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ERIE READER

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Erie Housing Authority's
Wangari Maathai Nurseries

- MIAC 2015 - 2016
Season Preview
- New Belgium Brewing
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**Editors-in-Chief:**

Brian Graham & Adam Welsh

Managing Editor:

Ben Speggen

Contributing Editor:

Jim Wertz

Arts & Culture Editor:

Alex Bieler

Contributors:

Lisa Austin, Civitas
Mary Birdsong
Katie Chriest
Rick Filippi
Frank Garland
James R. LeCorchick
John Lindvay
Bob Protzman
Dan Schank
William G. Sesler
Chris Sexauer
Tommy Shannon
Ryan Smith
Sara Toth
Bryan Toy
Jim Wertz

Cover Photo:

Brad Triana

Photographers:Ryan Smith
Brad Triana**Publisher's Assistant**

Emily Hanisek

1001 State St. Suite 901
Erie, Pa., 16501
contact@eriereader.com

The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and a dynamic resource for news and opinion. With a dedication to long-form journalism and a commitment to provoking thoughtful discussion, the Reader tells the stories of the people and places making and shaping Erie, while highlighting the events and issues influencing life in northwestern Pennsylvania. The Erie Reader is published every other week and distributed at over 250 high foot-traffic locations in Pennsylvania from North East to Girard to Edinboro. In addition to appearing in print, Erie Reader adds new content daily at ErieReader.com as well social media sites. All rights reserved. All content © Flagship Multimedia, Inc, 1001 State St., Suite 901, Erie, Pa, 16501. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission. The opinions of our columnists and contributors are their own and do not always reflect that of the editorial board or organization. Direct inquiries to 814.314.9364 or contact@ErieReader.com.

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BRAD TRIANA

From the Editors

Five years ago the *Erie Reader* was nothing but a blog and a big idea. For months, we pumped out post after post of mostly Erie-centric commentary on our fledgling website, while planning our imminent move into the world of print journalism. This jump, we knew, would take more than we could offer in order to make it a truly successful endeavor.

Finding the right person to manage our writers and our expectations, and be well-versed in the editing process was going to be easier said than done. Or so we thought. After a fateful December meeting with Frank Garland, then the head of Gannon's journalism program and the faculty adviser to the Gannon Knight newspaper, we had a name in hand and a glowing recommendation to go along with it.

The first time we sat down with then 26-year old Ben at the now-defunct Presque Isle Gallery coffee shop in January 2011, we knew we had found our managing

editor. He was young and capable, well-spoken and well-read, and he loved our idea.

The rest is history. Ben has been here for us and for the *Reader* since day one. For nearly five years and 122 issues, in and out of the office, on TV and radio, even on the delivery route, he's been there without question. He has been a guiding force in each and every issue we've printed with his dedication to our writers, their work, and the publication he helped build.

This is Ben's final issue as managing editor of the *Erie Reader*. But he isn't going far. He will be continuing with us as a columnist and contributing editor, and he has set the stage admirably for his successor, Katie Chriest.

Ben, thank you for all you've done for this organization and the city as a whole. We wouldn't be where we are today without you, buddy.

Brian Graham & Adam Welsh — Editors-in-Chief

Exile on State Street

The sale of the Millcreek Township Water Authority presents another “bad deal” for Erie City residents.



By: Rick Filippi

That sucking sound you may have heard if you have been following the recent negotiations between the Erie Water Works, the authority that operates the City’s water system, and the Millcreek Township Water Authority has nothing to do with water. It has everything to do with the life being sucked out of the City of Erie in the name of “regionalization.”

A bit of background. The Erie Water Works (which leases its water system from the City) has been courting the Millcreek Township Water Authority in an effort to purchase its assets, including its customer base of some 7,500 Millcreek residents for some time. Water Works has set aside \$25 million to pay for the purchase. The rationale of Water Works, according to Paul Vojtek, its chief executive, as reported recently in the *Erie Times-News*, is that the combination of the two systems will eliminate duplication of services and administration, leading to cost savings and “rate stabilization” for all Water Works customers including those in the City of Erie. The savings will pay for the acquisition cost, according to Vojtek.

Recently, the Millcreek Township

supervisors voted 2-1 to approve the sale. In supporting the sale, Supervisor Richard Figaski revealed the real motive behind his support. Figaski was quoted as saying that he believes the deal will lead to extension of water lines and greater development in the western and southern parts of the county, which is really to say more development in Millcreek Township. Figaski understands that more development means more taxes to feed Millcreek’s ever-increasing need for revenue.

Mayor Joe Sinnott had commissioned an independent valuation of the Millcreek water system, which placed the value at \$8.7 million and has stated that he would oppose any sale that involves a purchase price significantly higher than that figure. Reportedly, the terms of the deal provide that the Water Works would pay \$12 million at closing, and a million per year for 10 years, a whopping \$22 million for the assets of the Millcreek system. Figaski, in explaining his support for the deal, was quoted in another *Erie Times-News* article as saying this is not a windfall to Millcreek Township, but is a “step toward regionalization.” According to Figaski, “[r]egionalization... is not a dirty word.” Supervisor John Groh, who also supported the deal,

chimed in that he believed the deal would help the region. Which is again to say Millcreek Township. Not only in increased taxes from the development, as Figaski noted, but in the \$22 million payout to the Township.

Following the supervisors’ vote, the Millcreek Water Authority, in an obvious political power play, also voted to approve the deal, but with an amendment that would require the Erie Water Works to have two Millcreek Township appointments on the Water Works’ board. These appointments would be made by the Township Supervisors. The Board currently has nine members, and its bylaws require that at least three be non-city residents. Currently, there are two board members from Millcreek. This latest move could scuttle the deal. Let’s hope so, because this is another in a line of bad deals for the City done in the name of “regionalization.”

Ladies and gentlemen, please hold onto your seats. I did not think I would ever say the following statement: I agree with Sinnott that this deal should be opposed. However, not simply because the cost is outrageous. I agree that the Water Works has significantly overvalued the Millcreek system. The Water Works is really buying customers, customers that it desperately needs to cover the costs of its crushing debt. Now, although I believe the cost is reason enough to oppose the deal, my fundamental opposition to this deal is that as a citizen and rate payer in the City, it stinks. From the City’s standpoint, this is not regionalization at all, but more sprawl that will lead to further depopulation of the City at ever-increasing and alarming rates, with no real return to City residents.

Water Works argues that the deal will lead to rate stabilization that will benefit both Erie and Millcreek ratepayers, and while this argument may be true, it ignores the demographic trends that are killing the City – trends that will only be exacerbated by this deal. Namely, the City’s loss of population and corresponding tax base that continues unabated. Where are the people of the City going who have a choice? Well, take a look on Water Works’ website at the number

of projects that have extended water lines throughout Millcreek Township, Harborcreek Township, and other parts of Erie County. Erie County has had no population growth in 35 years. All of the development that has occurred in those areas – thanks to water – has come at the expense of the City.

So, as Mr. Vojtek argues, there will likely be rate stabilization; however, as this deal fuels additional sprawl, the City’s population will continue to exit, leading to more depreciation of the City’s tax base and yet higher taxes, continuing the vicious cycle the City now finds itself in. What City residents may gain in “rate stabilization,” they will more than give up in increased taxes and diminished services.

Folks, this deal is similar to the “re-

Although I believe the cost is reason enough to oppose the deal, my fundamental opposition to this deal is that as a citizen and rate payer in the City, it stinks.

gionalization” of the airport authority I wrote about last year. Once again, the City built an asset that benefited the entire region and then gave it away in the name of “regionalization,” without getting anything tangible in return. As I wrote last year, the City could have realized perhaps \$40 million or more in the airport runway extension deal if the airport had been sold to the new authority. That money could have been used to rebuild infrastructure and neighborhoods, hire more police to deal with the wave of gun violence, and significantly reduce taxes. Instead, we got practically zilch for a project that has demonstrated no return on our investment. Here, we continue to “regionalize” the water system at a tremendous cost to the City. Isn’t it ironic that Millcreek gets paid for its assets, but the City gives them away under the guise of regionalization?

Harrisburg Happenings

Pennsylvania enters month three of the budget impasse.



By: Senator Sean Wiley

The beginning of September traditionally signifies the end of summer vacations, the dreaded trek back to school for students, and the celebrated return back to school for parents. This September also marks the beginning of month number three that the Commonwealth budget has been in flux – 60-plus days of partisan deadlock.

With the state spigot turned off for school districts, human services providers and just about every other organization with a state contract, the funding drought is real and Erie residents don't have to look very far to see those implications. Nearly twenty-thousand post-secondary education students have begun to arrive at our four area institutions without any state financial aid in tow. Students across a dozen or so districts in Erie County will sit behind desks under a cloud of uneasiness as to how long the district can survive without state subsidies. Most smaller human services providers are nearly maxed out on lines of credit and counties are re-doing the math each day that passes.

Near the end of August, the GOP and the Administration had an exchange where a Republican pension reform proposal was swapped for a concession specific to an increase in

basic education funding, a priority of the Administration. The jury, in this case an actuarial note, is still out on whether that pension reform proposal is even likely to tackle the every-growing unfunded liability of the Commonwealth or make good fiscal sense in the long-term.

During that same exchange, one very important discussion that flew completely under the radar of the media centered around an absolute refusal to further any discussion of a severance tax on natural gas drilling. The GOP made it abundantly clear that a severance tax is off the table.

So how then does the General Assembly aim to address the need for additional revenue *outside* of a property tax increase knowing full well that the Administration and the voters across this Commonwealth have been championing property tax relief?

How can Pennsylvania restore the recent cuts and rise from the bottom of the ranks in the nation in education funding without a dedicated mechanism to do so?

Why is it fiscally responsible to remain the only gas producing state in the nation *without* a severance tax?

It is imperative that there is a continued focus on property tax relief as we are faced with record numbers of delinquencies across this Commonwealth. People cannot pay their

property taxes now, and knowing that but still asking them to pay more doesn't provide an ongoing strategy of sustainability.

It is additionally essential that responsible education funding remains at the forefront of these discussions. If Pennsylvania aims to educate our future workforce in a way that is most beneficial and profitable in the long-term, the General Assembly must then provide the means by which to accomplish that goal and also establish the methods to address the necessary efficiencies at the district level.

The last week of August, the House of Representatives returned to voting session under rumor and speculation of a line item veto override, where a three-quarters majority vote is necessary. The funny part of that is that the Commonwealth budget bill *wasn't* vetoed line by line, rather, as a complete bill, rendering the attempt of a line-by-line override unconstitutional and another delay of substantive progress. Three-quarters majority would make affirmative votes by House Democrats necessary to turn the tide and leadership had indicated that just wasn't plausible. As suspected, all attempts to further a line item veto override failed, but not without much posturing and grandstanding by members.

Everywhere I go, and I mean everywhere, people share their thoughts about the budget impasse, and when I respond that negotiations are continuing, I see the indifference in their eyes. I completely understand why there is an inherent disinterest in government and subsequent voter apathy.

Priorities like education funding, property tax relief, investment in our human services, and the long-term viability of this Commonwealth shouldn't differ enough to be an impediment to collaboration. After all, regardless of our respective party affiliations, we all serve the same people: Pennsylvanians. And Pennsylvanians deserve better.

Senator Sean D. Wiley can be contacted at SenatorWiley@PaSenate.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @SenatorWiley.

This latest water deal is similar. And let me be clear about one thing: I do not oppose the concept of the deal. Once you get it down to a reasonable and fair price, the savings from increased efficiencies are as real as the consistent delivery of services. The fundamental problem with this deal is that it comes at a very high price to City residents, who built the water system and will get very little return on their investment. Actually, instead of a return, this deal clearly leads to more sprawl and depopulation of the urban core.

If you really believe in regionalization, not just regionalization at the cost of the City, then for every water line extension, every new subdivision development, and every new home and business that taps into those lines, you would agree that the City should get a cut of the new tax dollars created by those developments. That would be regional revenue sharing. It would represent a return on the City's investment in the water infrastructure, without which the suburbs would be little more than rural hamlets. It would allow the City to put dollars into rebuilding itself and cutting taxes, making the region a more level and fair playing field and, perhaps, allowing the City to recapture some of the people it has lost and grow again. Such a positive development would strengthen the core of the region and allow us to compete against other areas of the country, not just against ourselves in Erie County.

Hopefully, the political power play by the Millcreek Water Authority will kill this deal. The fact of the matter is that the City and her residents have been on the giving side for over a half of a century. In a few short years, the City will have nothing left to give, or to be taken from her, and ultimately, the "region" will have to pay a price.

Rick Filippi can be contacted at atty.filippi@gmail.com.

News of the Weird

Cecil Speaks, sort of, and more weirdness.

By: Chuck Shepherd

Cecil Speaks

The distress across the Western world in July over the big-game killing of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe was apparently misdirected, according to veteran "animal communicator" Karen Anderson of Elk, Washington, who told Facebook and Internet visitors (www.AnimalCommunicating.com) that Cecil and she had discussed his demise and that he was over it. Also, Cecil apparently speaks in formal, graceful English, as Anderson quoted him (according to London's *The Independent*): "Let not the actions of these few men defeat us," said Cecil, "or allow darkness to enter our hearts." "I am," he added, "grander than before as no one can take our purity, our truth or our soul." (Anderson's usual fee to speak with deceased pets is \$75 for 15 minutes, but she did not disclose whether she had a client for Cecil's tab.) [The Independent, 7-31-2015]

Chutzpah!

