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Best of Erie Finalists

The top three contenders after weeks of voting

Year End Lists

Our favorite music, movies, and television

2018 Year In Review

We have good news and bad news



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From the Editors

A rebuilding year: brick by brick

Over the past few years we've felt some negativity as the Year in Review issue approached. That burning desire to finally say good-bye to the year that was and start again. Looking back on our covers you'll find the looming specter of death putting an end to 2014, a garbage dump in 2015, and in 2016 we needed a martini just to process it all. Those years seem like child's play compared to 2018, however. You know what's happening in the world. Lots of things. There will be lots of things happening in 2019 too, and not all of them good. Why does this dread and bitter nostalgia sweep over us every year when we need to have something to say about the past three hundred and sixty-some days? Well, for one, we're realists. We know what's happening in the world too, and it's rightfully upsetting.

And just like the past few years, we're ready to close the lid on this dumpster fire. It's a rebuilding year — just look at the LEGO work on the cover. Special thanks to Bruce Lowell (for the original dumpster design) and Bill Ward for his tongue-in-cheek adaptation of it. Brick artists know a thing or two about rebuilding. This city is learning a thing or two about it as well, for better or worse depending on who you ask. If you happen to ask Matt Swanseger, he has a thing or two to say about it too, with plenty of acerbic commentary on all the strange goings-on around our city, complete with and the good news and the bad.

So as old regrets should be forgotten and never brought to mind, so too is this a time to remember a few of our favorite things. By "our," we mean both the Reader and the Reader's readers, too. The votes have been tabulated for this year's Best of Erie Awards and we're proud to present the top three finalists for each category. This year saw the most votes cast ever. We want to extend a sincere thank you to every single person who voted, shared, and nominated anyone for this year's awards. Your voice is being heard, and we're inclined to agree.

Lists, lists, lists. That's what we're into during the final weeks of December. Our music writers, Aaron Mook and Nick Warren teamed up to give you a top 10 list of the best albums of the year (with Warren throwing in another recurring feature, the top three local albums as well). Forest Taylor was happy to build a top five (or maybe six) list of his favorite films, and trust us, he's seen plenty. There are also a few favorites Warren selected for your perusal on the small screen, perhaps a cozy way to occupy your time during that strange stretch between Christmas and New Year's Eve. And speaking of New Year's Eve, Cara Suppa has a festive rundown citing some of the can't-miss events going on that day (and more so, that night).

It's time to raise a glass and toast to what's ahead, and maybe next year, we won't need to be quite as cynical.



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2018 Year in Review

Snuffing out the dumpster fire of disillusionment en route to improvement



By: Matt Swanseger

Reality (n) — a slap in the face with a cold octopus. At least that's how one New Zealand kayaker might define it. In September, that man took a cephalopod full-on to the noggin, courtesy of a fidgety seal fiddling with its food. Although this incident may have occurred half a world away, it illustrates the need to momentarily pause for introspection. In a 2018 that saw Merriam-Webster officially add “dumpster fire” to its online dictionary, it's fair to ask ourselves things like “what the hell just happened?” and “is this real life?”

In Erie, we began the year questioning the nature of our reality as we tunneled out from the so-called “Snowpocalypse” toward what we thought might be the sun. By the end of the season, a record 198.5 inches of snow had fallen at the Erie International Airport — or so we were led to believe. In a cruel twist of fate, the National Weather Service and a committee of scientists announced that our snowfall totals — although still record-shattering for the City of Erie—were all a lie due to faulty measurements. Having adapted into a sophisticated race of mole-people over the winter (a byproduct of never seeing the sun), Erieites were blinded with indignation when the NWS (a division of the Orwellian Ministry of Information) revealed that our 198.5 inches actually equaled 166.0 inches.

The moral of the story: for better or worse, things are not always as they appear. What other tidings did 2018 bring? Shake your trust issues — like a salt

shaker (it might get slippery out here) — and follow along for a guided tour of the year just passed.

The Year in Government & Politics

The good news: Mayor Joe Schember proved recently that he can grow a decent beard, and has also proven to make a fairly good impression in his first year in office. Erie's 48th mayor was sworn in on January 2, promising to “build opportunity, restore hope, and transform Erie.” Schember has adopted a much more public leadership style than his predecessor, holding weekly news conferences and actively engaging with the community (e.g., the “Summer of Hope” tour through Erie's east side). In hoping to repair the strained relationship between the police and the minority community, his administration launched the Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships Council and is investigating the implementation of police body cameras to foster more accountability.

Acknowledging that the manufacturing jobs that once sustained Erie were not coming back, Schember set goals of attracting jobs in more upwardly-trending fields like tech to encourage young adults to stay put. He proposed a 10-year 100 percent Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) for any new residential construction in targeted areas and 50 percent abatement for commercial developments to spur economic growth. Additionally, he and new Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership CEO James Grunke are exploring the benefits of the new federal Opportunity Zones program,

which incentivizes outside capital investments in economically depressed areas. Opponents of the legislation object to potential gentrification, or current residents being priced out of the area.

Realizing the magnitude of the task at hand, he set about creating a solid team around him to help start affecting the changes prescribed in Erie Refocused, the comprehensive plan to reinvent the city laid out by consultant Charles Buki of Alexandria, Virginia-based czb. Key hires included city planner Kathy Wyrosdick, economic and community development director Chris Groner, grant writer Abby Skinner, business development officer Brett Wiler, liaison to the Erie minority community Michael Outlaw, liaison to the immigrant and refugee community Niken Astari Carpenter, and even a digital media coordinator in Andy Steinmetz, lest we be confused for Luddites.

Shifting our lens outward to the region, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dealt a major blow to gerrymandering in January, when it ruled the 2011 Congressional map unconstitutional, issuing the statement that Congressional districts should not “divide any county, city, incorporated town, borough, township, or ward except to ensure equality of population.” It charged the Pennsylvania General Assembly and (recently re-elected) Governor Wolf with redrawing the Congressional districts, and thus Erie County was reunited within the new PA-16 (which also encompasses all of Crawford, Mercer, and Lawrence counties, along with a sizable chunk of Butler County.) The implications of this

In its previous 25 issues of 2018, the Erie Reader covered a lot of ground concerning Erie's storied past, complicated (but often fun) present, and promising future, in addition to celebrating its 200th edition.

measure were felt deeply in the 2018 midterm elections, with incumbent U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly (R) withstanding a strong push from Democratic challenger Ron DiNicola, who won the newly reunited Erie County handily by 19,813 votes. Fairer and more closely contested races can be expected down the road as a result of this ruling.

The bad news: It's never smooth sailing in politics — just ask Czech President Milos Zeman, who in June invited the media to watch him burn a large pair of “red underwear” (i.e., a symbolic cloth that might have doubled as a top-sail) in response to critics accusing him of Communist affiliations. At least he had a sense of humor about it.

No laughing matter is the City of Erie's impending budget crisis, which projects an \$11 million deficit for 2019. Schember advised the public not to panic, citing the city's \$11 million in reserve. So worst case scenario — we might break even, avoiding dissolution and/or state takeover. However, forecasts show that the deficit could balloon to as much as \$22 million by 2024. Since we missed the window to profitably convert our coffers to cryptocurrency (after peaking in January, Bitcoin's value plummeted sharply throughout 2018), we must determine where more real money might come from — externally from increased taxes and fees (as reluctantly proposed by Schember) or internally from pay freezes and budget cuts (as passionately argued for by others, such as City Councilwoman Liz Allen).

Of course, there is the \$3.2 million worth (!) of unpaid parking tickets out there to be seized as well. Perhaps local author and historian James McQuiston, an expert on the fabled Oak Island treasures of Nova Scotia — can also help authorities plumb the depths of this mystery.

For those without the means to “earn” parking tickets, the imminent loss of the McBride Viaduct is devastating. The East Avenue bridge had been closed to vehicular traffic since 2010 after being deemed structurally unsound, but was popularly used by pedestrians and cyclists as a safe passage between

East 19th and 12th streets over the CSX Railroad tracks, particularly those residing in Erie's lower east side. After a contentious battle between the pro-viaduct Erie CPR Connect + Respect and the pro-demolition City of Erie, PennDOT, and Pa. Public Utility Commission (among others), which included a civil rights lawsuit (that was ultimately dismissed), the dismantling of the bridge proceeded on November 27 and is expected to be completed in late January of 2019. Despite the viaduct's apparent end, resistance remains strong — Adam Trott, Erie CPR president, has filed paperwork with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On another somber note, Erie was bereaved of another community fixture when longtime State Representative Flo Fabrizio (PA-2) passed away from pancreatic cancer in July. Former City Councilman Bob Merski was voted in as his replacement in November's mid-term elections. His service and contributions will be missed.

The Year in Entertainment, Arts & Culture

The good news: Erie continued to embrace its diversity and varied heritage throughout the year, with events such as Gannon University's International Night, the expERIENCE Children's Museum's Multicultural Asia Day, and the return of the AmeriMasala enriching our cultural scene with the sounds, sights, smells, and tastes of abroad. MenajErie Studio released *Rust Belt New Americans: A Film About the Refugee Experience*, a documentary inspired by the work of photojournalist Maitham Basha-Agha, helping to clear misconceptions about New Americans, who constitute approximately 20 percent of the city's urban core. Experiencing

more support than ever before, the NWPA Pride Alliance hosted its 26th Pride Parade and Pridefest this June, with the LGBTQ+ community's rainbow liveries well-represented throughout downtown (including a rainbow crosswalk adjacent to City Hall).

Two of Erie's preeminent cultural organizations, the Erie Art Museum and Erie Arts & Culture, appointed youthful new leadership. Joshua Helmer succeeded John Vanco as the Erie Art Museum's executive director by way of Philadelphia via Little Falls, N.Y. Following up Vanco's legacy will be a tall task, but Helmer's big city experience (and results) combined with his small town roots provide a dual perspective well-suited for Erie. Patrick Fisher, whose path to the Erie Arts & Culture post led through Jacksonville, Fla., took over for Amanda Brown Sissem this September. The museum's highly attended Gallery Nights and another picture-perfect Blues and Jazz Festival (this time hosted by Erie Arts & Culture) proved that, yes, sometimes Erieites do appreciate nice things.

The rapid ascendancy of the food truck proves we appreciate them even more when they're edible. Throngs of hungry, hungry humans agglomerated for the tremendously popular debuts of the first Erie Food Truck Festival in Lawrence Park and Erie's first Downtown Food Truck Festival in June. Cuisines from all over the world for all palates and diets have been mobilizing. By merely tracing the movements of the food truck caravan throughout town, the discerning consumer would've stumbled upon most of the premier events of the summer.

One of these, of course, was a revamped CelebrateErie. With an increased emphasis on community inclu-

sion, downtown was reconfigured into four districts, featuring art (highlighted by the always impressive Chalk Walk), culture (highlighted by the Erie Insurance International Marketplace), food & beverage, and music. Shedding the customary mullet rock in an appeal to millennial audiences, '90s hit-makers Sugar Ray were tabbed as the headliner. Although statues all around the world (allegedly) crumble for frontman Mark McGrath, sculptures of Commodore Oliver Perry and others remained intact.

The bad news: Two other high-profile outdoor concerts —Presque Isle Partnership's "Best Summer Night," featuring the Steve Miller Band and Peter Dinklage, and country star Jake Owen's tour stop at UPMC Park — were initially washed out in June (but later rescheduled). One might conclude this was divine retribution for the SeaWolves' intent to unleash the Cotton Candy Hot Dog upon the world later that month. This culinary curiosity, featuring a Smith's hot dog nestled in a bed of cotton candy and generously garnished with crunchy Nerds candy, was introduced on June 23 for the SeaWolves' Sugar Rush Night promotion and rapidly became a media sensation. The instantly infamous frank(enfood) further would ultimately stick on UPMC Park menus (and in attendees' teeth) through the end of the season.

Although the SeaWolves promotions team continues to make waves in Minor League circles with memorable offerings, the on-field product remained forgettable, with the Pups finishing fifth out of six (63-77) in the Eastern League Western Division and missing the playoffs for a fifth consecutive season. The Erie Otters, 2017 OHL Champions, did not come close to replicating the successes of previous years, as a roster ran-

sacked by the NHL Draft stumbled to a 27-35-7-3 record and ninth place finish (out of 10) in the Western Conference. The Erie BayHawks fared much better, falling just one game short of qualifying for the NBA G-League Finals. They finished 2018 with a 28-22 record in the regular, with one of the wins coming as the tongue-in-cheekily-renamed Erie Pepperoni Balls for "What Could've Been Night."

