmissions

Celebrate cultures in the Erie community, play dress up, and make corn husk dolls with the family.

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

Santa Shop Erie
Dec. 9 — 2 to 6 p.m.
Erie Free Store, 2816 Elmwood Ave. facebook.com.

Santa Lucia Festival of Light
Dec. 9 — 4 p.m. to 12:05 a.m.
Luther Memorial Church, 225 W.10th St. luther-memorialonline.org.

MYAA Drop and Shop
Dec. 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Vertical Jump Erie, 2088 Interchange Rd. 814-397-9126

Ho Ho Holiday Bingo
Dec. 10 — 12:15 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

PI History: Wildlife
Dec. 10 — 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Make Your Own Nail Polish
Dec. 10 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Dog Print Ornament
Dec. 11, 18 — 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Claytopia, 924 W. Plaza Dr. claytopiaerie.com.

InstaPot Holiday Appetizers
Dec. 11 — 2 to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St. LifeWorksErie.org.

Read to a Therapy Dog
Dec. 11 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Endure Grief Through The Holidays
Dec. 11 — 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Glenwood YMCA, 3727 Cherry St. ymcaerie.org.

Disney Singalong
Dec. 11 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Dickey's BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Book Discussion Group
Dec. 11 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. Ste. 280 erielibrary.org.

Gentle Yoga & Meditation: Level 2
Dec. 11, 18 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Also Dec. 10 at Lincoln Community Center Branch (same time).
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro, PA 16412 erielibrary.org.

DiscoverE
Dec. 12 — 10:30 a.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Active Apples
Dec. 12 — 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Decorating for the Holidays with Plants
Dec. 12 — 2 to 3 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

DIY Natural Cleaning Products Holistic Workshop
Dec. 13 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Glenwood YMCA, 3727 Cherry St. ymcaerie.org.

Learn to 3D Print
Dec. 13 — 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Christmas Town
Dec. 13, 14 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Erie First Assembly, 8150 Oliver Rd. eriefirst.org.

Winter Wonderland
Dec. 14, 15, 16
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Lifeworks Holiday Party
Dec. 14 — noon to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

Santa! I Know Him!
Dec. 15 — 10 a.m. to noon
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Mosaic Quilt Workshop
Dec. 15 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Trail to a Nation
Dec. 15 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch) or 5 to 7 p.m. (dinner)
American Legion, 120 W. 4th St., Waterford, PA 16441 fortleboeufhistory.com.

Ho, Ho, Ho Santa Workshop

24 | Erie Reader | ErieReader.com

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 6:00 — 8:00 p.m.

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Education is the key to ending poverty. And we know that when kids are well-rested, they are far more likely to succeed in school. And therefore, in life.

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WE'RE ON A MISSION TO CRUSH POVERTY IN ERIE COUNTY.

Learn more: UnitedWayErie.org/Crush



United Way



CALENDAR

Give a Gift, Get Some Ink

Wayward Tattoo hosts fifth annual holiday toy drive



Love Christmas, charity, and the power of self-expression? Trade toys or pet food with a minimum value of \$20 for some ink at the annual Wayward Tattoo Drive, benefiting the ARC of Erie and the ANNA Shelter.

donation.

Tattoo designs will be done in advance by the participating artists. They won't be posted online; however, those eager to see the options can head to Wayward's 12th Street location a day early for a sneak peek.

To get a tattoo, you'll need to be at least 18 years old and will need to have your ID with you. The limit is one tattoo per person — unless said person wants to donate a second round and go through the line again.

Skin will be inked on a first-come, first-served basis by whichever artist is available when you hit the front of the queue. The event's end time is an "ish," because, according to the event's Facebook page "we always end up tattooing into the wee hours but there will most definitely be a cutoff time."

Recommendation: Show up early and be patient.

Another recommendation: Bring some cash to tip your artist. These talented folks aren't profiting from a long-day's work and are donating their time. And rumor has it, tipping your artist makes getting a tattoo hurt less. And you'll be feeling pretty good from donating already so it's a win-win-win for you, those in need, and these Wayward do-gooders. — Ben Speggen

Noon to 8 p.m. (cutoff) // 2301 W. 12th St. // \$20 minimum donation of toy or pet food // facebook.com/Wayward-Christmas-Tattoo-Drive

SATURDAY, DEC. 15

There are two truths about Erie-ites this time of the year: They have a great capacity to give and a lot of skin left to ink.

Those looking to both give and receive can satisfy the former by donating toys and/or dog and cat food and the latter by getting some awesome new art right on their personal canvas. That's right, Erie: the folks at Wayward Tattoo are back at it with their annual tattoo drive to benefit the region's children and animals.

