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**ERIE READER**

**Vol 5, No.22**

**Oct 28th - Nov 10th**

**2015**

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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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**From The Editors**

Okay. Erie misses the boat on some things. But squeezing every last celebratory drop out of each season surely isn't one of them.

So to honor our homegrown Halloween hysteria, we invited "Monster" Mark Kosobucki to run wild with this issue's cover, harking back to old school pulp horror comics. And in his first feature for the *Reader*, Matt Swanseger takes us on a whimsically historical journey through some of the lesser-known haunts of Erie County.

Halloween's roots, meanwhile, can be traced to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. However, the modern interpretation — with its wearing of fishnets and mainlining of sugar — shares little with its ancestor. Nevertheless, traditional Samhain celebrations continue globally to honor the cycles of nature, the end of the harvest, and the transition of life into death.

Similarly, Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is celebrated Nov. 1 throughout Latin America and increasingly in the U.S. The holiday is an opportunity to honor loved ones who have died, and to recognize life's fleeting nature.

Beyond Halloween's gleefully gaudy ghoulishness is the season's reminder of our own connection to nature's rhythms, and the simple acknowledgement that — all trials and tribulations aside — we're pretty damned lucky to be here.

We had a lot of fun with this issue and hope you do, too, however you choose to celebrate the season.

**Just a Thought****Easing the exhaustion of becoming.**

I recently sat on a panel of communications and arts professionals for sophomores at Fort LeBoeuf High School. Our job was to give students considering similar careers some idea of what our typical days are like, how we got where we are, and what obstacles hindered our paths, especially early on.

Of course, we can't precisely know what will get us where we want to be — or whether we really want to be there — until we arrive. As Holly Nowak of Erie Arts and Culture told the students, it's more about making one choice after another from your heart, from your own inner passion.

Looking at that classroom full of mid-teen faces, my heart just melted. It's been two decades since I escaped high school. I wish I'd gotten to hear from a panel like ours back then, not to eliminate impending obstacles but to put my younger self at ease. Even now, it was heartening to be surrounded by these folks: people who embrace life's nonlinear, multidimensional, moment by moment inspiration with excited curiosity.

Today schools sell themselves on their ability to deliver in the STEM fields. The implication seems to be that all students can excel and be

happy in these fields if they're well prepared. And that — despite our obsessive worship of celebrities in the arts — STEM fields are much more valuable to society.

But when we discourage so-inclined students from embracing the arts and humanities, we discourage humanity itself.

I'm not implying that STEM fields are uncreative. Not in the least. Even as we're chanting "STEAM! STEAM!" to incorporate the arts and design, we panelists get that. And it is wonderful that much-documented classroom discrimination against girls in STEM subjects is abating.

But some of us — regardless of incentives or scholarships or special student Visas — can only be content or useful in the arts. What message are we sending to students if we invalidate their passions before they even graduate? And in a climate of such employment fluctuation, can we really be sure one pursuit will be less lucrative than another?

"We finally die from the exhaustion of becoming," writes poet Jim Harrison.

We die even earlier from the exhaustion of becoming what we're not.



## Erie at Large

### Schools in play: The drama of funding education in Pennsylvania



AJARI

By: Jim Wertz

The budget fight in the state legislature and its impact on local government and education has become shrouded in drama. So *School Play*, the documentary theater production staged Oct. 13 at Iroquois High School, felt troublingly real.

*School Play* is social commentary on par with the great Works Progress Administration plays of Clifford Odets and the lyrical construction of a Stephen Sondheim musical. But this production is minimalist. No music. No sets. Simple staging. Six wooden school chairs and five actors, each wearing blue shirts and grey pants, shifting seats and changing characters based on their lines and the tenor of the scene. The result is 60 minutes of resonant first-person storytelling from voices familiar and unique, elite and popular.

*School Play* opens like every school day, with the Pledge of Allegiance. The audience is compelled to participate. Following this ritual, the cast

of five enters into rapid-fire reminiscence about “my favorite teacher,” that person from high school whom everyone carries in spirit. Some still teaching, some retired, some let go because the budget demanded action.

The characters in the play include former Pennsylvania Secretary of the Budget under Tom Corbett, Charles Zogby – the villain in this sordid tale, to the extent that one exists outside the system itself. Even Zogby eventually concedes that “when adult interests come into conflict with kids’ interests, I don’t think kids win.” Other lines are drawn from students asking what they will do on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, now that their school nurse has been cut to part-time, working just Tuesday and Thursday; and the high school theater teacher with a PhD in educational creativity who works four jobs to support her teaching habit.

These stories represent the decades-long challenge facing public education to create an equitable system allowing school-aged children from di-

verse economic and geographic backgrounds to compete in an increasingly complex fiscal and intellectual marketplace.

But the sad reality is that this year’s budget crisis isn’t just about the \$120 million being left on the table for universal Pre-K education, or the \$400 million in Gov. Wolf’s budget for K-12 classrooms held hostage by the General Assembly. That \$400 million, by the way, simply restores funding for education to pre-Corbett levels. Even if the budget passes as proposed, we’re still rolling back the clock on Pennsylvania’s kids. The funding model used to distribute general education money to school districts is one of the worst in the country because our school funding is bound to an undetermined annual budget process.

It hasn’t always been that way.

“Between 2003 and 2010, Pennsylvania strategically invested state education funding in order to ensure students had necessary resources to meet state academic standards,” concludes the Educa-

tion Law Center. This funding model distributed state appropriations based on students’ needs as well as each school district’s geographic and demographic characteristics. Districts with low tax bases and larger populations received more money. So did districts with larger gaps in educational attainment or more at-risk youth. Not surprisingly, the districts that received the largest funding increase during this time also experienced the greatest improvement in student achievement.

The funding matrix used by the Rendell administration was so successful that it served as a model for the majority of U.S. states that have adopted what’s now known as “sound education funding.” That formula accounts for the number of students in each district, community poverty levels, and local taxes, with additional consideration given to districts with large populations of people for whom English is a second language. Forty-six states use at least one variable other than base costs to distribute funds. Pennsylvania, however, has abandoned these principles. Now only nine states allocate less money for public education.

Statewide, school districts receive approximately 35 percent of their funding from Harrisburg, 10 percent from the federal government, and the rest from local funding, mostly property taxes. In a city like Erie, with a diminished tax base, high poverty rates, and a stagnant population, this is a problem. In fact, the city tax rolls are so poor that the Erie School District received almost 70 percent of its operating budget from the state, making concessions like closing schools, laying off teachers, and increasing class sizes to keep the doors open. The end result is that Erie’s

gap between what’s needed to “properly” educate each child and what it can afford to spend grows ever wider, while nationally U.S. taxpayers contribute \$13,000 more per prisoner on incarceration than we do per student on education.

The stark reality is that most parents can’t choose a better zip code, so some kids will interact with digital smart boards, while others inhale chalk dust; and some kids will go to the school psychologist because their parents took

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The city tax rolls are so poor that the Erie School District received almost 70 percent of its operating budget from the state, making concessions like closing schools, laying off teachers, and increasing class sizes to keep the doors open.

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away their Xbox, while others will seek security, clean clothes, and meals from a counselor whose caseload is larger than the graduating class in a neighboring district.

Passing the budget to restore educational funding is only the first step. Repairing the tragically flawed model used to distribute the money needs to be the end goal, whether or not it’s politically expedient to do so.

You can contact Gov. Wolf’s office at 717.787.2500, Rep. Flo Fabrizio at 717.787.4358, Rep. Pat Harkins at 717.787.7406, Rep. Ryan Bizzarro at 717.772.2297, Rep. Curt Sonney at 717.783.9087, and Sen. Sean Wiley at 717.787.8927. Jim Wertz can be reached via email at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @jim\_wertz.





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## Maybe it's Time to Kickstart Erie

Erie isn't afraid to invest in food and films – what about government?

By: Ben Speggen

Odds are that by now, a friend, a colleague, a friend of a colleague, a colleague of a friend, or a complete stranger has asked you to contribute to an online crowdfunding project. Maybe you've even launched your own.

Online crowdfunding platforms in the 21st century, in case names like Kickstarter or Indiegogo aren't yet in your lexicon, act as matchmakers between a person with a project and a brand campaign targeting Internet masses with capital. As Indiegogo puts it: "Whatever your dream, make it happen on Indiegogo." So it's like eHarmony or Match.com – without the potential for awkward goodbyes.

Crowdfunded dreams looking to become realities are as diverse as their contributors – as are the means and methods of contributing. But commonalities exist.

That is, *itches* feature the dreamer explaining the dream, giving various reasons folks should invest in it. These often include *incentives*, like T-shirts, bumper stickers, or free stuff galore. Those incentives create a richer feeling of investment while also benefiting the dreamer-made-actualizer. A T-shirt becomes a walking billboard. A free DVD means a screening party. A meet-and-greet turns into a networking opportunity.

Online crowdfunding is working, and Erie isn't an exception.

Take Like My Thai, for example. Once just a pop-up restaurant, Mike and Elisabeth Augustine's business achieved brick-and-mortar status after a successful crowdfunding drive in 2014.

More recently, local award-winning filmmaker John C. Lyons turned to Kickstarter to fund a horror film project that examines the impact of hydraulic fracturing on communities and the environment. It both exceeded its goal and made it onto *Indiewire's* "Project of the Week" ballot – ultimately coming just ten votes shy of winning.

And in case food and film aren't your dream du jour, All Aboard Erie, a high-speed rail advocacy nonprofit, met its funding goal within three hours of launching its campaign.



METHODSHOP.COM

Like Lyons' *Unearth*, All Aboard Erie left the funding timeline in place and are still notching contributions.

In an interview with APM's *Marketplace*, Northwestern University Professor Elizabeth Gerber, who's studied crowdfunding, identified four primary reasons people give: a reward system (no surprise: we like getting things for doing things); a connection to someone seeking donations (no surprise: we like helping our friends and their ideas); being part of a group or movement (trends are, well, trendy); and (perhaps most basic), "support[ing] efforts analogous with [our] beliefs."

The risk in projects failing to meet their goals can catalyze those already invested and mobilize stronger initiatives to ensure the project succeeds. That is, if you're invested, you want to see the project happen. So you become an ambassador, campaigning for its success, and canvassing social media platforms with your support so that you can don that walking billboard.

More importantly, transparency and communication together simplify the conversation and make crowdfunding work: Streamline the message (videos are often short and to the point) and broadcast far and wide (hello, social media and mass emails!).

So why not crowdfund local government?

If you think that's crazy, consider how Central Falls, R.I. – which had to declare municipal bankruptcy – launched a Kickstarter-esque campaign to beautify its landmark park. Through the typical channels – videos, social media, emails – it raised

\$10,000 toward new trash and recycling bins, which were then designed by local artists as part of a public art initiative. It was a good step on the road to financial recovery with invested citizens paving the way.

This isn't just a small-city's game. Philadelphia raised capital for a youth garden program. Denver in-part crowdfunded a mile-long protected bike lane. The question "Can crowdfunding save local government budgets?" is even a topic of panel discussions at venues like SXSW.

And where there's a will, there's a business. Websites like Citizeninvestor, ioby, and Neighbor.ly have stepped in to provide ready-made platforms for community-based crowdfunding endeavors, and civic crowdfunding is reaching critical buzzwordian mass.

"What's interesting about crowdfunding is that when you give money, you're not just giving money and the exchange is over, the relationship lasts," Gerber told *Marketplace*. "So the content creator will keep you engaged in a way that you wouldn't otherwise."

The transparency, communication, and engagement of crowdfunding make it attractive. If the same principles were applied to government-funded initiatives – hell, even proposed budget increases – elected officials just might see people more thoughtfully engaged and invested in any conversation surrounding taxes because those giving would be better connected to those asking.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at [bSpeggen@ErieReader.com](mailto:bSpeggen@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.

## Harrisburg Happenings

Even after 120 days, an agreed-upon budget remains elusive.