Unfortunately, the BayHawks' future in Erie remains tenuous beyond this current season, as their current affiliation with the NBA's Atlanta Hawks will expire with the creation of a new G-League franchise in College Park, Ga. On the plus side, however, the SeaWolves secured their long-term future in Erie thanks to a \$12 million state grant for the ballpark renovations their Major League counterpart Detroit Tigers have long demanded, including a brand new field and scoreboards and overhauled concession stands, bathrooms, corporate suites, and commissary areas. Both the SeaWolves and Otters (who play in neighboring Erie Insurance Arena) signed new 10-year leases as a consequence of the funds. Perhaps the ensuing decade will bring better luck — and more championships — to Erie.

The Year in Self-Image

The good news: It's hard to get people to agree on just about anything — except to get naked, as 2,505 Irish women did to set a Guinness World Record for skinny dipping this June (for the noble cause of "kicking the shite out of cancer"). On the shores of Lake Erie, leadership has long hesitated at the water's edge in regard to affecting meaningful change without taking the plunge. In 2018, toes were at least in the water as



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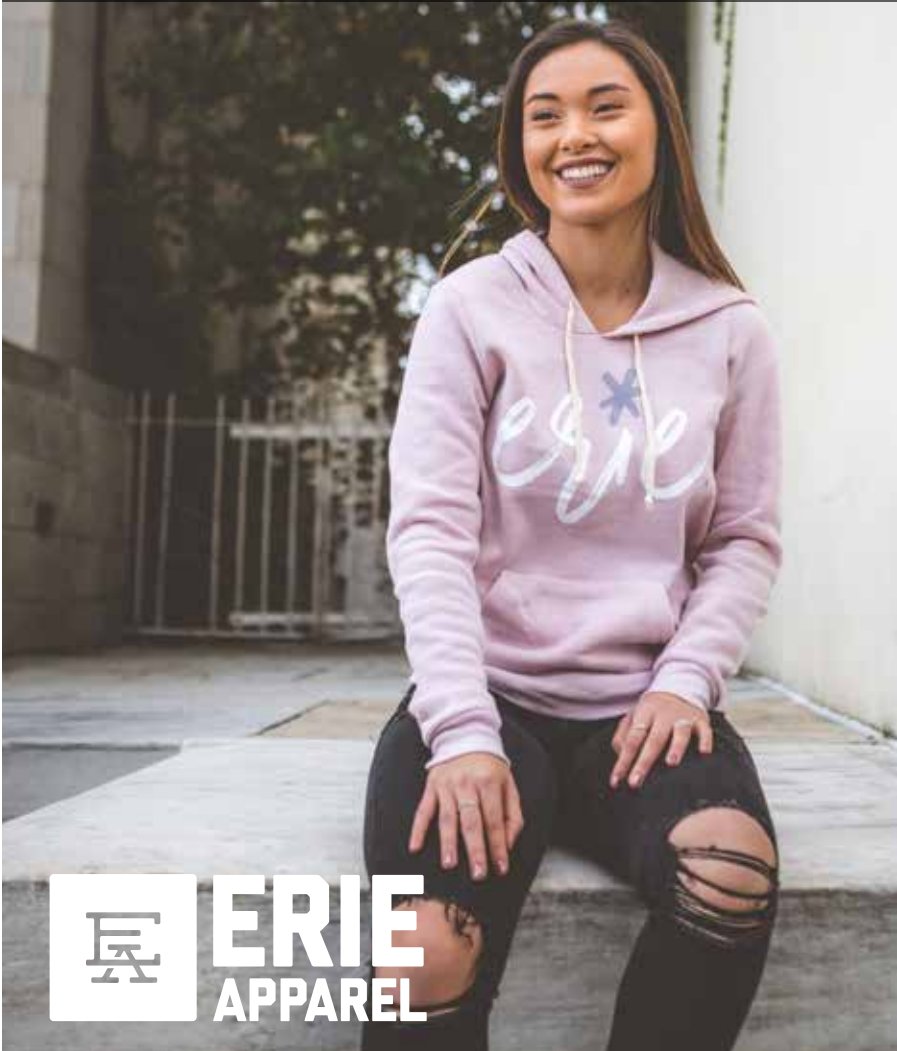
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a number of significant developments and investments in the city — especially the downtown — were initiated.

Those looking to get an eyeful might be gratified with this figure — \$500 million, the amount invested in new construction between the healthcare juggernauts UPMC Hamot (\$111 million seven-story patient tower at 104 E. Second St.) and Highmark Allegheny Health Network St. Vincent Hospital (\$115 million expansion project and \$25.6 million cancer center at W. 25th and Myrtle), and business behemoths Erie Insurance (\$135 million office building along East Sixth Street), and Scott Enterprises (the \$150 million Harbor Place project on the bayfront). That's not to mention Great Lakes Insurance Services Group owner Pete Zaphiris' purchase of the former Daka Paper Building at 144 W. 13th St. (part of a multimillion dollar project involving multiple locales) and Velocity Network's \$8 million purchase and renovation of the former Rothrock Building at 121 W. 10th St.

Within those walls lies the new headquarters of the Erie Innovation District, an initiative launched in 2016 via a \$4 million grant from the Erie Community Foundation in cooperation with the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). Their goal: to marry academia and industry and nurture new business in security, intelligence, and safety. This summer, the Innovation District teamed with Mercyhurst University and Velocity Network to help catalyze Erie's metamorphosis into a "smart city" — i.e., one more energy-efficient, intelligent, secure, and accessible (free Wi-Fi in Perry Square, with aims of broadening to city-wide coverage in 2019). In addition, the Innovation District host-

ed the First Secure Erie Accelerator in tandem with Singularity University, a program designed to get tech startups off the ground. After the 10-week business bootcamp concluded in September, with five of the nine participants choosing to anchor themselves in Erie. Add other initiatives like Gannon's Erie Technology Incubator, Penn State Behrend's Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, and the Erie Downtown Partnership's CoStarters program to the mix and it would appear Erie is at least attempting to catapult itself into the 21st century.

The Erie Downtown Development Corporation (EDDC) also made its first big move in 2018, purchasing essentially all of North Park Row for both commercial space and residential units. The organization, spearheaded by CEO John Persinger, an attorney and former mayoral candidate, models itself in the image of the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation, which revitalized Cincinnati, Ohio's blighted Over-the-Rhine neighborhood with hundreds of millions of corporate dollars. Persinger, who was appointed to his post in March by Erie Insurance CEO and EDDC Chairman Tim NeCastro, leads a team focused on the acquisition and redevelopment of real estate in the area bounded between Perry Square to the north and Third Street to the south, and Sassafras to the west and Holland St. to the east. Additionally, the EDDC will prioritize bringing unique events to downtown to enhance its desirability.

And, thanks to the new meterEZ phone app, downtown visitors can leave their coin purses at home (collectors are advised to hold onto their vintage Erie Parking Authority tokens). We'll take that — figuratively speak-

ing, as recreational marijuana is not legal yet. However, simple possession of 30 grams or less was decriminalized and Erie County's first medical dispensary, Erie Rise, opened this April.

The bad news: While the enthusiasm to make a splash downtown is commendable, an algal bloom of problems clouds the city's future in other aspects. Despite the tremendous ongoing efforts of activist groups like Eastside Grassroots Coalition, Our West Bayfront, and Bayfront Eastside Task Force, blight and violence remain difficult issues to overcome in Erie's most poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Initiatives like Unified Erie (a three-pronged approach to refine enforcement techniques, foster prevention, and facilitate societal re-entry of former inmates to reduce recidivism) have helped curb the spate of "shots fired" calls and gang-related incidents, but in a year that notched 19 homicides in Erie County, with 13 of them occurring within the city limits, much work remains to be done.

Meanwhile, the opioid epidemic continues to grip the region, underscored by a giveaway of 5,000 units of the overdose reversal drug Narcan at the Blasco Memorial Library on December 13. Figures for 2018 have yet to be finalized, but 2017's numbers paint a grim picture — 5,388 overdose deaths in Pennsylvania, with 124 transpiring in Erie County. The Jefferson Educational Society, who recently hosted their 10th annual Global Summit, studied the issue with the 2017 class of their Civic Leadership Academy. Nationwide, preventable deaths both followed disturbing upward trends — 70,000 overdose deaths and 47,000 suicides. A sense of despair has set in, particularly amidst the younger generations. With tragedies such as the Catholic Church's

sexual abuse cover-up scandal coming to light — an 884-page Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report released in August listed the names of 41 predator priests in the Diocese of Erie — it is evident that their best interests and welfare have been routinely abandoned. Compound news of this with underfunded public schools and neglected neighborhoods, and it may seem as if there is no refuge.

Erie and some of its bedrock institutions have an image to repair. To his credit, Bishop Lawrence Persico has handled the fallout from the scandal with tact and transparency — but such ordeals leave deep scars. School District of Erie Superintendent Brian Polito, finally possessing the wherewithal to keep our public schools afloat (thanks to recurring state aid), is making a strong push for more funding to make desperately needed upgrades to facilities and services. Investing in our students is one of the surest ways to invest in our city's future.

In 2019 and beyond, Erie must begin to make headlines for the right reasons. Bizarre crimes like the Pizza Bomber Case (further popularized by the Netflix series *Evil Genius*), Karen LeClair's disappearance in Lake Erie-turned murder (poorly passed off as a suicide), and the smothering of a 120-lb. man by his 300-lb. girlfriend captivated a national audience this year, but convey Erie as a sort of sideshow act or "dumpster fire." It's another octopus slap of a wakeup call that says we're not quite there yet. Here's hoping more strides are made to shine a kinder spotlight on what we might call, pridefully and without irony, "The Gem City."

Matt Swanseger lives for good news, but formally recognizes bad news bears as well at mwsanseger@eriereader.com



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Gem City Playbook: It's All in the Execution

Asking Alice DeGeorge if a stolen idea matters as much as we think



JESSICA HUNTER

Presque Isle Printing owner Alice DeGeorge is hardly alone in representing Erie's printing businesses, but has managed to stand out through her attention to detail and by thoughtfully applying the feedback of others.

By: Rebecca Styn

Although air transportation is one of the safest means of travel, 1 in 3 Americans are afraid of flying. Admittedly, I'm one of them. I still do it, but not without some semblance of anxiety in tow (and a glass of wine before I board).

I point this out because this type of situation is governed by irrational fear — just like the fear of your next big idea “being stolen.” The reality is that both of these situations are very rare.

Every day you can find individuals working on their “next big thing,” and every day that person hears something along the lines of “don't tell too many people about it, or someone might take it.” The fear of someone stealing it and doing

it first has now taken up room in your head.

However, there are two main reasons why this likely won't happen.

First, your idea really isn't all that important. It's the execution that matters. The truth is that few ideas are exclusive: Google was not the first search engine — they just out-executed the competition.

Second, people are busy. Even if someone loves your idea, the chances of them putting in the time and energy to see it through are pretty close to nil.

Recently, I had a conversation with Alice DeGeorge, owner of Presque Isle Printing Services and host of “Keeping It Local; Keeping Erie Awesome” on Jet Radio 1400 AM and 96.7 FM. I asked her about her thoughts on this issue; first asking her a little more about her back-

ground.

“Originally, I went to school for website design and management with a minor in graphic design,” Alice tells me on the phone. “After school I worked for a few print companies before I started my own.” The path that led Alice to start her own business was as circuitous as most entrepreneurs'. “After my paychecks bounced three times with the first print company I worked for, I decided to move on.” She got another print job until that business was sold to another company. “After that, I decided I didn't want to work for anyone anymore.” She had six weeks to figure it all out. “The day I left my job, I opened the doors to my business — and this December will be our tenth anniversary.”

But it wasn't easy. “I had no idea what I was doing. I blindly started the process of starting a business — but I got great reception and help along the way. I had developed so many relationships over the years in

the print industry, but many of the customers were through email and phone calls. I put all of my extra funds into advertising. Most of the past customers I worked with didn't know my face — but they knew my name.” She eventually got her customers back.

As the print industry is very competitive, I asked Alice her thoughts on the fear of others stealing someone's big idea. “While I know it happens, it's rare. Most of your idea comes down to effort. There's a certain understanding of why entrepreneurs want to keep things close, but you need to ask for advice in order to help fine-tune your efforts. There might be people that want your idea, but how far are they actually going to take it?”

