

The local voice for news, arts, and culture.



ERIE READER

Oct. 14 to Oct. 27, 2015 / Vol. 5, No. 21 / ErieReader.com

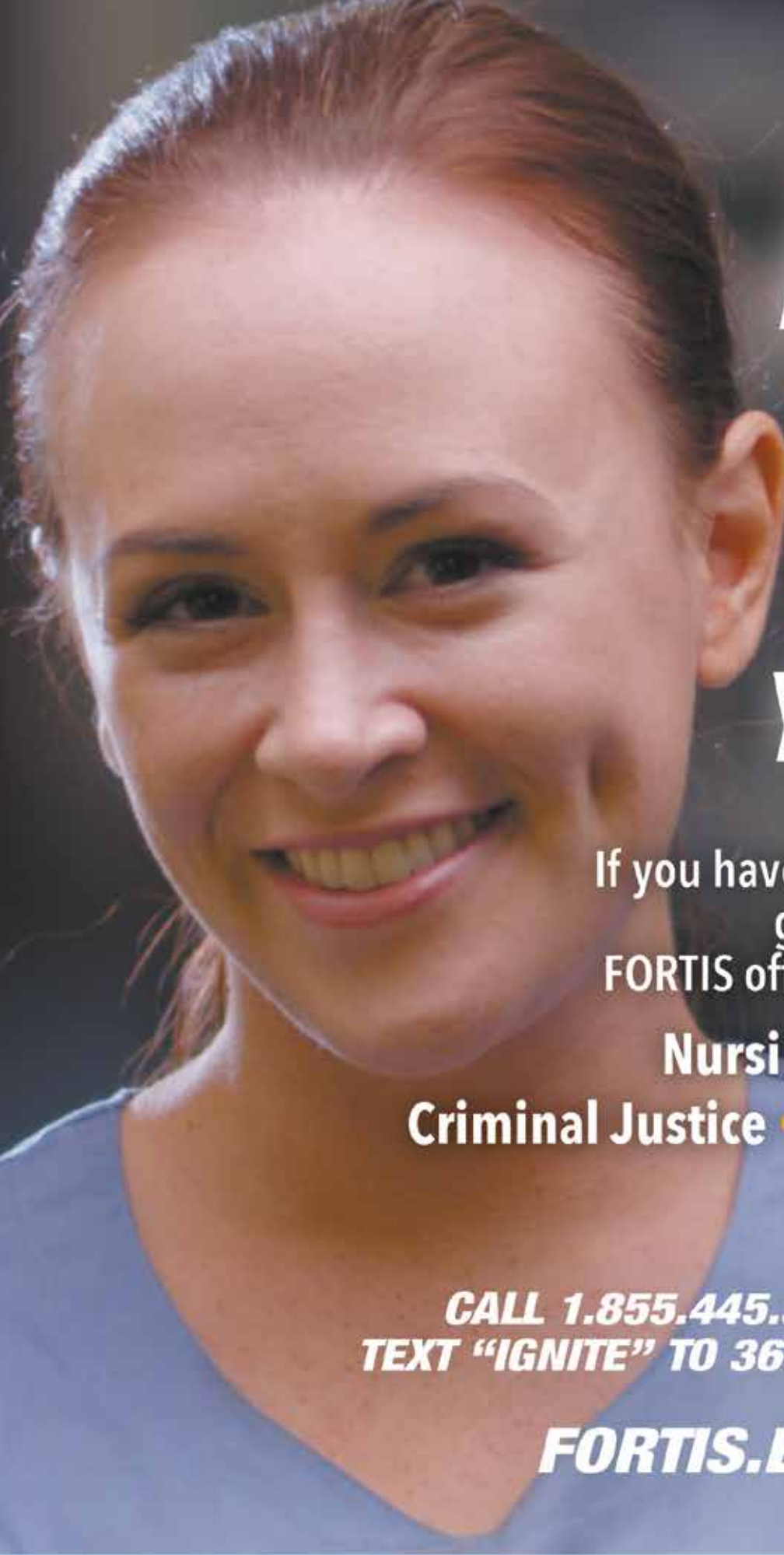
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The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and 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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What not to read, what not to miss, and gridiron picks from our resident sports expert.

From the Editors

After realizing that the topic needed as much exposure, so to speak, as we could provide it, we featured revenge porn on our last cover. We hoped those who've been victims of this devastating crime — and who are unaware of their options — might see that they do, indeed, have legal recourse.

After the issue hit stands, we received this thoughtful, well-written email:

I would like to commend you on your article regarding revenge porn. It is something people need to know about. However, I don't really care to have to explain to my nine-year-old what porn is after she sees the cover of your paper at the grocery store! :(I'd like to give her a few more years of childhood before I have to tell her about the ugly parts of humanity.

She has a point. Who wants to explain revenge porn to an innocent nine-year-old? Truthfully, we wish we

didn't have to explain it to anyone. It's horrible at any age.

But while we're at it: how does one explain any of the images bombarding a child in the checkout line or elsewhere? What messages are they getting? And now that "the media" has expanded into a near-constant barrage of images and dogma, how are we to raise awareness of what is truly worth knowing, while also protecting each other?

Unfortunately, this reader's nine-year-old daughter may have to deal with these questions soon. And the influence of checkout line covers — typically featuring airbrushed, hyper-sexualized women in objectifying poses, with headlines about getting beach butts and the guys they want — cannot be overstated. A study by *Common Sense Media* last January found that 80 percent of 10-year-old American girls have been on a diet. And the

New York Times summarized a 2011 AAUW report, "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School," stating, "Nearly half of 7th to 12th graders experienced sexual harassment in the last school year ... with 87 percent of those who have been harassed reporting negative effects such as absenteeism, poor sleep, and stomachaches."

This is our world. It can be so hard to look at; but it gets even harder if we look away.

We want to thank this reader for taking the time to write to us. Her letter inspired us to pause, contemplate, discuss, and reflect. In other words, it gave us what we strive to give readers with every issue.

We enjoyed it so much that we'll now feature our most intriguing reader comments on this page. Feel free to contact us at contact@eriereader.com (tell us if you'd rather remain anonymous), or via Facebook or Twitter.

Just a Thought**"She has quite the vocabulary for a barmaid."****By: Katie Chriest**

During the second half of my twenties, I tended bar at The Plymouth Tavern, the State Street "Cheers of Erie" primarily frequented by respectful, easygoing regulars.

But one evening I waited on a couple out-of-towners: contract engineers fulfilling a stint at GE. We were engaged in typical happy hour banter, when I used the decidedly unremarkable word "astute." As I stepped aside to wait on an always-polite regular, I heard the taller engineer remark to his cohort, "She has quite the vocabulary for a barmaid."

A few years later, his words became the title for my graduate Sociolinguistics paper about the presumptive way people often address service industry workers: as a bunch of dumb, stuck, ignorant losers incapable of anything else.

On another evening, a customer chided my smiling contentment. "What could you possibly have to be happy about?" he asked. I'd just returned from a dream trip to Alaska, but

I doubt that would've convinced him that a "barmaid's" life could be anything but desperate.

I've often thought we should reinstate the draft in this country. Not into the armed services; into the service industry. Surely the battle to raise the minimum wage would've been won years ago. And perpetual inequalities would be harder to ignore if the "haves" spent a year washing dishes with the "have nots."

Today, my former coworkers have acquired their own businesses, graduate degrees, leadership positions, and all the trappings of American "success."

But that shouldn't matter. As Dave Barry said, "A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person." Nor is a person who bases whether or not you're worthy of respect on what you do for a living.

Now people of all ages are being laid off and forced to enter the service sector. If anything good is to come of this systemic extinction of financial security, it'll be the humble awareness, finally, that the only ethical way to treat others — all others — is with kindness.

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NEWS & OPINION

Erie at Large

It's Only Rock n' Roll, but ...



Singing for their supper: The Tedeschi Trucks Band gave their all to the Warner audience despite having to hunt for something to eat.

By: Jim Wertz

A couple of Sundays ago, Tedeschi Trucks Band rolled through town and put on a fiery ninety-plus-minute set at the Warner Theatre. The band was great, the crowd was atypically engaged, and it was encouraging to see a diverse – economically diverse, anyway – crowd in the storied halls of Erie's landmark theatre.

In case you haven't been downtown on a Sunday night recently, there aren't many dining options. So it wasn't a complete surprise to see all 12 members of the TTB roll into Cloud 9 for dinner before the show. After all, they had arrived earlier that day at the tail end of a 10-hour drive from New York City, where they had just wrapped up two nights at the Beacon Theatre. What better taste of Erie for this traveling roadshow? Who doesn't love a fusion tapas wine bar?

There was just one problem: there was no room at the inn and the band was turned away.

The restaurant was ill-equipped for the volume of traffic it experienced on this particular Sunday evening. One bartender, a slow kitchen, and flustered serving staff stand out as key indicators that someone forgot to check the downtown events schedule.

TTB was at the Warner and WWE was

at Erie Insurance Arena. It seemed like the kind of Sunday restauranters long for, especially when you're one of only a handful of open establishments in a relatively narrow downtown corridor.

I can't say what was happening on State Street because I had my heart set on lamb burgers, blistered kale, and

It seems that missed opportunities have come to define the city we so ardently attempt to defend in these pages, issue after issue.

beer. Lots of each, in fact. But when my party arrived at Cloud 9 well ahead of showtime, every table was reserved. We were offered seats at the bar, which suited us just fine. The patio seating was not set up, despite it being an otherwise beautiful Sunday night in downtown Erie.

Watching the band walk away, I reflected on a job interview I had years ago in a small Illinois town 200 miles

from anywhere. It made Erie look like Metropolis. There was a Walmart, a Tractor Supply, and a few corner bar/restaurants. But its foodie claim to fame was that it was home to the first Jimmy John's, the substitute submarine sandwich franchise that's begun to dot the local landscape. It was a charming town, but I couldn't help wonder where I would eat on a Sunday night.

Rumor has it that on this Sunday night, the band ultimately found their way down State Street ... to Jimmy John's.

This isn't a cautionary tale about how wandering blues folk go hungry. But it is a comment on how the city chooses to display itself to others.

In the lobby of the Warner that night I ran into old friends who moved long ago to Pittsburgh and parts unknown. But they returned for a great concert they weren't going to see in the 'Burgh and hoped to find the city better than when they left it. "Erie hasn't changed much," was the mantra. Most were unmoved by my protests in defense of Erie: craft beer, the lake, the simple fact that they were here to see Tedeschi Trucks Band, and Uber, for the love of all that's musical and good. We have Uber.

These encounters were juxtaposed by other friends at the show who were preparing to leave town ... for work, for culture, for something they hadn't found here.

So while Cloud 9 owner Bertrand Artigues missed an opportunity to hang an autographed 8-by-10 glossy behind the bar and hungry concertgoers missed an opportunity to gawk at Susan Tedeschi while she downed lobster poutine, these are the least of our problems.

It seems that missed opportunities have come to define the city we so ardently attempt to defend in these pages, issue after issue.

True, this isn't a matter of life and death. But it is a matter of dollars and sense.

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

Erie Needs to Stop Kicking the Can

County Executive's proposed budget should spur meaningful conversation about Erie's future.

By: Ben Speggen

Few things divide or unite citizens quite like taxes. So let's talk about the recently proposed county-wide tax increase.

Some call it absolutely necessary and long overdue to get us moving in the right direction. Others call it political suicide. As with most extremes, the truth lies somewhere in between.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper's 2016 budget proposal calls for a tax increase of 0.45 mills – or what amounts to a 9 percent hike in property taxes – that would generate \$6 million in revenue for county government. If percentages and mills aren't the way you like to keep track of your dollars and cents, the proposed increase amounts to \$45 more per year on a property valued at \$100,000.

But back to the extremes for a moment.

Those subscribing to the latter axiom likely take solace in the fact that the last rise in county taxes came under Mark DiVecchio's leadership in 2010. Since then, we've gotten by without increased taxpayer contributions, and Erie County's been – at least on the surface and at the bottom line – okay.

Now back to increases.

This isn't the first time Dahlkemper's looked to her constituents to contribute more than in the past. Last year she proposed a 0.35 mill property tax increase to add \$4.6 million to the county's bottom line, which would tack \$46 onto the yearly county tax bill of a homeowner with a \$100,000-valued lot. Or, for percentage enthusiasts, what amounts to a 7 percent increase. Rather than approve the budget as-is, County Council – the ultimate arbiters of the County's final bottom line – cut \$400,000 and tapped the general reserves for \$2.7 million to stave off the hike.

Reasons for the 2015 proposed increase?

"A countywide public safety radio system. New employees. And an unwillingness to use reserve funds to pay operational costs," according to Kevin Flowers' Oct. 2, 2014 *Erie Times-News* coverage.

Reasons for the 2016 proposed increase? Ask Dahlkemper and the list begins the same. But this time it features the apropos cliché of *we've merely kicked the can farther down the road* ... which is followed by the caveat that we can't afford to keep punting when the proverbial game's on the line and we're behind on the scoreboard.

Overused sports metaphors aside, I hate bloat and waste as much as the next person and do at times wonder if we could reduce the number of certain jobs, spend just a little less on a particular initiative, and get leaner, trimmer, fitter so that we tug our collective belt to the next notch. But I also like knowing that roads are paved, students are educated, and those needing assistance are getting it.