By: Senator Sean Wiley

Thirty days has September, April, June, and November. All the rest have thirty-one - except the Commonwealth budget ... which has 120 and counting.

As the House of Representatives returned to voting session in early October, House Majority Leader Dave Reed stuck to his pledge to run a floor vote on the Governor's budget proposal. It was a litmus test of sorts to determine the appetite for passing what has been billed by some as a "broad based tax increase." What many don't know is only one part of the Governor's proposal was given consideration: a further effort to label House Democrats as wanting to impose an increased burden on taxpayers. After eight-plus hours of pontificating from both sides of the aisle, the measure failed along mostly party lines, 73-127. In predicting the final vote, Rep. Reed commented that the coming days would bring substantive work towards a final budget.

Many have prophesied tax increases to fall "squarely on the backs of working Pennsylvanians." Those same pundits fail to elucidate that by moving away from relying on a regressive property tax structure, the Commonwealth steps toward a structure that aligns more with one's ability to pay. Those same "tax and spend" critics also neglect to share that perpetuating a business-as-usual approach to school funding will force a school property tax increase in order to balance districts' budgets. That mentality will cause our children to fall farther behind as more cuts are made to already-strapped districts like Erie's Public Schools.

I've written repeatedly in this column that the Commonwealth is well past the time to secure alternative forms of funding, and also that Pennsylvania is the only gas-producing state that doesn't have a severance tax. I will concede that the amount of revenue from a severance tax is market driven, but the gas beneath our feet isn't going to dry up anytime soon and can be an ongoing revenue driver.



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Inarguably, the Commonwealth faces an agreed-upon \$1.3 billion structural deficit. And if there isn't an honest effort to address the shortfall, the General Assembly will be here again, or in a yet more desperate situation, when negotiating the 2016-2017 budget.

Now on the negotiating table is the expansion of gambling offerings to include internet-based options like daily fantasy sports games and online gaming. There are conflicting reports about just how much revenue that would generate for the Commonwealth and the regulations necessary to make it happen.

Smack in the middle of the budget impasse is the withholding of funding for schools. Fueling that fire is the recent realization that charter schools statewide have exploited a loophole

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**If there isn't an honest effort to address the shortfall, the General Assembly will be here again, or in a yet more desperate situation, when negotiating the 2016-2017 budget.**

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allowing them to appeal non-payment of funds from school districts. This technicality permits the state to find the money in any coffer necessary to pay the freight. Thus, payments of late have been pulled from gaming revenue designed to provide property tax relief to homeowners. As charters bill themselves as "tuition-free, public schools," it is quite obvious that the rules are different; and also that the Commonwealth's charter law has long needed a complete overhaul to bring it in line with public education.

As we knock on the door of November, what remains is quite simple: an agreement regarding the 2015-2016 Commonwealth budget must be reached. In that process, legislators must provide the Governor with a spending plan that will garner his signature. How to make that happen has remained elusive ... 120 days of elusive.

Senator Sean D. Wiley can be contacted at [SenatorWiley@pasenate.com](mailto:SenatorWiley@pasenate.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @SenatorWiley.

## Local Filmmaker John C. Lyons Readies the Ground for *Uneath*

The already-funded film's Kickstarter campaign aims to "take it to the next level" through Nov. 5.



**Left: John C. Lyons describes his script as a "docudrama that eventually shifts into a crazy, gothic horror survival film," inspired by the dangers of fracking.**

ed a campaign with the help of Mercyhurst University's Kickstarter Program.

A very positive public response meant the campaign reached its goal in only 10 days. It was named a "Staff Pick" by Kickstarter and "Project of the Day" by independent movie news site *Indiewire*. In fact, funding will still be accepted until the campaign ends Nov. 5, which can help Lyons ramp up efforts on *Uneath*.

"At this point, the higher we go on Kickstarter, the better the movie is going to be, to be honest with you," Lyons says.

"Our past films have been all volunteer work, which is crazy. For this third film, we really want to step up and hire people for their efforts."

Now that the film has been funded, Lyons has a lot of work ahead of him. He already has locations picked out in northwestern Pennsylvania and a small group of talented crew members, including special effects design guru "Monster Mark Kosobucki," who just so happens to have created several cover art pieces for the *Reader* (including this issue's cover). Eventually, Lyons will hold auditions for actors to join a cast that includes Jennifer Hooper, who's performed in both of Lyons' past films, and Ruth Thoma Andrews, a stage veteran of over 50 plays.

Lyons found his metaphor back in 2013. Now, *Uneath* is set to become something more than just a script, as Lyons estimates a 2017 release. With the support of the Erie community and the frightening realities of fracking serving as inspiration, Lyons is ready to create a horrifyingly good feature.

Alex Bieler can be reached at [abieler@eriereader.com](mailto:abieler@eriereader.com)

**By: Alex Bieler**

**"F**ind your metaphor, and you have a classic."

That's the message John C. Lyons received from Chuck Palahniuk when the local filmmaker reached out to the *Fight Club* author about his idea for the film *Uneath*. Lyons came to know Palahniuk after the author became a fan of *Schism*, Lyons' directorial debut. Palahniuk's response motivated Lyons to up the ante on his third feature.

The metaphor Lyons found was fracking, a drilling practice which has undergone much scrutiny, including several critical pieces in the *Reader*. Early in 2013, Lyons started kicking around ideas for his third film, eventually taking note of fracking through documentaries such as *Gasland* and *Triple Divide*.

"I felt that there was definitely a void for a narrative fictional story to cover the angle of how we really don't know what we're doing when we're a mile under the ground," Lyons tells me over the phone. "It's not like we have cameras or people down there, and things can happen. Things can go wrong. What if we stir

up something down there that we didn't expect and how can that affect people?"

*Uneath* focuses on two neighboring farm families and the aftermath when one family leases their land to natural gas drillers. Lyons describes his script as a docudrama that eventually shifts into a crazy, gothic horror survival film. Based on the success of the film's Kickstarter campaign, the premise intrigued plenty

---

**"I felt that there was definitely a void for a narrative fictional story to cover the angle of how we really don't know what we're doing when we're a mile under the ground,"**

---

of potential viewers.

After filming his first two features *Schism* and *There Are No Goodbyes* with volunteer help, Lyons turned to the crowdfunding site to help him make *Uneath*. He set a goal of \$15,000 early in October and start-



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## News of the Weird

No more "Tag" or "Rover Red Rover." But apparently you can still pray yourself out of a crime.

By: Chuck Shepherd

### "Tag" Banned; "Rover, Red Rover" in Jeopardy

Two suburban Minneapolis elementary schools this fall hired a consulting firm to advise officials on kids' recess, and the leading recommendations (promoting "safety" and "inclusiveness") were elimination of "contact" games in favor of, for example, hopscotch. Some parents objected; recess, they said, should be more freestyle, unstructured. (More consultants' advice: De-emphasize refereed "rules" games in favor of monitors who simply praise effort.) One Minnesota principal noted improvement — fewer fights and nurse visits now — but as one parent said, her child feels that recess is no longer really "playing." [Star Tribune, 10-5-2015] [Mercer Island Reporter, 9-24-2015]

### Bright Ideas

Unapparent Problem, Solved: Vladimir Laurent (an insurance executive in Coral Springs, Florida) received his U.S. patent on Sept. 29 and can proceed mass-producing "The Shield" — his brainstorm to keep men's genitalia from dragging on the inside of toilet bowls while they're seated. Laurent told the South Florida Business Journal

that his device was something he "needed, personally" (though he's aware that not all males experience the sensation). The Shield is basically a cup attached to the bowl by suction that allows movement via a ball-and-socket joint. [South Florida Business Journal, 9-30-2015]

### Latest Human Rights

Kentucky's government ethics law bars gifts from lobbyists to legislators, but state Sen. John Schickel filed a federal lawsuit in September claiming that he has a constitutional (First Amendment) right to receive them. (The laws were passed after the FBI found several Kentucky politicians selling their votes.) And in May, officials of the American Gaming (gambling) Association and the Association of Club Executives complained to the Pentagon that a threatened prohibition of the use of government credit cards at casinos and strip clubs violated card users' constitutional rights, in that protected activities (such as business strategy meetings) take place at those venues. [TheIntercept.com, 9-24-2015] [Government Executive, 5-21-2015]

### Can't Possibly Be True

Florida Justice: Orville "Lee" Wollard, now 60, was convict-

ed of aggravated assault in 2008 after he fired one "warning shot" into a wall of his home during an argument with his daughter's boyfriend. Believing his shot defused a dangerous situation (the boyfriend had once angrily ripped sutures from Wollard's stomach), Wollard had declined a plea offer of probation and gone to trial, where he lost and faced a law written with a 20-year minimum sentence. Florida has since amended the law to give judges discretion about the crime and the sentence, but Gov. Rick Scott and the state's clemency board have refused to help Wollard, who must serve 13 more years for a crime he perhaps would not even be charged with today. [Miami Herald, 9-30-2015]

### Inexplicable

Christopher Hiscock, 33, got only a year's probation after his guilty plea for trespassing on a ranch in Kamloops, British Columbia, in September — because it was a trespass with panache. Since no one had been home, Hiscock fed the cats, prepared a meal, shaved and showered, took meat out of the freezer to thaw, made some coffee, started a fire in the fireplace, did some laundry, put out hay for the horses, and even wrote some touchingly personal notes in the resident's diary ("Today was my first full day at the ranch." "I have to remind myself to just relax and take my time.") In court, he apologized. "I made a lot of mistakes." "Beautiful ranch. Gorgeous. I was driving (by) and I just turned in. Beautiful place." [Kamloops This Week via

National Post, 9-30-2015] **New! Amazing! Awesome!**

Low-benefit (but Internet-connected!) devices now on sale (from February MacLife magazine): HAPIfork (Bluetooth-connected, alerts you if you're eating too fast); iKettle (heat water at different temperatures for different drinks, controlled by phone); an LG washing machine that lets you start washing while away (provided, of course, that you've already loaded the washer); Kolibri "smart toothbrush" (tracks and graphs "brushing habits"). Also highlighted was the Satis "smart toilet," which remotely flushes, raises and lowers the seat, and engages the bidet — features MacLife touts mainly as good for "terrorizing guests." [MacLife, February 2015]

### The Job of the Researcher

Scientists have somehow determined that rats dream about where they want to go in the future. Dr. Hugo Spiers of University College London (and colleagues) inferred as much in a recent eLife article based on how neurons in the rodent brain's hippocampus fire up in certain patterns. They discovered similar patterns when a rat is asleep just before conquering a food "maze" as when he awakens and actually gets to the food (as if it plotted by dream). (Buried Lede: Rats have dreams.) [New Scientist, 6-26-2015]

### Latest Religious Messages

The Power of Prayer: (1) Two men with handguns walked through an open door of a Phil-

adelphia home in July and demanded drugs and cash from the three women inside, threatening pistol-whippings. According to a Philly.com report, a 55-year-old woman in the home immediately burst into loud prayer, causing the gunmen to flee empty-handed. (2) Police in Bellevue, Ohio, initially believed that texting behind the wheel was what caused Marilyn Perry, 62, to crash and badly injure another driver. However, in July, she and her lawyer convinced a judge that she was "looking down" as she drove only because she was praying over "personal problems." [Philly.com, 7-12-2015] [WJW-TV (Cleveland), 7-21-2015]

### Perspective

A year-long investigation by GlobalPost revealed in September that at least five U.S. or European Catholic priests disciplined for sex abuse have surfaced in South America, ministering unstigmatized in impoverished parishes. In Paraguay, Ecuador and Peru (all with softer law enforcement and media scrutiny than in the U.S., and where priests enjoy greater respect), dioceses have accepted notorious priests from Scranton, Pennsylvania, Minneapolis and Jackson, Mississippi, and Catholic facilities in Brazil and Colombia now employ shamed sex-abusers from Belgium and San Antonio, Texas. (The Belgian priest had been allowed to start an orphanage for street kids.) GlobalPost claims the Vatican declined "repeated" phone calls for comment. [GlobalPost via USA Today, 9-17-2015]





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## Harbor House

With three other successful locations throughout Erie, the U Pick 6 family welcomes its newest member.