She fully understands the fear, however. “But by keeping your ideas close to the vest, you miss out on constructive feedback, and the opportunity to let others help you progress.” And she adds, “Don't be afraid to fail. Without failure, you won't learn. All experiences — good or bad — are worth going through.” She emphasizes that we need to be more humble. “The old adage, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, really holds true. The

universe will keep giving you more experiences that will continue to give you strength.”

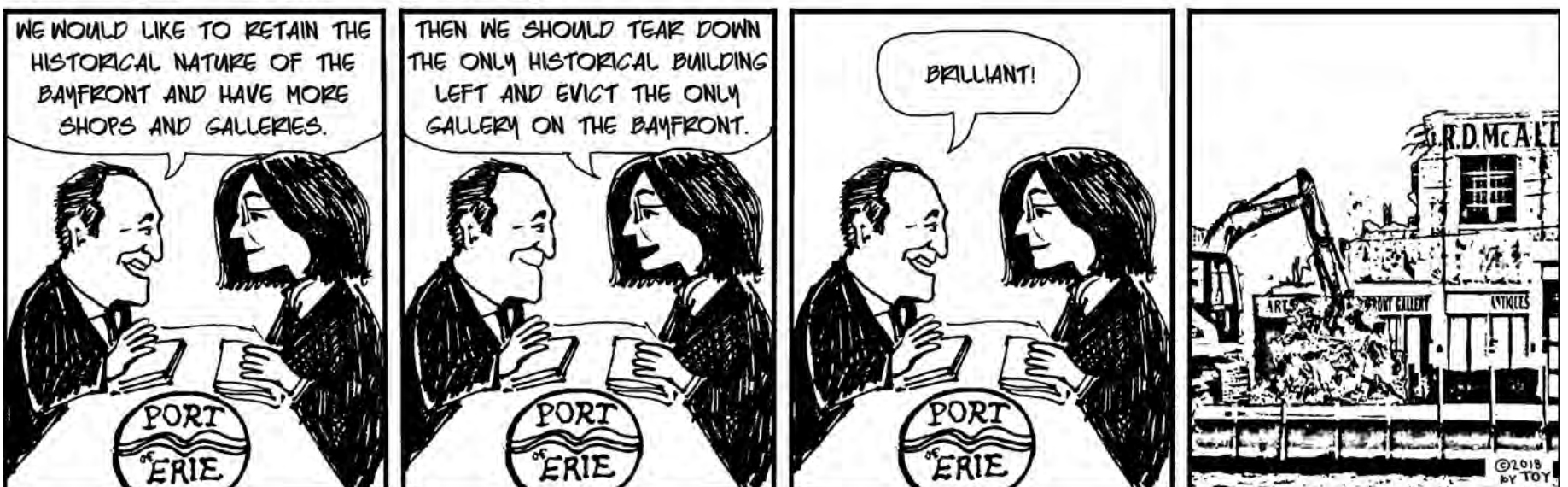
There is a phrase: “ideas are cheap. It's the execution that matters.” If you can't deliver the right product or service to the customer in a way that differentiates yourself from your competitors—then your business won't be around long anyhow.

Be exclusive in your conversations, but trust the process. By thinking you cannot share your idea with anyone—you give it no room to grow — let alone persist. Talking to others — especially those in the arena — are tools for education.

At the end of our conversation, Alice tells me, “If you are focusing on what people might be doing behind you, you're never going to be able to move forward.”

Rebecca Styn is the Executive Director of the Idea Fund Erie, a nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurial development and is the proprietor of Room 33 Speakeasy. She is also completing her Ph.D. in Leadership and Organizational Learning from Gannon University. Follow her on twitter at @rstyn

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The LECOM Musculoskeletal Institute is seeking patients with impaired shoulder function and mobility related to arthritis, trauma, and sports injuries willing to participate in a research study starting in January 2019.

To find out more about this study, call the LECOM Orthopedic Office at **(814) 868-7840** or the LECOM Medical Fitness and Wellness Center at **(814) 868-7800**.

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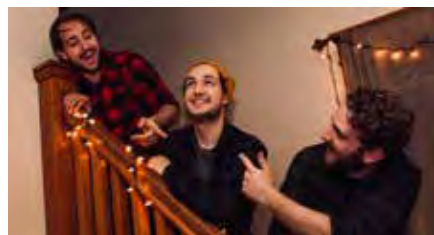
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Deck the Halls With Old Favorites at A Very (The) Standby Christmas



THURSDAY, DEC. 20TH

What's Christmas without a proper party? Courtesy of Aorta Music and Management Erie, hometown indie heroes The Standby are hosting a holiday bash to be at, A Very (The) Standby Christmas.

Presenting their unique brand of psychedelic grunge, The Standby released a brand new single in 2017 titled "Galavant," fresh off the heels of an EP that same year titled *Passiflora*. Joining The Standby are friends that are no strangers to our area, including Buffalo's The Tins and Elemenra as well as Pittsburgh's The Vics and Frame & Mantle. Playing for the first time in almost two years, Frame & Mantle guitarist Brian Thompson explains what fans can look forward to from the band's homecoming performance.

"We'll be debuting our new lineup, with our vocalist Connor and guitarist Liam joining us on stage for the first time," says Thompson. "Our set will mostly be made up of new songs from our upcoming LP, but we'll be playing some old favorites, too. Expect more trumpet."

Frame & Mantle's forthcoming debut was written and is currently being recorded with this new lineup, which Thompson describes as bigger and more vocally driven. He ends on a note about being home for the holidays, metaphorically speaking — a note that is likely shared by most of the bands performing, regardless of their hometown.

"There's a genuine love for indie rock in Erie, and it's exciting to see [event organizer] Elvis [Andromeda Maryshine] making Erie a place for this sort of music to thrive. We're beyond thrilled to be playing in Erie for our first show back, and we wouldn't have wanted it any other way." — Aaron Mook

7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. // 1505 State Street, Floor 2 // \$8 Pre-sale, \$10 Doors // 18+, BYOB 21+ // averystandbychristmas.brownpapertickets.com

Erie Ale Works to Hold Annual Festivus



Air your grievances and test your Seinfeld knowledge at the Erie Ale Works' observation of Festivus 2018.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

Need a break from the commercial and religious aspects of the holiday season? Come celebrate Festivus with the rest of us at Erie Ale Works.

The holiday, based on one celebrated in an episode of *Seinfeld*, features an aluminum Festivus pole, an airing of grievances (which may or may not end up with you crying), a modified version of the feats of strength and absolutely no distracting tinsel.

"The show implies that it (the feats of strength) is wrestling, but for liability reasons we can't do that, and the floor wouldn't be comfortable," said Jeff McCullor of Erie Ale Works.

Instead, Erie Ale Works has organized a *Seinfeld* quiz with prizes for the top three winners. It's advertised as "easier this time."

"If you want something different, especially if you're fans of *Seinfeld*, you should definitely stop by," McCullor said. "It's a whole lot of fun, and it's different from other holiday celebrations."

The annual celebration started a few years ago, after Erie Ale Works customers asked about a potential holiday celebration. As "big pop culture fans," Festivus seemed like the perfect fit for the business.

Admission is free. Food is available for purchase from The Que Abides. — Tracy Geibel

1 to 4 p.m. // 416 W. 12th St. // Free admission // (814) 314-9089 // facebook.com/ErieAleWorks

Make it a 'White' X-mas at Burny White Tribute Show



Burny White, best known as the frontman of former Erie punk band The X-Whites, suffered a tragic fall earlier this year, incurring massive head trauma. Come together with the Erie punk community at Scotty's Martini Lounge to support his recovery.

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

With his family set to move into a new home, Burny White was so excited and proud. Yet in an instant, the course of his and his family's lives would change when he accidentally plummeted head-first down his cellar stairs and sustained terrible head trauma that would require brain surgery.

With his wife Lisamarie caring for him during this painful, tragic time and so many costs accruing, it is no surprise that the Erie community is rallying behind one of its original punk rockers as he progresses on the journey toward recovery.

"Burny was part of the first wave of garage/punk in the mid to late '70s here in Erie. He also played with members of the Dead Boys and New York Dolls in NYC," said Carlos Rivera, band member in Mala Sangre and The Trotts and event organizer. "Burny's punk band in Erie was the

X-Whites ...to me, their originals are *Erie* classics — 'Bombers,' 'Rebel Rocker,' and 'Motorcar' are some of my faves."

White and his family are at the epicenter of the X-White X-mas tribute show, which is being held at Scotty's Martini Lounge and will feature 11 acts, including My Father's Garage, Quarenteen'd, Hand of Thieves, Rub the Buddha and Brit Soule (plus more). All of the proceeds from this show, where acts will play their own original sets, as well as tributes to White's music throughout the years, will go directly to his family.

White is indeed in his new home currently, and while his is a long path of healing, Rivera knows that news of this fundraiser has already made an impact on the man it honors.

Said Rivera, "Burny is aware of the event...it brought tears to his eyes. He's grateful for what we are doing for him." — Cara Suppa

Doors at 4 p.m.; Music at 7 p.m. // 301 German St. // Door fee: // For more info or to make a donation, visit bit.ly/burnywhite

Wave Trails Makes Moves Down Under



VINCENT GONZALES

and we're more of a band now than we've ever been."

Filling out the evening is Mireds, a Pittsburgh doom band, and fellow Erie natives Black Moon Mistress.

This isn't the first time Wave Trails and Mireds have taken the same stage. "We've played with Mireds twice now. Our last downstairs show was with them," Fish said. "This will be our first time with Black Moon Mistress."

"We're thankful to be playing with these bands on the downstairs stage," Fish said. "It's not often that you can go there and not hear jam bands. I know they're working to change that and we're happy to be a part of it." — Hannah McDonald

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

Wave Trails are playing their first gig in Erie since their move to Pittsburgh five months ago. The band, a local favorite prized by most indie rock-loving local concertgoers, puts on a frenetic, rowdy, and of course, very loud live show. On behalf of the psych-rock group, which consists of Cameron Fish, and brothers Ben and Zach Hyman, Fish shared their excitement for the King's Rook show. He said, "A lot has changed [since the move]

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // Members, \$7; Non-current members, \$10 (Includes 2019 membership) // Cash only @ door // 21+ // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Artlore Preps for Annual Holiday Art Camp



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26
Artlore Studio will host its annual holiday art camp from Wednesday, Dec. 26 through Friday, Dec. 28.

Children who attend will have an opportunity to dabble in both art and music over the three day camp. Sessions will include making mosaic, fabric, and 3D art and the chance for children to write their own songs.

“I want the kids to have fun and to grow culturally from the experience,” said Stephen Trohoske, a musician and co-owner of Artlore.

He will teach the music portions of the camp, while wife and partner Lena Logvina will introduce the children to art.

This year’s camp will also feature a few sessions with guest musician Eric Brewer.

“We’ve had guest artists and musicians before, and when they (the children) see these are people in their community, then they know they can do art or music, too,” Trohoske said.

The annual holiday art camps began approximately three years ago and have continued every year since. Artlore Studio also offers summer camps.

Cost for the holiday art camp is \$120, which includes all materials and snacks. Parents are asked to pack lunch for their children.

The recommended age group is six and up. Those interested in the camp are encouraged to sign up before Dec. 21. Space is limited. — Tracy Geibel

Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon // Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. // \$120 per child // (814) 520-8800 or (814) 218-4185 // facebook.com/Artlorestudio

Evoke the Holiday Spirit with Tenor Daniel Cabanillas



THURSDAY, DEC. 27
Tenor Daniel Cabanillas plans to put on an unforgettable performance at St. George’s Church with “A Holiday Concert to Remember.” Anticipate hearing a variety of songs from “Ave Maria” and “Can’t Help Falling In Love With You” to holiday classics like “O’ Holy Night” and “White Christmas.” When he was a child,

Cabanillas, a natural tenor, found his calling as a singer and his passion is palpable.

A 20-piece orchestra — consisting of local and regional musicians — will accompany Cabanillas, in addition to a liturgical dance group (dance that is an expression of worship used to enhance music and singing), which will only enrich the atmosphere this concert promises to provide. Lighting and dance will sync with Cabanillas and the orchestra, all of which will be broadcast on the church’s monitors in high-definition.