"This event's growth has blown us all away," says Wayward co-owner and co-founder Corey Thompson, one of the 11 artists who'll be inking at the tattoo studio's fifth annual holiday toy-and-tattoo drive.

"We continue this annual event, because our love for Erie grows yearly just as the event does. It's a long, hard-working day for the artists, but it's something we are proud to do," Thompson adds. "It's the best way we've been able to consistently give back to Erie."

Last year, Wayward doled out more than 220 tattoos and collected more than 180 toys for the ARC of Erie, as well as hundreds of pounds of pet food and supplies for the ANNA Shelter. They're looking to exceed last year's work and haul by adding another artist, taking this year's total participants from 10 to 11.

"It's a meaningful day for Johnny Matters (Wayward's other co-owner/co-founder) and myself," Thompson says of the event. "Our crew always comes in early, gets amped for the day, and works hard. It's a great way for all of our artists, from our two shops, to get to work together and have fun, as well as meet each other's clients, all while doing something positive for our city."

For the fifth year in a row, the nature of the event remains largely the same: Show up on Saturday with a toy valued at a minimum of \$20 with receipt for proof of purchase — or \$20 or more worth of pet food — and get a tattoo in exchange for the

Dec. 15 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Glenwood YMCA, 3727 Cherry St. ymcaerie.org.

Wayward Christmas Tattoo Drive
Dec. 15 — noon to 8 p.m.
Wayward Tattoo, 2301 W. 12th St. facebook.com.

Natural Ornaments
Dec. 15 — 1 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Cen-

ter, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Yule Rules!
Dec. 15 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Ugly Christmas Sweater + Rock 'n' Roll Extravaganza
Dec. 15 — 9 p.m.
Mound Grove Golf Course, 10760 Donation Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 facebook.com.

Wild Holiday: Winter Animals of PI
Dec. 16 — 1 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Top 5 Rules for a Healthy Holiday Season
Dec. 17 — 6 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

DNA and Genealogy

Dec. 17 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Open Drawing Sessions
Dec. 17 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Fiber Arts Meetup
Dec. 19 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Fuhrman's Goes Beyond the Fall

The Cider Mill-Bakery-General Store is a treat year round



By: Marie Turko

I was too busy to be “basic” this past October and missed all the stereotypical fall festivities around town. I always thought of Fuhrman's Cider Mill-Bakery-General Store as a fall-centric destination and wasn't sure if they were open past Halloween. Much to my delight, not only do they stay open all year, but they also sell donuts (and a whole bunch of other stuff that's great to gift yourself this season).

The store's name doesn't lie — it's a general store with cider and a bakery — but it also has a country look that was punctuated with Sawyer Brown's “Some Girls Do” playing throughout the store when I walked through the doors. I perused the sugar-filled display cases and contemplated if I should shun my instincts of buying these delicious treats and purchase fruit instead from their enticing apple display. I decided today wasn't the day to turn a new leaf and headed towards the bakery counter.

While I waited to place my order at the counter, I realized they offer a treasure trove of Erie-made specialties. Their sales floor offers Smith's products (beyond just hot dogs), Chuck & Ginny's Spaghetti Sauce, and of course Fuhrman's own apple cider made from Shultz Farm apples. Erieites crave these treats, making it a horror to think that Fuhrman's cider almost became extinct when a fire destroyed their mill in 2007. After 110 years of cider making at this facility, it seemed their smooth, crisp apple drink would be no more after attempting to reopen the mill for three years at the

old location. Then, a group of private citizens called the 8270 Group took over and opened the current space on upper Peach Street to house the new mill, thus saving the Fuhrman's tradition for Erie residents and visitors.

Thankfully, the 8270 Group was able to save many of the machines and processes from their old cider-making ways as the drink provides a unique smoothness and taste not found elsewhere. I grabbed a half gallon of cider to go with my soon-to-be-purchased bakery treats.

The bakery counter woman who assisted me was patient with my indecisiveness and after I finished ordering she carried my things to the checkout counter for me because my hands were full with my baby. When I paid for my goods, the cashier was friendly and pointed out specials they had for the day, which are available depending on what they still have in stock. The buy-one-get-one deals are definitely worth a trip to the store to see what you might be able to score due to an overstock before the end of day. After I paid, another worker carried my things to my car for me. She asked if this was my first child (I definitely look like a novice) and smiled kindly the entire time she assisted me. Basically, the staff went above and beyond to make my shopping experience easy and enjoyable.