Left: After only about a month, Harbor House has already brightened the east side dining landscape. Below: A crowd, as usual, enjoys the pub's "chilled-out elegance."

By: Ryan Smith

Most any worth-a-damn cook or barkeep will agree that when it comes to offering up truly delectable cuisine and libations, it's just like that Curnonsky dude said: "Simplicity is the sign of perfection."

And the keepers of the U Pick 6 family of Erie pubs, restaurants, and bottle shops know this, man.

With three other establishments throughout the city — U Pick 6 Beer Store on Peach Street, Tap House on State Street; and the Public House on West Ridge Road — the U Pick 6 crew has carved out quite the niche in Erie's burgeoning gastropub scene. Each location features vast arrays of great craft brews and dishes cultivated to accompany them.

The scene got even more gastronomical earlier this month when the freshest addition opened: the U Pick 6 Harbor House on Buffalo Road. For that, on behalf of all Gem City-area devotees to the arts of good eating and good drinking, we at the *Reader* tip our collective hat to you, folks.

Heading into this piece, I knew business partners John Melody and Russ Stachewicz, along with their 140-plus employees, are very busy people these days. So when I touched base to set up a visit to Harbor House, I said something like "no worries, John. Just do your thing while I'm there, and I'll take it in as I see it."

At Harbor House a few days later, what I saw looked pretty damned good: Tap after tap and bottle after bottle of fine, fine beers: a revolving cast of quality, and barely a single run-of-the-mill macrobrew among them. Plus seriously bangin'-looking pizzas fresh out of a beautiful wood-fired oven, along with other enticing-looking dishes being delivered from kitchen to tables. And, an atmosphere accentuated all around by earthy brick, soft lighting, and dark hardwoods. It's the picture of chilled-out elegance.

Beyond that, I saw

one sure sign that these folks are doing some things very well: A pub chockfull of people, with nary an empty table in sight.

"Business has been very good," Melody said as we found a couple of seats front-and-center to that gorgeous brick oven. "There's been a lot of anticipation for the place."

So far, "the feedback has been just wonderful," he said. "It's refreshing when you put a reasonably substantial investment into something and people are recep-

tive to it."

And receptive Erie's pub-going public has been:

"I am liking it here!!!" one visitor recently posted on Harbor House's Facebook feed.

"Had a great Saturday lunch there," said another. "My Turkey Avocado and Matt's Pub Club were awesome ... gotta love the homemade pepper chips ... and, oh yeah, the BEER was good too!"

"Only a week open and they got it together already," said another. "It's awesome!"

That kind of simple, honest appreciation from happy customers seems to be exactly what Melody, Stachewicz, and company are aiming for in their quality-centric endeavors at Harbor House and the other U Pick 6 establishments.

After all, Melody said, "at the end of the day, it's the people who make the pub."

Writer/photographer Ryan Smith can be reached at [rsmith@eriereader.com](mailto:rsmith@eriereader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @ryanmsmithplens.



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## A Conversation with Dr. Rachel Levine

Pennsylvania's physician general is scheduled to speak at Erie's Biennial Intersections of Equality Conference.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: **Jim Wertz**

**D**r. Rachel Levine was in the midst of a storied career when she was asked to serve on then-Governor-elect Tom Wolf's transition team. A graduate of Harvard College and Tulane University School of Medicine, she did her residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City before coming to Pennsylvania as the Director of Ambulatory Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the Polyclinic Medical Center in 1993. In 1996, she joined the staff of the Penn State Hershey Medical Center where she founded a division of adolescent medicine and a program to treat children and adults struggling with eating disorders.

Now she's Pennsylvania's physician general, who happens to be an openly transgender woman, a point she works hard to downplay as a sidebar to her prestigious resume. As an advocate for the LGBT community, Levine has served on the board of directors

for Equality PA, a statewide advocacy group, and on Nov. 7 she's scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Biennial Intersections of Equality Conference sponsored by the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE), at Penn State Behrend's Black Conference Center.

**Jim Wertz:** It seems like many of your professional roles prior to moving into this position align well with some of the mental and physical health issues facing Pennsylvania. Can you elaborate for me what you feel those top issues are and how you characterize the mental and physical health of the Commonwealth?

**Rachel Levine:** The global interest that I've always had is that intersection between medical issues and mental health issues. That's my interest in adolescent medicine and particularly in eating disorders. So I certainly have expanded that interest in my role with the state. For example, the biggest public health issue facing the state of Pennsylvania, and perhaps the country, is prescription drug abuse with opioid and heroin abuse and resulting

**Left: Dr. Rachel Levine has served as a mentor, role model, and advocate for the LGBT and transgender population. But it's her admirable qualifications and forward-thinking policies regarding public health crises like drug abuse that make her appointment to Pennsylvania physician general truly encouraging.**

overdose. In fact, President Obama spoke this week in West Virginia on that topic. We've had an explosion of prescription drug abuse in the past ten years; and in the past five years, a significant increase in heroin use and way too many overdoses. In the coroner's report released last spring there were over 2,400 overdoses in Pennsylvania, and that's an underestimate because of the way the report was constructed. But even at that number it means that seven Pennsylvanians a day die of drug overdoses. More people die from drug overdoses in the United States than from car accidents. The Wolf administration is working in a very interdepartmental way to put together a comprehensive plan to address this problem.

**JW:** For the past forty years or so there's been a nationwide political movement to deal with drug abuse and drug related offenses as a criminal issue as opposed to a health issue. Where do you see the treatment for drug offenses fitting into that conversation?

**RL:** Both federally and in the Commonwealth I think that there is consensus that we're not going to arrest our way out of this problem. There are legal and law enforcement issues in terms of addressing the influx of heroin and heroin dealers, but in terms of patients that are addicted to prescription drugs and heroin, what they need is treatment, and that's our focus at the Department of Health. The federal government has said the exact same thing. Statements from the secretary of health and human services, from the director of the CDC, from the surgeon general, and now the president state exactly the same thing. In Pennsylvania, we're working on many different prevention measures. We're going to have a meeting of the deans of the medical schools in Pennsylvania to discuss the education of medical students

about prescriptions and opioids and to increase that level of education and expertise in those students. We're also working very closely with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to prescribe guidelines for healthcare providers. There have been several guidelines already released and we are currently working on many others. This is quite an effort.

We are partnering with the Pennsylvania Medical Society and other stakeholders to provide continuing education to current medical providers on all of these topics and this is a really great effort which includes Pennsylvania Medical Society but also societies for nurse practitioners, dentists, podiatrists, nurses, pharmacists, etc., so that

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**“The biggest public health issue facing the state of Pennsylvania, and perhaps the country, is prescription drug abuse with opioid and heroin abuse and resulting overdose.”**

---

they can receive continuing education on all of these topics and credit that we all need for our licenses. We're working closely with DDAP on expanding treatments, particularly medication assisted treatments for patients addicted to opioids, and finally emphasizing the use of Naloxone, which is an antidote to overdoses. I signed a standing order prescription for first responders to be able to carry Naloxone. So you can see the scope of our work.

**JW:** I want to go back to your comment on education for a moment because as you look at the demographic diversity of the state from community to community, I imagine it's difficult to always commu- [Cont. on page 41]



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**Best Bar for Dancing**  
The Zone

**Best Bar for Hooking Up**  
Coconut Joe's

**Best College Bar**  
The Plymouth Tavern

**Best Dance Company**  
Lake Erie Ballet

**Best DJ**  
DJ Bill Page

**Best Event Space**  
Bayfront Convention Center

**Best Happy Hour**  
Tap House

**Best Juke Box**  
Calamari's

**Best Local Act (Band/Musician)**  
The Romantic Era

**Best Local Actor**

*Chris Bucci*

**Best Local Actress**  
*Kelly Rodland*

**Best Local Artist**  
*C. Brown*

**Best Local Festival**  
*Celebrate Erie*

**Best Local Graphic Designer**  
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**Best Local Illustrator**  
*Todd Scalise*

**Best Local Musician**  
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**Best Local Photog**  
*Jessica Yochim*

**Best Local Promoter**  
*Ryan Bartosek*

**Best Local Sculptor**  
*Evan Everhart*

**Best Local Singer**  
*Jake Banta*

**Best MC**  
*C. Brown*

**Best Museum**  
Erie Art Museum

**Best Music Venue**  
Kings Rook Club

**Best Neighborhood Bar**

*Tap House*

**Best New Bar/Club (Within Last Two Years)**  
*U Pick 6 Public House*

**Best Night Club**  
*Coconut Joe's*

**Best Performing Arts Space**  
*Warner Theatre*

**Best Place for Free Fun**  
*Presque Isle*

**Best Place to Be Seen on a Saturday Night**  
*The Plymouth Tavern*

**Best Place to Catch a Flick**  
*Tinseltown*

**Best Place to Get a Martini**  
*Scotty's*

**Best Place to Get Lectured to**  
*Chautauqua Institution*

**Best Place to Hear Live Jazz**  
*Scotty's*

**Best Place to Hear Live Rock**  
*Sherlock's*

**Best Poet**  
*Tracy Morell*

**Best Reason to Come Downtown**  
*The Warner Theatre*

**Best Sports Bar**  
*Buffalo Wild Wings*

**Best Theater Space**  
*Warner Theatre*

**Best Up-and-Coming Band/Musician (Last Two Years)**  
*Six Year Stretch*

### Food & Drink

**Best Asian Restaurant**  
*Chopstix*

**Best Bar Food**  
*The Plymouth Tavern*

**Best Bartender**  
*Amanda Schaffner*

**Best Beer List**  
*Tap House*

**Best Bloody Mary**  
*The Plymouth Tavern*

**Best Breakfast**  
*Breakfast Place*

**Best Brunch**  
*Peek'n Peak*

**Best Buffet**  
*Peek'n Peak*

**Best Burger**  
*Five Guys Burgers and Fries*

**Best Chef**  
*Bertrand Artigues*

**Best Coffee Shop**  
*Brick House*

**Best Dessert**  
*Pufferbelly*

**Best Dinner Bargain**  
*Serafini's*

**Best French Fries**  
*Sara's*

**Best Hot Dog**  
*Sara's*

**Best Italian Restaurant**  
*Serafini's*

**Best Late-Nite Menu**  
*Dominick's*

**Best Local Brewery**  
*Lavery Brewing*

**Best Locally Made Beer**  
*Derailed (Erie Brewing Company)*

**Best Lunch Bargain**



*The Plymouth Tavern*

**Best Mexican Restaurant**

*El Canelo*

**Best Middle Eastern Restaurant**

*Petra*

**Best Mobile Food Vendor**

*Ernie's*

**Best New Restaurant (Within Last Two Years)**

*Primanti Brothers*

**Best Patio**

*Rum Runners*

**Best Patio Dining**

*Smuggler's Wharf*

**Best Pizza**

*John's Wildwood Pizza*

**Best Place to Get Barbecue**

*Three B Saloon*

**Best Place to Get Ice Cream**

*Sara's*

**Best Place to Get Seafood**

*Smuggler's Wharf*

**Best Place to Get Vegan / Vegetarian Food**

*Whole Foods Co-op*

**Best Place to Order a Steak**

*Texas Roadhouse*

**Best Restaurant**

*1201 Kitchen*

**Best Romantic Restaurant**

*1201 Kitchen*

**Best Sandwich Shop**

*Picasso's*

**Best Seafood Shop**

*Wegmans*

**Best Soft Pretzel**

*The Plymouth Tavern*

**Best Sub Shop**

*Teresa's Italian Deli*

**Best Sushi**

*Wegmans*

**Best Upscale Restaurant**

*1201 Kitchen*

**Best Wine List**

*Cloud 9*

**Best Wings**

*Odis 12*

**Goods & Services**

**Best Antique Shop**

*Second Hand Rose*

**Best Auto Customer Service**

*Bianchi Honda*

**Best Bakery**

*Art's Bakery*

**Best Bank**

*Erie Federal Credit Union*

**Best Barbershop**

*Uncle Nick's*

**Best Beauty Salon**

*Panache Salon & Spa*

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*Competitive Gear*

**Best Book Store**

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**Best Chocolate/Candy Purveyor**