In May, three Santa Ana, California, police officers who had just raided the unlicensed Sky High Holistic medical marijuana dispensary were caught on the facility's surveillance video eating supposedly seized cannabis-infused chocolate bars, and an "inter-

nal affairs" investigation was opened. However, in August, the Orange County Register reported that the cops went to court to have the video suppressed. Their familiar legal argument is that the video violates their right to privacy — in that they had purposely disabled the cameras before they began munching the contraband and thus had the requisite "expectation of privacy" that triggers the right. (Possibly, they had missed a camera.) [Orange County Register, 8-3-2015]

The mother of three children in Grandview, Missouri, suspected that Dameion McBride, 22, had sexually molested her two daughters (ages 4 and 8) and son (age 3), but McBride indignantly denied it, claiming that he is a child-abuse survivor himself, and booked himself on the national "Steve Wilkos" TV show in May to take a lie detector test to clear his name. However, he failed the test as to each child and was subsequently arrested. (The Associated Press reported that McBride insisted on a police lie detector test — and failed that, too.) [WDAF-TV (Kansas City), 7-15-2015]

The Continuing Crisis

On Aug. 1, one of the world's weirdest border disputes came to an end, as India and Bangladesh exchanged more than 160 "enclaves" — sov-

ereign territory completely surrounded by the other country's sovereign territory (in principle, making travel out of the enclaves impossible unless the enclave had an embassy or another office that issues visas). In fact, there was one Indian enclave (Dahala Khagrabari) completely within a Bangladeshi enclave that is completely inside an Indian enclave inside Bangladesh. [Washington Post, 8-1-2015]

The Litigious Society

The estate of Dr. Rajan Verma filed a lawsuit in July against the Traf Music Hall in Buffalo, New York, after Dr. Verma fell to his death following a concert when he lost his balance sliding down the banister. The estate claims that there must have been a sticky substance on the railing. The estate's lawyers said that since alcohol was served at the concert, the promoters should have known to take extra safety precautions for banister-riders. [Courthouse News, 7-21-2015]

Who gets badly hurt playing musical chairs? Robin Earnest, 46, told an Arkansas claims hearing that she broke two fingers and was forced into "years" of surgery and physical therapy over a game that was part of a class at the College of the Ouachitas in 2011 and demanded at least \$75,000 from the state. The July hearing was dominated by a discussion of the proper way to play musical chairs because the instructor

had ordered three students to contest one chair — with Earnest asserting that everyone knows it would be two chairs for three people. [Arkansas Online, 7-10-2015]

News That Sounds Like a Joke

Green-fingered residents" can show off their hard work each year at the Quedgeley Show in Gloucestershire, England, entering arrangements of colorful, plump garden-grown vegetables. However, attendance has been off in recent years, reported the Western Daily Press, leaving the show's future in doubt — until organizers announced that this year, to increase the number of entries, supermarket-bought vegetables could be submitted. [Western Daily Press, 7-24-2015]

Number Two, Turn to the Right and Grow!": Magistrates in Ceredigion, Wales, fined Edward Davies the equivalent of about \$1,130 in June, finding that it was his dog that bit a teenage girl last October, sending her to a hospital with swelling and bruising. Aberystwyth authorities had set up a formal police line-up of dogs from the neighborhood, and the girl had made a positive ID of Davies' dog as the perp. [Wales Online, 6-4-2015]

Least Competent Criminals

Judge Roger Barto, of Waterloo (New York) Village Court, was convicted in August of staging a fake assault

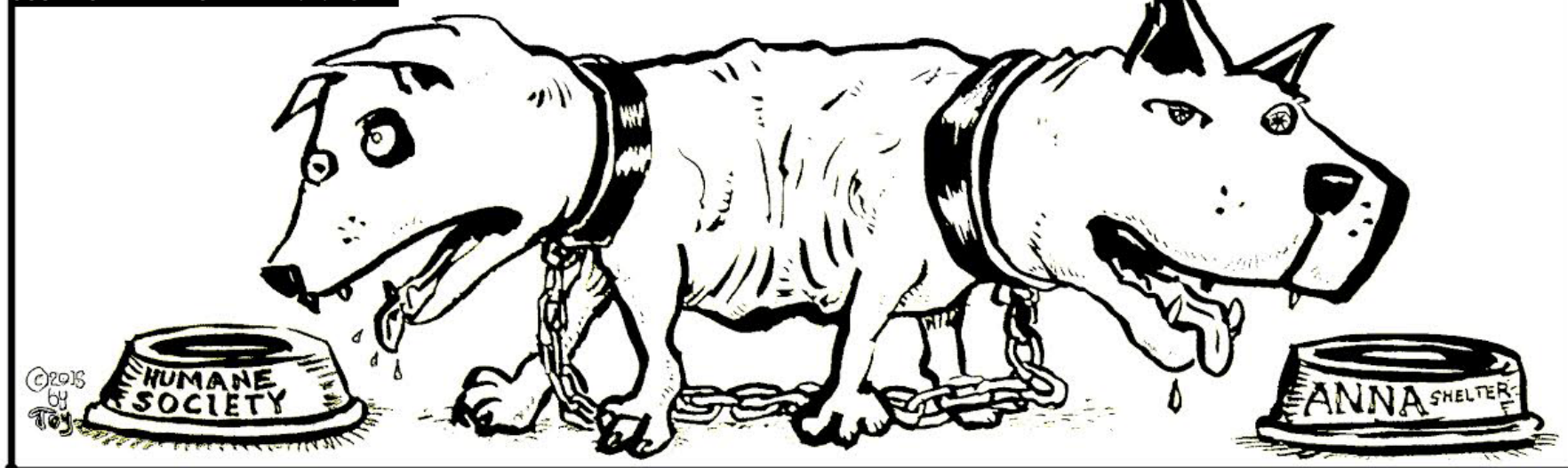
on himself to convince doctors to prescribe him pain medication. Officers arriving at the scene found Barto lying on the ground with a shattered porcelain toilet tank lid nearby from (he said) being smacked on the head by a mugger. However, doctors found an apparent flaw in Barto's ruse: He had forgotten to actually hurt himself during the "attack" — as medical personnel had found no mark, cut or bruise anywhere on him. [Syracuse.com, 8-10-2015]

Recurring Themes

Once again during a police raid of a suspected drug house (this time, in Wood River, Illinois, in July), with cops swarming the home and yard, confiscating evidence and arresting occupants, officers had to stop briefly from time to time to answer the front door (10 times during a 90-minute period) — as the dealer's regular (oblivious) customers continually arrived to buy more heroin. [KTVI-TV (St. Louis), 7-29-2015]

In the face of a declining military budget, the Defense Ministry of the Netherlands issued confidential instructions to commanders in July that during training exercises, to preserve dwindling ammunition, soldiers should simply shout "Bang, Bang!" instead of firing their weapons. Said a soldiers' advocate, "Even if you have no bullets, you (still) have to train with your weapon." [Reuters via RT.com (Moscow), 8-3-2015]

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Erie At Large

Show Me A Hero and Erie's housing crisis: What we can learn from Yonkers, N.Y.



The City of Erie's first-ever comprehensive plan has inventoried residential properties. Its findings are a wake-up call.

drug problems that will soon outpace the gun problem at the forefront of public discussion.

Public housing in Yonkers was designed by Oscar Newman, an architect who argued for "defensible spaces" in urban planning as a means to prevent crime. The basic tenet of Newman's theory was that if you gave people spaces that they believed were their own – in this case low-rise public housing with personal yards rather than high-rise towers with nebulous public spaces – then people would defend *their* personal spaces to protect themselves and their property.

The blight-filled East side has few defensible spaces. It's populated with homes owned by absentee landlords who replace windows with plywood, leave green spaces unattended, and treat many of the properties as storage bins rather than housing units. It's no surprise that zoning violations are highest in this part of the city as well.

Let's not stand in judgment when the renters there take little pride in their temporary spaces or when property owners have grown too scared to address their neighbors in an environment that is now indefensible.

When you couple the physical problems of the neighborhood, with the comparatively expensive cost of living, and the fact that these neighborhoods are primarily populated by people of color, it's a miracle that the city has not had to face the kind of legal interventions brought to bear in Yonkers more than two decades ago.

"Show me a hero and I'll write you a tragedy," wrote F. Scott Fitzgerald. Each of Erie's leaders and mayoral hopefuls all will position themselves as the hero, proffering remedy upon remedy. But if the comprehensive plan we have, and the findings it holds, is shelved for lack of interest or unwillingness to cull resources, there is but one ending. That would be a tragedy.

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

By: Jim Wertz

August 30 marked the broadcast of the final installments of the six-episode HBO mini-series *Show Me a Hero*. It's a tale of a housing crisis and the politics of race and class in late 1980s Yonkers, N.Y., based on the book of the same name by Lisa Belkin and brought to the small screen by David Simon, creator of the *The Wire* and one of the finest city journalists of the late 20th Century.

In the mid-1980s, a federal judge mandated that Yonkers create scattered subsidized public housing as part of a desegregation order that would move black families into neighborhoods previously kept white by design. The judge's ruling challenged the leadership of the Yonkers City Council and the Mayor's office to act on behalf of public housing tenants, causing a series of contentious elections and turnovers on both sides of the political aisle.

At the apex of the conflict, local pols used and manipulated each other and their constituents, allies, and opponents by positioning themselves for or against city plans and regional planners, contracted pawns to be played upon changes in the political tide.

Show Me a Hero comes at a unique moment at which the City of Erie contemplates its own housing crisis. It's not a public housing crisis, but it is one rooted in race and class.

The city's housing stock is excessive and decrepit. That's the finding, in part, of the City of Erie's first-ever comprehensive plan, which inventoried Erie's residential properties based on structural and aesthetic quality of the homes, value of the land, zoning violations levied against landowners, tax delinquencies, and neighborhood poverty rates. It's going to take hundreds of millions of dollars to fix the problem. The worst of the city's housing stock is located on Erie's East Side, where land values are lowest, the population is most heavily concentrated, and poverty looms most large.

The city is now at a precipice. Crime is on the rise, family-sustaining jobs are stagnant, and the population is on the decline. We hear much from our elected officials about so-called root causes, and we often hear that root causes begin "in the home." It's fair to say that root causes are more directly *of the home*.

Nearly 40 percent of the city lives in single family or duplex-style multi-unit housing. These are the dominant housing structures on the East side

and they comprise the majority of blighted structures within the city limits.

A few weeks ago, the Mayor and Erie City Chief of Police, Randy Bowers, announced their plan to address city-wide violence and the incipient threat that seems to loom from neighborhood to neighborhood with a strong correlation between socioeconomic and crime. Chief Bowers outlined a strategy for combating violence that included shifting of internal resources and partnerships with county, state, and federal agencies. We have yet to hear from City Hall about its pursuit of "root causes," although I suspect in the coming months we'll hear more about the great work being done by organizations such as the Neighborhood Resource Organization, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, and the Bayfront East Side Taskforce, than we will be given a plan of action from our elected officials.

One thing is clear: The city must address its housing crisis. All of the money spent on downtown development, widening and narrowing roadways, and renovating city parks means nothing if its residents live in overpriced squalor.

Blight is an outward manifestation of lost hope. So is crime, violence, and



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New Belgium Brewing Cruises into Erie

Fat Tire: Now available within biking distance.



SPACE RIDER GAL

By: **Katie Christ**

I had one mission on the last day of my road trip to the Colorado Plateau in 2006: stock up on Fat Tire. I'd fallen in love with New Belgium Brewing's flagship beer on previous western road trips, but couldn't get it back east.

Pulling out of Manitou Springs that morning, after one more run through Garden of the Gods, I aimed for a beer store toward the eastern Colorado border. I bought six cases, then faced an interesting dilemma: where to sleep? For two weeks, one side of my truck bed was occupied by bike, firewood, and sandstone-dusted hiking boots. On the other side: my bedroll. A motel room exceeded my remaining budget (earmarked for Fat Tire.)

So I tucked the six cases into bed, and drove 23-plus hours straight through to Erie. I arrived home bleary-eyed and half-witted. It was worth it.

Since then, New Belgium has expanded, and we've recently bought six packs in Cleveland. But as of Aug. 31, New Belgium has arrived in Pennsylvania. Finally, we can crack open the earthy, malty, biscuity, and perfectly-balanced Fat

Tire — along with New Belgium's other creative brews — right here at home.

Beth McCormick, VP of Specialty Sales at Erie Brewing Company, is thrilled to welcome New Belgium to Erie, not only for the quality craft beer they bring to the market, but also for the ethical business practices they famously model. "They're a B Corporation," she explains. "They put it on themselves to become certified, and then to re-qualify every two years."

According to the B Corporation website, "B Corp is to business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or USDA Organic certification is to milk. B Corps are certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency."