Even though it was a tough decision to choose what baked goods to try, I managed to pick a nice variety for dinner and breakfast the next day. First, I had to try the apple cider fry cakes. One version was dusted with cinnamon and sugar and the other was glazed. It appeared

Once seemingly left for dead after a 2007 fire, the Fuhrman's Cider Mill-Bakery-General Store was resurrected in 2010 at its current Summit Township location. In addition to the famous apple cider the multi-hyphenate has been producing for over a century, the space hosts a bevy of other goodies.

both cakes had the same cinnamon dough cake that was dense but soft and paired nicely with the cider. I visited the store in the evening so I'd suggest getting there first thing in the morning to enjoy the donuts at their optimal freshness. The donuts I consumed reminded me of having a snack at my grandparent's house where they always had a miscellaneous box (or five) of pastries on their Formica countertops. Overall, they were a great nostalgic treat.

My favorite donut was the powdered white cream. Again, the cake was moist but it was a yellow cake donut with more airiness than the others and it seemed baked as opposed to fried. The cream should please donut eaters on both ends of the cream-filled spectrum — those who like thick frosting filling and those who prefer whipped cream. It wasn't overly sweet but still had flavor while avoiding any nasty sugar grit and granulation. I'd call that a win.

I also tried out a cannoli because I haven't found one I have swooned over in Erie yet. This treat fulfilled the hole in my heart for a thick cannoli filling. The shell had a good vanilla cookie flavor and the parts that remained crunchy were excellent. The real winner was the filling that had the sweet thickness I prefer in a cannoli's insides, with a slight cheese taste that wasn't the main attraction. In my opinion, this is how a cannoli should be — a dessert that tastes like sweetness and a hug — not like a cheese appetizer with an odd sweet tinge. I would go back for another for sure.

Given the opportunity, I'd make take a trip down memory lane or make some new memories this holiday season by visiting Fuhrman's Cider Mill-Bakery-General Store again. Not only do they have tons of hard-to-find treats, an expansive bakery, and kind employees, if you take I-90 you'll avoid the insanity of the retail giants along Peach Street and enjoy some apples instead.

Marie Turko is no novice with sweet treats. Find her further journeys online at donut-diaries.com

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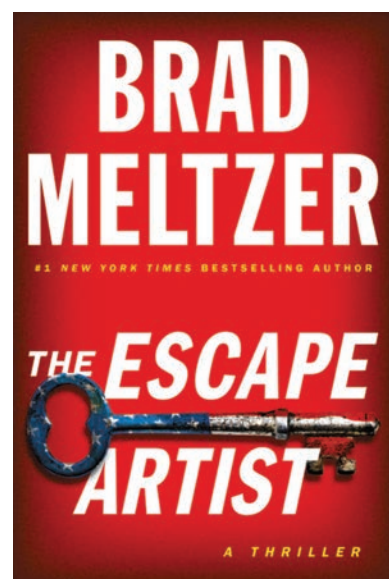
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December 14 at 9pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1

The Escape Artist

This Brad Meltzer thriller a not-so-bold undertaking



By: Richard Perhacs

If you're a devotee of The History Channel you've probably seen Brad Meltzer's *Decoded*, a contrived but entertaining documentary series in which Meltzer, largely off-stage, sends a team of earnest looking investigators to unearth the truth about things like "did Hitler really die in Berlin in 1945?" or "was Patton murdered or did he just die in an auto accident?"

Meltzer is a best-selling author of a dozen thrillers and spy novels, as well as works in a host of other genres, including award-winning children's books and comics. His bio is impressive, as are — apparently — his sales figures, which led me to expect something special when I picked up his latest thriller. *The Escape Artist* is the story of Zig who is — seriously — an undertaker. Well, not just an ordinary undertaker. He's a mortician who has the unsavory job of greeting dead American soldiers in Dover, Delaware and repairing their broken bodies so that they look presentable at their funerals. Zig handles his duties with professional detachment until one of the bodies turns out to be that of a young female soldier named Nola, whom Zig not only knows, but owes big time, since Nola saved the life of Zig's daughter. But there's a problem. The body tagged as the Nola Zig knows, isn't really Nola. Someone has substituted another body and that's enough to launch Zig on an improbable search for the real

Nola that draws him into a world of secret military facilities and high level, deep-state type government deception.