Prepare to sit back and watch a stunning show that will delight all of your senses. You may even find yourself singing along. This holiday concert is fun for the whole family. Whether you’ve been to St. George’s before or not, join in on some holiday cheer and timeless classics. — Kalli Oberlander

7:30 p.m. // Saint George Catholic Church, 5145 Peach St. // \$25 // (814) 864-0622 or stgeorgeerie.org

MUSIC

Matty B & 57 Pickup

Dec. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

MVP

Dec. 20, 27 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Dickey’s BBQ Pit, 3716 Liberty St. facebook.com.

Division St. Machine

Dec. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

A Very (The) Standby Christmas

Dec. 20 — 7:30 to 11 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. facebook.com.

Matt Gavula

Dec. 21 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Bootleggers Bible Club

Dec. 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

Radio Age

Dec. 21 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Charles Brown Experience, The LEC

Dec. 21 — 10 p.m.
Erie’s foremost MCs share the stage at Scotty’s for a night

of live hip-hop and soul.

Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Daytona Beach 2000 + Vinyl Nite

Dec. 21 — 11 p.m.
Relive pop-punk’s turn-of-the-century heyday in the downstairs concert complex with Daytona Beach 2000, while Stephen Maynard spins vinyl in the upstairs lounge.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

2 for the Show

Dec. 22 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Refuge

Dec. 22 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Geeks Unplugged

Dec. 22 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

BluesBeaters Christmas at the Grove

Dec. 22 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Mound Grove Golf Course, 10760 Donation Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 moundgrove.com.

Cosmic Rhythm

Dec. 22 — 8 p.m. to midnight
Sandbar, 2835 W. 8th St. cosmicrhythmband.com.

XWhite Xmas Party

Dec. 22 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Wave Trails, Mires, Black Moon Mistress

Dec. 22 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Rick Magee & Jack Adams

Dec. 23 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Katie Kurpiewski & Friends

Dec. 23 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

Dave VanAmburg and Friends

Dec. 26, 28, Jan. 2 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel-Aire Clarion, 2800 W. 8th St. belaireclarion.com.

BluesBeaters Post-Christmas Holiday Getaway

Dec. 26 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach St. bullfrogbarerie.com.

Katie & Jesse

Dec. 27 — 6 to 9 p.m.
The Skunk & Goat Tavern, 17 W. Main St., North East, PA 16428 skunkandgoattavern.com.

Holiday Concert w Tenor Daniel Cabanillas

Dec. 27 — 7:30 p.m.
St. George Catholic Church, 5145 Peach St. eventbrite.com.

SASS Acoustics

Dec. 28 — 5 to 7 p.m.

Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Stiletto

Dec. 28 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

CareyON

Dec. 28 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Tyrant

Dec. 28 — 8 p.m.
Scotty’s Martini Lounge, 301 German St. facebook.com.

Roger Harvey

Dec. 28 — 9 p.m.
Jekyll & Hyde’s, 8 E 10th St. facebook.com.

Plato’s Cave Reunion Show

Dec. 28 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Jesse James Weston

Dec. 29 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Small Town Revolution

Dec. 29 — 6 to 10 p.m.
BIGBAR, 14 E. 10th St. facebook.com.

Brown Dog

Dec. 29 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brew Brothers at PI Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Hip Hop Erie

Dec. 29 — 7:30 p.m.

Basement Transmissions hosts a bill bursting at the seams with MCs, including C. Brown, Dee Trill, Ryan Nichols, Julio White, Otod Duck, Isaack Fox, Stackaz Jones, Jay Lehr, Austin Yg Purc Matheney, and Chew Dollaz, along with the trap stylings of Bass Bandage.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com.

Wave Magnetik

Dec. 29 — 10 p.m.
Fusing trumpet, drums, and digital samples, Wave Magnetik’s jazzy brand of EDM will on display free of charge to Kings Rook members.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

Acoustic Ear Candy

Dec. 30 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co., 11727 E. Main Rd. North East, PA 16428 arundelcellars.com.

BluesBeaters Ring in the New Year

Dec. 31 — 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach St. bullfrogbarerie.com.

KRC NYE Bash w Wanyama

Dec. 31 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com.

DANCE

Senior Creative Dance Residency

Dec. 21, 28 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. LifeWorksErie.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Free Slider Friday

Dec. 21, 28 — 5 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. bourbonbarrelerie.com.

Festivus

Dec. 23 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

Beers, Bands, & BBQ for Boobs

Dec. 29 — 4 to 10 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

Paint N Sip

Dec. 29 — 5 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop.

Brew Year’s Eve

Dec. 31 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
The Brewery at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

MOVIES

It’s a Wonderful Life (1946)

Dec. 20 — 8 p.m.
Kick back and enjoy this holiday classic with an adult beverage of your choice at this one-of-a-kind venue.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Backyard Wilderness

CALENDAR

Metal Tyrant Reigns at Scotty's



FRIDAY, DEC. 28

Heavy Metal will be in full force in Erie, when Tyrant, The Cult Ov Crowley, Perdition, and Obelus come to Scotty's Martini Lounge.

Since forming in 2011 in Lansing, Michigan, Tyrant (not to be confused with the German band of the same name, or xTYRANTx, also from Michigan) have released one demo and two EPs over the years, and finally released

Tyrant guitarist Tony Garza will shred for the Scotty's crowd on Friday, Dec. 28.

their debut full-length album, *The Pact*, on November 23 of this year on Exmortis Records. *The Pact* is jam-packed with the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (NWOBHM) style, complete with wailing vocals, lighting fast riffing, and the occasional ominous breakdown.

The Cult Ov Crowley (yes, it's spelled that way, for you Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn fans) keep their songs on the dark, brooding, psychedelic side. Fans of Black Sabbath, Ghost, and the occult will find common ground with this Akron-based band.

Local openers on the bill are Perdition from Erie, who released their brutal, symphonic death metal album *Lost Rites* on Imminence Records in 2016, and Obelus, a death metal band from Edinboro. — Tommy Shannon

8 p.m. // 301 German St. // \$5 // 21+ // facebook.com/scottys.martini

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

EAM After Hours

Dec. 20, 21 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Punctuate your workday with a \$2 beer or \$5 glass of wine while perusing the museum's galleries.

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

Mosaic Thursdays

Dec. 27 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Artlore Studio, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

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. 20, 21 — 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 22, 23, 29, 30 — 2 p.m. & Dec. 31 — 6:30 p.m.

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

This Wonderful Life

Dec. 21, 22 — 8 p.m. &

Dec. 23 — 2 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

COMEDY

FUBAR Comedy Presents: A Night at the Movies

Dec. 28 — 8 to 11 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

April Macie

Dec. 31 — 6 or 9 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.com.

SPORTS

Erie BayHawks vs. Lakeland Magic

Dec. 28 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. league.nba.com.

Erie BayHawks vs. Delaware Blue Coats

Dec. 29 — 7 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. league.nba.com.

Erie Otters vs. Hamilton Bulldogs

Dec. 31 — 6 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. ottershockey.com.

COMMUNITY

Fiber Arts Meetup

Dec. 19 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.



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CALENDAR

Roger Harvey Comes Home for the Holidays

Singer-songwriter circles back to the place, people that made him



TOM MAY

also shared runs with the Menzingers, Tim Barry, and Against Me! His latest recordings have showcased a full, folk/alt-country sound, and features musicians like Brett Resnick (the pedal steel player for Kacey Musgraves and Kelsey Waldon) and drummer Mike Sneeringer (of The Loved Ones and Strand of Oaks), known as Roger Harvey & Family. Building on that concept, he has “been doing these things called ‘family shows,’” Harvey notes. He recently played on at The First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia (with guests like PJ Bond, Anika Pyle, Mimi Gallagher, and Jeff Riddle.) “They’re really low pressure if people are into the concept because everyone just plays a few songs. I’ll usually play more at the end.” Brainstorming with some friends from home, he started to wonder if he could do it in Erie. He quickly got This American Song’s Jeff Phillips on board. “I always really looked up to Jeff. The first band I ever went on the road with — just out of town for a couple of shows was with Black Rose Diary.” He also enlisted Fred Oakman, the talented songwriter who fronts One If By Land, and his band, The Flood. There were a few friends who haven’t performed in years in play as well, special guests to be determined, as reluctant returns to the stage often go. “Me and Steve Maynard are going to DJ country records afterwards. I think it could be a cool night for everyone,” Harvey smiled. — Nick Warren

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

This season is a time for family. That can mean different things for different people and it all hinges on what your definition of “family” is. Growing up in Girard and around the Erie music community as a whole, Roger Harvey still considers many local musicians to be “his people.” At a remarkably young age, he became part of the scene (in the early days known as “Little Roger”), and soon joined up with The Code, who were on A-F Records at the time. He started to explore songwriting on his own more, and began a solo acoustic project, Dandelion Snow. Later, he moved to Pittsburgh and teamed up with Chris #2 of Anti Flag to co-front the band White Wives. Harvey moved around again, first to New York City, then to Portland, Ore. He settled in Philadelphia, the place he now calls home when he’s not on the road. These days he’s been making a name for himself as a solo artist. In 2017, he put out his second full-length, titled *Two Coyotes* on Chunksaah Records, a label ran by The Bouncing Souls, a band whom he’s toured with extensively. He’s

9 p.m. // *Jekyll and Hyde’s*, 8 E 10th St // 21 + // facebook.com/jekyllhydesgastropub

<i>Blasco Memorial Library</i>, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org. TRE Workshop Dec. 20 — 6 p.m. <i>Whole Foods Co-Op</i>, 1341 W. 26th St. wfcerie.coop. Family STEM Night Dec. 20 — 6 p.m. <i>Tom Ridge Environmental Center</i>, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org. Create a Holiday Hug Dec. 21 — noon to 4 p.m. <i>Blasco Memorial Library</i>, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org. Erie Bluffs After Dark Dec. 21 — 6:30 p.m. Explore one of the area’s best-kept secrets after the sun goes down on this guided nature tour. <i>Erie Bluffs State Park</i>, 11122	<i>W. Lake Rd.</i>, Lake City, PA 16423 events.dcnr.pa.gov. Here Comes Santa Dec. 22 <i>Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park</i>, 8091 Peach St. splashlagoon.com. Winter Tree ID Dec. 22 — 2 p.m. <i>Tom Ridge Environmental Center</i>, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org. Ugly Sweater Party Dec. 22 — 7 to 10 p.m. Redefine “cocktail chic” with your gaudiest threads for this pre-holiday get-together. <i>Room 33</i>, 1033 State St. facebook.com. Horse-Drawn Sleigh and Wagon Rides Dec. 22, 23 — 9:30	a.m. to 4:30 p.m. <i>Port Farms</i>, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd., Waterford, PA 16441 portfarms.com. Live Nativity Dec. 22, 23 — 6 to 8 p.m. <i>Fairview United Methodist Church</i>, 4601 Avonia Rd., Fairview, PA 16415 wearefurm.org. Birthday Celebration for Lena Logvina Dec. 23 — noon to 6 p.m. <i>Artlore Studio</i>, 3406 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com. Christmas at the Warner Dec. 23 — 6 or 8 p.m. & Dec. 24 — 2 or 4 p.m. Celebrate Christmas with Grace Church in a uniquely historic theater setting. <i>Warner Theatre</i>, 811 State St. christmasatthewarner.com.
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CALENDAR

Laugh It Up With FUBAR Comedy



DAN ALTEN

working comics from around the region to be supported/heckled by friends and strangers were newer routines then, having happened only a couple of times here and there around the city.

The act has become more regular since then, though, with Brady and his *FUBAR Comedy Presents* series hosting more comedy nights at various locales.

Next up, in its return to the Erie Movie House, is "A Night at the Movies #2 Stand Up Comedy," a late-December comedy showcase starring area funny-people Dan Alten and Chris Scrivia, and also including sets from featured comics Anthony Morreli, Joey Purse, and Will Ayers, along with Brady himself.

Fun(ny) times, if you're into that kinda thing, and a fine way to burn up a few of the last hours of this old year.

— Ryan Smith

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

"Everyone's lives would be so much better if they could just laugh once in a while," local stand-up comedian Daniel Brady said as we chatted about local stand-up comedy.

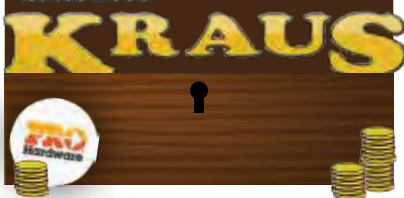
And "we have some really funny people around here" with a knack for making that happen, he added.