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**Best Consignment Shop**

*Plato's Closet*

**Best Deli**

*Teresa's Italian Deli*

**Best Dog Groomer**

*Paws 'n Claws*

**Best Farmers Market**

*Mason Farms*

**Best Health Food Store**

*Whole Foods Co-op*

**Best Jewelry Store**

*Dahlkemper's*

**Best Locally Made Product**

*Smith's Hotdogs*

**Best New Business (Within Last Two Years)**

*Cocktails and Color*

**Best Person to Get Pierced By**

*Missy Twohig*

**Best Place to Adopt a Pet**

*ANNA Shelter*

**Best Place to Buy a Used Car**

*Bianchi Honda*

**Best Place to Buy Furniture**

*John V. Schultz*

**Best Place to Buy Instruments**

*World of Music*

**Best Place to Buy Meat**

*Wegmans*

**Best Place to Buy or Lease a New Car**

*Bianchi Honda*

**Best Place to Buy Produce**

*Wegmans*

**Best Place to Get a Six Pack**

*Six Pack House of Beer*

**Best Place to Get Pierced**

*Sacred Piercing*

**Best Place to Host a Wedding Reception**

*Peek'n Peak*

**Best Smoke/Vapor Shop**

*Smoker Friendly*

**Best Spa**

*Coventina Day Spa*

**Best Tattoo Artist**

*"Gentle" Josh Makowski*

**Best Tattoo Parlor**

*Ink Assassins*

**Best Thrift Store**

*Salvation Army*

**Best Videographer**

*Zack Orr*

**Best Vintage Clothing Shop**

*Sassy Peacock*

**Best Web Developer**

*Epic WebStudios*

**Best Winery**

*Mazza Vineyards*

**People & Places**

**Best Athletic Competition**

*Beast on the Bay*

**Best Beach**

*Beach 11*

**Best Bowling Alley**

*Greengarden Lanes*

**Best Entrepreneur(s)**

*Jason Lavery*

**Best Erie Reader Writer**

*Jim Wertz*

**Best Filmmaker**

*John Lyons*

**Best Fitness Club**

*LECOM Fitness and Wellness Center*

**Best Fundraising Event**

*Erie Gives Day*

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**Best Non-Profit/Charity**

*ANNA Shelter*

**Best Park**

*Presque Isle State Park*

**Best People Watching**

*CelebrateErie*

**Best Place for a Family Outing**

*Presque Isle State Park*

**Best Place for a First Date**

*1201 Kitchen*

**Best Place for Skiing**

*Peek'n Peak*

**Best Place to Bike**

*Presque Isle*

**Best Place to Hike**

*Wintergreen Gorge*

**Best Place to Play Darts**

*Fox & Hound*

**Best Place to Run**

*Frontier Park*

**Best Place to See a Sunset (Not Presque Isle)**

*Rumrunners*

**Best Place to Shoot Pool**

*Andy's Pub*

**Best Place to Work**

*Wegmans*

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*Craig Warvel*

**Best Radio Show**

*2 Girls and a Guy*

**Best Radio Station**

*93.9 the Wolf*

**Best Reason to Live in Erie**

*Presque Isle and Lake Erie*

**Best Resident**

*Sister Joan Chittester*

*OSB*

**Best Spot to Take Wedding Photos**

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*Erie Otters*

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*Presque Isle State Park*

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# Spotlight on Erie

Oct 29 - Nov 10

Oct. 29

## A Legacy of Equality



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dancing Wheels, the first physically integrated dance company in the nation, will bring its *Lasting Legacy* concert to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania's Louis C. Cole Auditorium on Oct 29.

*Legacy* celebrates this renowned Cleveland-based dance troupe's 35th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The show pays tribute to the ADA by examining the impact of its five core themes: employment, education, transportation, communication, and public access.

The concert blends exuberance, comedy, and powerful representations of what it's been like to attain full public access. According to Cleveland.com, the performance is as much "an educational experience as an artistic one, delineating the issues faced by Americans with disabilities as they fought over the decades to gain something that many people take for granted."

Dancing Wheels was founded by Mary Verdi-Fletcher, who still dances with the troupe and was instrumental in the passing of the landmark civil rights law.

Go for the education, sure. But go more for the dance, the energy, and the passion. — Mary Birdsong

7:30 p.m., doors open 7:00 p.m. // 205 Meadville St. // \$10; \$5 Edinboro faculty, staff, and non-Edinboro students; Free to Edinboro students // 732.1242

Oct. 31

## Halloween Extravaganza Featuring Falling Hollywood with VWLS and LEC

Unless you caught them at this summer's Great Blue Heron Music Festival or fall's Night Lights Music Festival, or elsewhere out on the road, you likely haven't heard much from Falling Hollywood lately. After a blister bout of regional gigging in 2014 to support their sophomore effort, *Heavy Weather*, the Erie-based alternative rockers dialed back their number of live shows around Erie.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

But for good reason: They've been working on new material.

The band's debut release, 2012's *Set The Table*, delivered experimental folk-rock, drawing comparisons to The Avett Brothers and Mumford & Sons. Two years later, *Heavy Weather* featured a more Black-Keys-meets-Arctic-Monkeys feel, but the newest stuff they've been testing out at festivals goes even harder and darker, reminiscent of Queens of the Stone Age-esque desert rock. It's their most mature and well-crafted work to date.

Rounding out the bill, local scene newcomers VWLS – catchy math-rock-psychedelic rockers – open the downstairs show, and hip-hop-rock stalwarts LEC get the party going upstairs after Falling Hollywood's set. New songs, fresh bands, bumping after party stretching well into the night – sounds like one hell of a great way to spend Halloween. — Ben Spengen

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

Nov. 1

## Blessthefall, Stick To Your Guns, Emarosa Fill Basement Transmissions

Basement Transmissions is on a roll, once again reeling in some of the biggest names in the metalcore scene for a stacked show at Erie's underground music hub.

Blessthefall, Stick To Your Guns, and Emarosa is a tour package that my high school self and friends would have gone crazy for, and it's safe to say many others will be doing the same in BT's mosh pit.

Blessthefall and Stick To Your Guns have, for the most part, stuck to their guns over the years, staying true to the classic metalcore formulas of heavy guitars, guttural verses, and clean choruses. STYG's "This is more" was a hardcore anthem for many kids in the mid 2000's. It pushed STYG into the scene's spotlight where they have since found a home. Emarosa however, have softened their sound, cutting out the harsh vocals almost entirely, but still keeping the same energy. All three bands' distinct styles have landed them spots on the Billboard 200, an astounding feat for any band, especially in this genre.

Supporting acts on the tour are Oceans Ate Alaska and Cane Hill. The



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

venue is certain to be packed for this show, so get your tickets in advance before you're forced to listen from the parking lot. — Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$20 Advance, \$24 day of show // brownpapertickets.com/event/2144150

Nov. 4

## FILM at EAM Presents Amy



RAMA

People remember things, like where they were when the Twin Towers fell. I remember that, to be sure, but I also remember where I was when I learned Amy Winehouse had died.

Obviously, one pales in comparison to the other in nearly every sense. But checking my Twitter in the dog food aisle of Wegmans, it was like the world had stopped for a moment.

This is not misplaced melodrama. Amy Winehouse and her music – old and new, primal and revelatory – had seen me through college and the tumultuous few years after. She sang me through heartbreak and dark moments. Tears, I learned, do dry on their own.

Amy Winehouse wasn't a star on the rise. She was already burning bright, too bright with her talent and her demons, and that burning consumed her. Now, that brightness is the subject of BAFTA award-winning director Asif Kapadia's documentary *Amy*, playing as part of FILM at the Erie Art



Museum.

The film includes extensive unseen archive footage and previously unheard tracks, and in her own words, Amy Winehouse offers striking insights into her life and music, and in turn, our world. Her music is timeless; through that and this documentary, Amy lives on. — Sara Toth

7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // 459.5477 // [erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html](http://erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html) // Tickets \$5



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

got the same reaction.

Erie is lucky enough to be on Regan's 2015 tour, which visits more than 80 cities throughout the country. Jerry Seinfeld calls Regan "one of my favorite, favorite stand-up comedians." David Letterman said of him, "I'll take all of that guy you got ... Very funny man," and featured him on the show 27 times: more than any other comedian. Even edgy, topical comedy stars like Chris Rock love this guy. He was nominated for a 2014 American Comedy Award for Best Concert Comic, so you know he knows how to put on a show. — Bryan Toy

7:30 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // Tickets: \$39.50 // 452.4857 or [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com)

**Nov. 5**

**Brian Regan – Live at the Warner Theatre**

Here's how funny Brian Regan is: My twins were the ones who introduced his comedy to me five years ago when they were 13. The bit they showed me on YouTube was his classic little league "Hey Batter Batter" baseball routine. All three of us were rolling on the floor. So what? So, neither of my boys have played a day of baseball in their lives and they still thought it was hilarious. So, is Brian Regan just for kids? Last week, I shared that same bit with my middle-aged and jaded poker buddies and

**Nov. 6**

**Zack Orr at Jekyll & Hyde's**

Zack Orr has been a performing guitarist for 25 years. To celebrate, he made it his mission to live stream a different song every day for a year. Many have been his originals, but with 365 performances, he's obviously done some covers as well. I got to watch him record "Folsom Prison Blues" next to the railroad tracks in downtown Erie, which of course is the perfect place to sing Johnny

Cash. He's performed this year in graveyards, on trains, even on a rooftop in Venice Beach, Calif. You can see his performances by following him on Periscope (@spaceloungeprod). Or on YouTube, including collaborations with Eric Brewer, Ben Henry, and Orr's college friend from Berklee College of Music, Nori Kikuta.

If you've seen him play with a band, you know that Orr's got the chops to rock out with the best in Erie, but his solo work is what he's known for. As a singer/songwriter, he makes music



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## CALENDAR

that can be deep or silly, lulling or jolting. His finger work is often mesmerizing. And on Nov. 6, you can be a part of one of his live streams at Jekyll & Hyde's. — Bryan Toy

9 p.m. to midnight // Jekyll & Hyde's  
Gastropub // 8 East 10th St. // 456.0072

### Nov. 7

#### Peek'n Peak Invites You to the Wurst Party Ever

Feeling chilled by the recent drop in temperature? Becoming impatient to start celebrating the holiday season with friends and family? Or perhaps you are just craving some hearty food and a stein full of flavorful, imported German or locally-brewed German-style beer?

On Saturday, Nov. 7, Peek'n Peak is hosting "The Wurst Party Ever." Fill up on bratwurst, Bavarian style pretzels, and sauerkraut while sipping on a frothy beverage handed to you by a dirndl-wearing server. Once you get your belly filled, enjoy dancing to authentic German music by Buffalo's Big German Band, all set at the base of the beautiful Peek'n Peak ski slopes.

Tickets are on sale now for \$45; or \$55 if purchased after Oct. 29.. Each ticket includes unlimited beer tastings, a bier stein, and German food tastings. However, tickets are limited, so act fast! — Evan Thomas

5-9 p.m. // Main Lodge, Peek'n Peak Resort,  
1405 Olde Rd., Clymer, NY // 716.355.4141 //  
pknpk.com/activities/wurstparty

### Nov. 8

#### The Normal Heart Explores the Early Days of HIV/AIDS Activism

LGBTQ rights have real momentum lately. If you're a tolerant person, you may be tempted to pat yourself

on the back as you note growing acceptance of marriage equality, transgender rights, visitation rights, and open service in the military. But we shouldn't overlook the decades of tireless activism that got us here. Countless wrongfully demonized people worked very hard to cultivate the still-not-completely-welcoming world we inhabit.