I give Meltzer a lot of points for crafting a story with an undertaker as a protagonist. That can't be easy. But "crafting" may be giving the work too much credit. *The Escape Artist* has the feel of a hurried work written to meet a publisher's deadline by an established author who no longer has to worry about the quality of what he produces. Despite an imaginative plot, the book is full of awkward sentences, weak description, characters who sound the same and inauthentic dialog. It needs a good edit, and the problem with craftsmanship starts on the first page. The front piece is a historical teaser about a man named Wilkie, a magician who served as head of the Secret Service. Meltzer tells the reader that "Willkie was a fan of Houdini and did his own tricks himself." Ouch. How else would he do "his own tricks," if not himself?

I'm a fan of flashbacks, but Meltzer overuses this device to the point of tedium, asking the reader to endure a dozen of them as he tells the oddly disconnected story of Nola's childhood through frequent interruptions of the main narrative. It suggests he was trying to reach a publisher's or agent's word count. Just when Meltzer drew me into the story, he'd ask me to go on an excursion that had little to do with what I really wanted to know, which was simply what happens next.

Every thriller reader expects a hectic finish that will keep the pages turning at one in the morning — the big reveal in which it all makes sense, the good guys win, and the world is set right. Meltzer's finish can wait till tomorrow evening. Two stars at best.

Grand Central Publishing 2018 // 416 pages // \$15.67 (hardcover)

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"It Ain't Over 'til It's Over": Creed II is a Blast Despite Its Cliches

★★★★

Let's just get this out of the way first. I love the *Rocky* films. Aside from the abysmal *Rocky V*, there has never been a film in the series that I haven't enjoyed. Whether that enjoyment was genuine or ironic, I've always loved these films. That being said, Ryan Coogler's *Creed* was by far the best since the 1976 original. Powerful acting and Coogler's confident, energetic direction helped breathe new life into a cliched story. *Creed II*, however, is a totally different beast. With high melodrama, cartoonish fight scenes and a more worn-out story, it feels more like ... a *Rocky* sequel. However, it manages to rise above that with sheer entertainment.



MGM PICTURES

Since his near victory in the first film, Adonis Creed (Michael B. Jordan), under the tutelage of Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone), has managed to win the heavyweight title. Unfortunately, his victory is cut short when old rival Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren) brings his son Viktor (Florian Munteanu) to challenge Adonis in an attempt to get some long overdue revenge against Rocky.

The story, basically a mash-up of *Rocky II* and *Rocky III* (and thanks to Lundgren, *Rocky IV*), isn't much to talk about and there are scenes so predictable they can be seen from a mile away. However, the film succeeds despite these flaws thanks to the awesome performances. Jordan and Stallone both continue to do great work, but the real surprise is Lundgren, who manages to bring some real character and even sympathy into what is essentially a James Bond villain. The characters make *Creed II* a solid sequel, but maybe this series should quit while it's ahead before Adonis gets a robot butler in *Creed III*. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Steven Cable Jr. // Written by: Sylvester Stallone and Cleo Hodari Coker // Starring: Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone, Tessa Thompson, Florian "Big Nasty" Munteanu, Russell Hornsby, Wood Harris, Phylicia Rashad and Dolph Lundgren // 130 minutes // Rated PG-13

I Accuse My Parents: Boy Erased Tries to be Radical but Ends Up Middling

★★★

In the '80s and '90s, a new group of filmmakers emerged in the independent film scene and started a revolution that became known as the "New Queer Cinema." Made by young, openly gay filmmakers, these films sought to break down societal norms and expose the reality of the problems facing LGBT people to the rest of the world. Today as LGBT rights have become more tangible, Queer Cinema has more or less entered the mainstream. Unfortunately, that means it has entered the pantheon of "tepid, middlebrow Oscar pandering" as *Boy Erased* has shown.



FOCUS FEATURES

Based on Gerrard Conley's memoir, the film follows Jared (Lucas Hedges), a teenage boy in a small Southern town who comes out to his parents and suddenly finds his life turned upside down. Jared must now attend a gay conversion therapy program or risk abandonment by his church, his community, and even his mother (Nicole Kidman) and Baptist pastor father (Russell Crowe, rocking a sweet dad bod).