New Belgium became a B Corp in 2013, and was a 2014 "Best for the World" honoree in Environmental Impact. The brewery's Sustainability and Business Report reads like the dreamy proposal of an impractical idealist, except that they've realized these dreams. It's worth a look at NewBelgium.com/Sustainability.aspx.

Much of New Belgium's success, though, is in the fact that, as of December 2012, they are 100 percent

employee owned. New Belgium calls their regional reps "Rangers," and Ryan Ball, Ranger for North Texas, says full ownership news came on his first day. CEO Kim Jordan convened all employees, who were each given beers and envelopes. "She said, 'Open the beer, not the envelope,'" Ball recalls. After her speech, Jordan instructed em-

ployees to open the envelopes, containing coasters. "So at this point, I was employed for about seven and a half minutes," he remembers, "but a lot of people were worried we were going to be bought out by a bigger corporation." Instead, Jordan told the employees to turn over their coasters, and see who their new owners were.

On the flip side? Mirrors.

"The room erupted," Ball laughs. It was a fine first ten minutes, and it's just gotten better.

"A lot of people like their jobs," he explains, "but we love our jobs. That's employee ownership."

Originally from Pittsburgh, James Marks, New Belgium's Western Pennsylvania Ranger, happily moved back to usher the brand into the Keystone State. "I love our beer, but I *really* love our culture," he emphasizes. "Bringing the brand and the beer that I love here means the world to me."

Marks mentions the company's practice of donating "\$1 for every barrel of beer sold" to nonprofits in communities where New Belgium is sold. They're committed to engaging with the local community, whether through bike advocacy, sus- [Cont. on page 40]



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A New Generation of Local Filmmakers Emerges with *Erie's Voices*

Film Society, Positive Youth Development, and the Downtown YMCA partner for Summer Jobs program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Dan Schank

A new generation of local filmmakers emerges with *Erie's Voices*

On Sept. 16 at the Erie Art Museum, we'll be introduced to seven local moviemakers who are still working their way through high school – in addition to preparing for their debut film screening.

They're the graduates of the *Erie's Voices* summer program, a partnership between the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Positive Youth Development of Erie County, and the Downtown YMCA, designed to introduce some talented young people to the fundamentals of filmmaking and

digital media.

The students gathered together for 10 days of hands-on instruction at the Teen Center of the YMCA of Greater Erie, where they learned “all the basics of film, journalism, research, and writing,” according to John C. Lyons, the Executive Director of the Film Society. Lyons was one of three teaching artists overseeing the project. He handled the filmmaking tutorials, while Hannah Choi Paul introduced the students to writing techniques, and Aubry Regan familiarized them with the basics of journalism.

The young artists came from a variety of backgrounds. “We had some city kids, some country kids, some suburban kids – and a lot of them didn't know each other at all,” Lyons says. Eventu-

ally, their hard work took the form of three short films, each about five minutes in length, organized around the central theme of peer aggression.

On Sept. 16, the red carpet will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m. for a short pre-party. At 6, the students will introduce their short films, and there will be a Q&A to follow. The conversation will be followed by a feature film, 2014's *Breathe*, which was chosen to compliment the students' work on account of its themes of adolescent friendship, violence, and jealousy.

So what can we expect from *Erie's* youngest moviemakers? The most experimental of the shorts is titled *Break Free*, and it follows the interior monologue of a young man who has been the victim of bullying. Inspired by Ale-

Local filmmaker and Executive Director of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania John C. Lyons (middle) coaches two students who worked in the *Erie's Voices* project this summer.

Jandro G. Iñárritu's 2014 Oscar winner *Birdman*, the film unfolds in a single take as our protagonist struggles to deal with his personal demons. Three students collaborated on it – Isaac Jones of Union City, Mia Rossi of McDowell High School, and Logan Lego of Mercyhurst Prep.

Alex Staley of East High and Julia Bollinger of Harborcreek produced something a bit more classical in form. Their film, *Max and the Fancy Chair*, concerns the unique relationship between a high school student with a

FEATURE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

disability and the football star who torments him. Expect a surprising twist from the narrative.

Finally, Isis Atkinson of Collegiate Academy produced an ambitious documentary titled *Perfectly Different*, in which she interviewed a wide variety of young people – ranging from high school aged children to recent college graduates – about the dangers of peer aggression. Union City's Benjamin Rinke assisted on all three of the night's productions.

Lyons claims that the program was successful due to its focus on the students' creative impulses. It was important to make room for "their voic-

es, their own stories... and what they wanted to say about peer aggression." The teaching artists provided the tools, but the students were given plenty of space to push their ideas to their fullest potential.

Plans are in place to continue the Erie's Voices project in the future, with the next program devoted to the issue of violence in our community. With strong community support (and a decent turnout at the screening), we could be witnessing the birth of a new creative vanguard in Erie.

Dan Schank can be contacted at dSchank@ErieReader.com.

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MIAC 2015-2016 Preview

Get your calendars out, Erie, because you have a lot of shows to see.

By: Ben Speggen

Within six days of each other, you can witness a ukulele chorus and a mandolin virtuoso. On one night, two guitar gods will share the same stage. You can catch a soon-to-be Broadway hit before it hits Broadway this fall. You can marvel at puppets bringing to life critically-acclaimed children's books. A taste of Bollywood comes with a side of Brazilian folk.

There's even a self-proclaimed certified lunatic and master of the impossible.

To sum up the upcoming Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture's 2015-2016 season is damn near impossible. But eclectic would be a good start. Fun, energetic, and impressive fit the bill, too.

Booking her second season at the helm, Christine Olivier de Molina mixes recognizable names with bright up-and-comers in theater, vaudeville, music, and dance: a seemingly deliberately delightful delivery that offers something for everyone. This line up is audaciously refreshing in scope. And to help make sense of all that's to come, we're giving you the skinny on each act, noting why they're on radars of those in the know, and explaining why you ought to get your calendar out and start making plans.

An Evening with the Creators of *Invisible Thread*

09.09 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: Through spoken word, musical theater, and gospel, Griffin Matthews and Matt Gould tell the story of a young, gay man who trades his New York life for one in Uganda to avoid being chastised by his church for

his sexual orientation. After meeting a group of Ugandan teens suffering their own crises, the New Yorker sets out on a quest that'll change both his life and the lives of those African teenagers forever.

On radars because: Under its previous title *Witness Uganda*, this biographically-based work (based on Matthews' own excommunication and subsequent travels to Uganda) garnered much buzz – from *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, and *Huffington Post*, to name a few – during its run at the American Repertory Theater, lauding its bright future (hint: Broadway).

Worth seeing because: The work spurred The Uganda Project, a non-profit supporting the children Matthews met in Africa; Matthews and Gould – with the help of a local gospel choir – will perform this live in Erie; and they're performing it live here before it hits Broadway.

Tomas Kubinek – “Certified Lunatic & Master of the Impossible”

09.19 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: Many people go to the theater to escape reality, if only for an hour or two. Czechoslovakian Vaudevillian Tomas Kubinek *actually* escaped his reality – Soviet oppression – by taking to the stage at age 9 to play the part of the fool, the clown, oozing with comic charisma.

On radars because: After an early start, Kubinek's been no slouch, receiving critical acclaim throughout the more than thirty countries he's performed in and notching a sold-out run on Broadway. Part poet, part actor, fueled by the energy of the audience, Kubinek thrives on making each show distinct (read: the cliché “expect the unexpected” actually carries weight here).

Worth seeing because: Aside from claiming to be a “certified lunatic” and while boasting the title of “master of

the impossible” (really, who needs more than that?), Kubinek is no stranger to Erie, having performed here in 2000. Now he's back – even sticking around for a weeklong artist-in-residency program – to entertain a new generation and give those who were around before a revisited romp in the absurd and ridiculous.

Leif Vollebakk

09.29 // Erie Art Museum



The Skinny: If the 27-year-old Montreal singer-songwriter has a spirit animal anthem, it might very well be Joni Mitchell's 1976 “Amelia,” a tale that captures the push and pull of wanderlust and the amazement and loneliness that come with pondering the open road while focusing more on life's details than direction. For those unfamiliar with sound, think Ryan Adams or the soundtrack to *Inside Llewyn Davis* but with more grit and soul.

On radars because: With two strong studio showings (2010's *Inland* and 2014's *North Americana*), Vollebakk channels Kerouac without the pretension of lesser artists looking to capitalize on aloof mystique. He's worked with several of the Arcade Fire brood and with producers pushing today's bigger names. Also, if you run into a hipster looking to namedrop a rising artist you likely haven't heard of yet, it'll be Vollebakk.

Worth seeing because: If Bob Dylan and Jeff Buckley raised a kid in Canada, shipped him off to New York, and then to Paris, it'd be Leif Vollebakk. His lyrics are just as strong as his voice, making him a rare, raw combination of poetic and musical artistry that you'll brag about the rest of the year.

Reshimo by Vertigo Dance Company

10.13 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: Although no perfect translation exists, the closest one can come to understanding the Kabalistic *reshimo* is *memory*. Through the lingering sensations and longing for the return of moments past, Vertigo Artistic Director Noa Wertheim captures both the persistence of vision and memory through gasp-inducing choreography that startles as much as it delights in front of Ran Bagno's fluid and diverse score.

On radars because: TED darlings, the Jerusalem-based company (co-founded by Adi Sha'al) gained a global following after their TEDxTelAviv and TEDGlobal performances. Both are equally compelling and equally available online for preview before seeing it live.

Worth seeing because: The *Washington Post* called *Reshimo* “one of the best new contemporary pieces,” and you will leave the theater reflecting on your own nostalgia while creating an entirely new memory.

Nels Cline & Julian Lage

10.24 // Walker Recital Hall



The Skinny: Two contemporary guitar gods (it's not blasphemy; trust me) share the same stage and unleash bold, experimental sounds made of equal parts talent, fun, and energy.

On radars because: Known primarily for his contri- [Cont. on page 35]

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Wednesday, Sept. 2

Mad Max: Fury Road Goes All in for Action Fans



VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES

No character better exemplifies the irresistible energy of *Mad Max: Fury Road* than the Doof Warrior.

The Doof Warrior is a psychopath in a red leotard and a skull mask who is harnessed to the top of a souped-up mega-truck, where he plays sludge-metal licks on a guitar that also doubles as a flamethrower. He is deliberately and gleefully ridiculous, the perfect personification of a movie that knows exactly what its audience wants – and delivers it with astonishing finesse.

Fury Road follows a recent trend of no-nonsense cinematic ass-kickers that opt for focused, innovative spec-

tacles instead of pointless subplots and digressions (see also: *Snowpiercer*, *The Descent*, and *The Raid: Redemption*). Within about fifteen minutes, you'll be treated to a single, extensive car chase that rarely slows down throughout the film's 120 minutes. The bare-bones plot concerns sex trafficking, adding a surprisingly feminist undertone to a film that could have easily felt like an episode of *WWE SummerSlam*.

This subplot also allows Charlize Theron to chew some serious scenery as Furiosa, the avenging angel with a shaved head determined to protect several young women from a lecherous warlord. She easily outperforms Tom Hardy's serviceable Max, which prompted some angry young men on the Internet to complain that *Fury Road* isn't really a *Mad Max* movie at all. Whatever. They can take a whaaaambulance back to Thunderdome.

Do yourself a favor and drop by the Erie Art Museum on Sept. 2 to experience a film that is equal parts spaghetti western, roller coaster ride, and Black Sabbath concert. *Mad Max: Fury Road* is apocalyptic sci-fi action at its very best. – Dan Schank

Kick-off party at 5:30, Fall Program Preview at 6:30, Film at 7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, E. Fifth St. // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html

Friday, Sept. 4

Gimp Guy Hosts Bday Bash at Bobby's Place



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex Harrilla has been booking some great shows in Erie for years through Gimp Guy Underground Promos, and soon, the *Erie Reader* 40 Under 40 member will have a very special show for him.