At the end of the day, we're only as strong as the help, hope, and hospitality we provide to those most in need. So yes: I'm pro-taxes because taxes are our investment in ourselves.

When the proposed budget calls for an increase in funding things like Emerge 2040 – the result of a three-year community-wide plan tasked with evolving Erie into the best 21st century version of itself, and things like the Summer Jobs Program – which has proven successful and ensures that students have access to employment opportunities at a young age so that they gain the skills necessary to enter the workforce productively and confidently, I want to make that investment. I like to believe that ultimately makes a better Erie for all of us choosing to live here. Further, I'm excited about new things, like the potential maker-space-esque growth

and development accounted for at the Blasco Library and the proposed addition of a grant writer to seek funds outside our county walls.

Could we spread 9 percent out over a couple of years to lessen the impact? It's likely. Regardless, though, our challenges and needs will continue to grow and evolve.

For what it's worth, Frank Zappa once said, "Without deviation from the

If percentages and mills aren't the way you like to keep track of your dollars and cents, the proposed increase amounts to \$45 more per year on a property valued at \$100,000.

norm, progress isn't possible." Though developer and planner weren't on his résumé, an applicable truth exists here: We can't expect improvement without some sort of investment.

How we go about that is up for debate until Dec. 1, when Council has to pass a budget. Now is the time for us all to begin the very serious, very difficult conversations of where, how, and why Erie moves forward.

Frankly, there's no better place to start than a 9 percent increase, 627-page budget to ignite a very serious, very difficult dialogue about the future of Erie and our investment in ourselves. After all, one has to wonder just how many more times we can kick that can before we run out of road.

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



BRAD TRIANA

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper's proposed budget aims to keep the proverbial lights on for multiple local services.

News of the Weird

Think you have it bad? Try being an adolescent in the Dominican Republic, a jobseeker in India, or a chicken on the day of atonement.

By: Chuck Shepherd

Protecting Our Freedoms

The bold, shameless leering of David Zaitzeff is legendary around Seattle's parks, and more so since he filed a civil complaint against the city in September challenging its anti-voyeurism law for placing a "chilling effect" on his photography of immodestly dressed women in public. Though he has never been charged with a crime, he roams freely (and apparently joyously) around short-skirted and swimsuit-clad "gals" while himself often wearing only a thong and bearing a "Free Hugs and Kisses" sign. Zaitzeff's websites "extol" public nudity, wrote the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and explain, for example, that a woman who angles her "bod" to offer a view of "side boob" is fair game for his camera. Zaitzeff's complaint — that the law criminalizes photography of a person's "intimate areas" (clothed or not) without explicit permission — is distressing him. [Seattle Post-Intelligencer via SFGate.com, 9-17-2015]

Democracy Blues

Randy Richardson, 42, vying unopposed for the Riceville, Iowa, school board (having agreed to run just because he has two kids in school) failed to

get any votes at all — as even he was too busy on election day (Sept. 8) to make it to the polls (nor were there any write-ins). To resolve the 0-0 result, the other board members simply appointed Richardson to the office. Riceville, near the Minnesota border, is a big-time farming community, and registered voters queried by The Des Moines Register said they just had too much fieldwork to do that day. [Associated Press via U.S. News & World Report, 9-20-2015]

Medical Marvels

Researchers recently came upon a small community (not named) in the Dominican Republic with an unusual incidence of adolescent boys having spent the first decade or so of their lives as girls because their penises and testes did not appear until puberty. A September BBC News dispatch referred to the boys as "Guevedoces" and credited the community for alerting researchers, who ultimately developed a drug to replace the culprit enzyme whose absence was causing the problem. (The full shot of testosterone that should have been delivered in the mother's womb was not arriving until puberty.) [BBC News, 9-20-2015]

Leading Economic Indicators

The serpentine queue extended for blocks in Sep-

tember in Lucknow, India, after the state government of Uttar Pradesh announced 368 job openings (almost all menial) — eventually resulting in about 2.3 million applications, 200,000 from people with advanced degrees (even though the \$240/month positions required only a fifth-grade education, according to an Associated Press dispatch). About 13 million young people enter India's job market each year. [Associated Press via Yahoo News, 9-18-2015]

New World Order

At a September convention on ethical issues involving computers, a researcher at Britain's De Montfort University decried the development of devices that might permit human-robot sex. Though no human would be "victimized," the researcher warned that such machines (some already in service) will exacerbate existing "power imbalances" between men and women and pave the way for more human exploitation. One critic challenged, offering that such robots would be no more demeaning to women than, say, vibrators. However, the researcher ominously warned that there may someday be robots resembling children, marketed for sex. (A September USA Today dispatch from To-

kyo reported that the company SoftBank had banned sex, via its user agreement, with its new 4-foot-tall human-like robot — even though "Pepper" features nothing resembling genitalia.) [Washington Post, 9-15-2015] [USA Today, 9-29-2015]

Thailand's "Last Resort Rehab" at the Wat Thamkrabok Temple about 100 miles north of Bangkok resembles a traditional drug-detox facility (work, relaxation, meditation) — except for the vomiting. At the "Vomit Temple," Buddhist priests mix a concoction of 120 herbal ingredients that are nasty, according to the temple's methamphetamine addicts interviewed for a recent Australian TV documentary. Said one, of the rehab agenda: "Vomiting is at 3 p.m. every day. Foreigners must vomit for the first five days. The vomiting is intense." [International Business Times (London), 9-29-2015]

Finer Points of the Law

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals filed a federal lawsuit in California in September on behalf of an endangered crested black macaque that wandered up to an unattended camera on a tripod and clicked a selfie. The camera belonged to photographer David Slater, who claimed copyright to the photo even though "Natura" actually snapped it. The shot might be valuable to Natura since it has become viral on the Internet. (Though the photo was taken in Indonesia, Slater's

publisher is based in California.) [CNN, 9-23-2015]

Jose Banks, now 40, filed a \$10 million lawsuit in 2014 against the federal government because jailers at Chicago's high-rise Metropolitan Correctional Center failed to guard him closely enough in 2012, thus enabling him to think he could escape. He and a cellmate had rappelled 17 floors with bed sheets, but Banks was re-arrested a few days later. Still, he claimed that the escape caused him great trauma, in addition to "humiliation and embarrassment" and "damage to his reputation." (In September, the U.S. Court of Appeals turned him down. Wrote the judges, "No one has a personal right to be better guarded.") [Associated Press via Fox News, 9-26-2015]

Recurring Themes

Many in conservative Jewish communities still practice the tradition of Kaporos on the day of atonement, but the critics were out in force in New York City's Borough Park neighborhood in September to protest the ritual's slaughter there of 50,000 chickens. (A synagogue raises money by "selling" chickens to members, who then have butchers swing the chickens overhead three times, thus transferring the owners' sins to the chickens. Ultimately, the chickens are beheaded, supposedly erasing the humans' sins. Protesters ask why not just donate money.) A judge refused to block the ritual but ordered police to enforce the sanitation laws governing the beheadings. [New York Daily News, 9-18-2015]





The Jefferson Educational Society Presents GLOBAL SUMMIT VII

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., University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor and Department Chair



Mission Mars – Forwarding our Dreams into Reality

Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Bas Lansdorp, CEO Mars One



Growing Human Tissues: Can We Print Organs Instead of Transplanting Them?

Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon
Anthony Atala, M.D., Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine



Gigacities: How Broadband is Reshaping the World

Friday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Darrell West, Ph. D. Vice President of Brookings Institution Governance Studies and Founder of TechTank



US Foreign Policy & Our Role in the World – a debate moderated by C-SPAN's Steve Scully

Monday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Nile Gardiner, Director of the Heritage Foundation's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom & Dr. Aaron David Miller, Vice President at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars



An Evening with Author, Columnist, & Television Commentator: Cokie Roberts

Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.
Cokie Roberts, Contributing NPR Senior News Analyst



Reading the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality

Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Danielle Allen, Author and Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton



The Future of Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy: A Global Perspective

Friday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Norman Gevitz, Ph. D., Author of The Do's: Osteopathic Medicine in America



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Drs. John M. Ferretti and Silvia M. Ferretti



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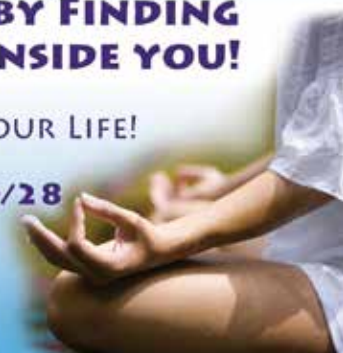
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Fall Craft Show

Zem Zem Shrine Club
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Saturday, October 17, 2015
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 18, 2015
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Anthony Ingraffea to Speak at Mercyhurst University

The outspoken Cornell University engineer will address the myths and realities of fracking.

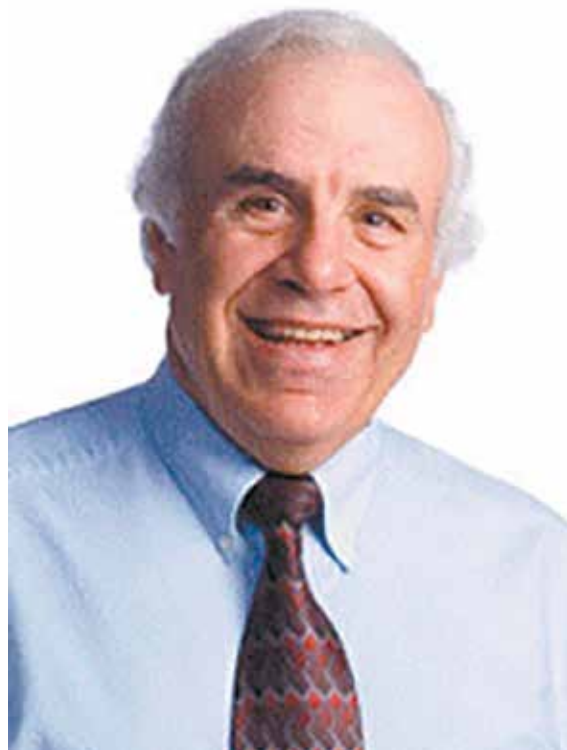
By: Katie Chriest

In Dec. 2011, *Time* named Anthony Ingraffea as one of its "People Who Mattered," describing him as "an engineer at Cornell University who is willing to go anywhere to talk to audiences about the geologic risks of fracking, raising questions about the threats that shale gas drilling could pose to water supplies."

Ingraffea, senior technical advisor for the Cornell Fracture Group, continues to tirelessly present research on the dangers of fracking. On Oct. 26, he'll address the myths and realities of fracking in a lecture at Mercyhurst University. I recently posed a few questions to Ingraffea by email.

Erie Reader: In light of our budget impasse, which threatens to shut down Erie's Public Schools, what response would you recommend to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's desire to tax (not end) fracking to bolster the Commonwealth's budget?

Anthony Ingraffea: Allow more pads and compressor stations adjacent to schools to pay for the school budget? That is a wealth vs. health choice that is easy to make, in my opinion. I do not believe in using alleged and ephemeral windfalls, "pennies from heaven," and luck to provide for the long-term common good. The shale gas industry is dying, not temporarily set back, but dying. There will be little real financial help from it for your schools this year, and less next year. Gov. Wolf, find another way for the state to provide support for public services.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Named by *Time* as one of the "People Who Mattered" in 2011, Anthony Ingraffea will speak at Mercyhurst's Walker Recital Hall on Oct. 26.

Erie area should be declared a shale hydrocarbon perpetual preserve: it is the State's moral responsibility to help manage the decline in fossil fuel development in this way.

Ingraffea advises local residents to "continue to inform themselves of what the peer-reviewed science is saying" and "make a scientifically-informed decision so that [we'll have] a firm basis for directing [our] local leaders about what

[we] want done and not done about shale gas development in [our] area. He strongly recommends visiting zotero.org/groups/pse_study_citation_database/items, a compendium of over 625 recent peer-reviewed documents on that science.

Our Sept. 16 issue featured a cover story contributed by *Public Herald*, an investigative journalism team who discovered proof that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection had "cooked" reports of water contamination from fracking across the state.

Public Herald concurrently released their findings on their website, and Ingraffea began using their maps and data in lectures almost immediately.

"More than anyone, Dr. Tony Ingraffea gives the real science and sense behind fracking," said Melissa Troutman, Executive Director of *Public Herald* and co-director of the 2013 documentary *Triple Divide*. "His knowledge comes

The shale gas industry is dying, not temporarily set back, but dying. There will be little real financial help from it for your schools this year, and less next year. Gov. Wolf, find another way for the state to provide support for public services.

from personal experience in the industry in addition to extensive research. No one tells it like it is with regard to drilling and fracking with as much authority and truth as Tony."

7 p.m. // Oct. 26 // Walker Recital Hall, Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. // mercyhurst.edu // Free and open to the public

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

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VNET
IT's about time.

Two Edinboro Farms Celebrate the Promising Present and Storied Past of Southern Erie County

By: Ryan Smith



RYAN SMITH

Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm

For three generations, day-to-day life at the Koman farm — like most family farms — has meant long hours and hard work.

And that's certainly remained true for Dan Koman and his wife, Mickey, since they converted the family's rural Edinboro farmstead from a conventional dairy operation to the Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm over 20 years ago.

Between tending to their roughly 40-head herd of American bison (and all the standard accompanying farm work) and their other, off-farm jobs, the Komans routinely pull dou-

ble-shift days. Plenty of farm visitors keep them busy, too — especially during the fall, when their annually-changing corn maze, gift shop, restaurant, and other attractions are in their peak season.