The scenes in the conversion camp are absolutely horrifying. We watch helplessly as young people are forced to reject their very selves or face humiliation and outright abuse. Unfortunately, that's just a backdrop for what the film is really concerned with: presenting the suffering of these kids only to show how it affects Jared's parents and making them confront their decisions. It's a gay film made exclusively for straight people. It makes me wish the film had only followed the kids in the camp. Of course, that was already covered in Jamie Babbit's *But I'm a Cheerleader*, a much better and more entertaining film. Here, the performances are fine, but the scenes outside the camp leave me emotionally cold. LGBT films have moved beyond such tired melodrama. — Forest Taylor

Directed by: Joel Edgerton // Written by: Joel Edgerton, based on the memoir by Gerrard Conley // Starring: Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Joel Edgerton, Xavier Dolan, Troye Sivan, Jesse LaTourette, Britton Sear and Flea // 114 minutes // Rated R

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MUSIC REVIEWS

Don't Stop or We'll Die

Dazzle Me
Self-Released

★★★★★

Let's not bury the lede here: Don't Stop or We'll Die should be, and once was, a three-piece. Following the tragic death of drummer and comic genius Harris Wittels in 2015, members (and fellow comedians) Paul Rust and Michael Cassidy took on other projects, including Netflix's *Love and the Doughboys* podcast. But three years later, Rust and Cassidy return with an album so absurd and catchy, it would make Wittels blush. Put simply: *Dazzle Me* is quintessential Don't Stop or We'll Die. Even at its silliest, *Dazzle Me* is jam-packed with hooks, from the fuzzed out synth and bass of opener "Space Worm" and single "Don't Wake the Ghost" to the hilariously innocent sing-along "Taco Night." There are moments when the jokes are so surreal, they become a little dense ("Simon's Cube," "Robotics"), but for every bit that might not land with listeners, there's another that will stay with you from your very first listen ("That's Right I'm Five"). As for the band, well, we're glad they didn't stop when they had every right to, and we hope to have them around for a long time to come. — Aaron Mook



Tyler, the Creator

Music Inspired by Illumination and Dr. Seuss' The Grinch

★★★★★

Columbia Records
Tyler, the Creator scoring Illumination Studios' and Dr. Seuss' *The Grinch* is cognitive dissonance at its finest. Throughout the late 2000s and early 2010s, the rapper was best known for leading the now defunct Odd Future, discharging both gorgeous arrangements and jaw-dropping horror-rap in equal measure (even leading to a ban in the UK). But the rapper has since turned over a new leaf; he's stopped performing the grotesque singles that made him famous, and his 2017 confessional *Flower Boy* was widely lauded as his best work yet. So with this new creative energy comes a Christmas EP fit for the whole family. To be fair, this is at least partially due to the fact that the EP is largely instrumental, but this also showcases Tyler's long-running strength as a self-taught producer. The way he blends synthesizers with strings is unique, and with or without guest vocalists, he successfully manages to convey holiday visions in these short, two-minute interludes. But the moment fans will most appreciate is "Big Bag," a short rap that shows Tyler is just as strong in front of the mic as he is behind it. — Aaron Mook



The 1975

A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships
Dirty Hit/Interscope

★★★★★

For a pop record, this is one that seeks to be something more and ultimately succeeds. Coming from one of the more buzzed-about bands in recent years, it sets its sights high, and doesn't pretend not to. Although it's practically oozing with over-wrought, navel-gazing adolescent moments, the sincerity shines through — just try not to roll your eyes when simply reading the album's title. It's easily listenable, marked chiefly by the second track and first single "Give Yourself a Try," a sometimes humorous muse on the pitfalls of aging, atop a bright, repetitive background. The band's use of keyboards and synthesizers is as prevalent as ever, and is less of a Passion Pit-like piece, verging into something new and more inventive. The jazz-inspired musical blend of "Sincerity Is Scary" is nearly perfect, a free-flowing, midtempo daytime meditation. There's the unforgettable beauty of "The Man Who Married a Robot/Love Theme," an obvious, yet heart-breaking vignette spoken through a digitized voice. True beauty abounds in nearly every one of the 15 tracks, an ingredient that's not readily available to most artists. — Nick Warren