Ryan Murphy's 2014 film *The Normal Heart* chronicles the confusion and horror that many felt during the early days of the AIDS crisis. It shows how a determined group of victims, partners, and advocates organized in response, while exposing the contempt and political indifference they encountered as they fought for their rights.

Murphy is best known for fun and outrageous TV shows like *Glee*, *Nip/Tuck*, and *American Horror Story*. So don't expect an atmosphere of quiet restraint here. On the other hand, he's translating Larry Kramer's semi-autobiographical play of the same name, which adds intimacy and realism to Murphy's bombastic style.

Kramer (fictionalized in the film by Mark Ruffalo) was one of the founders of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), which began (in his living room!) as a response to the CDC's unwillingness to declare AIDS an epidemic during the homophobic early 80s. GMHC provided medical information and counseling at a time when our country was extremely reluctant to do so. Later, Kramer helped form the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) to create more political solutions. Through *The Normal Heart*, this often overlooked history finally takes its place in the spotlight. — Dan Schank

2 p.m. // Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture, 501 E. 38th St. // miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/the-normal-heart/

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**SAT 10/31**  
DOWNSTAIRS: HALLOWEEN  
EXTRAVAGANZA  
FALLING HOLLYWOOD  
+ VWLS  
+ UPSTAIRS: THE LEC

**FRI 11/6**  
MO MOJO (ZYDECO)  
[FREE]

**SAT 11/7**  
DOWNSTAIRS: AQUEOUS

**FRI 11/13**  
RODGER MONTGOMERY BLUES BAND  
[FREE]

**SAT 11/14**  
THE MALLETT BROTHERS BAND  
[FREE]

**FRI 11/20**  
INTREPID TRAVELERS  
[FREE]

**SAT 11/21**  
DOWNSTAIRS: TROPIDELIC  
+ HORNITZ  
+ UPSTAIRS QWISTER

**FRI 11/27**  
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**SAT 11/28**  
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## A Review of *Count ... The Legend of Dracula*

Lake Erie Ballet dances with darkness in this season's production.



By: Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

Love, obsession, darkness, and death.

If there were ever a proper season to mount a ballet production with these themes, Lake Erie Ballet (LEB) has accomplished it with *Count ... The Legend of Dracula*.

Based loosely on Bram Stoker's classic horror novel, local choreographer Bobby Wesner's version keeps the main characters alive, retelling the story of a dark attraction while jettisoning much of the latter search-and-destroy aspect of the tale. (Sorry, Van Helsing fans.)

Rather, this version focuses on the love triangle between the betrothed couple Jonathan Harker (Francisco Aguilar) and Mina (Izabelly Possato) and its shadowy, stygian interloper Dracula (Jose Soares) in a dangerous *pas de trois*.

A collaboration between LEB and Wesner's Neos Dance Theatre, a troupe based in northern Ohio, *Count* features two of Neos' performers, Juliana Freude and Ethan Lee, in the secondary roles of Mina's friend Lucy and her fiancé Arthur. On a tertiary level, approximately 16 members of the LEB Youth and Junior Youth companies serve the production's background as tiny dancers in various scenes.

More romantic and even less blood-

letting than the Victorian archetype of the 1897 novel — apparently so popular it's never gone out of print — nary a drop of blood is spilled; instead, the production focuses on a verboten love and creating an ominous, dream-like mood.

As audience members watch, they're bound to feel more empathy than enmity for Soares' Transylvania count.

In this version, years ago (or is it centuries?), having killed a gypsy to protect himself and his beloved, Dracula, the man, was accursed to become

---

**The production focuses on a verboten love and creating an ominous, dream-like mood.**

---

a member of the undead. "Living" forever, he thirsts for the blood of others while eschewing daylight in his eternal Cimmerian existence.

The dance drama truly begins when Harker, a British estate agent, shows up in Dracula's "neck" of the woods (yes, pun intended). Dracula spies Harker's locket containing a photo of Mina — a "doppelganger," if you will, of the count's long-deceased love — and therein supernatural peril ensues for

Everything from the performance's varied soundtrack to its creative imagery mirrors the splendor and sturm of characters' emotions.

the lovebirds.

A background screen flashing lightning, Mina's locket photograph, and other imagery assist in explaining and propelling the story forward in ways that couldn't be related through dance. Meanwhile, the production's soundtrack ranges from classical compositions, to medieval chants, to Tom Waits, to the angst of contemporary "industrial" music that mirrors the splendor and *sturm* of characters' emotions.

*Count* is being performed at 1020 Holland Street, soon to be the new location for Lake Erie Ballet.

"That's the plan," said Rick DiBello, LEB's executive director, via email. "[The] first floor will have studios and offices ... The second floor has a 30-foot ceiling and will be a performance space with a stage, recording gear, projectors, etc."

Indeed, Lake Erie Ballet appears to be on a roll: what with a ballet company moving and, with *Count ... The Legend of Dracula*, a moving ballet.

Doors open 7:15 p.m., performance 8 p.m. // Nov. 5, 6, 7 // 1020 Holland St. // 871.4356 or lakeerieballet.org



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### DEBT OF HONOR

DISABLED VETERANS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

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# Events Calendar

## Oct 29 - Nov 10

### MUSIC

#### Dave VanAmburg

Oct. 29 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Bel Aire Marriott Hotel,  
2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

#### Rankin & Schell

Oct. 29 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew  
Works, 22043 US Hwy. 6 &  
19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

#### Colony House Band

Oct. 29 -- 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670  
W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

#### Firefall

Oct. 29 -- 7 p.m.  
Hamburg Palace Theatre,  
31 Buffalo St.  
erieevents.com.

#### BT Halloween Show

Oct. 30 -- 5:30 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions,  
145 West 11th St.  
facebook.com/basement.  
transmissions.

#### Dave Callaghan Quartet

Oct. 30 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Wegman's Cafeteria, 6143  
Peach St. jazzerie.com.

#### Friday Night Jazz

Oct. 30 & Nov. 6  
-- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Oasis Pub, 3122 West  
Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

#### S & S Acoustics

Oct. 30 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Sprague Farm & Brew  
Works, 22043 US Hwy. 6 &  
19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

#### Chris Young with Eric Paslay & Clare Dunn

Oct. 30 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809  
French St. erieevents.com.

#### Strangers & Liars, Claire Stuczynski

#### & The Remnants

Oct. 30 -- 9 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. facebook.  
com/kingsrookclub.

#### I-90's Erie's Ultimate Tribute to the 90's

Oct. 30 -- 9 p.m.  
Sherlocks Erie PA, 508  
State St. facebook.com/  
sherlocksparkplace.

#### Hired Hit Men

Oct. 30 -- 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs &  
Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy.  
presqueisledowns.com.

#### Cosmic Rhythm

Oct. 30 -- 9:30 p.m.  
to 12:30 a.m.  
Erie Ale House, 1033  
State St. facebook.  
com/ErieAleHouse.

#### Saturday Night Blues

Oct. 31 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Oasis Pub, 3122 West  
Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

#### Psycho with Orchestra

Oct. 31 -- 8 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811  
State St. gannon.edu.

#### Halloween Extravaganza with Falling Hollywood & VWLS

Oct. 31 -- 9 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. facebook.  
com/kingsrookclub.

#### Kiss This Halloween Bash

Oct. 31 -- 9 p.m.  
Sherlocks Erie PA, 508  
State St. facebook.com/  
sherlocksparkplace.

#### Malpractice

Oct. 31 -- 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs &  
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presqueisledowns.com.

#### To Those Left Behind Tour

Nov. 1 -- 5 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions,  
145 West 11th St.  
facebook.com/basement.  
transmissions.

#### Rock Erie Music Awards

Nov. 1 -- 7 p.m.  
Bayfront Convention  
Center, 1 Sassafras  
Pier erieevents.com.

#### Yuth Forever, 2x4, Left Behind, Varials & More

Nov. 5 -- 4 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions,  
145 West 11th St.  
facebook.com/  
beardedbabyproductions.

#### Passion "Even So Come" Tour

Nov. 5 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie First Assembly of God,  
8150 Oliver Rd. wctl.org.

#### Live from Studio Q - Andrew von Oeyen

Nov. 6 -- noon  
WQLN, 8425 Peach  
St. eriephil.org.

#### First Friday Concert

Nov. 6 -- 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.  
Dr. William P. Alexander  
Music Center, 110 Kiltie  
Rd. events.edinboro.edu.

#### Mo Mojo

Nov. 6 -- 9 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. facebook.  
com/kingsrookclub.

#### Erie Ale House Acoustics

Nov. 6 -- 9 p.m. to midnight  
Erie Ale House, 1033  
State St. facebook.  
com/ErieAleHouse.

#### Sam Hyman

Nov. 7 -- 2 to 5 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars, 11727  
E Main Rd. facebook.

com/Arundel-Cellars.

#### Saturday Night Latin

Nov. 7 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Oasis Pub, 3122 West  
Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

#### The Romance of Schumann

Nov. 7 -- 8 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811  
State St. eriephil.org.

#### Aqueous

Nov. 7 -- 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921  
Peach St. facebook.  
com/kingsrookclub.

#### Faculty Recital Series: Alessio Olivieri & Elisa Ramon

Nov. 10 -- 7 p.m.  
Dr. William P. Alexander  
Music Center, 110 Kiltie  
Rd. events.edinboro.edu.

### DANCE

#### Dancing Wheels

Oct. 29 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Louis C. Cole Auditorium,  
205 Meadville St. events.  
edinboro.edu.

#### Count...The Legend of Dracula

Nov. 5, 6, 7 -- 8 p.m.  
Lake Erie Ballet,  
1020 Holland St.  
lakeerieballet.org

#### Dance 1-2-3

Nov. 6 -- 4:30 p.m. &  
Nov. 7 -- 2:30 & 7 p.m.  
& Nov. 8 -- 2 p.m.

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

### FOOD & DRINK

#### Halloween Beats at the Brix

Oct. 31 -- 7 to 9 p.m.  
21 Brix Winery, 6654 W.  
Main Rd. 21brix.com.

#### Bricks & Beer

Nov. 9 -- 6 to 8 p.m.

Lavery Brewing Co., 128 W.  
12th St. laverybrewing.com.

### FILM

#### Living in the Age of Airplanes

Oct. 28, 29, 30 -- 2 & 5 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental  
Center, 301 Peninsula  
Drive. trecpi.org.

#### Deepsea Challenge

Ongoing through Dec.  
31 -- noon & 4 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental  
Center, 301 Peninsula  
Drive. trecpi.org.

#### Tiny Giants

Ongoing through Feb. 26  
-- 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental  
Center, 301 Peninsula  
Drive. trecpi.org.

#### Mulholland Dr.

Oct. 28 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### Amy

Nov. 4 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### Tangerine

Nov. 5 -- 8:30 p.m.  
Edinboro Film Series, 405  
Scotland Rd. facebook.  
com/edinborofilmseries.

#### The Normal Heart

Nov. 8 -- 2 p.m.  
Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E.  
38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

#### Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

Nov. 11 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. erieartmuseum.org.

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Minyao

Ongoing through Nov. 15  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State

St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### Cyclical Beauty & Recent Sculpture

Ongoing through Nov. 17  
Glass Growers  
Gallery, 10 East 5th St.  
glassgrowersgallery.com.

#### Land, Sea and Sky: Details from Nature

Ongoing through Jan. 8  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. erieartmuseum.org.

#### Ian Brill: Storm

Ongoing through Jan. 10  
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.

#### The Visionary Paintings of William Thomas Thompson

Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31  
Bruce Gallery, Doucette  
Hall 215 Meadville St.  
brucegallery.info.