"We do what we enjoy," says 52-year-old Koman, who usually goes by "Buffalo Dan." "We like to educate people, get them out here to see what a working farm is all about."

And it's a very cool sight to behold, to be sure. We're talking about a big 'ol herd of huge, burly bison here. The Komans know their stuff, too: They can tell you about all things buffalo — from their history to the modern preservation

movement.

But traditionally (and unfortunately), Koman says, most of the bison-gazing public is there more for looking, and less for actually buying the farm's main product: A locally-raised, grass-fed, all-natural, hormone- and antibiotic-free (and, really, pretty damn delicious) alternative to standard, factory-raised supermarket beef.

"Ninety-nine percent [of visitors] are appreciative," of the work they're doing to maintain the herd and educate the public about bison as a viable, healthy food source, Koman says. "They support us ... but not always financially."

Compliments are great. So are smiles. But when it comes down to it — like all farmers — he says, "we still need that financial support, too."

Taking an agro-tourism approach to their business with the Wooden Nickel restaurant, tours, and other public draws has helped the Komans get the word out, though. And luckily, he says, a number of people are becoming more interested in their products as the collective conscience seems to be shifting its views on nutrition and food in general.

In the meantime, Koman says, "we'll keep plugging away."

They will — just like they have been. Like all farmers, "we do it because it's in our blood," he says. "It's what we love to do."

To learn more about Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm and when you can check it out, visit woodennickelbuffalo.com.

Hurry Hill Maple Farm

Way back in 1791, in a letter to another important guy, Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia physician and U.S. founding father Benjamin Rush made a sweeping statement: "In contemplating the present opening prospects in human affairs I am led to expect that a material part of the general happiness which heaven seems to have prepared for mankind will be derived from the manufacture and general use of maple sugar."

I've put together a few stories over the years about maple sugar-making (of which there's quite a lot locally), and talked with several of the artisans behind that craft. Across the board, they seem to agree with, and echo, Rush's

words.

And the sweet, simple truth of it has always rung true at Hurry Hill Maple Farm in Edinboro.

Owner/operator Jan Woods and the other folks there are time-honoring, old-school maple sugar mavens. They tap trees pretty much the same as in centuries past, putting the kibosh on decidedly more modern techniques that employ reverse osmosis and the

Above: Where the buffalo roam: Wooden Nickel's herd dots the pastoral Edinboro landscape. Right and Opposite: Same as it ever was: Visitors to Hurry Hill Maple Farm witness maple syrup-making in the present, and learn about the craft's past in the area's only maple syrup museum.



RYAN SMITH

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RYAN SMITH

like.

However it's done, though, "making maple syrup combines science, environmental education, agriculture, history, math, reading, and the chance for camaraderie," Woods, who's also president of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Maple Association, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in 2010.

I was probably at Hurry Hill that year — likely in spring, when the farm's hearty lot is working hardest. I've been there at some point most every year since, usually with my wife and kiddos.

"How many seasons do we have in the year?" Woods asked the crowd at Hurry Hill the last time we visited. Then she answered:

"We have summer ... fall ... winter ... sugaring ... and spring. They don't teach you [about] sugaring in school," she said, but it's there, nonetheless.

The work that takes place during that season is part science, part folk-magic. It's worth checking out, to be sure. There really is something magical in that time-honored practice. The kids love it, and *learn* from it. It even kept my two-year-old's attention — while she was absolutely loaded on maple sugar, no less — for a couple

hours last spring.

This year's syrup-making season has come and gone, but there's still plenty of time to enjoy its sweet rewards. Along with being a true-blue sugaring operation, Hurry Hill's home to the area's only bonafide maple syrup museum. There, after seeing the actual process, visitors can glimpse a living history of the craft through artifacts, presentations, antique and modern materials, and, of course, syrup.

Free and open to the public on Sunday afternoons through November, the museum also displays author Virginia Sorensen's 1956 Newbury Medal for the book *Miracles on Maple Hill*, a heralded fictional tale of family and maple syrup that takes place in and around Edinboro and Cambridge Springs.

"I can teach you the science" behind maple syrup, Woods says, "but you learn the magic from that book."

At Hurry Hill, you'll see plenty of the science and magic all around us in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Ryan Smith can be reached at rsmith@eriereader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ryanmsmithplens.



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Urbaniak Brothers
Wegmans

Best Place to Buy Produce

Erie County Farms
Mason Farms
Wegmans

Best Auto Customer Service

Bianchi Honda
Mazda of Erie
Rick Sornberger Automotive

Best Place to Buy or Lease a New Car

Bianchi Honda
Hallman Chevrolet
Humes Chrysler Jeep Dodge & Ram

Best Farmers Market

Little Italy - Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
Mason Farms
Whole Foods Co-op

Best Place to Buy Instru-

ments

Lynch Music
Presque Isle Brass and Woodwind
World of Music

Best Thrift Store

Once Upon a Child
Plato's Closet
Salvation Army

Best Vintage Clothing Shop

Grasshopper
Salvation Army
Sassy Peacock

Best Antique Shop

Antique Gallery
Oregon Antique Boutique
Second Hand Rose

Best Jewelry Store

Dahlkemper's
Fisher Jewelers
Glass Growers Gallery

Best Place to Buy Furniture

Fred's Furniture
Arthur F. Schultz
John V. Schultz

Best Consignment Shop

Once Upon a Child
Plato's Closet
Sassy Peacock

Best Boutique

All That Glitters
Glass Growers Gallery
Grasshopper

Best Comics and Collectibles Shop

Above and Beyond Comics
Action Toyman
Books Galore

Best Book Store

Barnes and Noble
Books Galore
Werner Books

Best Smoke/Vapor Shop

Hippie & the Hound
Leaf Lover
Smoker Friendly

Best Chocolate/Candy Purveyor

Pulakos
Romolo
Stefanelli's

Best Bakery

Art's Bakery
International Bakery
Ye Olde Sweet Shoppe

Best Deli

Teresa's Italian Deli
Tickle's Deli
Wegman's

Best Winery

Courtyard Wineries
Mazza Vineyards
Six Mile Cellars

Best Place to Get a Six Pack

Public House
Six Pack House of Beer
U Pick Six

Best Health Food Store

Chicory Hill Herbs
Dietary Foods
Whole Foods Co-op

Best Tattoo Parlor

Buddha's
Ink Assassins
Midtown Tattoo

Best Tattoo Artist

Brandy Artz
Eerie Eric Fargiorgio
"Gentle" Josh Makowski

Best Place to Get Pierced

Buddha's
Ink Assassins
Sacred Piercing

Best Person to Get Pierced By

Kristy Baird
Zack Scott
Missy Twohig

Best Place to Adopt a Pet

ANNA Shelter
Erie Humane Society
Orphan Angels

Best Bank

Erie Federal Credit Union
Northwest Savings Bank
Widget Financial

Best Spa

Ambridge Rose
Coventina Day Spa
Panache Salon & Spa

Best Beauty Salon

Panache Salon & Spa
Salon H2O
Shear Delights

Best Barbershop

Ruiz Barber Shop
Russo's
Uncle Nick's

Best Bike Shop

AR Adams Cycling
John Adams Cycling
Competitive Gear

Best Place to Host a Wedding Reception

Bayfront Convention Center
Peek n' Peak
Riverside Inn

Best Web Developer

Epic WebStudios

BEST OF ERIE 2015

Firefly Web Studios
Lyons Den Productions

Best Locally Made Product

Dulachan IPA by Lavery Brewing
Romolo Chocolate
Smith's Hotdogs

Best New Business (Within Last Two Years)

Chopstix Asian Restaurant
Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Cocktails and Color

Best Videographer

Ben Friesen
Howard Glover
Zack Orr

Best Place to Buy a Used Car

Bianchi Honda
Porreco Nissan
Superior Toyota

Best Dog Groomer

Grooming by Charlene
Mud Puppies
Paws 'n Claws

Culture & Nightlife

Best Local Festival

Celebrate Erie
Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Fest
North East Cherry Festival

Best Reason to Come Downtown

Erie Art Museum
Lavery Brewing Company
The Warner Theatre

Best Art Event

Arts & Drafts
Erie Art Museum Midday Art Break
Erie Art Museum Spring Show

Best Museum

Erie Art Museum
Experience Children's Museum
Watson Curtze Mansion

Best Place to Catch a Flick

Erie Movie House
Sunset Drive In
Tinseltown

Best Performing Arts

Space

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center
PACA
Warner Theatre
Best Theater Space
Erie Playhouse
PACA
Warner Theatre

Best Event Space

Bayfront Convention Center
Burger King Amphitheater
Kings Rook Club

Best Local Act (Band/Musician)

French Kiss
The Groove
The Romantic Era

Best Local Promoter

Ryan Bartosek
Dreambig Promotions
Bob Jensen

Best Local Artist

C. Brown
Evan Everhart
Todd Scalise

Best Art Gallery

Bayfront Gallery
Erie Art Museum
Glass Growers Gallery

Best Music Venue

Basement Transmissions
Kings Rook Club
Oasis

Best Local Sculptor

Evan Everhart
Sue Hunter
David Seitzinger

Best Local Photog

Jess Husted
Ron Vollentine
Jessica Yochim

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

At That Moment
Six Year Stretch
Tyler Smilo

Best Local Singer

Jake Banta
Brittany Morton
Jess Royer

Best Local Musician

Jake Banta
Matt Boland
Eric Brewer

Best Place for Free Fun

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Downtown Block Parties
Presque Isle

Best MC

Matt Breezy
C. Brown
Jonny Evans

Best DJ

DJ Nitro
DJ Bill Page
DJ Roach

Best Local Graphic Designer

Megan Callaghan
Mark Kosobucki
Todd Scalise

Best Local Illustrator

Eric Fargiorgio
Todd Scalise
Bryan Toy

Best Neighborhood Bar

Lavery Brewing Company
Park Tavern
Tap House

Best Place to Hear Live Rock

Basement Transmissions
Kings Rook Club
Sherlock's

Best Place to Hear Live Jazz

Anchor In
Romolo
Scotty's

Best Night Club

Coconut Joe's
Docksider
Resolution

Best Bar for Dancing

Doc Holliday's
Resolution
The Zone

Best Bar for Hooking Up

Boardwalk
Coconut Joe's
Docksider

Best New Bar/Club (Within Last Two Years)

Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Kings Rook Club
U Pick 6 Public House

Best Place to Get a Martini

1201 Kitchen
Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Scotty's

Best Happy Hour

Coconut Joe's
Public House

Tap House

Best Place to Be Seen on a Saturday Night

Coconut Joe's
Lavery Brewing Company
The Plymouth Tavern

Best Juke Box

Calamari's
Lager Cafe
Lavery Brewing

Best Dance Company

Dance Vibe
Erie Dance Theater
Lake Erie Ballet

Best College Bar

Cornerstone
Slugger's
The Plymouth Tavern

Best Sports Bar

Buffalo Wild Wings
Fox & Hound
Slugger's

Best Poet

Greg Brown
Luchetta Manus
Tracy Morell

Best Place to Get Lectured to

Chautauqua Institution
Erie Public Library
Mercyhurst University

Best Local Actor

Chris Bucci
Anthony Palermo
Sean Whaling

Best Local Actress

Ashley Delaney
Kelly Rodland
Carrie Smith

Food & Drink

Best Restaurant

1201 Kitchen
Chopstix
Pineapple Eddie's

Best Sandwich Shop

Picasso's
Primanti Brothers
Tickle's Deli

Best New Restaurant (Within Last Two Years)

Chopstix
Like My Thai
Primanti Brothers

Best Place to Get Sea-

food

1201 Kitchen
Sheraton Bayfront Grille
Smuggler's Wharf

Best Seafood Shop

Erie County Farms
Lone Shark
Wegmans

Best Romantic Restaurant

1201 Kitchen
Bertrand's Bistro
Colao's Ristorante

Best Chef

Bertrand Artigues
Dan Kern
Amanda Kleckner

Best Upscale Restaurant

1201 Kitchen
Bertrand's Bistro
Pufferbelly

Best Dinner Bargain

McGarrey's
Olive Garden
Serafini's

Best Bar Food

Odis 12
The Plymouth Tavern
Public House

Best Hot Dog

Lucky Louie's
New York Lunch
Sara's

Best Coffee Shop

Brew Ha Ha
Brick House
Coffee Culture

Best Mobile Food Vendor

Ernie's
The Que Abides
US Pig Niagara

Best Breakfast

Breakfast Place
Panos
Summer House Cafe

Best Patio

The Plymouth Tavern
Rum Runners
Sheraton Bayfront Grille

Best Brunch

Peek'n Peak
Pineapple Eddie's
Pufferbelly

Best Buffet

Imperial Chinese Buffet
Peek'n Peak
S&S Buffet



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- Andy's Pub
- Applebee's West Avonia
- Bay County
- Beechwood Golf Club
- Bruce's Pub & Grub
- Chestnut St. Pub
- Chico's Travelers Inn
- Choo-Choo's
- Coach's
- Dowling's Tavern
- Eduardo's
- Girard Cafe
- Hunter Jacks
- Kelly Downs
- Last Shot
- Lefty's Tavern
- Lombardo's
- Odis 12
- Penny's Pub
- Pittsburgh Inn
- Rack N Roll
- Rocco's
- Sandbar
- That Place
- Treehouse Tavern
- The Cab
- The Last Shot
- Ugly Tuna
- 21 Hampton

EAST

- Alibi Bar
- Bootleggers
- Chipper's
- Clancy's
- Czartoryski By the Bay
- Dan's Rt 7 Boardwalk
- Fiddle Inn
- Irish Cousins
- Jammin' Vine
- JJ's Pub
- Lakeview Tavern
- Marty's
- Nunzi's
- Park Tavern
- Pete's Pub
- Red Fox Inn
- Scooters on Parade
- Speed'EEZ
- T.J.'s Traffic Jam
- The Cornerstone
- The Turnaround
- TK's Tavern
- Uptown Browns
- Z's

PEACH ST.