Sigh

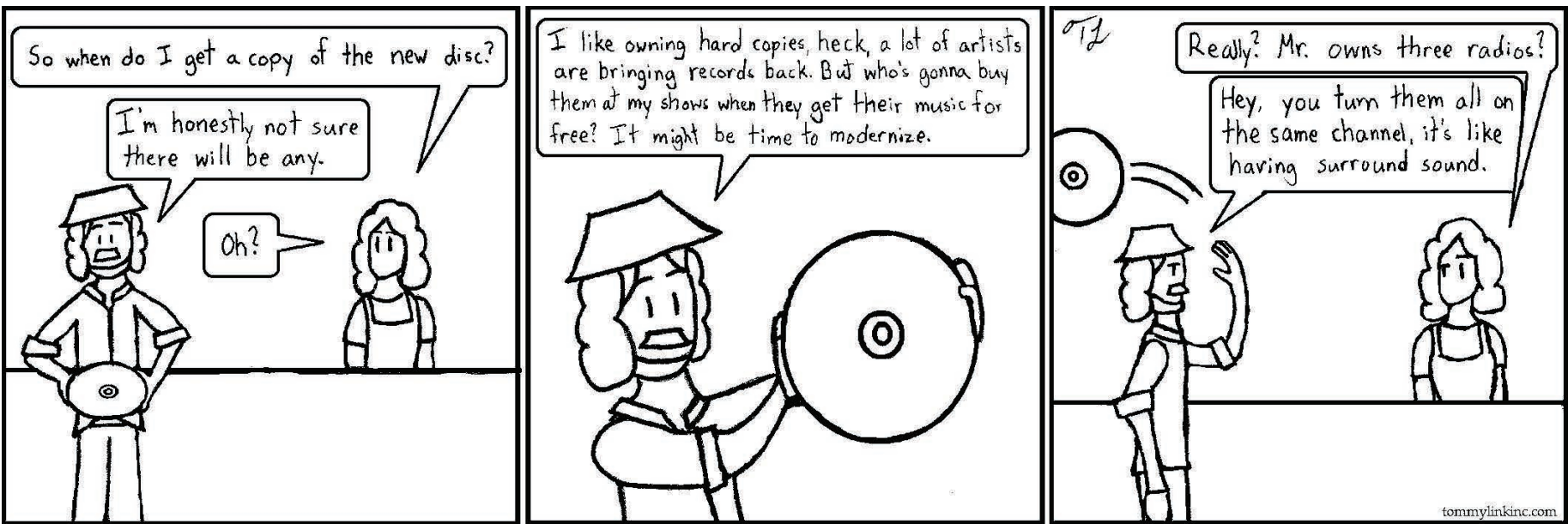
Heir To Despair
Candlelight Records

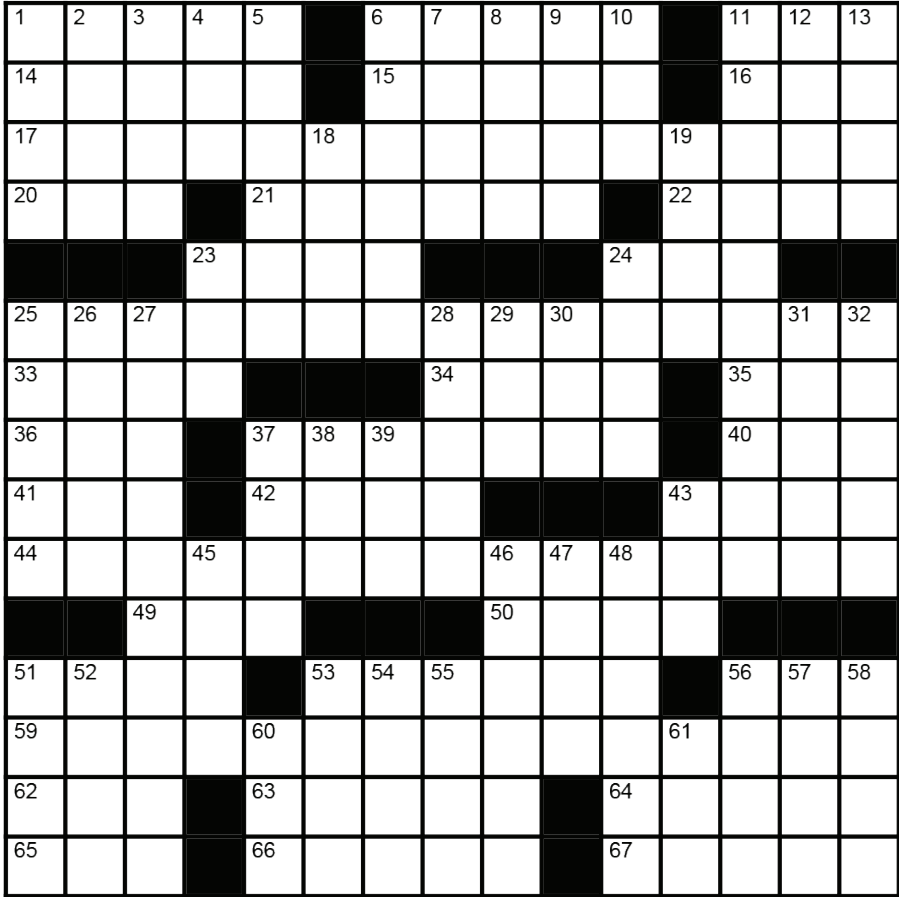
★★★★★

A pulse-pounding nine-tracks, *Heir to Despair* is the eleventh studio album from the Tokyo metal band Sigh. Starting off with a simple harmonic minor riff, there's a simultaneous blast of distorted guitars, keyboard effects, and sitar sounds. It's an odd timbre, one that almost sounds outdated in 2018, with seemingly incongruous sounds like swirling flutes and chugging riffs intermingling. The driving tempo throughout the album and clear, almost-hummable guitar melodies pave an unrelenting path to the listener's psyche. Mirai Kawashima's vocals vary from crunchy growls to clean shouts, with plenty of chant-like choruses ("Hunters Not Horned"). The band began in 1989 as a black metal act, and have since molded themselves into a progressive powerhouse. It's a wildly frenetic sound that mixes many different elements into a psychedelic metal fever dream, perhaps best exemplified in the final titular track "Heir to Despair." The three part electronic-based suite "Heresy" serves to mark the second half of the album, with a dark, mysterious aura that decays into a flurry of nightmarish samples. — Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