#### 41st Annual October Evenings Juried Exhibit

Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31  
Heeschen Gallery,  
910 Market St.  
artsmeadville.org.

#### On the Surface Works by Jamie Borowicz

Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31 &  
Nov. 1 -- 9 a.m.  
Cummings Gallery, 501 E.  
38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

#### Color & Form

Oct. 28, 29, 30 --  
noon to 5 p.m.  
Urraro Gallery, 135  
W. 14th St. facebook.  
com/urrarogallery.

#### Water Water



## CALENDAR

### Everywhere: Paeon to a Vanishing Resource

Nov. 3 through Nov. 24  
(Opening Reception  
Nov. 3 -- 7 to 9 p.m.)

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

### Water: Elemental, Mutable, Essential

Nov. 3 through Nov. 24  
(Opening Reception  
Nov. 3 -- 7 to 9 p.m.)  
Allegheny College Art  
Gallery, 520 N. Main  
St. allegheny.edu.

### Assembly Required

Nov. 5 through Dec. 4  
Bruce Gallery, Doucette  
Hall 215 Meadville St.  
brucegallery.info.

### Second Sundays

Nov. 8 -- 2 to 4 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. erieartmuseum.org.

### Stitches: Contemporary Fiber Art Show

Nov. 9 through  
Jan. 3 -- 9 a.m.  
Cummings Gallery, 501 E.  
38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

## THEATER

### The Game's Afoot

Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31 -- 7:30  
& Nov. 1 -- 2 p.m.  
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10  
St. erieplayhouse.org.

### Medieval Fest at Riverside

Oct. 30, 31 & Nov. 6, 7,  
13, 14, 20, 21 -- 7 p.m. &  
Nov. 1, 8, 15 -- 2:30 p.m.  
Riverside Inn at Cambridge  
Springs, One Fountain  
Ave. theriversideinn.com.

### Rocky Horror

Oct. 30 -- 8 p.m. &  
Oct. 31 -- midnight  
PACA, 1505 State St.  
paca1505.com.

### Stage Fright: Play Festival of Fear

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

### A Canterbury Feast

Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 -- 5:30  
p.m. & Nov. 1, 8 -- 2:30  
p.m. & Nov. 6 -- 7 p.m.  
The Station Dinner  
Theatre, 4940 Peach St.  
canterburyfeast.com.

### Don't Blame it on the Movies

Nov. 3, 4, 10, 11 -- noon  
The Station Dinner  
Theatre, 4940 Peach St.  
canterburyfeast.com.

### Waiting for Godot

Nov. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20,  
21 -- 8 p.m.  
Renaissance Centre,  
2nd Fl. 1001 State St.  
dramashop.org.

### Things My Mother Taught Me

Nov. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 28, 29  
-- 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. & Nov.  
8, 15, 22, 29 -- 3 to 5 p.m.  
All An Act Theatre, 652  
W. 17th St. allanact.net.

### The Producers

Nov. 11 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State  
St. erieevents.com.

## COMMUNITY/VARIETY

### Connect: Grassroots Efforts to Reshape Our Community

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

### Holocaust Exhibit

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

### Port Farms Harvest Festival

Oct. 28 -- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. &  
Oct. 29, 30 -- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
& Oct. 31 -- 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Port Farms, 2055 Stone  
Quarry Rd. portfarms.com.

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

Oct. 28 -- 11:30 a.m.  
to 1:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational  
Society, 3207 State  
St. jeserie.org.

### In the Kitchen with Chef Scott Schillinger

Oct. 28 -- 2 to 4 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach  
St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Glass Mosaics with Joy Luebbert

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

### ZooBoo!

Oct. 28, 29, 30 -- 6 to 9 p.m.  
Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th  
St. eriezoo.org.

### Talk, Chanting and Meditation with Kedarji

Oct. 28 & Nov. 11  
-- 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
The Bhakta School of  
Transformation, 1421 W  
41st St. bhaktaschool.org.

### Creativity Matters

Oct. 28 & Nov. 4, 11 -- 5:30  
to 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 29 -- 4  
to 6 p.m. & 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach  
St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Haunted History Tours

Oct. 28, 29 -- 7:30 p.m. & Oct.  
30 & Nov. 6 -- 7 & 9:30 p.m.  
The Brewerier At Union  
Station, 123 W. 14th  
St. brewerier.com.

### Medication Consultations with Rebecca Wise, PharmD

Oct. 29 -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach  
St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Sissons' Pumpkin Patch

Oct. 29, 30, 31 -- 10  
a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sissons' Pumpkin Patch,  
11244 Springfield Rd.  
sissonspumpkinpatch.com.

### Monster Mash for Diabetes

Oct. 30 -- 6 to 11 p.m.  
Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel &  
Conference Center, 2800 W.  
8th St. diabeteserie.org.

### Ghosts Stories and Legends of Erie County

Oct. 30 -- 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach  
St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Haunted Hayride & Non-Scary Hayride

Oct. 30 -- 7 to 10 p.m.  
Sparrow Pond Family

Campground & Recreation  
Center, 11103 Rte 19 N.  
sparrowpond.com.

### Gigacities: How Broadband is Reshaping the World

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

### 31st Annual Lakeshore Marching Band Association Championships

Oct. 31 -- 2 to 9:30 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial  
Stadium, 2600 State  
St. lmba.us.

### Erie Otters vs. Sarnia

Oct. 31 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809  
French St. erieevents.com.

### Haunted Halloween Party

Oct. 31 -- 7 to 11 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 32 W. 8th  
St. hauntedhalloweenparty.  
weebly.com.

### Halloween Bash 2015

Oct. 31 -- 10 p.m.  
Docksider, 1015 State  
St. facebook.com/  
DocksiderErie.

### Governor Wolf: Priorities for Pennsylvania

Nov. 1 -- 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Northwest Pennsylvania  
Collegiate Academy, 2825  
State St. jeserie.org.

### US Foreign Policy and Our Role in the World

Nov. 2 -- 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational  
Society, 3207 State  
St. jeserie.org.

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

Nov. 3 -- 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Cathedral Prep Auditorium,  
225 W. 9th St. jeserie.org.

### Let's Make A Deal Live

Nov. 4 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809  
French St. erieevents.com.

### Supper with

### Single Friends

Nov. 4 -- 5:30 to 7 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach  
St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality

Nov. 4 -- 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational  
Society, 3207 State  
St. jeserie.org.

### Brian Regan

Nov. 5 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State  
St. erieevents.com.

### Painting with Dawn Ziegler

Nov. 6, 13 -- 6 p.m.  
North East Arts Council, 25  
Vine St. northeastarts.org

### Erie Otters vs. Peterborough

Nov. 6 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809  
French St. erieevents.com.

### The Future of Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy: A Global Perspective

Nov. 6 -- 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Bayfront Convention  
Center, 1 Sassafras  
Pier jeserie.org.

### Harvest Celebration

Nov. 6, 13 -- noon to 5  
p.m. & Nov. 7, 8, 14, 15  
-- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Lake Erie Wine Country,  
lakeeriewinecountry.org.

### Lunch with the Captain

Nov. 7 -- 11 a.m.  
Erie Maritime Museum,  
150 E. Front St.  
flagshipniagara.org.

### Lou Tullio: A Real Erie Guy

Nov. 7 -- 2 p.m.  
Blasco Library, 160 E.  
Front St. erielibrary.org.

### Wurst Party Ever

Nov. 7 -- 5 to 7 p.m.  
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405  
Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

### Dafmark Turns 25

Nov. 7 -- 7 p.m.  
Dafmark, 1033 State

St. dafmark.org.

### Fall Open House

Nov. 7 -- 1 to 3 p.m.  
Frank G. Pogue Student  
Center, 405 Scotland Rd.  
events.edinboro.edu.

### Erie Otters vs. Windsor

Nov. 7 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809  
French St. erieevents.com.

### Go! Lego Go! Creative Builders Club

Nov. 8 -- 2 p.m.  
North East Arts Council,  
25 Vine St. facebook.  
com/NorthEastArts.

### Vibrant Life Series

Nov. 9 -- 10:30 to 11:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach  
St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Erie Otters vs. Mississauga

Nov. 10 -- 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809  
French St. erieevents.com.

### Veterans Appreciation Day

Nov. 11 -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Presque Isle State  
Park, 1 Peninsula Dr.  
events.dcnr.pa.gov.

### Veterans Day Observance

Nov. 11 -- 11 a.m.  
Reeder Hall, 219 Meadville  
St. events.edinboro.edu.

### Vets and Pets

Nov. 11 -- 11 a.m.  
Frank G. Pogue Student  
Center, 405 Scotland Rd.  
events.edinboro.edu.

### Jackass Superstar Preston Lacy

Nov. 11 -- 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks Erie PA, 508  
State St. facebook.com/  
sherlocksparkplace.

### Stress-Related Brain Dysfunction: Implications in the Legal System

Nov. 11 -- 7 p.m.  
Ridge Library Great  
Room, 16 W. Division  
St. mercyhurst.edu.



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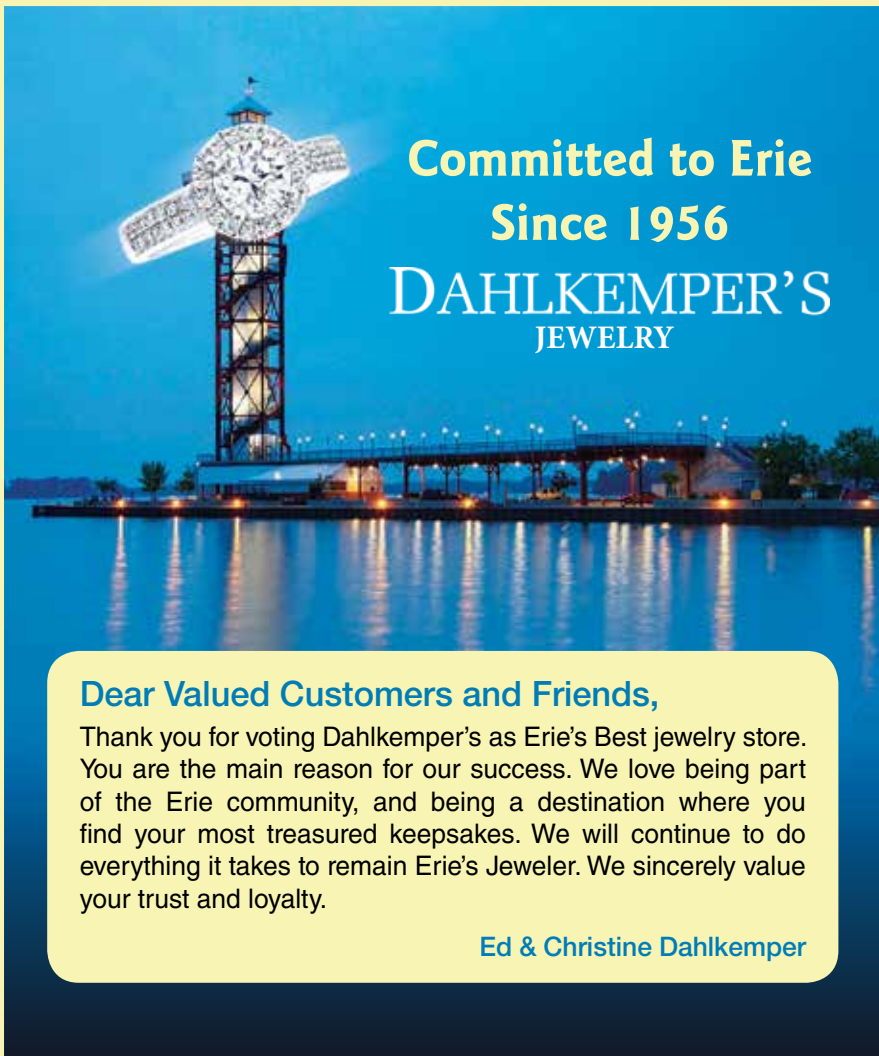
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LAVERY BREWING COMPANY** **6til  
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- November 10th from 6-9pm
- @ Lavery Brewing Company
- doors at 6 start at 7pm
- \$20 per team with a max of 4 people
- limited to the first 10 teams
- cash due at time of registration
- registration at the pub

- benefiting local families in need for the holiday season
- beer, food and prizes
- celebrity panel of judges from Lavery Brewing Company and the Erie Reader
- registration starts immediately.