- Applebee's
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Famous Dave's
- Fox & Hound
- Hooch & Blotto's
- Quaker Steak & Lube
- Primanti Brothers

CLUBS

- American Legion Northeast
- American Legion Peach
- American Legion Post #571
- American Legion E 3rd Street
- Cascade Club
- CYS
- East Erie Moose
- Falcons 19th
- Fairview Legion
- Fulton Club
- Holy Trinity
- Huzar Club
- Knights of St. John
- Lawrence Park AC Club
- Millcreek Legion
- 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
- South Erie Turners
- Sportsmen A.C.
- St. Boniface Ushers Club
- St. Joes (Northeast)

CLUBS

- St. Mary's Club
- Star Club
- Sunflower Club
- Wesleyville Athletic Club
- Zukor Club
- VFW west 26th
- VFW #740 Edinboro

SOUTH

- Crossroads Dinor
- Doc Holliday's
- Edinboro Hotel
- Edinboro Lanes
- Empty Keg
- Fat Willies
- French Quarters
- Lakeside Tavern
- McKean Tavern
- Pour House
- Waterford Hotel

DOWNTOWN

- Arena Sports Bar
- Calamari's
- Plymouth
- Scully's
- 3B's Saloon

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Sara's
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Best Sub Shop

Teresa's Deli
Tickle's Deli
Wegman's

Best Wine List

1201 Kitchen
Bertrand's Bistro
Cloud 9

Best Beer List

The Brewerrie at Union Station
Public House
Tap House

Best Patio Dining

The Cove
The Plymouth Tavern
Smuggler's Wharf

Best Local Brewery

The Brewerrie at Union Station
Erie Brewing Company
Lavery Brewing

Best Locally Made Beer

Derailed (Erie Brewing Company)
Dulachan (Lavery Brewing)
IBud59 (Sprague Farm)

Best Place to Get Vegan / Vegetarian Food

Jeckyl & Hyde Gastropub
Like My Thai
Whole Foods Co-op

Best Place to Order a Steak

1201 Kitchen
Firebirds
Texas Roadhouse

Best Place to Get Barbecue

Smokey Bones
Three B Saloon
US Pig Niagara

Best Burger

The Brewerrie at Union Station
Five Guys Burgers and Fries
Sara's

Best French Fries

Rum Runners
Sara's
Waldameer Potato Shack

Best Soft Pretzel

The Brewerrie at Union Station

The Plymouth Tavern
Public House

Best Pizza

John's Wildwood Pizza
Stevo's
Virgil's Plate

Best Wings

Odis 12
One Way Inn
Park Tavern

Best Sushi

Aoyama
Chopstix Asian Restaurant
Wegman's

Best Asian Restaurant

Chopstix
Golden Wok
Like My Thai

Best Italian Restaurant

Mi Scuzi
Nunzi's
Serafini's

Best Mexican Restaurant

El Canelo
Latino's
Torrero's

Best Middle Eastern Restaurant

Casablanca
Habibi
Petra

Best Lunch Bargain

Like My Thai
The Plymouth Tavern
Tickles Deli

Best LateNite Menu

Dominick's
Panos
The Plymouth Tavern

Best Bloody Mary

Calamari's
Pufferbelly
The Plymouth Tavern

Best Dessert

Lorie's Wildridge Restaurant
Mi Scuzi
Pufferbelly

Best Bartender

Seth Jones
Amanda Schaffner
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People & Places
Best Reason to Live in Erie

Arts & Culture
Presque Isle and Lake Erie
Real Estate Prices

Best Radio Station

93.9 the Wolf
Rocket 101
90.5 WERG

Best Radio Show

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Fazed Cookies
The Morning Show with Captain Dan

Best Radio Personality

Captain Dan
Carrie Leigh
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Best TV Personality

David Belmondo
Sean Lafferty
Emily Welsh

Best TV News Team

Action News 24
Fox 66 News at 10
WICU News 12

Best Yoga Studio

Art of Yoga
Plasha Yoga
YogaErie

Best Politician

Ryan Bizzarro
Bob Merski
Sean Wiley

Best NonProfit/Charity

ANNA Shelter
Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

Best Filmmaker

Howard Glover
John Lyons
Tom Weber

Best Place to Work

Erie Insurance
GE
Wegmans

Best Tourist Attraction

Erie Zoo
Presque Isle State Park
Waldameer Park

Best Park

Asbury Woods
Presque Isle State Park
Waldameer Park

Best Spot to Take Wedding Photos

Dobbins Landing
Presque Isle Beaches

Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery

Best People Watching

CelebrateErie
Downtown at closing time
Millcreek Mall

Best Landmark

Brig Niagara
Dobbins Landing
Perry Monument

Best Place for a Family Outing

Erie Zoo
Presque Isle State Park
Waldameer Park

Best Place for a First Date

1201 Kitchen
Colao's Ristorante
Lavery Brewing Company

Best University

Edinboro University
Mercyhurst University
Penn State Behrend

Best Fitness Club

iRock Fitness
LECOM Fitness and Wellness Center
Planet Fitness

Best Bowling Alley

Eastway Lanes
Greengarden Lanes
Rolling Meadows

Best Team to Root for

Erie Roller Girls
Erie Otters
Erie Seawolves

Best Minor League Team

Erie Bayhawks
Erie Otters
Erie Seawolves

Best Beach

Beach 6
Beach 11
Presque Isle Unmarked Beaches

Best Place for Skiing

Holiday Valley
Mount Pleasant
Peek n' Peak

Best Place to Run

Asbury Woods
Bayfront Trail
Frontier Park

Best Place to Hike

Asbury Woods
Presque Isle
Wintergreen Gorge

Best Place to Bike

Bayfront Bike Path
Presque Isle
Scott Park

Best Athletic Competition

Beast on the Bay
Erie Marathon
Turkey Trot

Best Place to Play Darts

Coach's
Fox & Hound
Sullivan's

Best Place to Shoot Pool

Andy's Pub
Fox & Hound
Rack N Roll

Best Golf Course

Erie Golf Club
Lawrence Park Country Club
Whispering Woods

Best Playground

Frontier Park
Lake Cliff Park
Liberty Park

Best Fundraising Event

Action Toyman Toys for Tots event
Erie Downtown Block Parties
Erie Gives Day

Best Erie Reader Writer

Mary Birdsong
Ben Speggen
Jim Wertz

Best Local Twitter Follow

Erie Alerts
Selena King
Jim Wertz

Best Entrepreneur

Lisa Heidelberg
Tom Kennedy
Jason Lavery

Best Resident

Lisa Austin
Sister Joan Chittester OSB
Nate Gillies

Best Place to See a Sunset (Not Presque Isle)

8 Great Tuesdays
Erie Bluffs State Park
Rumrunners

Best Local Mascot

Bubba Love
C. Wolf
Shooter

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*Mel Oline
 & Julian Lage*

Saturday, Oct. 24 · 7:30 p.m.
 Walker Recital Hall

Wilco lead guitarist and one of Rolling Stone's Guitar Gods teams up with a young jazz guitar phenom to create a world of melodic beauty, hard sonic edges and technical brilliance.



Sinkane

Thursday, Nov. 19 · 7:30 p.m.
 Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

Experience the cross-cultural sounds of a band—and frequent collaborator with Of Montreal, Yeasayer and Caribou—known for blending slow-burning African funk with pulsating dubstep, R&B and psych rock.

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Wednesday, Oct. 14

FILM at the Erie Art Museum Screens *Merchants of Doubt*



PARTICIPANT MEDIA

who present themselves as authorities to speak on topics like toxic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and global warming.

The documentary is presented as part of FILM at the Erie Art Museum, and the event includes a climate change panel discussion. Go see it, and go get riled up. Better for your blood to boil than the Earth. — Sara Toth

7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // 459.5477 // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html // Tickets \$5

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Haunted History Tours Open at The Brewererie at Union Station



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

What do the tobacco industry and climate change doubters have in common?

Lobbyists. Or, to put it more artfully, merchants of doubt. Men and women who testify on Capitol Hill – often at the behest (and payroll) of firms working to convince the public and the politicians that no, nicotine is not addictive; no, DDT is not harmful to the environment; and no, man is not causing the Earth's temperature to rise.

Enter the film *Merchants of Doubt*, a 2014 documentary that takes a hard look at the pundits-for-hire (people who tell the camera point-blank, "I'm not a scientist, but I play one on TV")

Some things are innately terrifying. Spiders. Dark corridors. A swarm of mango juice-covered bees inside a port-o-potty at a summer music festi-

val. These are the stuff of nightmares.

But sometimes fear can be fun. Take the Haunted History Tours of Union Station presented by The Brewererie. These special trips into the dark, spooky side of the historical building will give you chills while you find out more about the Flagship City staple's past. Make sure to call The Brewererie and make a reservation for one of the tours before they're completely booked, because missing out would be a truly horrifying experience. — Alex Bieler

7:30 p.m. Oct. 14, 21, 28, and 29, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Oct. 23, 30, and Nov. 6 // 123 W. 14th St. // brewererie.com

Thursday, Oct. 15

Laugh/Riot Performing Arts Company Brings Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to the 'Boro

The Scottish Play is, appropriately, coming to Edinboro.

Edinboro University's resident theatre, Laugh/Riot Performing Arts Company, is taking on Shakespeare's *Macbeth* this month — so it's not just a chill in the air you'll feel, but a chill along your spine watching one of the Bard's darkest plays.

Need a refresher from your high school lit course? *Macbeth*, a general in

King Duncan's army, receives a prophecy following battle that one day, he will be king. It's a prophecy *Macbeth* and his wife take to heart – whatever little hearts they have – and it sends them down a bloody, traitorous, all-consuming path. It ends well. Oh, and there are witches.

And while the terror is more man-made than supernatural, more an exploration of humanity and its violence than a toss-up to things that go bump in the night, *Macbeth* is still the perfect play to get yourself into the Halloween spirit. Prepare yourself, for something wicked this way comes. — Sara Toth

7:30 p.m. Oct. 15-17, 22-24; 2:30 p.m. Oct. 18 and 25 // Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St., Edinboro // 323.1147 // laughrioterie.com // Tickets \$10 general admission; \$5 students and faculty; \$3 EU students

Friday, Oct. 16

The Game's Afoot Opens at Erie Playhouse

What's on your wish list? How about a nice, lighthearted murder?

The Erie Playhouse is delivering an early holiday gift with their production

MUSIC

He is Legend with Special Guests

Oct. 14 — 6 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 West 11th St. facebook.com/beardedbabyproductions.

Dave VanAmburg

Oct. 15, 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bel Aire Marriott Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Colony House Band

Oct. 15, 22 — 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Here Come the Mummies

Oct. 15 — 7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Matt Kramer

Oct. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Dr. uglytunatavern.com.

The Highlife

Oct. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew

Works, 22043 US Hwy. 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Friday Night Jazz

Oct. 16, 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

A Back Room Show

Oct. 16 — 6:30 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 West 11th St. facebook.com/basement.transmissions.

Erie Ale House Acoustics

Oct. 16 — 7 p.m. to midnight
Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/ErieAleHouse.

The Mighty Sea & Brooke Surgener & Matt Crays

Oct. 16 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Chris Higbee

Oct. 16, 17 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

House of Cards

Oct. 16, 17 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Hodge Podge

Oct. 16 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks Erie PA, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Saturday Night Blues

Oct. 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

Still Waiting

Oct. 17 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 3520 Perry St. emmanuelerie.org.

Chickstock 3

Oct. 17 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Jesse Weston

Oct. 17 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/ErieAleHouse.

French Kiss Live

Oct. 17 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks Erie PA, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Edinboro University Chamber Players Concert

Oct. 19 — 7 p.m.
Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St. events.edinboro.edu.

Pianist Jose Ramos-Santana

Oct. 19 — 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Big Dog Acoustics

Oct. 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy. 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

CHON with Special Guests

Oct. 23 — 3 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 West 11th St. facebook.com/beardedbabyproductions.

Mid-Life Crisis

Oct. 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Dr. uglytunatavern.com.

Tiger Maple String Band

Oct. 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy. 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

After Funk & Six Year Stretch

Oct. 23 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

MF Jones Band

Oct. 23 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Hamilton

Oct. 23 — 9:30 p.m. to midnight
Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/ErieAleHouse.

Rt. 8

Oct. 23, 24 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

The Hangover Band

Oct. 23 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks Erie PA, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Punk-O-Ween

Oct. 24 — 5:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 West 11th St. facebook.com/gimpguyunderground.

Alex McLaughlin Trio

Oct. 24 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

Tommy Stine

Oct. 24 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy. 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Nels Cline & Julian Lage

Oct. 24 — 7:30 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Harmony's House

Oct. 24 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 3520 Perry St. emmanuelerie.org.