Brady's endeavors to host stand-up open mics and invite up-and-coming

Saturday, Dec. 28; 8 to 11 p.m. // Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Road // tickets: \$10; 18+ only; BYOB for 21+ with ID // facebook.com/FUBARComedy

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www.wbu.com/erie

Holiday Art Camp

Dec. 26, 27, 28
Artlore Studio, 3406 W.
Lake Rd. facebook.com.

Winter Wonderland

Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury
Rd. asburywoods.org.

Turtle Talk

Dec. 27 — 2 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Cen-
ter, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Alzheimer's Support Group

Dec. 27 — 3 to 4 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center
Library, 1255 Manches-
ter Rd. erielibrary.org.

Snowshoe Demonstration

Dec. 28 — 11 a.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Cen-
ter, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Art That Shocked The World

Dec. 28 — 6 to 7 p.m.

In this latest installment of
the Erie Art Museum's Art Talk
lecture series, EAM direc-
tor Josh Helmer discusses
controversial artwork that
made waves in its time.

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

Ring in the New Year

Dec. 31 — 2 p.m.

*Avalon Hotel, 16 W. 10th
St. facebook.com.*

Boogie On The Bay NYE Party

Dec. 31 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1
Sassafras Pier 814-452-4857

Room 33 NYE Blues Bash

Dec. 31 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Room 33, 1033 State
St. facebook.com.

First Day Walk 2018-19

Dec. 31 — 11 p.m.
Stull Interpretive Center
at Pl State Park, 1 Pen-
insula Dr. trecpi.org.

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Beers, Bands, & BBQ for Boobs Is What Friends Are For



SATURDAY, DEC. 29

When you find out a friend has a serious illness like Stage 2 breast cancer, and the treatment requires her to take off copious amounts of time from work — what do you do?

You try and support her in the very best ways that you can, of course.

When Jessica Yochim found out her dear friend Cassie Henry had been diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer, she decided that the very best support she could give was in the form of Beers, Bands, & BBQ for Boobs.

“[Cassie] is a flight attendant, and she is not permitted to fly while she is receiving chemotherapy,” Yochim said. “We decided to create an online fundraiser and host this benefit to help offset the costs incurred by seeking treatment.”

That “we” includes Yochim, Emily Smicker, Mary Triana, Cecelia Hollands, Alexa Luczak and Brianna Lyle, a devoted girl squad of organizers who weren’t going to just let the grass grow underfoot when their friend needed them.

With the generous help of Jeff McCullor, co-founder of the event venue

Erie Ale Works and a personal friend of Henry’s, the Erie community can come together for a delightful post-Christmas/pre-NYE gathering, where the beer will flow, local artists will enhance the festivities with live music, and the Que Abides will be on hand, selling their mouth-watering BBQ goodies.

The music will kick off at 5 p.m. with hip-hop artist and producer Charles Brown, followed by Erie’s real-life little mermaid Brooke Surgener at 6:30 p.m. and local long-time faves Falling Hollywood at 8 p.m.

There is no entry fee for this event, which is open to the public, but the organizers hope for generous donations at the door, and will also be selling raffle tickets as guests enter.

Said Yochim, “[Cassie] is a dear friend to all of us, and we want to support her during this difficult time.”

That, after all, is what friends are for. — Cara Suppa

4 p.m. to 10 p.m. // Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th // No entry fee, suggested donation // For more info or to make a donation, visit bit.ly/bbbbq4b

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New York Philharmonic
New Year's Eve with
Renée Fleming



December 31 at 9pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1

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December 19, 2018

Your New Year's To-Do

How to close out 2018 in Erie



SEAN LOCKER PHOTOGRAPHY

By: Cara Suppa

Hey guys — we did it. We survived another year. We made it to the finish line. 2019 is coming at us and it's going to be shiny and bright and full of incandescent joy!

Well okay, maybe it's a little early to be making predictions, but at least your New Year's Eve can be shiny, bright and full of joy as you party the day and night away. There is something to be said for NYE in Erie, because the crowds aren't nearly as oppressive as they are in your larger metropolises, but you still get all of the hoopla (and at whatever level of excitement you want your hoopla set for). Here's your going-out guide for NYE 2018.

For the Fam/Not So Boozy

A Night in Wonderland at Splash Lagoon

Get inside where it's warm and wet and treat the kids to animal shows, activity stations, a dance party, midnight beach ball drop, and both champagne and grape juice toasts.

9 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. // 8091 Peach St. // See Splash Lagoon website for admission rates // [splashlagoon.com](#)

Rockin' Noon Year's Eve at the expERIENCE Children's Museum

Because your kids certainly aren't going to make it to midnight (if you have anything to say about it) — and there's a good chance you won't either! Balloons drop at noon and 2 p.m., with tons of fun activities and favors throughout.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. // 420 French St. // \$4 for members, \$9 for non-members // [eriechildrensmuseum.org](#)

New Year's Eve at Playport

Who loves Playport more — you or the kids? This NYE, it doesn't matter, and you

can all enjoy with party favors, \$1 hot dogs, sparkling grape juice at midnight and a ball drop live stream.

Mon. 11 a.m. to Tues. 12 a.m. // 2730 West 12th St. // Usual admission // [playporterie.com](#)

NYE Couples' Yoga Hour at the Co-Op

Nama-stay connected with your partner into the new year as Betty Amatangelo guides you through gentle movements that are suitable for both beginners and more experienced yogis.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. // 1341 West 26th St. // \$15/couple // [wfcerie.coop/calendar](#)

Erie Otters vs. Hamilton Bulldogs, UPMC NYE at Erie Insurance Arena

A perfect way to celebrate NYE with your older kids or a great way to start that 21+ night. Go Otters!

6 p.m. // 809 French St. // Adults \$20-22 (see Otters website for full pricing info) // [ottershockey.com](#)

First Day Walk 2018-2019

A beautiful (and easy) three-mile walk, starting at the Stull Center at Presque Isle provides a gorgeously chilly nature-filled alternative to your typical hot and boozy party, with a celebration at midnight!

Mon. 11 p.m. to Tues. 12:30 a.m. // Presque Isle State Park Stull Center // Free (registration is required) // [events.dcnr.pa.gov](#)

7th Annual Frigid Frolic New Year's Day Bike Ride

Too fun not to share, even if it's not necessarily NYE. A brisk 13-mile bike ride will have you oohing and ahh-ing anew over PI, and the ride doubles as a blanket/winter weather wardrobe drive (so bring new/gently used coats, mittens, scarves, etc.).

Ladies and gentlemen, hold onto your tiaras — this New Year's Eve is going to be a doozie (remember to not drink and drive).

Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. // Presque Isle State Park (meet at Sara's parking lot) // Free (blanket/coat/hat, etc. donation encouraged) // [facebook.com/LakeErieCyclepaths](#)

Boozy as All Get-out/Make Sure You Have a DD

Four-course Meal at The Cork 1794

Erie's newest in elegant dining is offering up three seatings for a scrumptious and decadent four-course meal that includes a complimentary glass of champagne and live music.

4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. // 900 W. Erie Plaza Dr. // 4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. seating: \$75/person; 9:00 p.m. seating: \$85/person // [cork1794.com](#)

New Year's Eve at Presque Isle Downs and Casino

There is a lot going on at the casino for NYE, so whatever your tastes or budget, if you'd like to combine your partying with some slots, this is the place to be.

4:30 p.m. // 8199 Perry Hwy. // Various prices (see website for full listing) // [presqueisledowns.com](#)

Couples Retreat: A Night of Laughter and Dancing with April Macie at Jr.'s Last Laugh

Two shows, both featuring outrageous personality April Macie, and both with dancing to live music from the Pop Rock-ets, but the 9 p.m. event also includes champagne and a hot breakfast buffet.

6 p.m. and 9 p.m. // 1402 State St. // \$20 (6 p.m.) and \$35 (9 p.m.) // [jrslastlaugh.com/april-macie-nye-2018](#)

21st Amendment New Year's Eve Prohibition Party at Tap House

What better way to ring in 2019 than by celebrating that crazy time when Prohibition finally got struck down? The ales of featured brewery 21st Amendment, live music, prize drawings, and tons of fun abound.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. // 333 State St. #110 // No door fee // [upick6.com/events/tap-house](#)

New Year's Eve: Old SKOOL Jam at the Metroplex Entertainment Complex

Put on your party-best (formal — no sneakers!) and boogie down with tons of old school jams like Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Mary J. Blige and more, plus a breakfast buffet.

8 p.m. // 1837 Buffalo Rd. // pricing unavailable

New Year's Celebration at the Avalon

Guests can purchase party-only tickets, but The Avalon will be offering terrific overnight packages that include free parking, a breakfast buffet Tuesday morning, dinner credit at their in-house restaurants and, of course, a raucous good time at their NYE party.

8:30 p.m. // 16 West 10th St. // Party-only: \$25/person, \$45/couple (call 814.459.2220 for full package details) // [facebook.com/AvalonErie](#)

Boogie on the Bay New Year's Eve Party

Boogie down the Hollywood way at the Bayfront Convention Center for a glitzy night of glamour.

9 p.m. // 1 Sassafras Pier // \$55/ticket // [erieevents.com/events/boogie-on-the-bay-new-years-eve-party-2](#)

Room 33 NYE Blues Bash

After taking wining and dining in Erie to a whole new level, Room 33 is bringing blues in the form of Ron Yarosz to their speakeasy for an ultra-elegant evening.

9 p.m. // 1033 State St. // \$15/person (VIP packages available) // [room33.bar](#)

Brew Year's Eve

Thankfully the Brewery's got puns, live music, DJ entertainment, and an open bar plus hor d'oeuvres included in the ticket price.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Tues) // 123 West 14th St. // \$50/ticket // [brewerie.com](#)

New Year's Eve Bash with The Breeze Band at Sandbar

Don't forget — your favorite neighborhood bar, like the Sandbar, probably has a sweet party going on, and in this case, you can count on snacks, party favors, champagne and a buffet for an even sweeter low price.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Tues) // 2835 West 8th St. // \$10/person, \$15/couple // [facebook.com/SandbarDrafthouseGrille](#)

New Year's Eve Bash with Wanyama at King's Rook Club

Topping off a stellar year of live music and activities, both floors at KRC will be rockin' for their NYE party.

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](#)

New Year's Eve with McKenzie and Friends at Scotty's Martini Lounge

Enjoy the optimistic apocalypse and a New Year's cigar with McKenzie Sprague, her band Cult Classics, and special guests.

9 p.m. // 301 German St. // 21+ // [facebook.com/ScottysMartini](#)

The 2018 Best of Erie Finalists



After two months of voting and nearly 350,000 ballots cast, it's evident that Erie has clear ideas about what is best for itself. The Reader hereby presents your top three 2018 Best of Erie finalists (in alphabetical order) in all 111 categories. Winners will be revealed in the upcoming Jan. 2 issue.