Bobby's Place will host Gimp Guy's Bday Bash Friday, Sept. 4, a night dedicated to a man who battles Muscular Dystrophy every day and hasn't stopped giving Erieites a chance to shine on stage. The night promises a premier, multi-genre lineup, including ska-punk outfit Oh No! It's Mustard

Gas, hip-hop artist Tone Fach, singer-songwriter JC Nickles, and several other talented performers ready to celebrate Harrilla's 40th birthday in proper fashion. – Alex Bieler

7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4 // 1202 W. 18th St. // facebook.com/gimpguyunderground

Friday, Sept. 4

Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association's Biennial Show Opens



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The former Under The Clock restaurant at the Boston Store hosts one of the most creative shows in the Erie area this fall. The NPAA is Erie and the surrounding area's premier artists' organization, with active members in-



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September 10, 12:00 p.m.
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September 10, 7:00 p.m.
North East Arts Council
Vine Street, North East

September 15, 4:00 p.m.
Corry Area Historical Society
Mead Avenue, Corry

September 17, 5:00 p.m.
Out of the Grey Coffeehouse
West Lake Road, Fairview

September 21, 5:00 p.m.
Eclectic Etcetera Coffeehouse
Erie Street, Edinboro

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Photo Credit-Young Artists Debut Orchestra, Perry 200

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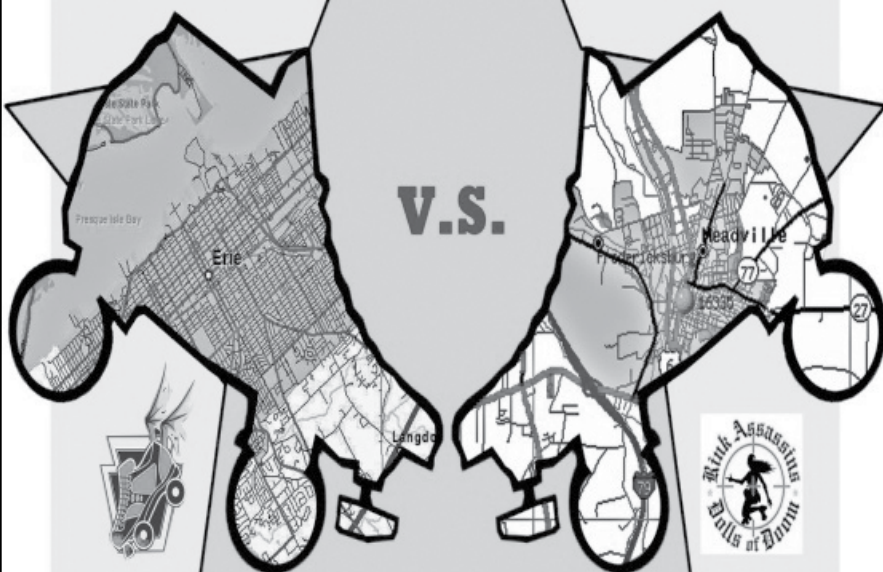
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cluding nearly every familiar visual artist any art fan can think of.

Two years ago, this show displayed never-before-seen work by Fran Schanz, Jamie Borowicz, Jan Lutz, Mary Hamilton, Dan Byler, Kris Risto, and Michael Tkach – perhaps because the rules governing most exhibits don't apply here. See, there is no jury selecting work, and size restrictions are thrown out the window. NPAA members bring their best work in an attempt to out-do the other members with outrageous, surprising, and finely-honed pieces. In fact, much of the work entered by the membership is created exclusively for this show and will never be shown again.

The space at the Boston Store provides possibly the most accessible venue this show has ever graced. Dozens of pure white 10-foot panels have been installed among the marble columns to ensure a professional gallery experience. This is the best place every two years to see what Erie's visual artists really have to offer. Compare the talent displayed here in photographs, paintings, sculptures, assemblages, and who-knows-what-else will show up to any other region in the country and you will come to the conclusion that our corner of Pennsylvania stacks up nicely. – Bryan Toy

Opening reception: 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4; continues through Oct. 2 // Corner of Eighth and State streets // npaaonline.org

Friday, Sept. 4

A Canterbury Feast Celebrates Its 35th Anniversary



PARIS BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE

When I first went to *A Canterbury Feast* more than 20 years ago with friends who had been there before, I was informed that I should bring silverware if I wanted to keep my hands clean during dinner, as there would be none provided. The Feast, you see, was loosely based on a royal medieval banquet where our servers would be dressed in period costume and be happy to answer to the monikers "Wench" or "Knaive."

Indeed, silverware was absent, as guests were expected to navigate the consumption of their whole roast

chicken, salad greens, and brimming soup with naught but a hunk of bread ripped from the shared loaf. Between courses, those same knaves and wenches transformed into the talented "Greensleeve Players," the cast of a musical comedy performed with much bawdy abandon. Innuendo and ribaldry were rife, as were moments of pure silliness. Often, the toast of "Wassail!" filled the room as all raised their glasses in revelry. And when it was all over, hot towels were hurled at the guests and the beautiful "When That I Was a Little Tiny Boy" was sung by the cast to end the evening. Big fun – messy hands and all – was had by all.

This tradition started at Mercyhurst College in 1981 and is now the longest running medieval dinner theater in the nation. Today, you can participate in this bit of historically goofy and delicious merriment at the Station Dinner Theater until Nov. 21. I went last year and can attest that big fun is still had by all. Warning: Don't forget to bring silverware if you want to keep your hands clean! – Bryan Toy

7 p.m. Fridays; 5:30 p.m. Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Sundays (Labor Day Weekend Sunday Show at 6 p.m.) // 4940 Peach St. // 864.2022

Friday, Sept. 4

Dramashop Continues Angels Story



JIMI HENDERSON

Sometimes a story is so big, it can't be told in one sitting. Such is the case with Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angels in America*, the scope of which is so broad, so important, it's told in two parts.

Dramashop undertook *Part One: Millennium Approaches* back in June as part of its Mainstage Series. This weekend, *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika* opens at Erie's contemporary theater company. Much of the original cast from June will be reprising their roles.

Perestroika can stand on its own as a compelling story; but it is its part in



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- Ugly Tuna
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- Moniuszko Club
- Moose Club Albion
- Northeast Athletic Club
- Nuova Aurora
- Polish Falcons E 3rd
- Polish Foresters
- Polish Sharp Shooters
- Pulaski Club
- Sacred Heart
- Siebenburger Club
- Sportsmen A.C.
- St. Joes (Northeast)
- St. Mary's Club
- Star Club

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- Sunflower Club
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- Zukor Club
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- Lakeside Tavern
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- Waterford Hotel

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- Arena Sports Bar
- Calamari's
- Plymouth
- Scully's
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the epic that is *Angels in America* that gives it its true power. Audiences continue to follow the characters they met in *Millennium Approaches*, as they struggle to find acceptance, love and peace in the face of loss, all in the midst of the AIDS crisis.

When it premiered in 1993, *Perestroika* was lauded by Frank Rich of the *New York Times* as being “not only a stunning resolution of the rending human drama of Part 1, ‘Millennium Approaches,’ but also a true millennial work of art, uplifting, hugely comic and pantheistically religious in a very American style.”

It’s heartbreaking and revelatory, challenging and moving. In short, it’s the perfect way to open Dramashop’s 2015-16 season. If you need (yet another) reason to make the opening on Friday, stop by an hour before curtain for a pre-show reception hosted by Don and Susan Baxter, Carl Larese, and Jim Cornell. — Sara Toth

7 p.m. Sept. 4-5, Sept. 11-12, Sept. 18-19 // Dramashop, Renaissance Centre, 2nd Floor, 1001 State St. // Dramashop.org // \$25 Friday (includes opening reception); \$12 for subsequent shows; \$15 at the door; \$5 with student ID.

Saturday, Sept. 5

EDM Extravaganza Features Live DJ Sets from Local and Regional Genre-Blenders



NatasK

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An all-awesome, all-ages, all-live EDM extravaganza is dropping hard at Basement Transmissions this month.

Hosted by Gem City-based EDM production company AFTRMrKT Records, After Hours is bringing electronic dance music into the Basement on Sept. 5, featuring live DJ sets from local genre-blending artist NatasK and other percussion-pushing notables from all around the region, including TREEZ, DJ C, and Bass Bandage.

AFTRMrKT recently started posting

a series of sweet short-performance videos featuring some of the artists who will be doing their things at After Hours, so check its Facebook page to get a taste or two of what’s in store.

And, from there, come to the all-ages, drug/alcohol/drama-free venue ready to be cool, get loose, and get down to the thump. — Ryan Smith

9 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // facebook.com/AFTRMrKTRecords

Saturday, Sept. 5

Special Guest and Two-Bird Stone Rock Kings Rook Club

Special Guest: “Truly unique.” That’s the plain-and-simple way the Edinboro-based psychedelic funk-rock quintet likes to describe itself. And the band fits that description well — molding elements of fuzzy psychedelia, stompin’ funk, and hard-driving rock into a vibe that looks like a lot of fun, and sounds like a lot of fun, and is, well, a helluva good time.

Local 21+ showgoers are all invited to get to know Special Guest when they play the King’s Rook Club on Saturday, Sept. 5.

There, Special Guest will be joined by their own special guests, Two-Bird

Stone, making for an evening of earfuls of funkness. — Ryan Smith

9 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Experience Eye-opening Theater with “An Evening with the Creators of Invisible Thread”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

What weaves together spoken word, musical theater, and gospel into one performance? For Griffin Matthews and Matt Gould, it’s the story of the *Invisible Thread* of personal crisis that leads a young man from the streets of New York City halfway across the globe and into the lives of orphaned teenagers in Uganda.

Sure, you may be thinking to your-



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self: Self, I already know this story: Someone's seeking refuge from potential calamity in the most basic of ways: by running away from it. And you may think you can guess the impending plot twist: additional – perhaps even more challenging – crises lie ahead (which may or not lead to some sort of epiphany or cosmic tragedy – depending on the mood of the storyteller).

While that may be one of the most universal tales in humanity (heck, we're all running from – and looking for – something, aren't we?), Matthews and Gould give the story an urgent contemporary facelift. This makes it both relevant and captivating without being stale, exploring sexuality, religion, and global injustice. What makes this significant to Erie is that the co-creators are bringing the music of their already award-winning show — backed by a local gospel choir — here before it debuts on Broadway this fall.

So be there. You can brag to friends that you saw the next big thing in Erie before it was big in the Big Apple.

– Ben Speggen

7:30 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. // miac.mercyhurst.edu

Thursday, Sept. 10

Arts & Drafts Fest Kicks Off at The Brewerie

Arts & Drafts Fest will bring its celebration of music, art, and beer back to The Brewerie this fall, as the Erie tradition kicks off a three-day run Thursday, Sept. 10.

The twice-a-year event will continue in The Gem City, as The Brewerie hosts creative minds ready to treat your eyes, ears, and taste buds all under one roof. The event will run from noon to midnight all three days, giving you a combined 36 hours to feast on some live music, and art exhibits, while down some cold brews, thanks to some of Erie's most gifted artists. – Alex Bieler

Noon to midnight through Saturday, Sept. 12 // 123 W. 14th St. // brewerie.com

Thursday, Sept. 10

Highland Games Bring Out the Scot in the Lot of Us

Kilted or not, everyone can get a little (or, a lot) Scottish at the Highland Games on the green, rolling campus of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

From traditional Scottish fare to bagpipers and caber tosses, rugby tournaments, and (very) old-school heavy athletics, to free music workshops and live performances, the festival – now in its 22nd year — offers a spirited nod to all things Scottish.

As part of all that Scottish heritage and fanfare, this year's Games also features regional and national Scottish fiddle championships, Celtic dance-offs,



MARC DALMALDUR

and even an all-new beer tasting event that puts a spotlight on some fine local breweries.

And yes, if you look around, there surely is haggis to be found.

– Ryan Smith

6 to 9 p.m. Thursday; 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday; 10:45 a.m. to noon Sunday // 219 Meadville St., Edinboro // edinboro.edu

Thursday, Sept. 10

The Little Mermaid Opens at the Erie Playhouse

The Erie Playhouse has big plans for *The Little Mermaid*, as the beloved Hans Christian Anderson tale – and, of course, Disney film – kicks off the theater's Mainstage season starting Thursday, Sept. 10.

The aquatic adventure will get the Playhouse treatment, as the tale of mermaid-meets-less-fishy-prince will enchant you with its heartfelt love story. Fans of the Disney film's score will get a chance to hear songs like "Under the Sea" on the Playhouse stage, thanks to a cast led by real-life couple Nicole and Jared Lossie as Ariel and Prince Eric. Head out to see *The Little Mermaid* for a fun, family affair this September. – Alex Bieler

7:30 p.m. Sept. 10-12, 16-19, and 24-26, and 2 p.m. Sept. 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27 // 13 W. 10th St. // erieplayhouse.org

Friday, Sept. 11

Goodell Gardens Hosts Homegrown Dinner

Goodell Gardens will treat some lucky Erieites to a true farm-to-table dining experience Friday, Sept. 11 when the Edinboro establishment hosts their Homegrown Dinner.

Diners will be treated to a lovely night of food and fun, as Goodell Gardens

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CALENDAR



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friday, Sept. 11

Raise a Glass to Oktoberfest at St. Joseph Church



Prost! Oktoberfest is back in Erie when St. Joseph Church hosts three days of celebrating German heritage Sept. 11 through 13.

You can't have a proper Oktoberfest event without some great German food and beer, and St. Joseph Church won't disappoint. In fact, the three-day fest will feature a special Oktoberfest beer made for the event by The Brewery. Live music will give you some tunes to go with your celebratory lederhosen. In addition, partial proceeds from the event will go to the AJO Forever Foundation, making Oktoberfest a celebration for the future as much as a remembrance of German heritage. – Alex Bieler

and BabyBlue Modern Catering will present five courses of delicious dishes and the stories of the regional farms that grew the ingredients. In addition to providing edible entertainment, the night will serve as a preview to the Harvest Festival Art Show and feature live music. Don't wait too long before getting your ticket, as only a limited number of spots are available for the event. – Alex Bieler

6 to 10 p.m. // 221 Waterford St., Edinboro // goodellgardens.com

Sept. 11 to 13 // 127 W. 24th St. // erieoktoberfest.com

Friday, Sept. 11

Night Lights Shine Bright in Sherman, N.Y.



JOSHUA MASTROIANNI

I've said it a few times now to a few different people: If I had to pick one and only one summer music festival to attend, it would be the one happening in Sherman, N.Y. at the beginning of fall.