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CALENDAR

Oct. 24 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Geek Army

Oct. 24 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Stratospheerius wsg: Liquid Nixon

Oct. 24 — 9 p.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Strangers & Liars

Oct. 24 — 9 p.m. to midnight

Erie Ale House, 1033 State St. facebook.com/ErieAleHouse.

Mas Nova Reunion Show

Oct. 24 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Sherlocks Erie PA, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Music from the Golden Age

Oct. 26 — 7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 707 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.

DANCE

Count...The Legend of Dracula

Oct. 22, 23, 24 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. lakeerieballet.org.

Bollywood Masala Orchestra & Dancers of India

Oct. 27 — 7:30 p.m.

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

FOOD & DRINK

Celebrity Bartending Fundraiser

Oct. 14 — 6 to 8 p.m.

U Pick 6 Tap House, 333 State St. stayfocusedforthefuture.com.

Cocktails and Color

Oct. 16 — 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 9440 W. Main Rd. piwine.com.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week at Courtyard

Oct. 18 through 24

Courtyard Winery, 10021 W. Main Rd.

courtyardwinery.com.

Mad Mex Benefit Dinner for the Erie Vegan and Vegetarian Society

Oct. 20 -- 7 p.m.

Mad Mex, 5800 Peach St. theerievegsociety.org.

FILM

Living in the Age of Airplanes

Ongoing through Oct. 30 — 2 & 5 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trempi.org.

Deepsea Challenge

Ongoing through Dec. 31 — noon & 4 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trempi.org.

Tiny Giants

Ongoing through Feb. 26 — 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive. trempi.org.

Merchants of Doubt

Oct. 14 — 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

MET Opera - Otello (Verdi)

Oct. 17 — 12:55 p.m.

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

Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?

Oct. 19 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

The Invitation

Oct. 21 — 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Repulsion

Oct. 22 — 8:30 p.m.

Edinboro Film Series, 405 Scotland Rd. facebook.com/edinborofilmseries.

National Theatre Live - Hamlet

Oct. 24 — 12:55 p.m.

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

The Shining

Oct. 24 — 7 p.m.

21 Brix Winery, 6654 W. Main Rd. 21brix.com

Mulholland Dr.

Oct. 28 — 7 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Faculty & Alumni Exhibition

Ongoing through Oct. 27

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

The Visionary Paintings of William Thomas Thompson

Ongoing through Oct. 31

Bruce Gallery, Doucette Hall 215 Meadville St. brucegallery.info.

41st Annual October Evenings Juried Exhibit

Ongoing through Oct. 31

Heeschen Gallery, 910 Market St. artsmeadville.org.

On the Surface Works by Jamie Borowicz

Ongoing through

Nov. 1 — 9 a.m.

Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Minyao

Ongoing through Nov. 15

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Land, Sea and Sky: Details from Nature

Ongoing through Jan. 8

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Art of the Comic Book

Ongoing through Feb. 7

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Cylical Beauty & Recent Sculpture

Oct. 16 through Nov. 17

Glass Growers Gallery, 10 East 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Color & Form

Oct. 16 — 7 to 10 p.m.

Urraro Gallery, 135 W. 14th St. facebook.com/urrarogallery.

Salacious Exposés' 1st Erie Art Show

CALENDAR

of Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot*.

Afoot is a classic whodunit set in the 1930s in the Connecticut mansion of William Gillette, an actor known for his portrayal of the lead in a smash Broadway hit, *Sherlock Holmes*.

Gillette invites his fellow cast members for a festive weekend of holiday cheer at his Connecticut estate, an isolated mansion filled with trick walls, hidden passages, and all the embellishments needed for a parlor-room mystery.

Things go south quickly, of course. After the requisite murder, Gillette must assume the persona of his character, Holmes, to discover the perpetrator. There are plot twists, fast-paced dialogue, inflated theater egos, and much farcical wit.

A mystery all wrapped up in a gauzy Christmas package of hilarity? May be just the way to kick off the season. — Mary Birdsong

Oct. 16 to Nov. 1 // Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. // 13 West 10 St. // 454.2852.

Monday, Oct. 19

Social Justice Superhero to Speak



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hosted by Erie Benedictines for Peace, Medea Benjamin will present her lecture *Diplomacy Works: Iran* at the Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

Benjamin has been an advocate for social justice for more than 30 years and is co-founder of CODEPINK: Women for Peace and Global Exchange, an international human rights organization. She has authored eight books, and is the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the 2012 Peace Prize from the U.S. Peace Memorial.

She is known for her high-level work in Middle Eastern democracy movements, and against sweatshop labor and the use of drones against civilian populations. Her latest book is *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. She was described by *New York Newsday* as "one of America's most committed — and most effective — fighters for human rights," and "one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement" by the *Los Angeles Times*.

The event is open to all; a free will

offering will be accepted. — Mary Birdsong

7 p.m. // 6101 East Lake Road // 460-4831

Friday, Oct. 23

After Funk Rocks the Rook

You can't spell funk without *fun*. A proper funk show is an outright blast, and Toronto's After Funk won't leave you disappointed when the quartet jams out at the Kings Rook Club.

The Canadian crew of progressive funksters has honed its infectious sound since 2011. Already in those four short years, After Funk has shared the stage with notable groups like the Grammy Award-winning jazz collective Snarky Puppy and the groovy Lettuce. Joining After Funk in the quest to get some rumps ashaking is Erie's own Six Year Stretch, providing an alt-rock punch to a night of funk and fun. — Alex Bieler

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

Saturday, Oct. 24

Nels Cline and Julian Lage Play MIAC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Musical collaboration is nothing new, especially in the world of jazz. Often, though, when two giants of the same instrument convene, their performances devolve into one-upping duels of technical showiness. Impressive? Sure. Interesting? Not really.

What a refreshing pleasure it was, then, to witness the thoughtful interplay of Nels Cline and Julian Lage at Cleveland's Nighttown in June of 2014. The duo, coming soon to Mercyhurst, clearly enjoy the musical conversation their dueting inspires. Cline, best known as Wilco's riff-meister, and Lage, a child prodigy who just keeps getting better, have the sort of telepathic connection that makes even the most complex melodies warmly engaging. Their mutual admiration is evident; and if jazz is "the sound of surprise," Cline and Lage epitomize it beautifully. They just seem to enjoy listening to each other, and discovering what each will come up with next. Now we'll get to discover it, too. — Katie Christ

7:30 p.m. // Walker Recital Hall,



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In celebration of Erie's risk takers, past, present, and future who make our region a more prosperous place to live.

Online voting open until October 30th via
www.innovationcollaborators.com/disrupt-erie-voting
Learn more about the event and purchase tickets via
www.innovationcollaborators.com/disrupterie



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sherlockparkplace

Saturday, Oct. 24

Mas Nova Reunion Show



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

People come and people go but rock 'n' roll can never die. This October, Sherlock's will play host to the reunion of Mas Nova after an eight-year hiatus.

Fortunately for Erie, Mas Nova was never completely gone. Vocalist Joe Newcomer and guitarist and keyboardist Trevor Huster return from out of state to join guitarist Jason Bean, bassist Tommy Jason Gary, and drummer Chris Ottena to show Erie what it's been missing.

With proper rocking in order, Mas Nova is enlisting the help of Rebel Souls and VWLS to set the stage for a triumphant return. — Alex Bieler

10 p.m. // 508 State St. // facebook.com/

Saturday, Oct. 24

Stratospheerius Returns with Liquid Nixon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

You're fortunate enough when you get to see a performer compared to Jimi Hendrix once in a year. Get ready for an extra dose of rock 'n' roll when Joe Deninzon and Stratospheerius return to the Kings Rook Club after visiting earlier in 2015.

Deninzon isn't your usual rock star, although the violin maestro can shred with the best of them (imagine Hendrix on the violin). Born in Russia, Deninzon and his family moved to Cleveland when he was young. It didn't take him long to impress the local music scene, playing in rock bands by his mid-teens. Eventually his skills on the violin

and his band's jazzy rock vibes earned him work alongside Bruce Springsteen and Les Paul.

Needless to say, Deninzon and Stratospheerius are worth seeing. Add in a performance by Erie's own Liquid Nixon and an after party featuring Eric Brewer and Friends and this is a show not to miss. — Alex Bieler

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

Saturday, Oct. 24

Punk-O-Ween Costume Bash at Basement Transmissions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

You don't have to wait until Halloween to show off your costume skills. Basement Transmissions wants you to dress to impress at the Punk-O-Ween Bash presented by Gimp Guy Underground and Voiceless Clothing, let-

ting you don your favorite pun-based outfits (like a baguette-wielding Gene Simmons for French Kiss) or fashion a makeup-aided masterpiece while you get down to some premium punk-rock.

A septet of Pennsylvanian punk acts will be on hand for the night, with Drop The Act, Mallory Run, No Horse Town, Genetically Engineered Super Humans, Dysmorphia, My Secret Weapon, and Five Corners filling out the lineup. Just \$8 gets you into a sweet costume bash complete with a powerful lineup of punk performers, so get into the Halloween spirit a week early at Basement Transmissions. — Alex Bieler

5:30 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // basementtransmissions.com

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Bollywood Masala Orchestra & Dancers of India Brighten MIAC Stage

When you think of Bollywood, and of dancing, what comes to mind? Likely, it's spinning vertices of color, set to somehow simultaneously upbeat and ethereal Indian music.

But how many of us have actually seen this music performed?

You'll have your chance with the Bollywood Masala Orchestra & Dancers of

Oct. 16 — 7 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 32 W. 8th St. facebook.com/salaciousexposes.

Peter Max

Oct. 16 -- 7 to 9 p.m. (Preview Party) & Oct. 24 -- 6 to 9 p.m. & Oct. 25 -- 1 to 4 p.m.
Beachwood City Hall, 25325 Fairmount Blvd. roadshowcompany.com.

THEATRE

Macbeth

Oct. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 18, 25 — 2:30 p.m.
Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 219 Meadville St. laughrioterie.com.

Medieval Fest at Riverside

Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 18, 25 — 2:30 p.m.
Riverside Inn at Cambridge Springs, One Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

The Game's Afoot

Oct. 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31 — 7:30 & Oct. 25 & Nov. 1 — 2 p.m.

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

Death and the Maiden

Oct. 16, 17 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 18 — 3 p.m.
All An Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

Rocky Horror

Oct. 16, 17, 23, 30 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 24 — midnight
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

A Canterbury Feast

Oct. 17 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 18 — 2:30 p.m.
The Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Don't Blame it on the Movies

Oct. 20, 21 — noon & Oct. 24 — 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 25 — 2:30 p.m.
The Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat

Oct. 22 — 7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

The Drowsy Chaperone

Oct. 22, 23, 24 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 24, 25 — 2 p.m.
Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Stage Fright: Play Festival of Fear

Oct. 23, 24, 30 — 8 & 10 p.m. & midnight Oct. 31 — 8 & 10 p.m.
Schuster Theatre, 109 University Square gannon.edu.

COMMUNITY/VARIETY

Holocaust Exhibit

Ongoing through Oct. 28 — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Gannon University, 619 Sassafras St. gannon.edu.

Port Farms Harvest Festival

Ongoing through Oct. 31
Port Farms, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd. portfarms.com.

Sissons' Pumpkin

Patch

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sissons' Pumpkin Patch, 11244 Springfield Rd. portfarms.com.

Connect: Grassroots Efforts to Reshape Our Community

Ongoing through Jan. 10
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartsandculture.org.

Used Book and Puzzle Sale

Oct. 14, 15 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Oct. 16, 17 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St. mccordlibrary.org.

Pumpkin Patch Hunt

Oct. 14 — 4 to 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 24 — 10:30 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Creativity Matters

Oct. 14, 21, 28 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 15, 22 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

An Evening of Conversation with Noa Wertheim

Oct. 14 — 7:30 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Haunted History Tours

Oct. 14, 21 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 23 — 7 & 9:30 p.m.
The Brewerrie At Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

Goin' on a Scent Hunt

Oct. 15 — 4:30 to 6 p.m.
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Paul Rodriguez

Oct. 15 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 16 — 6:30 p.m. & Oct. 17 — 9:30 p.m.
Jr.'s Last Laugh Comedy Club & Restaurant, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

Super Stitch

Oct. 16, 17 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Eerie Horror Film Festival & Expo

Oct. 16, 17, 18
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Painting with Dawn Ziegler

Oct. 16 & Nov. 6, 13 — 6 p.m.
North East Arts Council, 25 Vine St. northeastarts.org.

ZooBoo!

Oct. 16 through Oct. 30 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. eriezoo.org.

Haunted Hayride & Non-Scary Hayride

Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Sparrow Pond Family Campground & Recreation Center, 11103 Rte 19 N. sparrowpond.com.

Rejuvenate Your Soul

Oct. 17 -- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Secret Squirrel, 3025



India, presenting “The Spirit of India” at the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center.

The music and dance ensemble, founded by Rahis Bharti (one of India’s greatest musical figures) will take the audience through the history and intense spirituality found in the songs of their country. Traditional Indian instruments, singers, and dancers (and an acrobat!) come together for a unique show you won’t want to miss. — Sara Toth

7:30 p.m. // Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University, 501 East 38th St. // 824.3000 // miac.mercyhurst.edu

Eerie Horror Film Festival & Expo

Now in its 12th year, the popular festival is returning to its roots.