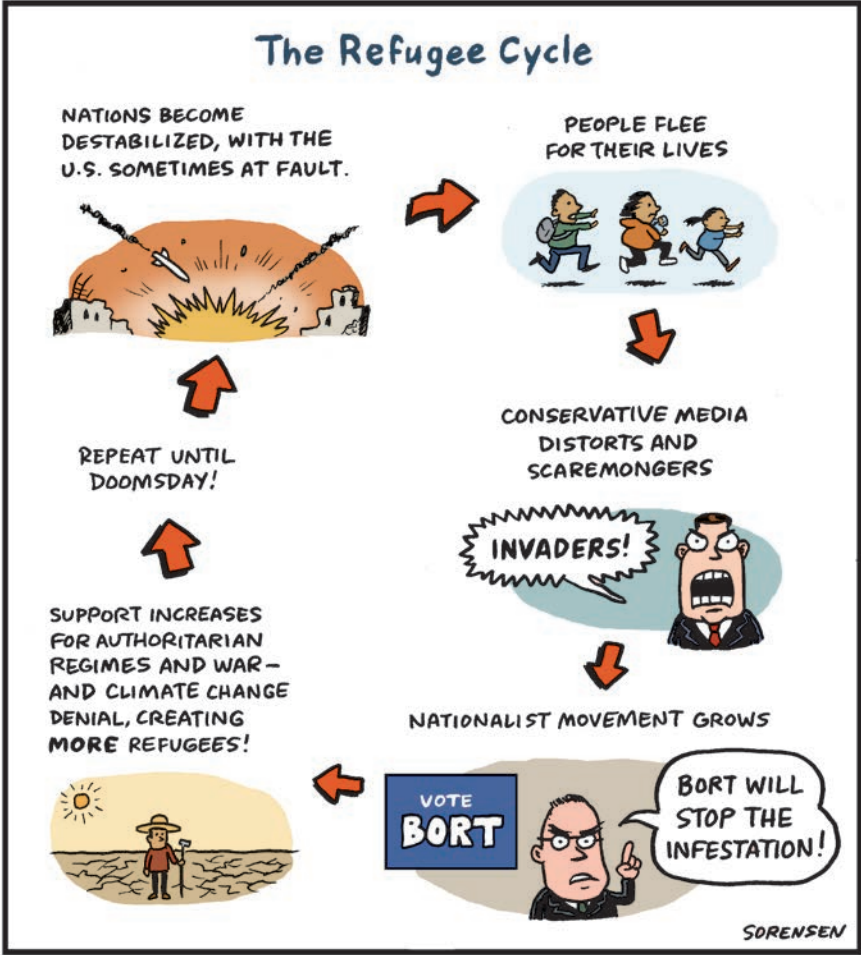


Across

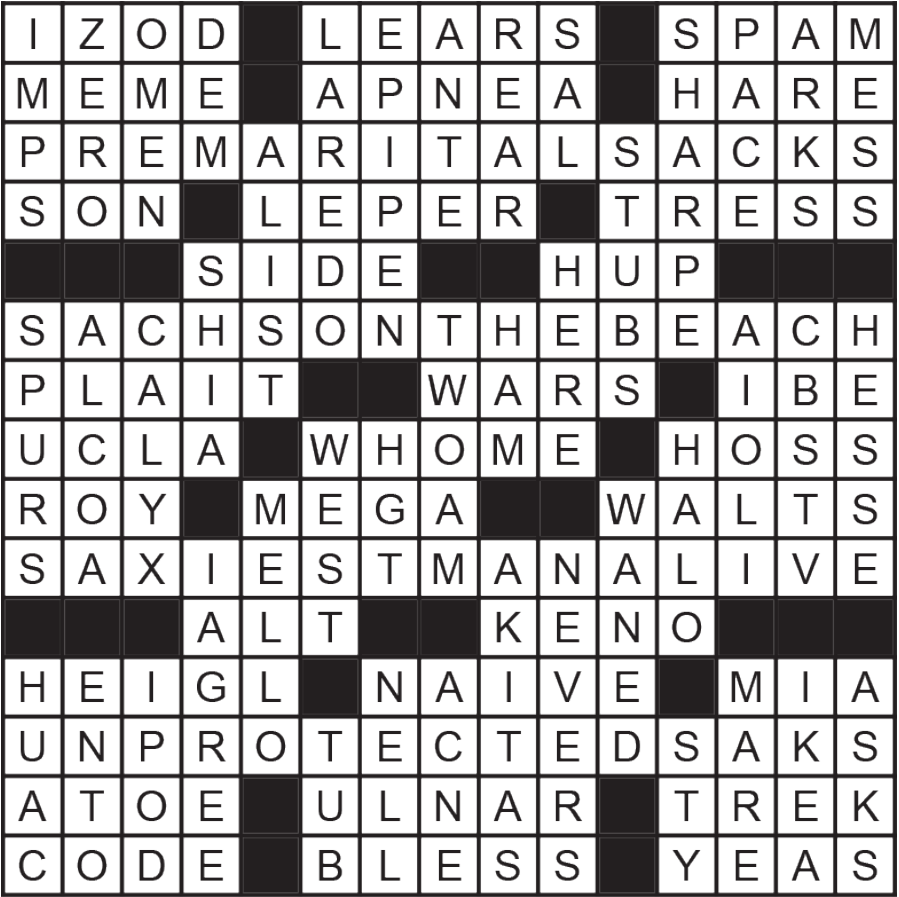
1. Good grilling?
6. Renaissance Faire weapon
11. Kvetchers' cries
14. TWA competitor
15. #1 Beatles hit "____ Fine"
16. Bad thing to go to
17. Direct hit in a Midwestern city?
20. Actor Jeong of "The Hangover"
21. Strands in December?
22. "____ pronounce you husband and wife"
23. Suffix with high numbers
24. Hypotheticals
25. What you see when Mick Jagger says "Oh, puh-leeze!"?
33. Advocate for the 50-and-over crowd
34. More than a snack
35. Dubai's home: Abbr.
36. Org. that offers Pre-check enrollment
37. Scornful glance ... or this puzzle's theme
40. Time off, in mil. slang
41. Sue Grafton's "____ for Undertow"
42. Quito's land: Abbr.
43. 301, on a cornerstone
44. How a person with conjunctivitis hopes to look?

49. High-____ monitor
50. Slugger's stat
51. Chicago mayor Emanuel
53. Out
56. "May ____ frank?"
59. Striking-looking multivitamins?
62. "Glee" star ____ Michele
63. Actor Reeves
64. Takes a shine to
65. Subtext of Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit"
66. ____ throat
67. Come after
Down
1. Go against
2. Arthur who was king of the court?