## A Conversation with Brian Regan

The much-loved comedian will make his sixth Erie appearance just in time.

By: Matt Swanseger

Veteran stand-up comedian Brian Regan returns to the Warner Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 5 after a one-and-a-half year absence ... and the timing couldn't be more perfect.

"If you come back in a year instead of a year-and-a-half, it's like 'Wasn't he just here?'" Regan explains. "If you wait two years, it's like 'I don't know who this guy is. It's gone from my consciousness.'"

According to the notes he brings to our interview, this will be his sixth appearance in Erie. "I have an assistant who writes these things out so I look smart."

Regan is remarkably humble and gracious for such an accomplished man. After 35 years in the business, he's one of the most respected in his field, with the likes of Jerry Seinfeld, Patton Oswalt, and David Letterman singing his praises. Last year, he performed in front of his largest audiences ever (selling out the 12,500-seat EnergySolutions Arena in Salt Lake City on consecutive nights), appeared in his first motion picture (*Top 5* with Chris Rock), and made a record 26th appearance on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Altogether, he puts on about 100 shows a year, averaging 1,500 attendees at each. Obviously, he's smarter than he lets on – because he's been doing something right for a long time.

The smartest thing he has done over the years is trust his instincts. Regan's childhood home just outside of Miami was the incubator for not one, but two, comedians (older brother Dennis). He grew up surrounded by funny people – both his parents and all seven of his siblings possess "tremendous senses of humor." Regan knew early on that he



Left: Brian Regan displaying a few selections from his arsenal of facial expressions, enough to "rival all the gargoyles in Gotham City put together."

liked making people laugh, particularly his father.

"It was joy making my dad laugh. He's a very funny guy. To put together some crafty little thing and say it [in such a way that] he would ... double over laughing was one of the most pleasurable experiences I ever had."

However, he didn't even consider comedy as a profession until his days at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio. "I had no notion of being a standup comedian; I just wanted to get away from my comfort zone ... I started to figure out what worked for me as a human being, and I enjoyed making people laugh. I think maybe being in a different environment helped me get on this path. One way I'm able to make friends is by being funny ... I remember one guy – a fellow student – just laughing like crazy and saying 'Man, you are so bizarre.' That made me feel so good [laughs]. Maybe somebody else would take that as an insult, but I took it as a compliment."

While the physical component of Regan's standup is certainly bizarre – he has enough

warped facial expressions to rival all the gargoyles in Gotham City put together – the subject matter is often no more bizarre than reality itself. Like all worthwhile observational comics, Regan is adept at identifying the strangeness in familiarity, at sifting through the mundane for humanity's essential truths. He is especially keen on the superfluous (why do we need detailed instructions on how to toast a Pop Tart? What use is a refrigerator salesman when all refrigerators serve the same basic purpose?), the pretentious (the one-upmanship of dinner party conversation, first class fliers sneering at the unwashed masses in coach), and the imbalanced (Flipper the dolphin was exclusively good, so he should have a counterpart that is exclusively evil).

Regan's greatest asset as a comedian, however, is his honesty. He is hilariously self-aware, even within the course of our interview. During a pause in the interrogation, he announces Joe Biden has dropped out of the running for the Democratic bid for President. I ask him who that leaves:

**Brian Regan:** Well, it's [Hillary] Clinton in the lead then [Bernie] Sanders is barking at her heels. I don't if that's sexist to say that "her heels." Her shoes?

**Matt Swanseger:** Her "gender-neutral footwear."

**BR:** [laughs] You've got Hillary Clinton and then you've got Bernie Sanders barking at this broad's high-heeled pumps — no, that's going in the wrong direction. That's even more sexist!

**MS:** — as she's strutting down Fifth Avenue with her poodles and miniskirt.

**BR:** How are we gonna have a woman president when all they want to do is shop all day!?

**MS:** She's gonna shop us straight to China. This country is going to hell in a handbag.

**BR:** [laughs] What's gonna happen when she chips a nail?

**MS:** Who steps in as Vice President?

While nothing from the above exchange is likely to make it into one of his routines (noted for their accessibility and inoffensiveness), it demonstrates his ability to momentarily displace himself from subjective experience and survey the bigger picture. Both the convenience and the danger of clichés (e.g., "barking at her heels") is in their thoughtlessness – but whereas most people see only the convenience (within the context of their conversation), Regan sees the potential danger (within the contexts of gender equality/political correctness) and is honest enough to call himself out for it. He's as fundamentally flawed as any of us; he doesn't always say or do the right thing in a given

scenario. The difference is he doesn't fear discussing those (our) flaws on stage in front of thousands of people, regardless of demographics.

"[Whether] I play in New York City or Erie, it's still a group of people who know about McDonald's and Starbucks and airplane seats and kind of laugh at the same things."

The things you'll be laughing at on November 5th may be different from what you've seen before – in fact, up to 75 percent of the stuff he's doing now wasn't in his latest Comedy Central special, *Live From Radio City Music Hall*, broadcast Sept. 26. Rest assured, though, that if you hear it, Regan has laughed at it first. That's all that matters.

"I don't think my job is to get on stage and figure out what audiences are looking for. My job is to get on stage and show audiences what I'm interested in ... I always say to myself, 'Don't try to make the audience laugh, try to make me laugh.' That's what my goal is, to be true to myself ... I'm trying to come up with things that I think are funny, not that the guy out there with the silly hat is gonna think is funny."

I ask if he gets a lot of people with silly hats at his shows.

"That's my favorite kind of audience. Silly hat audiences ... When I'm backstage, that's one of the first things I'll ask my tour manager. 'How many silly hats are out there?' He says 'quite a bit,' I start to feel good about myself. He says 'not that many,' it's a little hurtful."

So make sure you visit your favorite avant-garde haberdasher before the show, Erie. We mustn't disappoint.

*Matt Swanseger can be reached at [mwsanseger@eriereader.com](mailto:mwsanseger@eriereader.com). You can follow him on Twitter @SwazzySwagga or read his blog at [squanderoza.com](http://squanderoza.com).*



## MUSIC REVIEWS

### Protomartyr

The Agent Intellect  
Hardly Art



If you told the members of Detroit's Protomartyr that the world sucks, they seem like the types to agree. The group has thrived on creating post-punk with bleak overtones, but Protomartyr strikes an impressive balance of humor and, well, fun for a band that can't help but sound moody. There's a lot of darkness in vocalist Joe Casey's lyrics, but it never becomes overbearing, either because of a well-placed guitar bridge that brightens up a song like "Towards Starve" or the occasional song that just can't help but sound upbeat, such as the hooky "I Forgive You." Then there's "Ellen," a truly sweet love song Casey wrote from the perspective of his late father to his mother. It's a surprisingly tender moment near the end of an album filled with reminders of loneliness and evil, one that makes quite an impact in an already impressive release. – Alex Bieler



### Deerhunter

Fading Frontier  
4AD



After a foray into grittier sonic territory on 2013's *Monomania*, Bradford Cox and Deerhunter find themselves in a more relaxed state on their new album *Fading Frontier*. Even though it doesn't contain quite the bombast of Deerhunter's last outing, *Fading Frontier* still manages to hit hard through some of its lyrics, whether it's a track about mortality on "Take Care" or when Cox sings "jackknifed on the side street crossing/ I'm alive and that's something" on "Breaker," a short line that carries extra weight after the singer was hit by a car last year. It's a jarring moment in a song that's so dreamy, it could give Beach House a run for its money, but one that keeps you riveted on Cox's every word. It's just an added bonus that *Fading Frontier* happens to be chock full of lovely compositions as well, pumping out nine breezy tracks that tackle hard subjects. – Alex Bieler



### Sarsen

Sarsen  
Independent



Sarsen has been making the rounds in Erie's metal scene since 2008, but now it has its own full-length release to help local headbangers rock out. "Forest of the Facade" kicks the band's self-titled debut album off on an impressive note. Actually, an impressive sequence of notes is more like it, as the song's intro is comprised of an intriguing riff drenched in reverb before heading into some muscular NWOBHM (New Wave of British Heavy Metal) territory. From there, Sarsen fills the album with plenty of squealing guitars, thundering bass and drums, and growling vocals. *Sarsen* is a solid album throughout, with some rather intriguing moments, from the aforementioned intro to the blistering solo just over three minutes into "Soul Hacker." Album highlight "Curse of Man" gives fans a nine-minute taste of the quartet's skills, shifting between guttural rampages and slow burns in one take. – Alex Bieler



### Eagles of Death Metal

Zipper Down  
T-Boy/UME



If the title of the album doesn't clue you in to the maturity level of Eagles of Death Metal, perhaps this quote from Jesse Hughes will help: "The new album, *Zipper Down*, really represents to me an attitude and philosophy of life. One should not zipper up, they should zipper down and let it all hang out." Pretty standard stuff for this songwriting team. The band's other permanent member is Josh Homme, lead singer and creative force behind Queens of the Stone Age. Maybe my funny bone is broken, but I have difficulty figuring out what part of their adolescent humor is tongue-in-cheek and what part is tongue-hanging-out, and that's confounding to someone who loves straight-ahead, stripped-down rock and roll. Still, nobody strips it down like EODM. Their fuzzed-out version of Duran Duran's "Save a Prayer" is even sexier than the original. "Skin Tight Boogie" is a funky, glam-tastic party tune. Ready to embrace your inner ninth-grader and have some crude, raucous, dumbed-down fun? Then this is the album for you. – Bryan Toy



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# What's Haunting Erie County?