By: Ryan Smith

This year’s Eerie Horror Film Festival & Expo is gonna be one that scary movie fans will just love (ahem) to death.

To kick off the fearsome fest’s 12th year, there’s the return of Here Come the Mummies, the all-undead band that made the historic Warner Theatre’s roof rattle with their “Terrifying Funk From Beyond the Grave” in 2014.

As usual, there’ll be heaping piles of creepy-cool vendors peddling scary movies and awesome memorabilia.

Along with that comes everything else that defines Eerie Horror Fest: Celebrity appearances, autographs, and hang-outs; screenings of some of the coolest up-and-coming horror and sci-fi flicks around; and what’s always a genuinely unique atmosphere of macabre merriment.

But this year, according to Horror

Fest President “The Rev” Greg Ropp, the festival “wanted to get back to its roots,” which means that the “Film” part will be front-and-center.

Remember, kiddies, said Ropp: “We’re not a convention. We’re a film festival.” And this year, the films “are the stars of the show.”

Roughly 500 films and screenplays were submitted by independent, up-and-coming moviemakers from more than 30 countries — the best of which will be featured at Eerie Horror Fest. So it’s bound to be a starry (but dark, of course) couple of nights.

Promoting their work at the festival “helps young filmmakers get their films screened and [can get] their foot into the door” of the industry-at-large, said Ropp.

As it’s grown, and with so many submissions [Cont. on page 37]



French St. facebook.com/eriesecretsqirrel.

Zendala with Christine French

Oct. 17 — 10 a.m. to noon
North East Arts Council, 25 Vine St. northeastarts.org.

Fall Fest

Oct. 17, 18 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Peak’n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Storytime Saturdays

Oct. 17, 24 — 11 a.m.
Barnes and Noble, 5909 Peach St. stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2572.

Fort Leboe Fest

Oct. 17 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. &
Oct. 18 — noon to 5 p.m.
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Square, Waterford fortleboeufhistory.com.

Make your own Waterfoul/Duck Nesting Tube

Oct. 17 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

American Cancer Society: Bark For Life

Oct. 17 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. main.acsevents.org.

Erie Dance Theater Open House

Oct. 17 -- 3 to 5 p.m.
Erie Dance Theater, 1603 Cherry St. eriedancetheater.com.

Doggie Trick or Treat

Oct. 18 — noon to 2 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Color Dash 5k

Oct. 18 -- 4 p.m.
Iroquois High School, 431 Main St. cd5k.com.

Diplomacy Works with Medea Benjamin

Oct. 19 — 7 p.m.
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Rd. facebook.com/events/163574680664245.

Wise Words for Wellness with

Rebecca Wise, PharmD

Oct. 20, 27 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Mandarin and More with Shouping Li

Oct. 20, 27 — 1 to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Master Class With Students with Pianist Jose Ramos-Santana

Oct. 20 — 2p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Drawing with Deborah Sementelli

Oct. 20, 27 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Eastside Connections & Health

Oct. 20 — 5 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Lecture: Prehistoric Erie

Oct. 20 — 7 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Glass Mosaics with Joy Luebbert

Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4 — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
North East Arts Council, 25 Vine St. northeastarts.org.

Ask an Expert at Millcreek Municipal Building

Oct. 21 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Millcreek Municipal Building, 3608 W. 26th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Talk, Chanting and Meditation with Kedarji

Oct. 21, 28 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
The Bhakta School of Transformation, 1421 W 41st St. bhaktaschool.org.

Athletics in an educational environment

Oct. 22 — 9:30 a.m.
Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 219 Meadville St. events.edinboro.edu.

Fall Foliage Wagon Rides

Oct. 22, 23 — noon to 7 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 1 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Elizabeth Kadetsky, Creative Writers Reading Series

Oct. 22 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

Fall Tomato Gage Topiary

Oct. 22 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Asbury Woods, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Reading: Carolyn Baugh

Oct. 22 — 7 p.m.
Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Autism in Our Community Event

Oct. 24 -- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Behrend College Burke Center, 4701 College Drive. nwpa-asa.org.

Teen Masters

Erie Open

Oct. 24 — 1 p.m. &
Oct. 25 — 11 a.m.
Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd. teenmastersbowling.com.

Mind Your Art Business Workshop

Oct. 24 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Porreco College, 2951 W. 38th St. erieartsandculture.org.

TREC or Treat

Oct. 24 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Lecture: ‘The Science of Shale Gas and Oil’

Oct. 26 — 7 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

The Importance of Erie, Pa. in Understanding Change in Dialects of American English

Oct. 26 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

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Considering the City

Fight Blight!

By: Civitas Member Lisa Austin and guest co-author Sue Moyer

Broken windows, missing doors, sagging porches, peeling paint, collapsing garages, and caved-in roofs attract crime, discourage investment, and lower property values. Not surprisingly, a 2001 study by researchers at Temple University revealed that blighted properties devalue nearby properties; great homes located “within 150 feet of an abandoned unit” almost always suffer exponentially-reduced sales prices. A 2015 study for the City of Erie’s Comprehensive Plan by CZB identified 4,500 blighted properties in the city. According to Mike Baker of the Erie County Department of Planning, there are 48,517 structures in the city of Erie, including garages, sheds, etc. This means almost 10 percent of structures in Erie are blighted. Inevitably, some

will be demolished. But many can be saved if we are willing to take action as a community. To fight blight we must: initiate focused code enforcement, pass new ordinances to support code enforcement, and embrace creative homesteading options.

Benefits

In their “Blight to Bright Toolkit for PA,” the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania listed these blight reduction benefits: improving the health of residents, raising property values of nearby properties (by as much as 30 percent thus increasing tax revenues), and reducing crime - especially gun-related violence.

Erie’s Code Enforcement

Addressing blighted property begins

when a complaint is called in to the Code Enforcement Office (870.1473). According to the City’s Code Enforcement flow chart, drawn up by Officer Tony Maggio to clarify the process, the complaint is investigated by one of the five officers. When a violation is verified, the officer issues an “Order to Correct Code Violation Notice.” Next, after the “allotted time has passed” — the length of which depends, according to Andy Zimmerman, Manager of Code Enforcement, “on the severity (and nature) of the violation” — the officer reinspects the property. If the violation *has not* been corrected, a citation is filed with the Magisterial District Judge charged with jurisdiction of the political ward in which “the offense took place.” (There are six wards

in Erie.) The property owner then has 10 days to “enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.” If the property owner does not respond, a “warrant is issued for arrest.” If the property owner responds with a “not guilty plea,” a “hearing is scheduled and the officer and the property owner each presents his/her case” to the Magisterial District Judge (MDJ). If the MDJ finds the property owner *not* guilty, the case is closed. If the MDJ finds the property owner *guilty*, then fines or costs are assessed; but, they may be appealed within 30 days. Another option is that the MDJ may choose to grant the property owner more time to comply by issuing a Continuance. A Continuance requires the scheduling of another hearing with the MDJ and Code [Cont. on page 30]

Wanted: Local Recording Artists!

Erie County Public Library has launched its local music project.

By: Katie Chriest

The Erie area boasts a wealth of musicians who create original music. But many venues would rather book bands who play cover songs. And it can be hard for even big name artists to sell *their* new music, let alone the locals. It’s enough to make local recording artists feel downright unappreciated.

Enter The Erie Library Local Music Project. The brainchild of Erie Library staff members Sarah Brown-Millspaw and Jessica Makowski, the project officially launched on Facebook on Sept. 30. Local bands and musicians are encouraged to donate CDs to be entered into the Erie County Public Library system.

When I asked Brown-Millspaw and Makowski how the idea for the project came about, they said they had actually both been thinking about it at the same time. “It

was a no-brainer,” Makowski responded. “I go to the Kings Rook Club pretty much every weekend, and a lot of the bands are local. We have some local CDs [at the library] already, which we’ll add to this collection, but I wondered, ‘why aren’t we collecting anything new?’”

Though the library is only able to collect music in CD form, the project isn’t limited to current bands. “We’re hoping to have a community archive,” said Brown-Millspaw, “including from people who had bands years ago.”

“I think of it, too, as a way for the library to get involved in the community and highlight what’s going on,” added Makowski. “Local music is a major part of Erie culture. It’s really thriving around here.”

Both Brown-Millspaw and Makowski emphasized the fact that Erie has much to offer artistically, but could use a little confidence.

“We really want Erie to have more of a tight-knit, community feel,” said Brown-Millspaw. “Sometime last year I made this Facebook page called ‘Raising Erie’s Self Esteem!’ and that’s kind of my goal: to raise Erie’s self esteem. If we

The Local Music Project has the potential to help people rethink what the library is for. And so far, local musicians have been enthusiastically participating and spreading the word.

can celebrate the artists in this community — and there are so many great artists here! — if they had a place where they were appreciated, and everyone could have access to their work, they could check out a CD and think, ‘oh, I’m going to go see these people play live.’”

“Maybe if somebody comes in and checks out a CD and likes it, they’ll be more likely to go out, and then they’re supporting local businesses, too,” added Makowski. “It feels like it could be a full circle kind of a thing.”

Right now, they’re focused on getting the word out to local musicians and building the collection. But future possibilities include performances or open mic nights in Blasco’s exquisite Hirt Auditorium, and connecting local musicians to the resources they need to record their music. “We’re hoping to eventually explore all of these options and see what we can offer,” said Makowski. “Who would think the library would have anything to do with having your music made? We don’t have everything, but we offer a lot that people have no idea about.”

Like fishing poles and tackle boxes, for instance. See for yourself.

The Local Music Project — like many in the works within the Erie Library system — has the potential to help people rethink what the library is for. And so far, local musicians have been enthusiastically participating and spreading the word.

Musicians may drop off their CDs (in bags to protect cases) at any Erie Library branch with a note specifying “Blasco Library, ATTN: Sarah and Jessica.”

Feel free to message The Erie Library Local Music Project via Facebook with any questions. You’re also welcome to stop by and see them. They work at Blasco full time. “If anyone can’t get their CDs to us,” they said, “just let us know — we’ll figure it out!”

And Mr. Monahan? They’re willing to label Train “local,” too.

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

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 + WSG: LIQUID NIXON

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 + VWLS

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SAT 11/7
 AQUEOUS

FRI 11/13
 RODGER MONTGOMERY
 BLUES BAND
 [FREE]

SAT 11/14
 THE MALLETT
 BROTHERS BAND
 [FREE]

CULTURE

[Cont. from page 29] Enforcement Officer “to check ... for compliance.” At this next hearing, the MDJ may again decide to provide the property owner with another Continuance providing the property owner with an additional 30 or 90 days to comply. This additional Continuance requires another hearing with the MDJ, the property owner, and the Code Enforcement Officer.

Obviously, this lengthy process is not effective in addressing blight.

Housing Court

Other cities have instituted a city-wide housing court to help judges to understand the scope of an individual property owner’s violations. The establishment of an Erie Housing Court could eliminate the current practice that seems to be inadvertently promoting blight in Erie.

Quality of Life Ticketing Ordinance

The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania’s toolkit suggests a “Quality of Life Ticketing Ordinance” to give code enforcement officers the authority to issue tickets and “levy fines for property code violations without a hearing.” The toolkit suggests that officers begin “focused efforts addressing the worst properties,” and publicize their efforts “to encourage compliance” from owners of other neglected properties. The toolkit warns that repeat offenders must be dealt with by creating “progressively higher fines and penalties.”

Doors and Windows Ordinance

The Reinvestment Fund of Philadelphia encouraged their city to enact a “Doors and Windows Ordinance” requiring that “all structures on city blocks with 80 percent occupancy have working doors and windows.” Doors and windows blocked by boards or cinderblocks were fined at a rate of \$300 per day per opening. Thus, ten boarded windows would result in a fine of \$3,000 a day.

Act 90

Philadelphia enacted Act 90, which permitted the City Housing Court to attach fines to the personal property (held locally or in other municipalities) by the owners of the property found in violation. Such legislation is needed because, as Jeffrey Fraser commented in the *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, “it’s not unusual for back taxes and penalties to exceed the market value of a house, en-

couraging owners to ignore investing in its upkeep or to walk away from it entirely.” If Act 90-type legislation were enacted here, fines for a blighted property in the City of Erie (that is owned by someone living in Florida), could be recovered, along with back taxes, via liens on the Florida property.

Timely Action

While being respectful of individual property rights, the community’s rights must also be addressed. Before neglected properties decline beyond reasonable repair, the City of Erie, like the City of Philadelphia, must be given the authority suggested by The Reinvestment Fund of Philadelphia to “transfer ownership to responsible owners through conservatorship, eminent domain, or other tools.” The City could utilize the findings of CZB planners and initially focus code enforcement in the highly visible “tipping point” neighborhoods on East and West Sixth, Eighth, 10th, 12th, and 26th. As these neighborhoods are stabilized, the work could spread. A citywide program could employ members of unions, craftspeople, artists, and student apprentices working in wood, masonry, tile, paint, plaster work, electrical work, plumbing, and construction.

Erie needs bold changes to reduce blight, encourage homesteading and preservation, improve our collective finances, and make the city safer, block by block.