3. Parade spoiler
4. Pen name
5. Market value of a company's assets divided by their replacement cost
6. Soccer superstar Messi
7. Andrews and Edwards, for two: Abbr.
8. Modern, to Mahler
9. ____ number
10. Right-angle shape
11. Like some freely available software
12. Fluctuate wildly
13. Meat-and-vegetables dish
18. ____ power
19. Search (through)

23. Sculptor/collagist Jean
24. Carnival Cruise stop
25. "Dig in!"
26. Co-Nobel with Yitzhak and Shimon
27. 1977 cult film directed by David Lynch
28. "Wait, let me explain ..."
29. Hillary Clinton ____ Rodham
30. Part of LGBTQ
31. Drew in books
32. Like many a campfire story
37. Dips below the horizon
38. Needing salt, maybe
39. Road offense, for short
43. ATM deposits: Abbr.
45. Day worker
46. Possible hitch to getting hitched
47. "____ to differ"
48. Infant bottle topper
51. Former Connecticut governor Jodi
52. All those in favor
53. Agitated, after "in"
54. Bicker (with)
55. "Is your name Google? Because you have everything I'm searching for," e.g.
56. Types
57. Like the French sky
58. Latin 101 verb
60. Signs off on
61. "Am ____ your way?"



Answers to last puzzle



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