Goods and Services

Best Local Business

- Erie Insurance
- Kraus Department Store
- Waldameer Water World

Best Car Dealership

- Bianchi Honda
- Hallman Chevrolet
- Humes Chrysler Jeep Dodge & Ram

Best Used/Vintage Clothing

- Plato's Closet
- The Salvation Army Family Store
- The Sassy Peacock

Best Jewelry Store

- Breakiron Jewelers
- Dahlkemper's Jewelry Connection
- Sacred Piercing

Best Furniture Store

- Arthur F. Schultz
- Furniture Row
- John V. Schultz

Best Smoke/Vapor Shop

- Hippie and the Hound Vapor

- Store and Lounge
- Smoker Friendly
- Vapor Cabana

Best Place to Get a Six Pack

- 1000 Beers
- U Pick Six
- Wegmans

Best Health Food Store

- The Juice Jar
- Whole Foods Co-op
- Zero Gravity

Best Tattoo Parlor

- Ink Assassins
- Mid-Town Tattoo
- Wayward Tattoo Studio

Best Local Graphic Designer

- Alice DeGeorge
- Amanda Daniels
- Ellen Chipoletti

Best Place to Get Pierced

- Erie Eclect-Ink
- Ink Assassins
- Sacred Piercing

Best Place to Adopt a Pet

- The ANNA Shelter
- Because You Care, Inc
- Humane Society of Northwest Pennsylvania

Best Bank

- Erie Federal Credit Union
- Northwest Bank
- Widget Financial

Best Spa

- Ambridge Rose Spa & Salon
- Coventina Day Spa

- Panache Salon and Spa

Best Beauty Salon

- Ambridge Rose Spa & Salon
- Moxi Hair Salon
- Panache Salon and Spa

Best Barbershop

- Colony Barber Shop
- Russo's Barbershop
- Uncle's Barber Shop

Best Bike Shop

- A. R. Adams Cycle
- Competitive Gear
- John Adams Cycling & Fitness

Best Web Developer

- Epic Web Studios
- Snowberry Media
- weCreate Website Design & Marketing

Best Locally Made Product

- Erie Apparel
- PopLuck Popcorn
- Smith's Hot Dogs

Best New Business (Within Last Two Years)

- Ember + Forge
- PopLuck Popcorn
- Room 33

Best Dog Groomer

- Mud Puppies Self Serve Dog Wash
- Paws 'n Claws
- Peninsula Pups Doggie Day-care

Best Consignment Shop

- Claudine's Consignment

- Milestones Children's Consignment
- The Sassy Peacock

Best Thrift Store

- Goodwill
- The Salvation Army Family Store
- The Thrifty Shopper

Best Graphic Design Agency

- ErieMultimedia
- Presque Isle Printing Services
- Tungsten Creative Group

Best Antique Shop

- Oregon Antiques
- The Curiosity Shoppe
- The Green Eyed Lady

Best Independent Book Store

- Books Galore
- Pressed
- Werner Books

Best Law Firm

- Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.
- MacDonald, Illig, Jones, & Britton LLP
- Vendetti & Vendetti Law Firm

Best Real Estate Agency

- Agresti Real Estate
- Keller Williams
- Marsha Marsh

Best Real Estate Agent

- Amanda Serafini
- Levi A. Marsh
- Nanci Lorei

Best Bed and Breakfast

- George Carroll House Bed and Breakfast
- Grape Arbor Bed and Breakfast
- Spencer House Bed & Breakfast

Culture & Nightlife

Best Local Festival

- 8 Great Tuesdays
- Celebrate Erie
- Roar On The Shore

Best Art Event

- Arts & Drafts Festival
- Erie Art Museum Spring Show
- Gallery Nights

Best Museum

- Erie Art Museum
- Erie Maritime Museum
- ExpERIENCE Children's Museum

Best Performing Arts Space

- Erie Playhouse
- PACA
- Warner Theatre

Best Local Band

- Erie Brewer & Friends
- First to Eleven
- The Groove

Best Local Fine Artist

- Corey Thompson
- Evan Everhart
- Tom Ferraro

Best Art Gallery

- Erie Art Gallery
- Erie Art Museum
- Glass Growers Gallery

Best Music Venue

- Basement Transmissions
- Coconut Joe's
- Warner Theatre

Best Local Photographer

- Matt Mead
- Paul Gibbins
- Sarah Peach

Best Up-and-Coming Band/Musician (Last Two Years)

- Black Moon Mistress
- Cult Classics
- The Filthy Casuals

Best Local Singer

- Brooke Surgener
- Mckenzie Sprague
- Zack Orr

Best Local Musician

- Eric Brewer
- Matt Boland
- Zack Orr

Best MC

- Charles Brown
- Jonny Evans
- Tony Facchiano

Best Neighborhood Bar

- Jekyll & Hyde's
- Lavery Brewing Company
- Plymouth Tavern

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JANUARY 2019 SCHEDULE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 *Away vs. Barrie Colts 7:30pm	4 *Away vs. Niagara IceDogs 7pm	5
6 *Home vs. Sarnia Sting 4pm	7	8	9	10	11 *Home vs. Owen Sound Attack 7pm	12 *Home vs. Owen Sound Attack 7pm
13 vs. Oshawa Generals 6:05pm	14	15	16	17 *Away vs. Windsor Spitfires 7:05pm	18 *Away vs. Sarnia Sting 7:05pm	19 *Away vs. Saginaw Spirit 7:05pm
20 *Away	21	22	23	24 *Away vs. Niagara IceDogs 7pm	25	26 *Home vs. Guelph Storm 7pm
27	28	29	30	31 *Away vs. Mississauga Steelheads 7pm		

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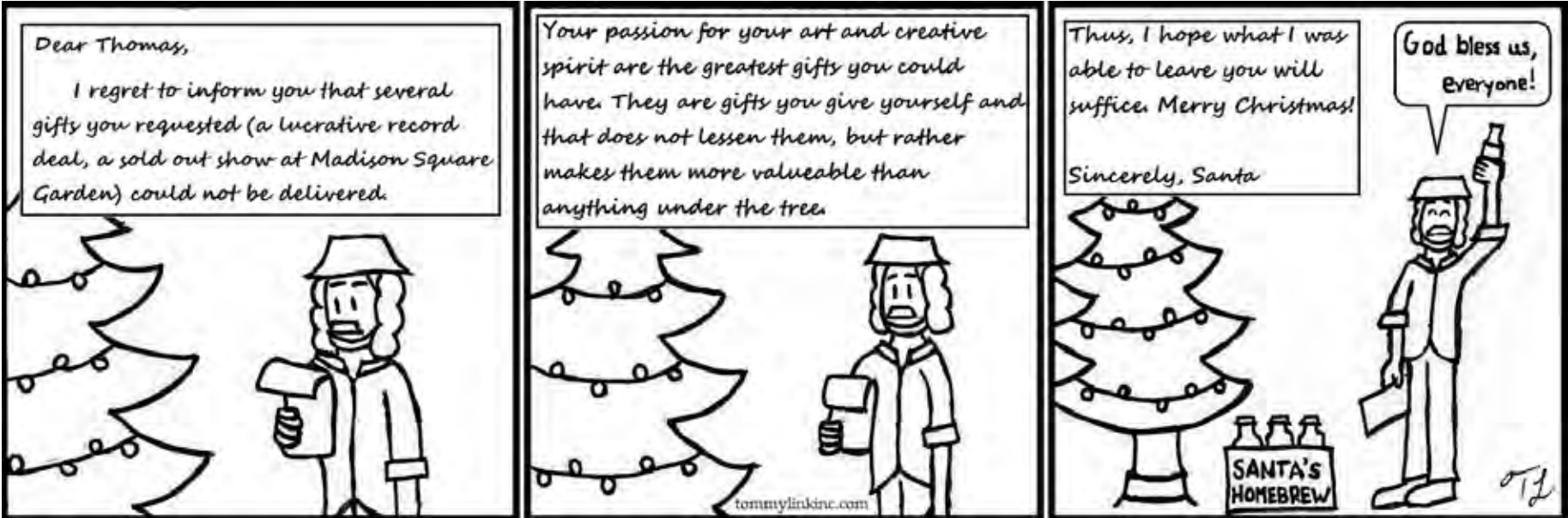
December 19, 2018

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BEST OF ERIE

Best Night Club Bourbon Barrel Coconut Joe's Kings Rook Club	Best DJ Dj Bill Page Dj Johnny B Dj Roach	Bertrand Artigues (Cloud 9 Wine Bar) Dan Kern (Noosa/1201 Kitchen) Jean Paul (Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro)	Best Local Brewery Erie Brewing Company Lavery Brewing Company Voodoo Brewery Erie	Best Asian Restaurant Chopstix Asian Restaurant Golden Wok Like My Thai
Best New Bar or Club (Within Last Two Years) Big Bar Room 33 The Skunk and Goat Tavern	Best Irish Pub Lavery Brewing Company McGarrey's Oakwood Cafe Molly Brannigan's Irish Pub	Best Bar Food Odis 12 Sports Bar & Grille Plymouth Tavern U Pick 6 Tap House	Best Locally Made Beer Dulachan (Lavery Brewing Company) Railbender (Erie Brewing Company) Voodoo Love Child (Voodoo)	Best Italian Restaurant Mi Scuzi Nunzi's Restaurant Serafini's Restaurant
Best College Bar Coconut Joe's Cornerstone Bar & Grill Plymouth Tavern	Food & Drink	Best Local Coffee Shop Brew Ha Ha at the Colony Ember + Forge Mugs & Muggles	Best Place to Get Vegan or Vegetarian Food Like My Thai The Juice Jar Whole Foods Co-op	Best Mexican Restaurant El Canelo Moe's Southwest Grill Torero's
Best Sports Bar Coach's Sports Bar & Grill Oasis Pub Odis 12	Best Restaurant Federal Hill Smokehouse Nunzi's Restaurant Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro	Best Food Truck The Big Cheese Food Truck The Que Abides Voodoo Brewery Foodoo Truck	Best Barbecue Dickeys Barbecue Pit Federal Hill Smokehouse Three B Saloon	Best Mediterranean or Middle Eastern Restaurant Alkeme Casablanca Grill Petra Restaurant
Best Lounge Cloud 9 Wine Bar Room 33 Scotty's Martini Lounge	Best Sandwich Shop Lucky Louie's Beer and Wieners Picasso's Teresa's Deli	Best Breakfast Flip Cafe The Breakfast Place The Original Breakfast Place	Best Burger Five Guys Max & Erma's Odis 12 Sports Bar & Grille	Best Late-Nite Menu Dominick's Diner-Eatery Panos Restaurant Plymouth Tavern
Best Local Cover Band Abbey Road The Geek Army The Groove	Best New Restaurant (Within Last Two Years) Room 33 The Skunk and Goat Tavern Sneaky Pete's	Best Patio Bayfront Grille Calamari's Squid Row Plymouth Tavern	Best Pizza John's Wildwood Pizza Stevo's Pizza Virgil's Plate	Best Dessert Give A Crepe. La CrepeErie Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro Romolo Chocolates
Best Happy Hour Cloud 9 Wine Bar Coconut Joe's U Pick 6 Taphouse	Best Seafood Joe Roots Grill Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro Smugglers' Wharf	Best Brunch Cloud 9 Wine Bar Peek'n Peak Voodoo Brewery Erie	Best Wings Odis 12 Sports Bar & Grille One Way Inn The Park Tavern	Best Indian Food Curry Point LLC Darjeeling Kitchen Tandoori Hut Indian Cuisine
Best Dance School Little Dance Studio Long's School of Dance Marguerite's Academy of Dance	Best Romantic Restaurant Cloud 9 Wine Bar Colao's Ristorante Mi Scuzi	Best Place to Get Ice Cream Creamland Sara's Restaurant Whippy Dip	Best Sushi Chopstix Asian Restaurant Samurai Kitchen + Sushi Wegmans	Best Thai Restaurant Kao Thai Like My Thai Thai Eatery
	Best Chef			

TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



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Best Chocolates or Candy Pulakos Chocolates Romolo Chocolates Stefanelli's Candies	Best Radio Station 90.5 WERG HAPPI 927 Star 104	Best Place to Work Erie Insurance UPMC Hamot Wegmans	Best Bartender Brittany Stowe (Plymouth Tavern) Jim Wise (Coconut Joe's) Meghann Legler (Haggerty's)	Best Golf Course Beechwood Golf Club Peek n' Peak Whispering Woods Golf Club
Best Bakery Art's Bakery Icing On the Lake Ye Ole Sweet Shoppe	Best Radio Personality (or Radio Team) Craig Warvel Jessica and Murphy in the Morning Sammy Stone	Best Tourist Attraction Brig Niagara Presque Isle State Park Waldameer Water World	Best University Edinboro University Gannon University Penn State Behrend	Best Local Entrepreneur(s) Autumn and Ryan Atzert (Federal Hill Smokehouse) Hannah Kirby (Ember + Forge) R.J. Messenger (Iron Empire)
Best Deli Teresa's Italian Deli Tickle's Deli Urbaniak Brothers Quality Meat	Best TV Personality Amanda Post Lou Baxter Sean Lafferty	Best Local Actor Brendan Daugherty Michael Haas Will Steadman	Best Fitness Club LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center Planet Fitness YMCA	Best Place for a First Date Cloud 9 Wine Bar Presque Isle State Park Tinseltown
Best Winery Arundel Cellars & Brewing Co Heritage Wine Cellars Mazza Vineyards	Best Yoga Studio LECOM Yoga Erie YMCA	Best Local Actress Adele Crotty Emily Olszewski Kelly Rodland	Best Athletic Competition Barber Beast on the Bay Highmark QUAD Games The Color Run	Best Lawyer Erin Connelly James "Chetty" Vendetti Rebeka Seelinger
Best Distillery Cart/Horse Distilling Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing Luminary Distilling	Best Poet Marissa Moks-Unger Michael Bennett Monica Igras	Best Non-Profit or Charity Emma's Footprints Humane Society of Northwest Pennsylvania Orphan Angels Cat Sanctuary	Best Bowling Alley Eastway Lanes Greengarden Lanes Rolling Meadow Lanes	Best Tattoo Artist Corey Thompson "Gentle" Josh Makowski Jennifer Christina
			Best Team to Root for	

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The Top 5 Movies of 2018

The finest slices of cinema the year had to offer

By: Forest Taylor

1. FIRST REFORMED

A truly challenging and thought-provoking experience. Paul Schrader's tale of a crisis of faith and helplessness in the face of global environmental devastation is my pick for the best film of the year. Ethan Hawke gives the performance of his life and the film is so confident in its execution, slowly building the tension to its show-stopping climax. Every shot is filled with haunting beauty, every scene pitch-perfect in its authenticity. It's like *Taxi Driver* as directed by Ingmar Bergman. This is one that will be talked about years later as a perfect snapshot of the fears and anxieties that gripped 2010s America. 2018 has its masterpiece!