Thank goodness, I didn't have to make that kind of decision. But if I were to have had to, I probably would of gladly stuck by the Night Lights Fall Music Festival – out of all the others, big and

small, around the region – as my go-to one.

Why? Well, because it seems that the festival – Sept. 11 and 12 – is going to be truly, truly amazing, both sonically and socially: A music-and-light-driven, cozy gathering of somewhere around 1,500 groove-minded people, nestled on the same legendary, lush, beautiful-wooded grounds the Great Blue Heron Music Festival has made its home for nearly a quarter-century.

And oh yeah, Night Lights features live performances from prolific, fun,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

great-to-see-live (and just great) artists RJD2, Marco Benevento, the Werks, and a slew of other top-shelf, genre-blending performers from all over the re-

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2015-16 SEASON

Leif Vollebakk

Sept. 29 · 7:30 p.m.
 Erie Art Museum



"There's a spiritual resonance to his ballads that makes them both timeless and monumental despite their ragged fragility."
 – The Independent

A kaleidoscopic artist of the folk genre, Montreal singer-songwriter Leif Vollebakk delivers delicate and vibrant music that has earned him comparisons to Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and Lou Reed.

TICKETS:
 miac.mercyhurst.edu
 814-824-3000



CALENDAR

gion and beyond, including Aqueous, Smackdab, Jimkata, Lazlo Hollyfeld, Broccoli Samurai, and more.

Beyond all that serious ear candy, there's the eye-popping extravaganza of light that gives Night Lights its name: A mile-long display (the brainchild of light artist Doug Sitler) illuminating the festival grounds' woodlands.

For a music-and-camping festival fan such as myself, that all sounds like a just-about-perfect way to spend a weekend.

Having originally started as just a series of small, random gatherings – just parties, really – at that gorgeous Chautauqua County locale, Night Lights has been especially soaring the past couple of years, bringing in high-caliber live acts like Grammy Award-winning Snarky Puppy, Benevento, Dopapod, and Turkuaz, just to name a few.

"This is year five we're coming up on now," Scott Molloy, one of Night Lights' chief creators and organizers, told me during a recent phone chat. "It was sort of a random start," he added, but "it's really taken off from there."

That's happened for good reason – Night Lights adds a completely new, completely unique annual event to the region's already-very-cool live music festival scene.

"We try to really focus on the quality and the diversity of the music," Molloy said – and it shows.

And, as far as the light installation and other aesthetic elements, Sitler and other in-house artists "go pretty, pretty insane with taking over the woods," he said with a laugh.

Visually stunning. Sonically stellar. Look and sound good? Then Night Lights is where you'll want to find yourself saying goodnight to summer. – Ryan Smith

9 a.m. to midnight, each day // 2361 Wait Corners Road, Panama, N.Y. 14767 // NightLightsFest.com

Saturday, Sept. 12

MIAC Presents *Everyman*

You don't have to travel to London to catch a performance of Carol Ann Duffy's adaptation of *Everyman* at the National Theatre. A quick jaunt to Mercyhurst University will do the trick.

Everyman, starring BAFTA winner and Academy Award nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor in the title role, is in the midst of its run at the National Theatre, and through National Theatre Live, the production is being streamed live all across the globe — including a showing at 12:55 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center as part of Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture's fall lineup.

Everyman is one of English drama's



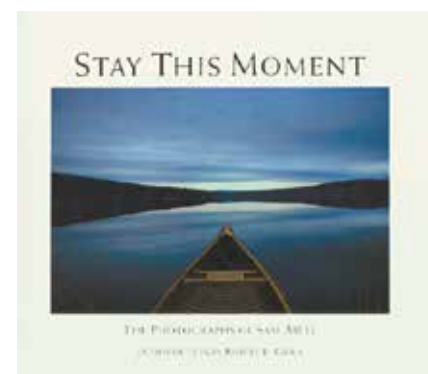
oldest plays; its story is just as timeless. Everyman is, well, an everyman — you, me, the person next to you on the bus or in line at the grocery store. He's successful, popular, and very much alive — and about to die. When death comes calling, he's forced to abandon everything and desperately, frantically search for someone to speak in his defense against death, to give a good enough reason for him to keep living.

There's a reason this story is a classic: its primal, spiritual core explores life and death and our understanding of both. It's been a cornerstone of English drama and literature since the 15th century, and this production streaming into Erie is adapted by Duffy, a powerhouse of a poet and playwright, who was appointed Britain's Poet Laureate in 2009. So when audiences see *Everyman*, they're seeing something simultaneously very old and very new — and very, very powerful. — Sara Toth

12:55 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St. // miac.mercyhurst.edu // General Admission: \$18; Senior/Military/Student: \$15; Children: \$10; MU student with ID: \$7.50

Saturday, Sept. 12

Picture the Life of a Photograph



Veteran photographers and amateurs alike should be excited about

Sam Abell's upcoming visit to Erie Saturday, Sept. 12. This world-renowned photographer, artist, teacher, and author who has had a thirty-year career with *National Geographic*, will be a guest of the Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern PA, courtesy of the Canon Explorers of Light program.

Abell's presentation will be based on his most recent publication *The Life of a Photograph*. He will discuss the process and techniques of making meaningful photography and offer comparisons of works to discuss aesthetic choices when working. He will also relate some of the adventures experienced while traveling and capturing images from every corner of the globe.

Besides *The Life of a Photograph*, Abell is author of the books *Stay This Moment*, *Seeing Gardens*, and *Sam Abell: The Photographic Life*.

The Canon Explorers of Light program makes it possible for top photographic artists to present their work to audiences free of charge and especially encourages young artists to explore photography as an art and career.

The seminar is open to all with a \$35 fee for adults and free entry for high school and college students (includes lunch). Paid registration must be received by Sept. 6 to guarantee a lunch. Students should send an email by Sept 6 to paraydo2@aol.com. The email should include name and school.

The proliferation of selfies aside, photography at its finest is still a powerful art form. Abell is one of the masters of the fine art photograph; this is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn from a great. —Mary Birdsong

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. // Zurn Science Center, Room 104 // Adults \$35; Students, free // pasnwpa.org/category/workshops, 823-9005

Saturday, Sept 12

Barber Beast on the Bay is Back



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Are you ready to battle the Beast? Erie's biggest obstacle course returns to Presque Isle State Park Saturday, Sept. 12, with more than 1,200 entrants expected to take on Beast on the Bay's courses.

The Barber National Institute started Beast on the Bay back in 2013, providing Erie with a challenging obstacle course while raising funds to support work with children and adults with disabilities. For people looking for a challenge, you can sign up for the Beast's 10-mile course or the 1.2-mile adapted course for individuals with physical or developmental disabilities. Even if you don't want to take on the Beast, you can still watch contestants fight through obstacles in designated cheer zones. Head online to register today and take on the Beast for yourself. — Alex Bieler

Saturday, Sept. 12 // Beach 11, Presque Isle State Park // barberbeast.org

Saturday, Sept. 12

Go Hug a Tree



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frontier Park is the city's playground. We play soccer and watch movies there. We slide down its snowy slopes each winter. Now, it's time to celebrate the space and what makes it so special – the trees – at the 17th Annual LEAF festival at Frontier Park on Saturday, Sept. 12, hosted by the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier.

Festivities include a "tree-sure" hunt, tree plantings, fitness events, and educational and nature-based exhibits by LEAF and other local organizations. Food vendors will be available throughout the event and live music will float through the branches. Family-friendly activities such as crafts, face painting, giant bubbles, storytellers and more will keep the kiddos entertained.

A poster contest for kids K-5 will culminate at the event with cash prizes being awarded in three age categories. Deadline for entry is Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. Entrants must depict what they think the "value of trees" are. See the website for details on how to submit.

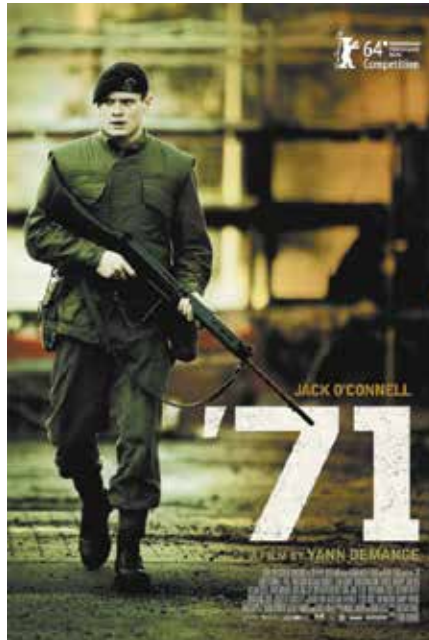
All sorts of goodies may be won in the Chinese auction, proceeds of which will benefit LEAF educational programming.

Free and open to all, this is a great chance to explore what Frontier has to offer and remind yourself that summer is not over just yet! —Mary Birdsong

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. // 1501 W. Sixth St. // 453.5323, leaferie.org/event/17th-annual-leaf-festival/

Sunday, Sept. 13

'71 Examines a Troubling Time in Irish history



CRABAPPLEFILMS

'71 was a tough year to be in Northern Ireland.

The period commonly known as the "Troubles" was in full force, pitting Nationalists against Loyalists, Catholics against Protestants, and the Irish Republican Army against the British one. French director Yann Demange drops us into this conflict, through the eyes of a stoic, bewildered British soldier named Gary. Though Gary is treated sympathetically, the film maintains an impartial tone, outlining the brutality each competing group was capable of dishing out and receiving, as the soldier tries to survive a violent night in Belfast.

If you're new to Irish politics, sorting out all of the film's allegiances can prove confusing. But that's also kind of the point. As we watch an injured Gary wander about town, we must decide who is (and isn't) trustworthy along with him – and the lines between heroes and villains begin to blur.

'71's mixture of moral complexity and tense action calls to mind Kathryn Bigelow's engrossing film *The Hurt Locker*. Though Demange's feature offers a more trustworthy protagonist, both movies use action to examine the physical, moral, and ideological chaos of war. '71 doesn't have quite as much style as Bigelow's Oscar winner, but it tells a thoughtful and visceral story about a troubled time nonetheless. On Sept. 13, drop by the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture for a challenging look at recent history. — Dan Schank

Film at 2 p.m. // Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture // 501 E. 38th St. // miac.mercyhurst.edu/



NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ARTISTS ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION



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9/2 MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (2015) KICK OFF PARTY

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9/9 STEVE JOBS: THE MAN IN THE MACHINE (2015)

Documentary/Technology Sponsored by Young Erie Professionals

9/16 BREATHE (2015) WITH ERIE'S VOICES STUDENT FILMS AT 6PM

Drama Sponsored by Erie Arts and Culture and CORE Positive Youth Development

9/23 LANDFILL HARMONIC (2014)

Documentary/Music/Environment

9/30 FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (2015)

Drama/Romance

10/7 PARTISAN (2015) WINNER: SUNDANCE 2015 WORLD CINEMA SPECIAL

JURY AWARD FOR CINEMATOGRAPHY
Drama/Thriller

10/14 MERCHANTS OF DOUBT (2015) WITH CLIMATE CHANGE PANEL

Documentary/Environment Sponsored by Community Resilience Working Group

10/21 THE INVITATION (2016) SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING

Thriller

10/28 MULHOLLAND DR. (2001)

Drama/Mystery/Thriller

11/4 AMY (2015)

Documentary/Biography/Music

11/11 ME AND EARLY AND THE DYING GIRL (2015)

Comedy/Drama

11/18 MERU (2015)

Documentary/Adventure



"This film series was supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency."



CALENDAR

MUSIC

Wagner & Winston

Sept. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars,
11727 East Main Rd.
arundelcellars.com.

Mister F

Sept. 4 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.
com/kingsrookclub.

Bobby V's Live Acoustic Show

Sept. 5 — 2 to 5 p.m.
Arundel Cellars,
11727 East Main Rd.
arundelcellars.com.

Special Guest & Two Bird Stone

Sept. 5 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.
com/kingsrookclub.

An Evening with the Creators of "Invisible Thread"

Sept. 9 — 7:30 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing
Arts Center, 501 E. 38th
St. mercyhurst.edu.

Ron Yarman

Sept. 10 — 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

The Nelson's

Sept. 10 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Christ E Free Church in
Saegertown, 19682 Hill
Rd. christefree.wix.com.

Jason B. McCann

Sept. 10 — 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

The Mighty Sea

Sept. 10 — 8:30 to 9:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Matt Boland

Sept. 10 — 9:30 to 10:45 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Jake Johns

Sept. 11 — 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Sean P. Clark

Sept. 11 — 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W

14th St. brewerie.com.

Planet Claire

Sept. 11 — 8 to 9 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Spooky Spooky

Sept. 11 — 8:30 to 9:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

This American Song & New Morning Sunrise & Hard Money

Sept. 11 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.
com/kingsrookclub.

Sonny's Fugitives

Sept. 11 — 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

East Ave.

Sept. 11 — 11 p.m.
to midnight
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Wayne Douglas & Miles Altman

Sept. 12 — 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Justin Moyar

Sept. 12 — 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

The Remnants

Sept. 12 — 8 to 9 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Jess Royer

Sept. 12 — 8:30 to 9:15 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Whiskey Daredevils

Sept. 12 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921
Peach St. facebook.
com/kingsrookclub.