Sue Moyer has worked to revitalize Erie’s neighborhoods for 15 years. She serves as the PA Elm Street Manager for the SNOOPS Neighborhood Association, and served in the same capacity Erie’s Little Italy Neighborhood. She is also the former Executive Director of the Bayfront East Side Taskforce. Lisa Austin, of CivitasErie, is a social-sculptor who co-founded All Aboard Erie, Innovation Erie, and Preservation Erie, and initiated dozens of projects and events including the Made in Erie Marketplace and the Industrial Design Workshops at Blasco Library’s Idea Lab. Austin teaches three-dimensional design and sculpture at Edinboro University. Civitas members can be reached at their website www.civitaserie.com, via Facebook at CivitasErie, by leaving a message at 452.8401, by emailing Lisa@civitaserie.com, and by scheduling a Friday morning meeting at the Civitas office in the Masonic Building, 32 W. Eighth St., Erie, PA.

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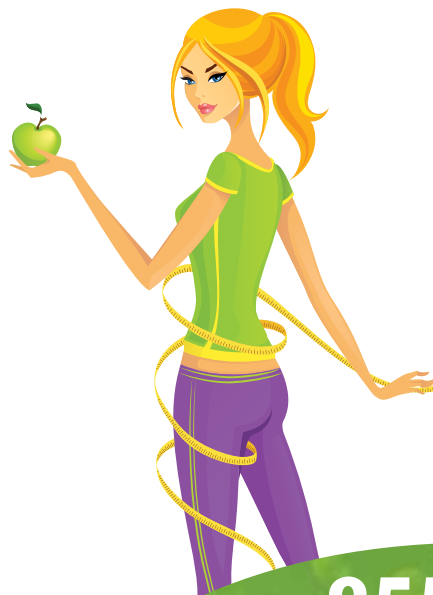
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MUSIC REVIEWS

Gary Clark, Jr.

The Story of Sonny Boy Slim
Warner Bros.



Gary Clark, Jr.'s sophomore effort straddles – and at times stumbles along – the line between smooth production and raw intimacy, resulting in a delightfully more soulful follow-up to 2012's groundbreaking *Blak and Blu*. Schizophrenic opener "The Healing" starts with street-corner blues, transitions to borderline hip-hop, and then gives way to catchy soul. It's emblematic of the album's shifts and the prodigious 31-year-old's genre-blending nature. Follow-up track "Grinder" confirms that notion with fuzz-laden, pitch-bending, sonic searing chug. Back-porch folk anthem "Church" helps ground the album and exposes Clark's depth. He's still trying to figure it out, and that's evident here. His lyrics are a distant second to his musicianship, but watching him evolve and test his limits (guitar-wise, there aren't many) gives the album a genuine feel most evident on "Hold On." That's exactly what listeners should do for what'll likely be the storied career of one of the best out there today. — Ben Spегgen



Saintseneca

Such Things
Anti-



Zac Little and his Saintseneca crew really have a knack for crafting absolutely infectious songs that crawl inside your head and burrow deep in your brain. The band came to my attention thanks to the wonderful *Dark Arc* – a release that was one of my favorite albums in 2014 – and hasn't slowed down on its latest album *Such Things*. The new release's 15 tracks are immediately accessible for those looking for delectable hooks and fun presentation, while other listeners will have a blast following each carefully-crafted line that comes from Little's lips. Saintseneca doesn't occupy a single genre, instead existing in a space where folk, punk, and early '90s alternative rock come together to create stompers like the title track or lovely, stripped-down tracks like "How Many Blankets Are In The World." It all makes for an album that sticks with you long after the final track of *Such Things* ends. That is, if you can resist replaying it right away. — Alex Bieler



Chvrches

Every Open Eye
Glassnote



Scottish trio Chvrches turned a lot of heads with the band's debut album *The Bones of What You Believe*, almost as if their catchy, synth-driven pop tunes grabbed you by the ear and forced you to pay attention. The crew of Lauren Mayberry, Martin Doherty, and Iain Cook fine-tuned that formula for their follow-up full-length release, and it certainly doesn't disappoint, as *Every Open Eye* is another collection of pop tracks that are wonderfully executed. These songs have an earworm quality about them that can get them noticed by Top-40 radio stations while still maintaining an emotional depth that your usual three-minute heavy rotation tracks tend to lack. Even the album's weaker tracks, "Playing Dead" and "High Enough to Carry You Over" still impress, while "Leave A Trace" and "Make Them Gold" soar. Just like its predecessor, *Every Open Eye* shimmers, sparkles, and satisfies on another batch of finely-crafted pop tunes. — Alex Bieler



Kurt Vile

b'lieve i'm goin' down...
Matador



It's business as usual for Kurt Vile on his latest album *b'lieve i'm goin' down*. The guitarist and songwriter has a penchant for creating hazy rock tracks that make you feel like you're drifting along on a ride in the heartland, or at least a sepia-toned film reel showing the plains of America fly by. On his sixth album, he tweaks his successful approach slightly, cutting back on the reverb a touch without ruining the meditative vibes on tracks like the wonderful "That's Life, tho (almost hate to say)." Unsurprisingly, Vile makes these tracks feel effortless. He's a musician who can whip up impressive ditties that are so conversational and approachable that they feel like he's playing them right in front of you at a small gig. It's a gift that the native Philadelphian has showcased over the course of his career, and one that he continues to show off on *b'lieve i'm goin' down*. — Alex Bieler



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The Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit VII

Erie's best ticket to the world of ideas

By: Dan Schank

For those of us excited about intellectual discourse, the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit has been the talk of the town for seven years. It's not just the quality of the speakers that's so remarkable – it's often their familiarity as well.

As someone who tries to check in on global affairs, the Global Summit's guests usually live on in my life long after their lectures. On my drive home from work, for example, I typically listen to NPR's *All Things Considered*. Each Friday, the program invites E.J. Dionne, a left-leaning political analyst from the *Washington Post*, to talk politics with David Brooks, a right-leaning *New York Times* columnist. They're not just familiar because they're two of our most influential political journalists, they're also veterans of the JES Summit. Brooks spoke in 2011; Dionne in 2009.

Sometimes the familiarity is more intimate. When Harry Markopolos came to the JES in 2013, he wasn't as well-known as Brooks or Dionne – despite the fact that he unraveled Bernie Madoff's notorious Ponzi scheme eight years before the Federal Government addressed it. But some Erie natives recognized him from the class of '74 at Cathedral Prep.

If you're curious about the planet you live on, the Global Summit provides an essential, local blueprint to its premiere ideas and innovations. According to the Jefferson's Executive Director Ferki Ferati, this year's programming is "the best in terms of academic credentials, as well as the most diverse in terms of topics."

If you've ever wondered what a trip to Mars might look like, you might get your answer at the upcoming summit. You probably haven't considered whether or not a 3-D printer can harvest human organs, but you'll learn how that might work as well. Some guests will address more immediately familiar concerns – like our foreign policy choices in the Middle East, or recent developments in osteopathic medicine. One speaker will examine each line in the Declaration of Independence to reveal how our founders felt about equality. In each case, you'll leave with

plenty to talk about on the drive home. If this seems like a lot to digest, there's no need to worry. We've drafted a guide to help you determine who these speakers are, what they have to say, and why we're so excited to hear from them.

The Importance of Erie, Pa. In Understanding the Changing Dialectics of America's Language – with linguist Eric Raimy, Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison

10.26 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On radars because: Raimy approaches the way we speak from a cognitive science perspective. Give his name a google, and you'll see that he's known for scary sounding things like "the morphology of reduplication." But never fear – "reduplication" is just the linguistic term for deliberately repeated words like *bye-bye* and *no-no*, or repeated words with slight variations. For example, I could use reduplication to call Raimy a *fancy schmancy* college professor, but I won't because that would be rude.

Worth seeing because: Raimy is an expert on regional dialects, as well as an Erie native. Which means he presumably thinks of soda as "pop," and doesn't blush at the mention of "cornhole." As someone who has spent substantial time on both ends of Pennsylvania, I can assure you that our region is overflowing with vernacular eccentricities. Perhaps by the end of this talk they'll seem a bit more logical.

Mission to Mars – Forwarding Our Dreams – with Bas Lansdorp, CEO and Co-Founder of Mars One

10.27 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On radars because: Lansdorp's Dutch non-profit, Mars One, has made it its mission to establish a permanent human colony on Mars by 2027. Unsurprisingly, this presents a large number of logistical challenges, such as raising the \$6 billion in start-up cash they need to pull it off. Feeding the crew, preparing them for long-term isolation, and preventing exposure to deadly radiation may prove enormously difficult – and that's *before* they even set foot on the Red Planet.

There's been some skepticism in the press about Mars One's visionary mission – especially after a team of MIT engineers concluded that the plan was "overly optimistic" in 2014. But this event will allow Lansdorp to tell his side of the story – which will undoubtedly prove interesting.

Worth seeing because: A permanent colony on Mars within a dozen years kinda sells itself, doesn't it? Also, NASA's recent discovery that there is both liquid water and ice on its surface may make Lansdorp's mission more feasible. Plus, Hollywood tells me that Matt Damon is still stuck up there and he needs our help!

Growing Human Tissues: Can We Print Organs Instead of Transplanting Them? – with Anthony Atala, Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University

10.28 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society

On radars because: According to the U.S. Department of Health and Hu-

man Services, about 21 Americans die each day because they were unable to secure an organ donor. Atala is hoping that 3-D printing technology can help to alleviate this problem.

In a recent interview with *The Huffington Post*, he explained the logic. Atala claims that cells with regenerative potential (found through a biopsy) can be isolated, multiplied, combined with other biomaterials, and placed into a printer cartridge! He hopes that we can use these cartridges to print "organ or tissue shaped structures," which can be implanted in people. Unconvinced? His team has already used 3-D printers to engineer things like bladders, skin, and urine tubes.

Worth seeing because: If you set aside your inability to change the office ink cartridge for a moment, it's not hard to admire the potential that Atala's research could have in our lives. Baby boomers are aging, people are living longer, and we are facing unique shortages every day in our hospitals. Atala's work reminds us that a bright future is still within reach.

Gigacities: How Broadband is Reshaping the World – with Darrell West, founding director of the Center for Technology Innovation at the Brookings Institution

10.30 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On radars because: West is as knowledgeable about technological innovations as he is about our political system. In this lecture, he'll argue that universal, open broadband is the key to an innovative and economically successful society. As the Editor-in-Chief of *TechTank*, a blog hosted by the Brookings Institution, he shares, analyzes, and responds to the latest advancements in science and technological policy – as well as its impact on education, health care, economic development, and governance.

Worth seeing because: A decent connection to the internet is becoming central to the way we live our lives. Increasingly, we're using broadband connections to reduce overhead in start-up businesses, improve educational assessment, increase social engagement, and make healthcare more efficient through remote monitoring and downloadable transcripts. Better still, mobile technology has made access to the web more affordable than it was when it required a computer rather than a smart phone. Expect West to assess the impact of these changes, while highlighting the opportunities they afford us.

Governor Wolf: Priorities for Pennsylvania – with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf

11.1 // 7:30 p.m. // Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy (advanced registration is required for this free event)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On radars because: This is an exclusive opportunity for civic dialogue with Pennsylvania's recently elected governor. Although we're less than a year into his term, Wolf has already banned fracking in our state parks and placed a moratorium on the death penalty. He has also proposed lower property taxes for most homeowners, increased spending on education, and introduced a severance tax on the natural gas industry – decisions that set his administration in stark contrast with his predecessor, Tom Corbett.

Worth seeing because: It's tough to tell where the future will take us in the state of Pennsylvania, but for the next several years, Wolf will be at the steering wheel. Whether you love or hate him, he'll undoubtedly have things to say that will affect your life in concrete ways.

U.S. Foreign Policy and Our Role in the World – a panel discussion moderated by CNN's Steve Scully, with Nile Gardiner, director of The Heritage Foundation's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, and Aaron David Miller, Vice President for New Initiatives and a Distinguished Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

11.2 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society

On radars because: The Jefferson loves a good debate. This time, we'll have Nile Gardiner – a hawkish conservative who advised Mitt Romney and Rudolph Giuliani on foreign policy. He'll chat with Aaron David Miller – a cautious, thoughtful centrist who has advised Secretaries of State – on both sides of the aisle – about affairs in the Middle East. Both have problems with our recent nuclear deal with Iran, which you can expect will be addressed during the discussion.

Worth seeing because: Our nation's place in the global sphere is constantly shifting. Tensions with Russia are up, while tensions with Iran are (possibly) down. The Islamic State is a source of constant anxiety, but attempting to address it proves difficult without trustworthy partners in the region. In short, it's a complicated world. Perhaps this conversation will help us to make sense of it.

An Evening with Author, Columnist, and Television Commentator Cokie Roberts – with (you guessed it!) journalist Cokie Roberts

11.3 // 7:30 p.m. // Cathedral Preparatory School



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On radars because: It's tough to turn on the TV or radio without learning something from Cokie Roberts. She's a political commentator for NPR and ABC News, as well as a frequent pan-

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FEATURE

elist on shows like *Meet the Press* and *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*. Additionally, between 1996 and 2002, she co-hosted *This Week* with Sam Donaldson. If you've been following current election coverage, you've probably heard her voice recently.

Worth seeing because: Roberts has been clarifying the nuances of American politics for decades. In 1990, she received the Edward R. Murrow award for outstanding work on public radio. In 2008, she received the exclusive "living legend" award from the Library of Congress – an honor she shares with folks like Madeline Albright, Colin Powell, Gloria Steinem, and Martin Scorsese. In a year where Donald Trump's poll numbers are still inexplicably rising, it may take an experienced insider like Roberts to make sense of it all.