A24

2. LET THE SUNSHINE IN

A terrific film that almost flew under the radar for me because it was being marketed in America as just some generic "rom-com". When I found out it was directed by the great Claire Denis, however, I had to check it out. The story about a divorced mother's multiple attempts to find true love is typical of the genre, but Denis fills it with so much compassion that the film becomes funny and heartbreaking at the same time. She clearly has sympathy for all the characters, even when they're acting like selfish children. Juliette Binoche proves she's still one of the best



CURIOSA FILMS

3. EIGHTH GRADE

Every now and then a movie comes along that contains so much humanity and familiarity that I can't help but fall in love. I'm happy to say that Bo Burnham's directorial debut is one of those films. Depicting the life of a shy, nerdy and socially anxious teen has never been more realistically depicted. Burnham's writing and an incredible performance by Elsie Fisher bring the audience back to those horrifyingly awkward days of early teenage life. Every line of dialogue, every awkward movement, and every piece of teenage minutiae felt so real, I think audiences will both laugh and cry with recognition.



A24

4. LEAVE NO TRACE

The biggest tear-jerker of the year, Debra Granik's tale of a father and daughter living in a national park is both a terrific coming-of-age story and a statement about the effects of PTSD on Iraq War veterans. Ben Foster and newcomer Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie give two of the year's best performances and Granik manages to frame the woods as both safe and comforting as well as dark and foreboding depending



BLEEKER STREET

on the characters' state of mind. The story speaks not only to familial solidarity, but also to knowing when to move on with one's life. I don't think I've seen a more emotionally devastating finale all year.

5. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU & SUPPORT THE GIRLS

Fifth place is a tie because these movies both represent an interesting societal problem. Both films reflect the effects that demeaning low-pay work has on people (particularly people of color) in this "jobless recovery;" telemarketing for the former and a Hooters-esque "breastaurant" for the latter. However, both films couldn't be more different. While *Support the Girls* is a realistic and touching tale of sisterly solidarity, *Sorry to Bother You* gets its message across through a satirical, acidic slice of absurdism. Both are great in their own right and they perfectly represent the heart and creativity that can still be found in independent filmmaking. They would make for great double-feature.



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- Burning*
- Mandy*
- Hereditary*
- The Death of Stalin*

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Top Ten Albums of 2018

Our favorite picks from this year

By: Aaron Mook and
Nick Warren

2018 was...well, it was a year that happened to all of us. These writers are hesitant to say anything optimistic about 2019 for fear of cursing it, but as always, the one thing we look forward to most around these parts is arguing about our favorite records until one of us proposes a cohesive (and, might we add, impeccable) list of the albums that deserve your attention before the new year. Happy holidays, folks, and as always, thanks for reading.

MITSKI *BE THE COWBOY*



Full disclosure: Mitski is no stranger to our list. Her last release, *Puberty 2*, topped our 2016 list. If that record certified Mitski's independent success, *Be the Cowboy* is her debut on the big screen. Similar to another record on our list (Porches' *The House*), Mitski applies extravagant production work to occasionally minimalist material, resulting in an incredibly unique listening experience. At times, the album feels like a love letter to both female empowerment in music and artists of the 1990s, tipping its hat to everyone from Alanis Morissette to Bjork and even The Pixies. Often composed around a piano, Mitski highlights the album's arrangements with strings, synthesizers, and horns — a fitting evolution for an album that also moves boldly away from the autobiographical writing of Mitski's past. Still, there's enough vulnerability throughout *Be the Cowboy* to prove that Mitski is

an incredibly powerful writer, regardless of the prompt. — AM

2. CAROLINE ROSE *LONER*



It's interesting that Caroline Rose follows Mitski on our End of the Year list, because both artists succeed in similar markets while taking largely separate artistic routes. Both harness the ability to become beacons of alienation and heartbreak, but while Mitski experiments sonically and flirts with moments of high art, Rose is the everywoman, someone who wants to cheer you up as often as she needs cheering up. *Loner* is largely comprised of standard pop numbers, dressed to the nines with impeccable hooks, synth work, and unique songwriting to boot. As evidenced by the album's unforgettable artwork, Rose never takes herself too seriously, presenting as someone just as playful ("Soul No. 5," "Money") as she is honest ("Getting to Me," "Cry"). The result is a musical prism that blends the likes of Phoenix, Modest Mouse, and Haim into indie-pop that is both refreshingly ambitious and endlessly relatable. — AM

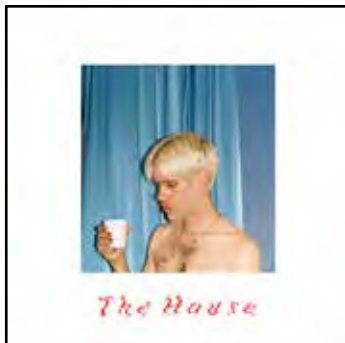
3. FOXING *NEARER MY GOD*

There probably isn't another album from 2018 that's as well-constructed as *Nearer My God*. After multiple listens, the St. Louis emo/post-rock band has seemingly succeeded on everything they set out to do. It's well-calculated, but doesn't show its seams, not for one



second lacking the humanity that it also strives for. Dynamic and almost cinematically epic, it shoots for the stars and hits. Cutting from vigorously frantic sections like those in "Game-shark" and the soul-affirming singalongs fit for a cathedral in the album's titular track, it's a tour de force, and a beautiful one at that. Frontman Conor Murphy's delivery transitions from tenderness to grandiose bombast with unmitigated grace. Lofty lyrical themes and motifs dot the record and give it the just the right amount of weight and self-importance without for a moment being insincere. — NW

4. PORCHES *THE HOUSE*



The House separates itself from a hoard of electronica/R&B-influenced indie-rock by often contradicting itself. It lays luxurious horns or bass tones over otherwise barebones arrangements, indulging itself while also showing restraint. This effectively allows Porches to operate in two worlds. It is impressive, then, that mastermind Aaron Maine navigates both of those worlds

expertly. Peer and cult figure (SANDY) Alex G lends vocals to the dry, sparse introduction, "Leave The House," moments before Maine bursts into the contagious, M83-esque single, "Find Me." But the album is riddled with eclectic genre-blending, from the sadboy club beats of "Anymore" and "By My Side" to the gorgeous, harmony-laden build of highlight "Country." From all perspectives, *The House* represents the next logical step for Porches, and hopefully for independent music as a whole. — AM

5. MIYA FOLICK *PREMONITIONS*



A nearly perfect indie debut, *Premonitions* starts off with a whisper and proceeds to build into a lush pop masterpiece. Combining the emotional earnestness and artistic chops of the XX with the fun-loving likability of Marina and the Diamonds, Folick finds her own unique voice and is clearly having a good time doing it. Almost demanding repeated plays, it's an album that will surely inspire countless car singalongs, honest smiles, and shared moments. Addicting and refreshingly invigorating, it's one of the brightest albums of the year, from an artist worth keeping an eye on for years to come. — NW

6. THE 1975 *A BRIEF INQUIRY INTO ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS*

It was fascinating to see so many Radiohead comparisons when *The 1975* dropped their



third and most-realized LP. In concept, *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships* isn't far from *OK Computer*, but sonically, it's as trendy and straightforward as anything the polarizing (and widely popular) English quartet have released before. Sandwiched between hip-hop influenced vocal processing and down-to-Earth ballads are moments of true brilliance, such as the '80s retro-pop of "It's Not Living (If It's Not With You)" and the devastating bleak, occasionally optimistic "Love It If We Made It." — AM

7. SOCCER MOMMY *CLEAN*



There were many utterly fantastic artists who shot for a passionate, emotionally evocative confessional this year: Snail Mail, Lucy Dacus, Free Cake For Every Creature, and The Beths to name a few. In a photo-finish, Sophie Allison manages to be perhaps the most enjoyable. It's instantly spellbinding, the 20-year-old Nashvillian's soft voice bursting with strength and fragility at the same time. Finely crafted pop songwriting allows it to sit indelibly in the listeners

mind past the subtle delivery of Allison, supremely empathetic and personally affecting. — NW

8. EARL SWEATSHIRT SOME RAP SONGS



The third studio album from Thebe Kgositsile — better known as Earl Sweatshirt — is understated, with a well-earned confidence. With a name as nonchalant as *Some Rap Songs*, the former Odd Future member gives a wink of false

modesty to the listener. Warm and filled with jazzy vibrato, it's an effortless-sounding blend of avant garde hip-hop, the dark, jagged samples looping into a surprising comfort zone. There's a profound intimacy at work, the ever-so-trippy production lulling the listener in for a late-night conversation. — NW

9. ILLUMINATI HOTTIES KISS YR FRENEMIES



Infectious and exquisitely fun, the debut from Los Angeles

sound engineer Sarah Tudzin has all the trappings of a cult-favorite record. Shifting from high-energy tracks with a novel punchline ("Paying Off the Happiness") to open-hearted emotional reflections ("Patience"), Tudzin and company have made an happily digestible collection packed with their own inside jokes and diary-like admissions. It's a welcoming record, capable of being high energy even at its most lethargic moments. There's a full spectrum of emotions here that are presented honestly. They also sound exquisite. — NW

10. IDLES JOY AS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE

At first glance, English post-punk phenomenon IDLES may present masculine, but "Samaritans," one of the most



striking songs on the band's sophomore LP, sends a different message entirely. "This is why you never see your father cry," frontman Joe Talbot murmurs, before launching into a flipped take on Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl." The band folds progressive ideals into their tense brand of pit-ready rock and roll at every turn, resulting in *Joy As An Act of Resistance* playing a bit like 2018's loudest protest record. — AM

Nick's Top 10 Runners-Up: Ezra Furman - *Transangelic Exodus*, Speedy Ortiz - *Twerp Verse*, Christine and the Queens - *Chris, Lucy Dacus - Historian*, Young Fathers - *Cocoa Sugar*, Kacey Musgraves - *Golden Hour*, Hookworms - *Microshift*, Free Cake for Every Creature - *The Bluest Star*, DJ Koze - *Knock Knock*, Wild Pink - *Yolk In The Fur*

Aaron's Top 10 Runners-Up: Arctic Monkeys - *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino*, Pusha T - *DAYTONA*, Brockhampton - *Iridescence*, The Sidekicks - *Happiness Hours*, Father John Misty - *God's Favorite Customer*, Beach House - *7*, American Pleasure Club - *A Whole Fucking Lifetime of This*, Mac Miller - *Swimming*, An Autumn for Crippled Children - *The Light of*, The Carters - *Everything Is Love*

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Top Three Albums From Erie Artists in 2018

Check out three of the best full-lengths from around the area.

By: Nick Warren

SMILO & THE GHOST - *GHOST WRITERS*

Amazingly rich with just enough roughness around the edges, Tyler Smilo has done it again. This time, instead of a solo acoustic recording or the full-out rock of Daybreak Radio, Smilo & the Ghost reach a marriage of folk virtuosity, expertly composed instrumental sections, and sympathetic storytelling. With some of the area's best musicians clocked in — Jassen Wilber, Eric Brewer, Adam McKillip, Ted Smeltz, and Abby Barrett — there's a real magic at work here. It's "upscale rustic," 11 beautiful tracks full of emotionally charged dynamics that deserve to be heard.