The Lower Eastside Connection

Sept. 12 — 9:30
to 10:30 p.m.
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Special Guest

Sept. 12 — 11 p.m.
to midnight
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

The Heliotropes

Sept. 14 — 3 to 6 p.m.
St. Paul's lot, 453 W
16th St. facebook.com/
events/848757085201136.

DANCE

Fabulous Fifty Fundraiser

Sept. 2-30
Erie Dance Conservatory
Company, 8335
Edinboro Rd.
eriedanceconservatory.org

Grinch Auditions

Sept. 6 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Erie Dance Conservatory
Company, 8335
Edinboro Rd.
eriedanceconservatory.org

Children's Division & Adult Auditions Nutcracker Auditions

Sept. 12 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lake Erie Ballet,
701 Holland St
lakeerieballet.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Findley Lake Harvest Festival

Sept. 4 — 5 to 8 p.m., Sept.
5, 6 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Findley Lake, Downtown
Findley Lake NY 14736
visitfindleylake.com.

WineFest

Sept. 5 — noon to 8 p.m.
Ambassador Banquet
& Conference Center,
7792 Peach St.
courtyardwinery.com.

Lavery 2nd Anniversary Party

Sept. 5 — 2 p.m.
to midnight
Lavery Brewing Company,
128 W 12th St. Unit 101
laverybrewing.com.

Arts & Drafts Fest

Sept. 10-12
The Brewerie, 123 W
14th St. brewerie.com.

Cincy Beer Festival

Sept. 11-12 — 6:30 to 11 p.m.
Fountain Square, 1410
Race St, Cincinnati, OH
45202. eriebrewingco.com.

Tailgate Pairing

Sept. 11 — 7 p.m.
Presque Isle Wine
Cellars, 9440 W. Main
St. piwine.com.

6th Anniversary & Renovations

CLOSED: Sept. 7, 8 & 9
RE-OPENING: Sept. 9th Anniversary Class 6-7:30 pm (donations only)
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"A CANTERBURY FEAST" TIMELINE
1981 - Mercyhurst College
1990 - Mercyhurst College & Riverside Inn
1996 - Last year at Mercyhurst College
2002 - Last year at Riverside Inn
2003 - back to Erie at the new Station Dinner Theatre
2015 - 35th year currently at Station Dinner Theatre



2015 FALL SCHEDULE

814.459.8000
JESerie.org

All programs are held at times scheduled at the Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street, Erie, PA 16508.

DAY / DATE / TIME	TITLE	PROGRAM TYPE
Thurs./Sept. 3/4-5:30	Remarkable Women: Lady Bird Johnson	Corrine Egan, B.A.
Tues./Sept. 8/7-8:30	Education and Its Discontent	Dawn Blasko, Ph.D. & Charles Brock, M. Litt.
Wed./Sept. 9/7-8:30	Benjamin Franklin: Rascal or Raconteur?	Barry Grossman, J.D.
Thurs./Sept. 10/7-8:30	The Enduring Power of Beauty	Michael DeSanctis, Ph. D.
Fri./Sept. 11/11:30 - 1:30	Erie Politics Yesterday: Two Transformational Mayors Who Paved the Way for Lou Tullio and the Era of Modern Mayors	Dr. William P. Garvey
Mon./Sept. 14/7-8:30	1865: The End of the Civil War – The Sesquicentennial Retrospective	George Deutsch, B.A.
Tues./Sept. 15/7-8:30	Disaster in Erie: The Millcreek Flood	Jerry Skrypzak, Ret. Lt.
Wed./Sept. 16/7-8:30	The History of Wine in Pennsylvania and in Erie County	Doug Morehead, B.A.
Thurs./Sept. 17/7-8:30	Music That Changed America	Anna Celenza, Ph. D.*
Tues./Sept. 22/7-8:30	As Erie Public Schools Go, So Goes Erie: The State of Erie School District	Jay Badams, Ph. D.
Wed./Sept. 23/7-8:30	An Epidemic of Hopelessness: The Symptomatic Nature of Crime and Violence in Erie	Gary Horton and Daryl Craig
Fri./ Sept. 25/ 11:30-1:30	Solar Gardens: Community-Based Approaches	Steve Porter, Ph. D.
Mon./Sept. 28/7-8:30	Nimitz, Hasley, & Spruance: Winning the U.S. Pacific Campaign in WWII	Mark Squeglia, B.A.
Tues./Sept. 29/7-8:30	The Brookings Metropolitan Council Visits Erie to Discuss the Importance of Advanced Industries	Bruce Katz, J.D. and Mark Muro, M.A.*

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

More programs to come

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Wine Time at the Colony

Sept. 12 — 1 to 6 p.m.
Saxonburg PA, 365 Saxonburg Blvd. winetimeatthecolony.com.

Pre-Bout-Stout

Sept. 12 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

38th Annual Septemberfest

Sept. 12-13
Merritt Winery, 2264 King Rd. lakeeriewinecountry.org.

Trinity Pub Tap Takeover

Sept. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
West Chester, OH eriebrewingco.com.

FILM

Mad Max: Fury Road

Sept. 2 — 7 p.m. (Kickoff Party at 5:30 p.m.)
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Sept. 4 — midnight
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Road. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Dressed to Kill

Sept. 5 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Road. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Deepsea Challenge

Sept. 8 — noon & 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trempi.org.

Warning From Space

Sept. 10 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Road. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

D.O.A.

Sept. 12 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Road. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

'71

Sept. 13 — 2 p.m.

Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

VISUAL ART

Biennial Under the Clock Exhibit

Sept. 4 - Oct. 2
NPAA, 10 East 5th St. npaaonline.org.

8 Hour Projects: Place

Sept. 5-20 — (Panel Discussion & Opening Reception Sept. 8, 7 to 9 p.m.)

Allegheny College Art Gallery, 520 N. Main St. Meadville, PA allegheny.edu.

Scientific Illustrations by Mark A. Klingler

Ongoing through Sept. 6 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trempi.org.

Art Among Friends

Sept. 11-Oct. 3 — (Opening Reception

Sept. 25, 7-10 p.m.)
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 East 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

The Dimensional Effect

Ongoing through Sept. 12
Heeschen Gallery, 520 North Main St. artsmeadville.org.

Second Sundays

Sept. 13 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

InnovationErie: Design Competition 2014

Closes Sept. 13
Hagen Family Gallery, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Be True to Your School

Ongoing through Sept. 13
Bruce Gallery, Doucette Hall 215 Meadville St. brucegallery.info.

Art Faculty Show

with Guest Alumnus Thomas Gamble

Ongoing through Sept. 27 — (Reception Sept. 10, 5 to 7 p.m.)
Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

THEATRE

Angels in America, Part Two

Sept. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 — 7 p.m.
Dramashop, Renaissance Centre, 2nd Floor 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

A Canterbury Feast

Sept. 5, 6, 12, 13
The Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Disney's The Little Mermaid

Sept. 10-27
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10th St. erieplayhouse.org.

Natvional Theatre Live - Everyman

Sept. 12 — 12:55 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

All An Act Theater Presents: Inherit the Wind

Ongoing through Sept. 13
All An Act Theater, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

COMMUNITY

Goodell Gardens Farmers Market

Sept. 2, 9, 16 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Kids Art Club Registration

Sept. 2 — 6:30 p.m.
North East Cultural Center, 25 Vine St. northeastarts.org.

Chanting Night

Sept. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
The Bhakta School of Transformation, 1421 W 41st St. bhaktaschool.org.

FIND THE BEAST IN YOU!

The 3rd Annual Barber Beast on the Bay - Erie's biggest obstacle course challenge, on Saturday, Sept. 12 at Presque Isle State Park. A 10-mile course over sand, trails and water and 20+ obstacles. Form a team or go it alone!

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CALENDAR

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

Sept. 2, 4 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Pontoon Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Remarkable Women: Lady Bird

Sept. 3 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

International Short Stories: The Art of the Tale: An International Anthology

Sept. 3 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Young People's Chorus of Erie Open Rehearsal

Sept. 3 — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 250 W 7th St. www.facebook.com/YPCERIE.

Erie Communications Volleyball League

Sept. 3 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Beach 6 volleyball courts, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Campfire at Erie Bluffs

Sept. 4 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie Bluffs Parking Lot, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Bowie

Sept. 4 — 7:05 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 East 10th St. milb.com.

Cathedral Prep and Villa Maria Cross Country Present Rambler/Victor Euro Cross Challenge

Sept. 5 — 8 a.m.
Frontier Park, prep-villa.com.

Morning Eco Paddle

Sept. 5 — 10 a.m. to noon
Lagoons Boat Launch, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

Presque Isle Lighthouse Tours

Presque Isle Lighthouse, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org
Sept. 5, 6 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Erie German Heritage Festival

Sept. 5, 6 — 11 a.m.
St. Nick's Grove, 5231 Old French Rd. dank-erie.org/festival.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Bowie

Sept. 5 — 5:05 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 East 10th St. milb.com.

Sunday Stroll: Sidewalk Trail

Sept. 6 — 10 to 11 a.m.
Lighthouse Parking Lot, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.



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MUSIC REVIEWS

Destroyer

Poison Season
Merge



With a title like *Poison Season*, it's appropriate that Dan Bejar's latest album under the Destroyer Moniker has its fair share of venom. What's impressive is how lovely his tracks are as he spits out lines like "every murderer voted out of office is sold down the river" before going into a bit of self-loathing on a song called "Hell." The New Pornographers member and longtime solo artist employs ample doses of strings and saxophone, as *Poison Season* channels both upbeat, sunny days on songs like "Dream Lover" and cool, rainy evenings where you'd rather stay inside by yourself. In fact, the "Times Square" trio of tunes that make up the beginning, end, and centerpiece of the album channel both moods exquisitely. *Poison Season* often swerves between moods and styles, but it never feels like a misstep, instead serving as an impressive, often beautiful album from a prickly personality. — Alex Bieler



Beach House

Depression Cherry
Sub Pop



Depression Cherry, the fifth album from Baltimore duo Beach House, is another exercise in the duo's familiar dream-pop sound. Beach House doesn't really operate through hooks, instead creating a dreamlike state through synths, programmed drumming, and Victoria Legrand's reverberating vocals to craft sonic waves of soothing sounds. While past albums *Teen Dream* and *Bloom* showed off the duo's ability to add some bombast to the hypnotic haze, *Depression Cherry* settles for a more dialed-down approach. Yet, the lovely details found from past efforts are still there, providing an excellent soundtrack for anyone ready to drift off in thought (or downright go to sleep, if you've found a place that's as relaxing as these nine tunes are). It's lovely stuff, really, although it could have used some rousing moments to break up the sonic daydream on display. But as an adventure into an even *more* laid-back sound, *Depression Cherry* is a success. — Alex Bieler



Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats

Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats
Stax



While Nathaniel Rateliff is known for his intimate folk songs, the Denver singer-songwriter shows off his soulful side with his band The Night Sweats on their self-titled debut album. Rateliff and his band members imbue a serious old-school vibe throughout the release, and Rateliff's performance is akin to that of a fiery preacher, dishing out lines like "I'm gonna writhe and shake my body/ I'll start pulling out my hair/ I'm going to cover myself with the ashes of you and nobody's gonna give a damn" in his scratchy, booming voice on highlight track "S.O.B." The album does start to peter out after over half an hour of soulful yelps, blazing horns, and a whole bunch of attitude. Still, there's plenty of fire in these tracks to ward off the repletion. Ultimately, *Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats* is some good ol'-fashioned musical fun, as you can't help but be drawn in by Rateliff's all-in performance. — Alex Bieler



Joss Stone

Water for Your Soul
Stoned Records



If anyone has embraced the world music scene, it's British soul diva Joss Stone. Her latest release combines elements from the Caribbean and Africa with American hip-hop-pop and her traditional '70s soul sound. This collection creates a chilled-out romantic groove, with Stone using her pipes to channel the vocalists of the past, sounding like Anita Baker in the sweet uplifting song "Clean Water." And the funky "Big 'Ol Game" has Martha Reeves written all over it, complete with background singers tossing out plenty of *oohs*, *ahs* and *uh-huhs*. There are some misses: "Star," written to sell records to depressed teenagers, is filled with self-assertive clichés about how every person should just be his or her own wonderful self. And the teeth-grating remake of the old standard "L-O-V-E" should have been shortened to "N-O." Generally though, this record is sexy as hell, especially when Joss Stone really cuts loose and shows off what she can do. — Bryan Toy



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[Cont. from page 17] butions to indie darlings Wilco and Nels Cline Singers, Cline made *Rolling Stone's* list of top 100 guitarists of all time and was heralded as one of the of the twenty "new guitar gods." Lesser known by the masses, Lage – not yet 30 years old – is a seasoned jazz guitarist, a prodigy who performed at the Grammy Awards when he was just 13; he went on to become a faculty member at the Stanford Jazz Workshop at Stanford University just two years later.