Reading the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality – with Danielle Allen, UPS Foundation Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study

11.4 // 7:30 p.m. // Jefferson Educational Society



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On radars because: Allen recently wrote a very unusual book about the Declaration of Independence. In fifty short chapters, *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality* attempts to transform this seemingly well-known document into something of

real civic use in the 21st century. Allen believes that the text is key to understanding our concept of political equality, through which all people should gain access to government – as well as the ability to utilize its instruments.

Worth seeing because: Too often, civic engagement can seem old-fashioned, especially when applied to our early history. Allen makes it relevant and intimate again, pulling radical and energizing ideas out of 18th century artifacts. In her hands, our founding documents are more than weapons with which to win partisan arguments. Instead, their ideas offer guidance as we plan for the future.

The Future of Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy: A Global Perspective – with Norman Gevitz, medical historian and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at A.T. Still University

11.6 // 7:30 p.m. // Bayfront Convention Center

On radars because: Osteopathy has a long history – and Gevitz literally wrote the book about it. It's called *The DO's: Osteopathic Medicine in America*, and it documents the discipline's transformation from a practice treated with suspicion and derision to an important instrument in our health care toolbox. The "DO's" in his title refer to the Doctoral degree needed to employ osteopathy's holistic, musculoskeletal approach in the U.S. Globally, osteopathic medicine is often broader in its range, scope, and diversity. Expect Gevitz to iron out the differences.

Worth seeing because: Erie has an important local connection to this history in LECOM, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. LECOM is one of the institutions currently mobilizing the rapid growth of the medical sector in our region. Gevitz was personally invited for this talk by the brother and sister team that makes up LECOM's top leadership – President and Provost John M. Ferretti and Vice President Silvia M. Ferretti. The Ferrettis will also receive the Thomas B. Hagen Dignitas Award during this event, which is given to Erie citizens who have made substantial contributions to the world's betterment. The ceremony should provide an excellent note to end on.

Dan Schank can be contacted at dschank@eriereader.com.

[Cont. from page 26] from around the world taking a leading role, Eerie Horror “has become more and more of a truly international event,” he added.

So, you of queasy stomachs may ask, what’s the draw, anyway? Well, here’s the thing: Whether we know it or not, pop-culture history shows that many of us simply love being scared.

In fact, the festival draws about two thousand people to the Warner each year, according to organizers. Its renown and far-reaching popularity “just shows the power the genre has across the globe,” said Ropp, a guy who knows — I mean really knows — movies.

“Love ‘em or hate ‘em, horror movies are a [multi-billion-dollar] business,” he said. “It’s the most viable and successful genre of film ever created,” and “it’s been sustained since the very first days of cinema.”

Since its debut in 2004, well over 500 films have been screened at Eerie Horror Fest in a competition that opens its yearly worldwide call for entries, fittingly, on

Since its debut in 2004, well over 500 films have been screened at Eerie Horror Fest in a competition that opens its yearly worldwide call for entries, fittingly, on Halloween.

Halloween. Many of those films get their world premiere at Horror Fest, said Ropp, and some have even gone on to secure distribution deals with major companies (the ultra-spooky *V/H/S*, for example).

“You never know what’s going to happen with independent films,” said Ropp. And seeing them first at Eerie Horror Fest (in the luxuriant Warner, no less) as well as getting the chance to rub elbows with some of the movies’ makers and stars “is a really cool thing for people who really love film.”

That’s just a dead-eye glance at the thing that is the 2015 Eerie Horror Fest, kicking off with the *Mummies*’ performance on Thursday, Oct. 16 and crawling around through Sunday, Oct. 18.

You can find out about ticket costs, celebrity guests, film screenings, and all the other stuff going bump in the night by visiting eeriehorrorfilmfestival.com.

Writer/photographer Ryan Smith can be contacted at rsmith@eriereader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @RyanSmithPlens.

Geeked Out

My Destiny to Grind



By: John Lindvay

Since the release of *Destiny: The Taken King*, I have found myself diving back into the game. *The Taken King* is the first major expansion for the popular first person shooter (FPS) by the super studio Bungie, famous for the *Halo* series. *Destiny* holds the same hallmarks in gameplay and polish as *Halo*; but what really has me in deep is the shift from a classic co-op structure of *Halo* to the introduction of popular systems found in massive multiplayer online (MMO) games like *World of Warcraft* (*WoW*). I am talking about the “grind.”

So what is grind?

You may already know. Grind is a term gamers use to describe the act of doing things in repetition to gain incremental rewards increases. Sound like work? It is. Grind is everywhere! You need to level up your character? That requires experience. How do we get experience? Killing X number of monsters will get you a level, which in turn gets you new skills to play with.

When I think of grind I think of games filled to the brim with progress bars. In *Destiny*, the grind is represented by having to first level your character, which grants access to stronger new weapons and armor. There are three classes: each class has three skill trees and each branch has its own progress bar. Finally, all of the available guns and armor

contain internal levels that require experience to fill up and unlock their bonus perks. And what’s the best way to acquire and level up this stuff? Running the same list of missions ad nauseam, which not only grants experience, but also has a chance of dropping newer and better gear that starts the whole process again.

I know it’s a treadmill. But I love it anyhow. What’s wrong with me?

Well, I love MMOs. I love the culture. I love the grumblings of MMO players. I enjoy conversations on best spots to grind, drop rates of items, and hidden secrets. I relish reading through every thread. *Destiny* was a new kind of delight; these kinds of conversations and systems aren’t typical in the FPS genre. It was as if the common FPS player suddenly got hit over the head with the monolithic club that is MMO grinding.

In games like *WoW*, players expect to rerun missions forever in hopes of getting the exact item or “drop” from the bosses therein. MMOs and *Destiny* do this by making the items you want only have a small percentage chance of dropping. Typically in more traditional game models, you complete a mission and you get a reward. Only in MMOs is it standard fare to complete a mission thinking, sure — you might get a reward; but you only have a chance at the reward you want.

Another funny thing I get to observe as a longtime player of MMOs amongst players of a genre less inun-

Left: *The Taken King* is the first major expansion for the popular first person shooter (FPS) by the super studio Bungie, famous for the *Halo* series.

dated with these systems is the obsolescence of gear. *Destiny* has been out for a year, and in that time they released a bunch of small content updates that added new dungeons to run and loot to acquire. With the release of *The Taken King*, the first major expansion, Bungie increased the level cap from 30 to 40, and with that a new arsenal of guns and armor. So what happens to all that sweet gear you got from the first year? Well now it’s worthless. Haha!

I swear when I read Internet threads about how “old content should be given updated drops to retain its relevancy,” I squeal in delight. I fondly remember that moment when *WoW*’s first expansion hit, and all my hard work was instantly washed away. Seeing a new group of gamers come to terms with the harsh reality of loot grinds was my, “let me grab some popcorn ‘cause this gonna be good” moment.

So why do players do this? Because the game’s loop is fun and feels good. Bungie has been making great FPS’s since *Halo*. *Destiny* is their next step. And while its original release left me wishing there was more to do, a year and a full expansion later, I’m hooked. One of the key things that I think Bungie does particularly well is insert secrets all over their game. There are secret missions and secret quest lines that unlock awesome rewards. These types of secrets help foster a community around the game. When a discovery hits, there is a buzz of excitement as everyone gets their friends to take the challenge and grab those sweet rewards.

Have you been enjoying *Destiny*? Or any other MMO game out there with a distinct grind? I know it might seem silly to many of you, but there is something comforting in watching bars fill up, and discovering new toys to play with.

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

ER Sports

What not to read, what not to miss, and gridiron picks from our resident sports expert.

By: James R. LeCorchick

I hate telling people what to do, but I have a couple of suggestions for the *Erie Reader's sports fans.

Suggestion number one: DO NOT read a book titled *NFL Brawler, by Ralph Cindrich: a former football player at Pitt, in the NFL, and a players' agent. Apparently the author thinks his subject was the greatest high school wrestler, one of the best performers in Pitt history, someone who would've been the greatest player in NFL history if he wasn't injured and

If you want an enjoyable afternoon, attend a Mercyhurst University-Gannon University football game at MU. The venue is perfect.

the top sports agent ever. He was also one of the baddest dudes ever: a person who was going to beat up other players, coaches, and general managers if they disagreed with him. That tremendous person is none other than Ralph Cindrich, himself.

I bought the book for various reasons: he was two years younger than me and I like reading about people from that era, I knew someone who went to Pitt with him and told me he was a "good guy," and he was agent for Erie's Mark Stepnoski. He did have kind words for the former Cathedral Prep, Pitt, and NFL standout in the book.

However, once I got through the chapter on Stepnoski (unfortunately it was more than halfway through this te-

dious read), I had enough of Superman and turned off my Kindle, hoping it would never again be able to recharge.

On a more pleasant note, if you want an enjoyable afternoon, attend a Mercyhurst University-Gannon University football game at MU. The venue is perfect.

The recent matchup featured beautiful weather conditions, two outstanding football teams, and a contest that wasn't decided until the final play of the game.

It was a perfect football game and it didn't matter if you were an MU fan or a GU fan — or just a plain-old football fan.

On a related note, best wishes to Mercyhurst Sports Information Director Dave Leisering who has accepted a position at Bloomsburg University. He did a great job and was a pleasure to work with.

Week 7
HIGH SCHOOLS
DuBOIS 34 Bradford 12
LAKEVIEW 38 Saegertown 12
Conneaut 32 MERCER 20
GREENVILLE 27 Reynolds 22
Sharpsville 36 EISENHOWER 18
West Middlesex 28 Cochranon 14
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS 34 Girard 12
Farrell 40 GROVE CITY 14
Harbor Creek 36 UNION CITY 14
FORT LeBOEUF 20 Corry 19
GENERAL McLANE 22 Slippery Rock 21
MEADVILLE 44 Warren 22
FAIRVIEW 26 Franklin 20
Sharon 26 NORTHWESTERN 24
Oil City 30 TITUSVILLE 26
CATHEDRAL PREP 27 Buffalo St.

Francis 20
McDowell 24 AUSTINTOWN FITCH 21
Maplewood 22 MERCYHURST PREP 20
North East 30 STRONG VINCENT 20
TOP 3 GAMES
3. SENECA 22 Iroquois 20 — Upset Special!
2. Hickory 28 Wilmington — Two very good teams.
1. Karns City 28 CENTRAL TECH 26

COLLEGES
GANNON 30 Edinboro 20
Slippery Rock 31 MERCYHURST 17
STANFORD 27 UCLA 20
Pittsburgh 24 GEORGIA TECH 23
Alabama 30 TEXAS A&M 20
MICHIGAN 24 Michigan State 21
LSU 27 Florida 24
OHIO STATE 27 Penn State 17
GEORGIA 30 Missouri 21

PROS
STEELERS 27 Cardinals 24
Broncos 31 BROWNS 17
Bengals 20 BILLS 17

Week 8
HIGH SCHOOLS
WILMINGTON 34 Lakeview 14
Reynolds 28 MERCER 12
Sharpsville 24 FARRELL 22
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS 38 Union City 14
COCHRANTON 38 Youngsville 8
Eisenhower 22 MAPLEWOOD 20
IROQUOIS 46 Saegertown 14
Corry 24 WARREN 22
Greenville 42 TITUSVILLE 12
Hickory 40 GROVE CITY 14
SHARON 26 Slippery Rock 20

FAIRVIEW 28 Northwestern 24
Harbor Creek 26 FORT LeBOEUF 20
NORTH EAST 28 Mercyhurst Prep 18
Seneca 34 GIRARD 20
DuBois 36 FRANKLIN 30
Meadville 46 Oil City 28
CONNEAUT 48 Bradford 14
CATHEDRAL PREP 28 General Mc-Lane 24
McDOWELL 38 Strong Vincent 14
WEST MIDDLESEX 34 Homer City 18
CENTRAL TECH 46 East 16

COLLEGES
Gannon 27 SETON HILL 21
Mercyhurst 24 EDINBORO 21
UCLA 27 California 24
USC 21 Utah 20
STANFORD 28 Washington 21
ALABAMA 38 Tennessee 24
OLE MISS 31 Texas A&M 24
Pittsburgh 24 SYRACUSE 22
Duke 27 VIRGINIA TECH 20
NORTH CAROLINA 37 Virginia 21

PROS
Bills 27 JAGUARS 14
RAMS 28 Browns 17
Steelers 21 CHIEFS 20

For the record:
Week 5
High Schools: 16-3, Colleges: 4-3, Pros: 1-2
Week 4
High Schools: 12-1, Colleges: 6-2, Pros: 1-2
Season: Overall: 143-45

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



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IN OCTOBER • CLUBHOUSE 9PM

 CHRIS HIGBEE OCTOBER 16 & 17	 THE MF JONES BAND OCTOBER 23	
 GEEK ARMY OCTOBER 24	 THE HIRED HIT MEN OCTOBER 30	 MALPRACTICE OCTOBER 31

BACKSTRETCH BUFFET

A la Carte Menu
Featuring New Marketplace
Items with Breakfast, Lunch
and Dinner Options





Steak and Eggs - \$8.50 • Salmon Dinner - \$9
Visit Our Website for the Full Menu

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downs & casino
ELDORADO RESORTS

 I-90 Exit 27, Erie PA
presqueisledowns.com
 1.866.ERIE.FUN

If You or Someone You Know
Has a Gambling Problem,
Help is Available.
Call 1-800-GAMBLER.