Listen: tylersmilo.bandcamp.com

TEDDY RANKIN - *OMITTING THE MIDDLE*

Endlessly charming in a low key kind of way, Teddy Rankin is one of Erie's hidden gems. His tenor croon is well-controlled and expertly guided, especially for an artist barely into his 20s. This 17-track record was accompanied by a special release party at the Presque Isle Lighthouse in October of this year. Officially his third record, *Omitting the Middle* harnesses a stripped-down acoustic sound with light band backup for folky, pop brilliance. A strong sense of hook, melody and emotion blend together for a sweet and sincere treat.



Listen: teddyrankin.bandcamp.com

GOO - *PARENTHESES*

This album is a real, raucous, and raw debut from the Cory, Penn. trio. This 11-track release finds the sweet spot, that ever-elusive lo-fi glory that every truly great garage rock record captures. It's indie rock that's part punk, part bedroom album — simultaneously chaotic and well-paced. There are sections filled with humor, anger, and all manner of captivating, creative moments. While the band seemingly slips in and out of tune, they're able to have it work for them instead of against them, like the warbling imperfections of a well-played cassette tape.



Listen: gooband.bandcamp.com

Top TV Picks From 2018

Some of the best shows of the year

By: Nick Warren



Bojack Horseman - Best Animated Show / Netflix

One of TV's boldest offerings in years, and arguably worthy of the increasingly coveted honors for Best Streaming Show, *Bojack Horseman* threads the needle of highbrow and lowbrow art. Now in its fifth season, the series follows the titular character through the ups and downs of depression and chemical dependence — and he's an anthropomorphic horse, of course. Starring the voice talents of Will Arnett, Amy Sedaris, Aaron Paul, Alison Brie, and Paul F. Tompkins, the cast is one of the funniest on air. The animation style takes cues from modern alternative comics (with artist Lisa Hanawalt as the character designer), and uses background art filled with different inside jokes and Easter eggs. This season was one of its strongest, an uptick from last year, with *Horseman* now starring in a televised

crime drama called *Philbert*. Highlights include the second episode "The Dog Days Are Over," wherein ghostwriter-turned-listicle-maker Diane Nguyen (Brie) visits her almost-home-country of Viet Nam following her divorce from Mr. Peanutbutter (Tompkins), and the heart-breaking "Free Churro," which consists entirely of a monologue from Arnett, delivering a eulogy.

The Good Place - Best Network Show / NBC, Hulu, Netflix

This criminally underrated comedy is finally starting to gain the audience it deserves. It's easy to see why this surreal high-concept sitcom found difficulty finding its own. Its vivid color palette and bright orchestral score hinted that it would be more akin to shows like the middling *Suburgatory*, or the cult-sleeper *Cougartown* — mostly a misbranding issue. The show was created by Michael Shur, whose previous efforts, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* and *Parks and Recreation*, give a much better representation for what fans could expect in regard to comedic style. The concept behind the show follows four people (Kristen Bell, William Jackson Harper, Jameela Jamil, and Manny Jacinto) in the afterlife, who meet the location's "architect" and A.I. assistant (Ted Danson and D'Arcy Carden). While this could have easily been a limited series, seasons two and three have continually found new ways

to explore the complex world and mythology that the show has built — and there's a fourth on the way. Season three finds the group back on the plane of the living in a new timeline and seeking a chance at redemption.

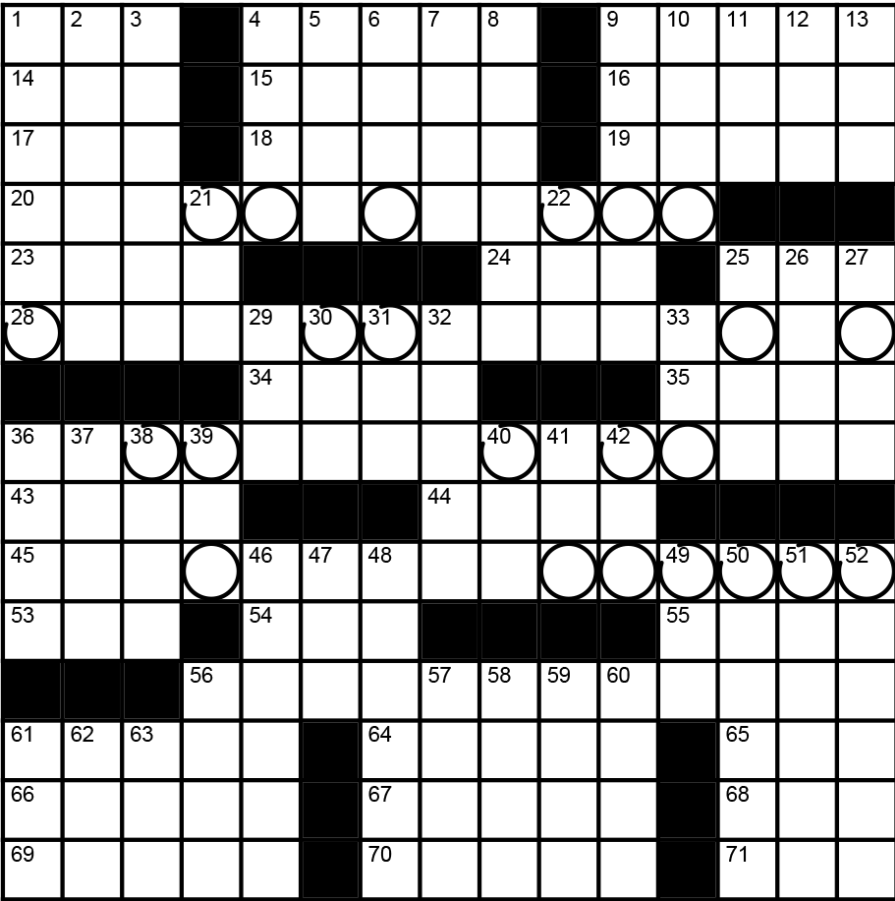
American Vandal - Most Improved Show / Netflix

Though it debuted strongly, *American Vandal* raised the bar for itself with its second and final season. A pitch-perfect mockumentary parodying true crime shows, it follows two high school filmmakers (Tyler Alvarez and Jimmy Tatro) unraveling a whodunnit mystery. Within the confines of the show's reality, the production values are better, and the location is new. Finding themselves at a prestigious preparatory school, they attempt to find the identity of "The Turd Burglar," a criminal responsible for a massive school-wide diarrhea outbreak. Though the crime is even more ludicrously unsavory this time around, there's an air of gravitas and professionalism throughout, with much more believable young actors in the main roles, providing for a more immersive experience. By the end of the eight-episode run, the series explores the complex nature of how we use social media, and has several remarkably enlightening takeaways, made more impactful against the satirical backdrop. Despite wide critical acclaim, Netflix has decided not to re-

new *Vandal* for a third season. Ironically, this season's uptick in quality serves as an inverse of its source material, *Making a Murderer*, whose second season proved ultimately lackluster.

Game of Thrones - Most Missed Show / HBO

There was no Westeros in 2018. With the final season slated to debut in April of 2019, television's most talked-about show is leaving fans in suspended animation. Now well-ahead of the George R. R. Martin's series of books, showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss are figuring things out as they go along, which could prove interesting to say the least, as the road to the Iron Throne speeds along. The series still managed to loom large over HBO however, being omnipresent in the company's marketing materials. The second season of *Westworld* served as a de facto flagship for the premium network this year, but failed to enter the cultural zeitgeist like *Game of Thrones* has. While *Westworld* is still an exquisite series, its second season's slower opening pace perhaps failed to elevate it as a whole, despite venturing eastward and outward from the title's implications. Shows like *Barry*, starring Bill Hader as a hitman-turned-actor, and *Succession*, a business dramedy with an excellent ensemble cast, proved to be the most successful new efforts this year.



Across
1. "The plot thickens!"
4. Allow through
9. Web site?
14. Declare verboten
15. Show the ropes
16. Actor Keach
17. Encouragement for a matador
18. Pied-à-____
19. Uses a Smith Corona
20. "That's enough for me, thanks"
23. "Just Another Way to ____ Love You" (1975 Barry White album)
24. Suffix with Japan
25. Where Mindy's TV friend came from
28. 1939 film character who says "I haven't any courage at all. I even scare myself!"
34. Actress Moreno
35. "What's gotten ____ you?!"
36. Linus van Pelt's main accessory
43. "Don't worry about me"
44. Expel from power
45. Its scientific name is Bison bison
53. "The only animal that refuses to be what he is": Camus
54. Brewery container
55. "Gorillas in the Mist" writer Fossey
56. The medical term for them is striae gravidarum ... and they're what can be seen in 20-, 28-, 36- and

45-Across
61. Ecosystem endangered by global warming
64. Place to keep a camper, for short
65. Alley ____
66. Fast-food debut of 1981
67. In the midst of
68. Sport-____ (rugged vehicle)
69. It may be hazardous
70. Gets one's feet wet?
71. Middle X or O
Down
1. Musician in the woodwind section
2. Sesame-seed-and-honey confection
3. Feature of many a minion in "Despicable Me"
4. Lead-in to boy or girl
5. Monopoly card
6. School ____
7. Ja Rule hit that includes the lyric "Wash away your tears"
8. Rate setter, informally
9. Rick with the 1988 #1 hit "Never Gonna Give You Up"
10. Texter's "ciao"
11. Dance genre
12. It goes "clink" in a drink
13. Twombly and Young
21. Fruit-flavored drink with a hyphenated name
22. Manhattan, e.g.: Abbr.
25. Barnyard noise
26. Mechanical learning
27. Garden hose annoyance

29. Hockey great whose jersey number rhymed with his name
30. PlayStation competitor
31. Lawyer: Abbr.
32. Synthetic material
33. Broadway's ____-Manuel Miranda
36. Country that changed its name in 1939
37. Watson or Thompson of 2017's "Beauty and the Beast"
38. Film's Joel or Ethan
39. Chernobyl's locale: Abbr.
40. Fella
41. Where Shaquille O'Neal played college ball
42. Org. that monitors gun sales
46. ER hookup
47. Tesla, for one
48. Consumed, as sushi
49. Medicine-approving org.
50. Let breathe, as stinky shoes
51. Great Plains tribe
52. How many writers work
56. "... and ____ goes"
57. Rating for "Game of Thrones"
58. Clumsy sort
59. Sharpen
60. Boardroom events: Abbr.
61. Jaguar rival
62. Signature Obama legislation, for short
63. Abbr. before "truly"



Answers to last puzzle



JOIN US THIS MONTH TO WIN YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$375,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES!



FRIDAYS IN DECEMBER | 4PM-10PM

Twelve Winners Every Hour

Free Play and Cash Prizes up to \$1,000!

How to enter:

- One free entry when you play each promotional day (visit the kiosk to activate your entry!)
- One bonus entry for every 20 points you earn that day.



- Players can only win one time per night!



MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

9pm-2am

Downstairs Mutuels will once again transform into a Dance Club.

DJ Butch Knight will keep the party going past midnight!

Ice Luges sponsored by Jose Cuervo, Bacardi and Jim Beam.

Free Admission.

Must be 21 or older to enter.



Monday - Thursday
5pm-7pm

Mondays

\$6 Burgers with French Fries
(excluding Burger of the Month)

Tuesdays

\$2 Tacos
Ground Beef or Chicken

Wednesdays

\$4 Pulled Pork Sandwich
with French Fries

Thursdays

BOGO Wings

Ring in
2019
WITH PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO



MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

**3 COURSE DINNER AT
THE BREW BROTHERS**

Featuring a Land & Sea Menu and tickets for
The Brew Brothers Party at 10pm.

2 SEATING TIMES AVAILABLE:

4:30pm - Early Bird Special - \$80 per person
7:30pm - \$95 per person

Limited Seating.

Tickets available in person at Mutuels.

**4 COURSE DINNER AT
LBV STEAK HOUSE**

Featuring a Land, Sea & Air menu and tickets for
The Brew Brothers Party at 10pm.

2 SEATING TIMES AVAILABLE:

4:00pm & 9:00pm
\$135 per person

Limited Seating.

Tickets available in person at Mutuels.

THE BREW BROTHERS PARTY

Featuring Afterthought & The NuSoul Band
with champagne toast at Midnight and a
Live Feed to Times Square!
10pm-1:30am

\$20 Show Only Tickets are
available in person at Mutuels
or on ticketweb.com.
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