Worth seeing because: Although jazz is the clearest common denominator, genres will be blended and bent in the exploration of innovative sound for sound's delightful sake. Alone, each guitarist boasts too many accomplishments and accolades to mention and would be worth seeing any night of the week; together, *ridiculous* isn't a far-fetched expectation (in the mind-blowing variety). The volume knobs might not necessarily be cranked to eleven, but the experience will be.

Bollywood Masala Orchestra & Dancers of India present *Spirit of India*

10.27 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: The combination of feverish brass, hypnotic tabla, heart-thump-inducing dholak, and entrancing harmonium drive the show with singers, dancers, a fakir, and acrobats at the helm. Don't know what some of those words mean? That's okay – this performance's goal is to transport you from Erie to India, no passport required.

On radars because: Troupe founder Rahis Bharti is internationally regarded as one of India's greatest musical figures, marrying the traditional with the contemporary into a sound em-

blematic of India's present that honors its past and pushes the boundaries of its future.

Worth seeing because: With more than a dozen performers on the stage at any given time, *Spirit of India* sojourns in Rajasthan and then takes the party all of the way to Mumbai, providing a vibrant and rich visual and auditory experience that captures the excitement and frenetic energy of Indian music and entertainment.

Sinkane

11.18 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: On a hot, sticky summer night, Afropop walks into a dance club with grooving beats filling what little air remains between dancing bodies illuminated by an array of red, green, white lights and shakes hands with funk rock, who was throwing back drinks with R&B while psychedelic pop knives through the crowd toward the bar to order another round. Welcome to Sinkane.

On radars because: As a session musician, before performing as Sinkane, Ahmed Gallab worked with Caribou, of Montreal, and Yeasayer. As a solo artist, Sinkane broke onto the scene with 2012's *Mars*, a refinement of his earlier sometimes-too-sprawling sonic landscapes. Two years later, he released *Mean Love*, a tight yet liberal evolution of his distinct sound influenced by his various musical collaborations and contributions as well as travels (he was born to college professors in London, spent his early years in Sudan, then ventured stateside to Kent then Columbus, Ohio).

Worth seeing because: The *Pitchfork* darling will welcome the audience onto the stage of the D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, where you can watch up close and personal the meeting of

Afropop and funk rock and everything that happens in between.

Vienna Boys Choir

11.30 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: Odds are – whether or not you knew it at the time – you've heard the Vienna Boys Choir, particularly around the holiday season. Perhaps over your car radio, perhaps at a Christmas party, perhaps while you dashed through a department store, searching out that last last-minute gift. These (young) guys are good – legendarily good – with quite the cultural staying power.

On radars because: They've been on radars for six centuries, have worked with the likes of Amadeus Mozart, and can lay claim to alumni Franz Schubert, Jacobus Gallus, and Hans Richter.

Worth seeing because: You'll be hard-pressed to find a more historic, more artful, more bring-the-entire-family event to kick-start your yuletide glee.

The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia Presents: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites*

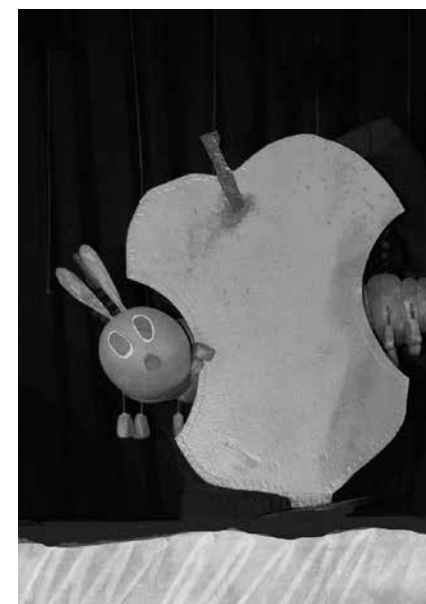
02.13 // Walker Recital Hall

The Skinny: Make believe at its finest, The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia takes three Eric Carle creations – *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Little Cloud*, and *The Mixed-up Chameleon* – off of the pages and onto the stage with rainbow-rich puppets bounding about under a black light.

On radars because: If you have children or grandchildren, you're familiar with Eric Carle's work, a canon exceeding more than 70 books. If you don't have children, you likely have friends with children, because of whom you've been invited to a party that required a gift to celebrate an occasion – and a leading contender for that purchase (with more than 40 million copies sold, having been translated into more than 62 languages) has been the tale of a vo-

racious little caterpillar.

Worth seeing because: Seeing the 86-year-old Syracuse native's work come to life is imagination made real



for any child. And the brilliance of The Mermaid Theatre will reawaken the dreaming, imaginative kid in any adult – because if puppets performing as caterpillars, clouds, and chameleons can't, then nothing can.

The Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra

03.04 // Mary D'Angelo
Performing Arts Center




The Skinny: Whether you like to admit it or not, you love a good earworm. And while you might be quick to dismiss the ukulele for only being worthwhile around a campfire or as tinder to start a campfire, you've always wondered – maybe feared – what a chorus of ukes would sound like. Embrace your inner earworm enthusiast and cast aside any of your previously held notions of the ukulele, because The Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra marries pop hits with the four-stringed mini guitar to birth unparalleled comedy.

On radars because: The WIUC – co-founded by Grammy and Oscar

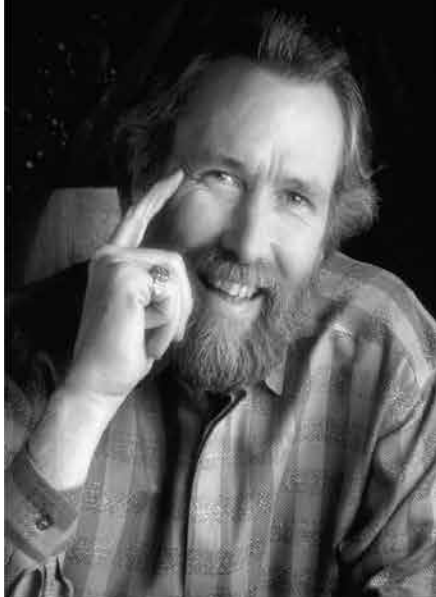
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In
their
own
words | **Jim
Henson**



**Sept. 15 at 8pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1**

FEATURE

winner Bret McKenzie of *Flight of the Conchords* fame – infuses Kiwi humor and a charmingly comic approach to pop music to tackle hits like Outkast’s “Hey Ya!,” Kings of Leon’s “The Bucket,” and Justin Timberlake’s “Cry Me A River” – the former ticking nearly one million views on YouTube.

Worth seeing because: Seriously, the odds of you having seen something like this in person before are about as good as you having never heard “Hey Ya!” – and it’s as much fun as that song was when it first hit airwaves in 2003. All together now: One, two, three!

Avi Avital

03.10 // Walker Recital Hall



The Skinny: Avi Avital isn’t your average mandolinist. By average, you might think a gal or guy in an Appalachian-Americana-folksie-bluegrass-kickdrumdriven-woolvestdonning outfit bent on out rooting all of the other Appalachian-Americana... But imagine the twanging treble of the mandolin resonating throughout the Carnegie, Berlin Philharmonic, or London’s Wigmore halls, an instrument approached and treated with the same reverence as the violin (which also shows up in those Appalachian outfits). That’s Avital’s treatment of the mandolin, and while it’s classic in nature, it’s refreshing in spirit.

On radars because: The Israel-born musician’s premiered more than eighty pieces worldwide, effortlessly shifting from jazz to baroque, from classical to traditional Jewish music of Eastern Europe. He earned a Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Soloist in 2010 – the first mandolinist to do so.

Worth seeing because: How many of your friends have seen a mandolin vir-

tuoso? If you answered more than one, you likely already have front row seats to this show.

Dorrance Dance

03.30 // Mary D’Angelo
Performing Arts Center



The Skinny: Of the two schools of tap dance, Broadway and rhythm – also referred to as jazz – expect a lot of the latter, as the Dorrance Dance Company blends tap with house music and blues while also showcasing the art form’s ability to stand on its own acoustically.

On radars because: *The New Yorker* heralded Dorrance founder, artistic director, and namesake Michelle as “one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today,” and her trophy cabinet includes the 2012 Field Dance Fund award and 2011 Bessie Award.

Worth seeing because: If you think tap dancing is nothing more than stomping, that’s okay: Dorrance performs with the sensational *STOMP!* And unlike other forms of dance, tap is visceral with the vibrations reverberating through a crowd, combining the visual marvels of dance with the cacophony of rhythm resulting in a harmonious sensory experience.

Matuto

04.07 // Walker Recital Hall



The Skinny: Quick-rising festival darlings, Matuto whisks together blues, jazz, and swamp-dirty bluegrass in a heavy Brazilian folk base to cook up something unlike what overplayed jam-folksters saturating outdoor music scenes dish out. Each talented in his own regard, together the musicians create something so delightful, the in-

dividual ingredients become indistinguishable in the churned out sonic fun.

On radars because: 2009’s self-titled debut album received rave reviews, garnering a 4.5/5 from *All About Jazz*, and the band’s just as comfortable playing the Vancouver Folk Festival as The Kennedy Center – illustrating their broad audience appeal.

Worth seeing because: Matuto – Brazilian slang for “country bumpkin” – finds a way (likely from their multi-genre approach and delivery) to make folk-roots music feel fresh and fun again.

Allison Miller’s Boom Tic Boom!

04.28 // Walker Recital Hall



The Skinny: Although she’s backed singer-songwriters like Natalie Merchant, Ani DiFranco, and Brandi Carlile, Allison Miller never forgot what made her want to be a drummer in the first place: Jazz. After listening to *Miles Smiles*, she said in an interview with the *Denver Post*, she knew she wanted to do *that* – she just didn’t know, at the time, what that was. Fortunately, she figured it out pretty quickly (by age 10) and has been unstoppable ever since.

On radars because: In 1991, *Downbeat* magazine featured her on its up-and-coming list. Well, she up-and-came and is still going, landing on *LA Times*’ Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2010, and has since dazzled listeners on NPR’s *Tiny Desk Concert* series and wowed crowds at New York’s Winter Jazz Fest.

Worth seeing because: Together with pianist Myra Melford and bassist Todd Sickafoose, Boom Tic Boom! packs a real bang while dancing nimbly in nuance. A versatile trio, the Miller-led BTB! makes jazz fun and accessible.

For more information about these – and other – MIAC performances, call the box office at 824.3000 or visit MIAC. Mercyhurst.edu

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

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WEEK ONE

WEEK TWO

The Importance of Erie, Pa. in Understanding the Changing Dialects of America's Language
 Monday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Eric Raimy, Ph. D.

Mission Mars – Forwarding our Dreams into Reality
 Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Bas Lansdorp

Growing Human Tissues: Can We Print Organs Instead of Transplanting Them?
 Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon
Anthony Atala, M.D.

Gigacities: How Broadband is Reshaping the World
 Friday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Darrell West, Ph. D.

US Foreign Policy & Our Role in the World – a panel discussion moderated by C-SPAN's Steve Scully
 Monday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Nile Gardiner & Dr. Aaron David Miller

An Evening with Author, Columnist, & Television Commentator: Cokie Roberts
 Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.
Cokie Roberts

Reading the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality
 Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Danielle Allen

The Future of Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy: A Global Perspective
 Friday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Norman Gevitz, Ph. D.

For more information and to register for Global Summit VII programs please visit us Online at www.JESErie.org Or call us at 814-459-8000.



Planting Trees, Sowing the Future

Housing Authority of the City of Erie's Wangari Maathai Nurseries



To date, the Housing Authority of the City of Erie, under the direction of Executive Director and Secretary John Horan, has planted 1,032 trees at fourteen sites.

"It's quite a story," Horan explains. Maathai graduated in 1964 from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., the same year Horan graduated from St. Benedict College, its sister Benedictine school. "We were college classmates. But one college was for men, one for women, and they were on either side of Atchison. They had to have a city between us!"

Maathai's attending Mount St. Scholastica was sponsored by a program called American Airlift, which brought nearly 800 promising students from Kenya to the U.S. to attend universities. She earned her master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh, then obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Nairobi, the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate.

"She was an environmentalist, democracy activist, and women's rights advocate at a time when Kenya had just gotten independence from Britain," Horan notes. Maathai defied the oppressive status quo at every turn, withstood being beaten and jailed repeatedly, and received death threats that forced her into hiding during part of the early 1990s. Her unbridled courage and commitment to nonviolent protest became lasting examples for millions globally, proving that positive change is seeded within the power of one.

Horan didn't know Maathai during college. But he went back to Atchison last summer for their 50th reunion, where the now-coed Benedictine College dedicated a monument to her and elaborated on the incredible legacy she'd left. When he learned about how Maathai's nurseries worked, a decade-old dream was reawakened. "Ten years ago," he recalls, "we'd started a project here to plant 1,000 trees." Back then, however, HACE was planning to plant fairly mature — and therefore quite expensive — trees, and the cost became prohibitive. "Unfortunately, we had to put money toward other priorities," he says. "But last summer, I found out about Wangari's nurseries. It gave me the motivation because she showed me how to do it. She mobilized

By: Katie Christ

The day shouts summer. A crystalline blue sky stretches languidly from the hill above West 38th Street toward our stunning lake to the north. The Erie Heights neighborhood sits atop this hill, housing gardens galore and residents from all over the world. Three children shoot hoops on the court nearby, and a couple of others fiddle with a bike near their parents' front yard perennials. I'm standing next to a little fenced-in area, planted carefully with tiny trees. The sign at the entrance identifies the space as a Wangari Maathai nursery, with a characteristic photo of that ebulliently smiling, brightly-dressed Kenyan woman holding a tree seedling.

Maathai, who died in 2011, left a phenomenal legacy of human rights and environmental activism that rightfully earned her a dizzying list of honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. Even more lasting, however, are the more than 51 million trees her organization has planted in community nurseries throughout Kenya.

"When we plant trees," said Maathai, "we plant the seeds of peace and hope."

The trees in this Erie Heights nursery don't look like much right now. They're just seedlings. Pint-sized and unremarkable. And, at this point, they reveal little of what they'll eventually become. It takes a lot of trust, hope, and vision to believe they hold — in their diminutive selves — the intrinsic power to provide shade, shelter, clean air, and comfort to those lucky enough to live near them one day.

But these seedlings mirror so many of the children in this neighborhood — or in any neighborhood, the world over. It's impossible to fully conceptualize what they might potentially grow into. It takes a true visionary to nevertheless provide them with enough light, nurturing, loyalty, and loving care to make them reach for the sky.

Wangari Maathai was that sort of visionary. And now, John Horan, Executive Director and Secretary of the Housing Authority of the City of Erie (HACE), is cultivating Maathai's vision in our own community.

In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in Kenya, responding to "Rural Kenyan women who reported that their streams were drying up, their food supply was less

secure, and they had to walk further and further to get firewood for fuel and fencing," according to the GBM website. "GBM encouraged the women to work together to grow seedlings and plant trees to bind the soil, store rainwater, provide food and firewood, and receive a small monetary token for their work." Today, the GBM's mission is to "strive for better environmental management, community empowerment, and livelihood improvement using tree-planting as an entry point."

In her 2006 autobiography, *Unbowed*, Maathai writes, "When people learn about my life and the work of the Green Belt Movement and ask me 'Why trees?', the truth of the matter is that the question has many answers. The essential one was that I reacted to a set of problems by focusing on what could be done."

A lifelong doer, Maathai was an academic of the best possible sort. She combined the intellect to imagine solutions to complex problems with the audacity to employ creative, direct action to actually solve them. And her academic journey began in the American midwest, just as John Horan was embarking on his own.

BRAD TRIANA

a lot of people across her country — 600,000 volunteers in 6,000 nurseries — and was responsible for the planting of 40 million trees.”

Here in Erie, HACE organized four plantings this spring. Incredibly, Horan says, they managed to pick four rain-free days, over which they planted 1,032 trees at 14 sites. Appropriately, the first planting of 250 18-inch seedlings took place on Arbor Day, April 24, at the John E. Horan Garden Apartments. Another commenced at Erie Heights on April 29, and two more plantings followed in May. The seedlings, including Washington Hawthorne, Black Locust, Red Maple, Red Mulberry, Red Oak, English Oak, and Serviceberry, are planted in 50- to 100-tree nurseries, and will be replanted throughout HACE neighborhoods once they mature.

Maathai’s manageable method is such an ingenious idea that HACE has easily found collaborators.

For one, news of Maathai’s approach and Horan’s goal of implementing reached the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. The sisters take up special collections twice a year, and decided to donate this year’s entire \$3,000 Easter collection to the HACE tree-planting program. “We didn’t even ask them for it,” Horan marvels.

The bulk of money came from the HACE operating budget, Horan adds, with recycled mulch coming from the city. “Potratz gave us good deal on seedlings, and all labor was volunteer,” he figures, “so we only have about \$7,000 to \$8,000 in the project so far, and that’s including our \$3,000 donation.”

The program also involves efforts by the YMCA Kids Club, the John F. Kennedy Center, the Quality of Life Learning Center, and the Girl Scouts, to meet both environmental and educational goals. As it progresses, HACE hopes to expand educational opportunities for children to learn about Maathai, the role trees play in life, and how to care for and appreciate trees.

“Coincidentally,” adds Horan, “the two public libraries in public housing had just acquired a book about Wangari, titled *Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees*. It’s the perfect book for kids to learn about her. So that became our curriculum. We’re just getting started, but we’d like to continue this program with new kids every year.”

Maathai argued that “You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.”

The Housing Authority’s motto — it’s about people — gels perfectly with Maathai’s mission. “Her story is so inspiring, and it resonates with our people big time. It shows the power of one person, or one organization. We’ve mobilized people who live in public housing — especially children — to plant these trees. Here we are now — it’s been about four months — and not one of these trees have been touched.

These seedlings mirror so many of the children in this neighborhood — or in any neighborhood, the world over. It’s impossible to fully conceptualize what they might potentially grow into.

It’s incredible the amount of ownership these kids and families have taken.”

As the trees grow, HACE will welcome volunteers interested in helping with fall or spring cleanup efforts. “We’re more interested in people’s time and effort than their money,” says Horan. “We especially need to help these trees through the winter.”

And as Maathai exemplified, when we help trees, we help each other.

In her 2004 Nobel Lecture, Wangari Maathai stated, “In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now.”

For more information or to volunteer, please contact John Horan at the Housing Authority of the City of Erie at 814.452.2425.

Katie Chriest can be contacted at katie@eriereader.com

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Geeked Out

Death comes for Adobe Flash.

By: John Lindvay

After nearly a decade and a half of being the most-used Internet multimedia platform, Adobe's Flash, the ubiquitous Internet ad and video player, is finally dying. Google is removing Flash from YouTube; this, however, has been in the works for some time, but let me give you a brief history lesson in why this matters.

Flash, formally known as Macromedia Flash and Shockwave Flash, became popular back in 2000 and was an awesome way to create cool websites, games, and animations. If you watched animation short series like *Homestar Runner* or *Happy Tree Friends*, you were watching something created in Flash. If you played games

on websites like *New Grounds*, you were able to because of Flash. And if you remember all those slick websites that took forever to load, well, that, too, was because of Flash.

However, along with all those amazing things listed, Flash is also the largest way to serve ads to web surfers. And hackers love Flash, as it is often the cause of vulnerabilities to large websites – a chief danger being that Flash was installed on nearly every computer so that they can access websites that use it. This shared library and communication between home computers and servers created a wealth of ways for hackers to exploit the platform. Even as recently as 2012, Adobe had to patch a hole to fix a vulnerability discovered by hackers that would allow them to turn on webcams and literally spy on

people.

Apple has been the most vocal in wishing demise to Flash. They never supported it for any of their mobile devices, forcing sites like Google to begin the transition to HTML5 for hosting video content to Apple mobile devices. And it's not just because of the security issues mentioned above. Ever complain about the battery life on your Android phone? Or your computer running sluggishly? Flash is often a prime suspect in both consuming too much battery and slowing down aging machines.

But so what? Flash could continue to exist as an ad server, right? Well, no.

Amazon has already stopped allowing advertisers to use Flash on their site, and Google is following suit, sounding clearly the death knell for the

platform. But here's a quick startling stat: in the first quarter of 2015, more than 90 percent of all ads on the Internet were shown through Flash. But Amazon and Google – just two organizations – make up 10 percent of the Internet, their moves presenting the clear signal to advertisers that the time to move on is upon us.

While I don't have a horse in this race – though I would like longer battery life on my devices – I do feel saddened to know that a platform that supported some of my favorite media, be they games or cartoons, finds itself on death's doorstep. Flash Gaming already had its boom and bust several years back, but some of my favorite developers cut their teeth making Flash games. Games like *Super Meat Boy* and *Castle Crashers* come from studios who start-

ed making small free Flash games. Flash is also an anachronism of the early 2000s, back when things like Napster were popular and the web was just dreaming of becoming what we know it as today.

Am I ultimately sad for this slow death of Flash? No. But part of me does miss the age of the Internet it epitomizes, one before the social media craze of Twitter and Facebook. However, that being said, the successor of Flash, HTML5, runs a lot smoother and Flash failed to evolve to meet the needs of companies that had used it for years and were outgrowing it. So in the end, I guess all is fair game in the name of progress!

John Lindvay can be contacted at jlindvay@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @Fightstrife.



KATIE CHRIEST

[Cont. from page 13] tainable agriculture, or environmental education, or with events like their "Clips Beer & Film Tour, a beer-toting, film-traveling, nonprofit-benefiting show that travels coast-to-coast."

Their "Beers with Vrienden" (Flemish for "friends") program, meanwhile, partners New Belgium brewers with craft breweries throughout the country, using local ingredients and inspiration. "We love collaborating," says Marks, and "I love trying other people's beers!" He mentions Lavery and Voodoo brewing as locals who've caught his attention.

Events throughout the week of September 4 will celebrate New Belgium's arrival in Erie, but Marks insists this is just the beginning.

In this era of cozy branding, where every company wants to be your best friend, New Belgium's approach still feels genuine. So many companies list reasons they can't focus on workers' rights, sustainability and the bottom line. But this employee-owned brewery's quality brews and pioneering busi-

ness model have earned them hordes of loyal fans, many of whom have shared their "Fat Tire Story" on the website.



BRAD TRIANA

ness model have earned them hordes of loyal fans, many of whom have shared their "Fat Tire Story" on the website.

Now that cross-country mega-drives are no longer required, let's hope the story of this brewery inspires Pennsylvania with visionary audacious energy. We can all drink to that.

Katie Chriest can be contacted at Katie@ErieReader.com.

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SPORTS

ER Sports

With the football season finally upon us, it's time to make some picks.

By: James R. LeCorchick

FINALLY! It seemed high school football season was never going to arrive, but it has, and the *Erie Reader* is ready to help you get through the upcoming season. We are all set for the long-awaited, much-anticipated ER Grid Picks.

BOISE STATE 28 Washington 27
AUBURN 27 Louisville 24
UCLA 21 Virginia 20
ALABAMA 20 Wisconsin 17
PITTSBURGH 35 Youngstown 20
Penn State 28 TEMPLE 17
VIRGINIA TECH 30 Ohio State 28

WEEK 2

WEEK 1

HIGH SCHOOLS

Lakeview 35 YOUNGSVILLE 12
MERCER 22 Eisenhower 6
REYNOLDS 24 Cochran 12
General McLane 22 FORT LeBOEUF 20
WEST MIDDLESEX 26
Cambridge Springs 22
WILMINGTON 28 Grove City 18
Farrell 42 EAST 12
Girard 20 MAPLEWOOD 14
Mercyhurst Prep 34 SAEGERTOWN 14
Seneca 24 UNION CITY 8
Oil City 26 CORRY 22
GREENVILLE 22 North East 20
HICKORY 28 Strong Vincent 22
SLIPPERY ROCK 20 Perry 14
TITUSVILLE 30 Franklin 20
Central Tech 26 WARREN 18
CONNEAUT 28 Northwestern 22
WAKULLA (FL) 34 Cathedral Prep 20

TOP 3 GAMES

No. 3: MEADVILLE 28 Fairview 24
- This should be entertaining with two high-powered offenses.
No. 2: McDowell 24 LAKE CATHOLIC 21
- For fans that enjoy physical football, this is the game.
No. 1: Harbor Creek 30 IROQUOIS 26
- Huskies won a thriller and this year could be a replay.

COLLEGES

Gannon 38 SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT 27
MERCYHURST 24 Bentley 21
St. Joseph (Ind.) 30 EDINBORO 20
North Carolina 27 SOUTH CAROLINA 24
TCU 34 MINNESOTA 31
UTAH 24 Michigan 21
Duke 38 TULANE 21

HIGH SCHOOLS

Lakeview 24 WEST MIDDLESEX 22
WILMINGTON 28 Mercer 20
FARRELL 35 Reynolds 18
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS 27 Saegertown 12
COCHRANTON 36 Union City 14
Eisenhower 34 YOUNGSVILLE 16
Iroquois 27 MAPLEWOOD 20
GROVE CITY 22 Corry 20
Greenville 24 SLIPPERY ROCK 21
Hickory 35 SHARON 20
Warren 38 TITUSVILLE 20
FAIRVIEW 28 Mercyhurst Prep 14
Harbor Creek 22 SENECA 20
FORT LeBOEUF 20 North East 18
Conneaut 38 FRANKLIN 14
OIL CITY 41 Bradford 20
Cathedral Prep 26 STRONG VINCENT 18
SHARPSVILLE 42 East 14
McDOWELL 31 Canton McKinley 14

TOP 3 GAMES

No. 3: GIRARD 24 Northwestern 21
No. 2: DuBOIS 42 Meadville 40
No. 1: Central Tech 34
GENERAL McLANE 31

COLLEGES

GANNON 48 Cheyney 14
MERCYHURST 21 West Chester 20
Shippensburg 31 EDINBORO 24
Notre Dame 27 VIRGINIA 24
Oklahoma 38 TENNESSEE 28
MICHIGAN STATE 21 Oregon 20
BYU 31 Boise State 28
PENN STATE 42 Buffalo 21
Pitt 35 AKRON 20

James R. LeCorchick can be contacted at JRLSportsReport@gmail.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @JRLSports.

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