A historical retrospectralcle

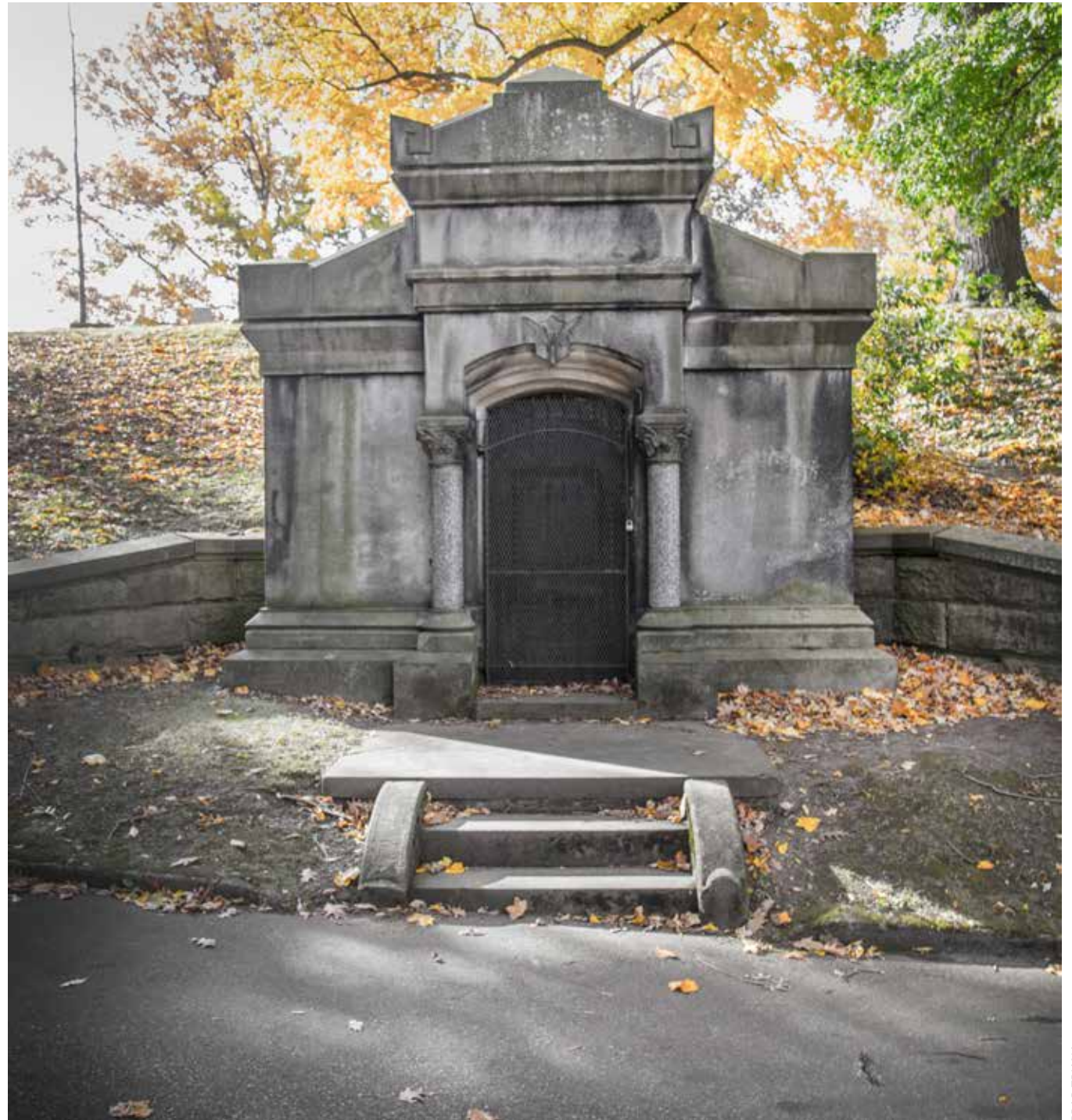
By: Matt Swanseger

I have long had my suspicions with superstition. Not that I was never young and gullible, but thirteen blessed years in the Erie Public School System steered me towards a policy of healthy skepticism and rational inquiry. For example, if my projected path and that of a black cat's do not intersect at a perpendicular, is the hex still valid (and if so, what is the effective range)? Have you ever seen Bigfoot in 1080p? Because, so far, high resolution and image stabilization seem to be foreign concepts to the amateur Sasquatch photographer (I had to qualify that because I'm sure there's a *professional* Sasquatch photographer out there whose comprehensive portfolio of Bigfoot senior pictures, Bigfoot family photos, and Bigfoot wedding shoots is just *waiting* to knock my galoshes off).

Given my dubious attitude toward the strange and supernatural, I was taken aback when a routine Ouija board consultation (I think I asked it what I should cook for dinner that night) turned into a 1,800-word investigative report on "What's Haunting Erie County." It didn't make much sense at the time, but hey, who am I to question the Dark Lord? (Please be aware that all clunky phrasing, cringe-worthy puns, and general tastelessness henceforth is the devil's work and not my own).

## Eerie Beginnings

At 99,542 strong (per the most recent census), Pennsylvania's fourth most-populous city does not readily fit the profile of a "ghost town." The Reverend Robin S. Swope, author of *Eerie Erie: Tales of the Unexplained from Northwest Pennsylvania*, suggests otherwise. Turns out there was a whole lot of living and dying going on around here even before European settlers swept in and began living and dying in their place (which was as much their signature move as "Stone Cold" Steve Austin's is the Stone Cold Stunner or Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's is the People's Elbow). Prior to the settlers' arrival, the shores of Lake Erie were home to the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, along with



BRAD TRIANA

the Erielhonan (Seneca for "long tail"), who were often lumped in with the Iroquois due to their similar language and culture.

The Eries (as they became known to lazy Europeans who couldn't be bothered to spell out the whole word. *Kids* those days.) adopted the panther as their tribal mascot, a creature regarded warily by the Seneca due to the belief that they were infused with

**Pull my finger, if you dare! Most early Erie cemeteries were not around long enough to enjoy the legacy of THE Erie Cemetery. Pictured here is "The Vampire Crypt," the fabled domain of a bloodsucking menace. Legend has it that a local boy once infiltrated the crypt, pulled the ring from the enclosed corpse's finger, and woke up with his own ring finger horrifically torn from his hand.**

the corrupted souls of "tyrants and unfaithful queens." Panthers aplenty prowled Pennsylvania back then, so you can imagine that the Seneca were a little on edge about the Eries.

Nonetheless, they coexisted (albeit uneasily) until – ironically enough – the Seneca were betrayed by an Erie tribal leader in 1634. All hell broke loose – whereas the Seneca could



**FEATURE**

deal before, now they *could not even*. By 1653, the Eries were all but extinguished, as their large feline counterparts would be two centuries later.

As for the Iroquois Confederacy, they packed it up after reaching a settlement with the state and federal government for \$3,200, and *voila!* Erie, Pennsylvania was officially a thing. However, they forgot to take their bones with them ... oops! Massive burial mounds were once pervasive within what would become our city limits. The Warner and Beers Company mentions in its *History of Erie County* the area near the present-day intersection of East Bayfront Parkway/East Bayfront Drive/Port Access Road and the former Warfel Farm (which encompassed East 18th-28th Streets between East Avenue and Elm Street) as sites where the mounds were most abundant.

Although socioeconomic and political factors certainly figure into Erie's recent spell of misfortune, I'm pretty sure "built on ancient Indian burial ground" trumps them all. It's become my go-to scapegoat when things aren't going my way and now it can be yours, too ... all for the low, low price of \$3,200.

matter of hotel or parking garage (or really, really ridiculously good-looking Sheetz), they were often a matter of life or death. Specifically, whose interests do you favor? Prior to the establishment of Erie Cemetery in 1851 for Protestants and Trinity Cemetery on West Lake Road in 1869 for Catholics, churches generally maintained their own graveyards. That was all fine and good at first, but with a burgeoning population and the need to promote development of homes and businesses, it became impractical to have so many graveyards scattered about.

In the game of musical caskets, you're either dead or you're dead somewhere else. Bodies were shuffled between sites (sometimes more than once) until the cemetery associations got the kinks worked out around the time of America's Civil War. However, as recently as 1977, Erie has been forced to raise the dead. Many of the area's poor and disenfranchised – often children and infants - were buried at the former Erie Alms House Cemetery (near West 23rd and Pittsburgh Avenue). While many of the remains were relocated (to

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**The Erielhonan should have adopted a less controversial tribal mascot – an ethnic caricature of a French fur-trapper, perhaps?**



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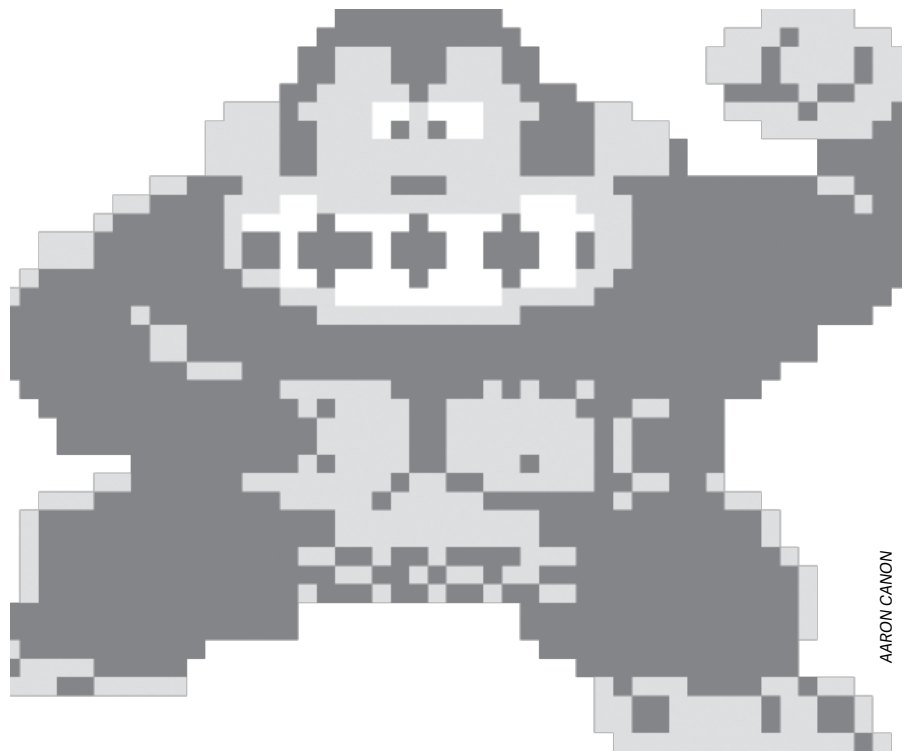
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## FEATURE



AARON CANON

**Most extant Sasquatch footage is on par with this 1981 file photo of Donkey Kong.**

the Dobler Farm off Blair Road in Fairview Township), 247 of the 690 persons are still there, trapped beneath utility lines, businesses, and roadways.

Just in case any of you west-siders were feeling left out so far.

### Presque Reality or Presque Isle-usion?

While municipal records and the journal entries of bygone agriculturists make for intriguing source material, the fantastical tales spun by drunken sailors and hysterical teenagers are that much more fascinating. And there is no shortage of these pertaining to the undisputed gems of the Gem City: Lake Erie and Presque Isle. Among the nuggets added to our folkloric treasure chest over the years are: ghost ships, UFOs, and my personal favorite, the "Storm Hag." Let's explore:

### Cannonball!

Despite the admonitions of their elders, young couples have been sneaking into Presque Isle after dusk to canoodle - or worse yet, get "freak-nazty" - for generations. For those who have chosen to do so in the vicinity of Graveyard Pond (near Beach 11), things have occasionally gotten a little "freak-nazztier." Apparitions dressed in old, tattered "bathrobes" have appeared to numerous witnesses over the years,

including Erie's most beloved beach bum, Joe Root. He referred to them as "Perry's Will O' Wisps," because those "bathrobes" were actually early 1800's naval uniforms.

See, way back in the winter of 1813, our boy Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and his gang found themselves in a bit of a pickle. The temperature plunged and with it the collective morale of the U.S. *Brig Niagara*, then harbored in Presque Isle's Little Bay (now Misery Bay). Smallpox was spreading rapidly through the ship's cabin and showed no signs of abating. After attempts to quarantine the infection failed, some say officers ordered the diseased to be euthanized (or massacred, if you were to ask the ghosts, who are still pissed about it). The dying were disposed of following the same procedure as the dead - wrapped in canvas and sunk with a cannonball through a hole in the ice of the neighboring lagoons.

There is no written record of this ever happening, but the legend of Graveyard Pond endures just the same. So remember, parents - vaccinate your children. And children, keep your pants on.

### Home Is Where the Hag Is

Long before Whitney Houston or Sadie Hawkins took the initiative to ask boys to dance, Jenny Greenteeth was turning traditional gender roles upside-down amidst the waves of Lake Erie ... and many a boat along with them, according to sailor lore.

Yes, when [Cont. on page 31w]

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## Geeked Out

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*

 The image shows the title card for the movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens". The word "STAR" is at the top in a large, yellow, outlined font. Below it, "THE FORCE AWAKENS" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "WARS" is written in the same large, yellow, outlined font as "STAR". The background is a dark space filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes.
 

# STAR THE FORCE AWAKENS WARS

LUCASFILMS

**T**he final *Star Wars* trailer is out. Time to get hyped and then immediately temper our expectations. We've been hurt before, but let's not dwell on that just yet. First let's talk about how awesome it is that *Star Wars* is getting a new film. And so far, it's looking like everything we want it to be.

The tone in the latest trailer is perfect for those who love the original trilogy. What made *Star Wars* so special was the concept of the "old new." Yes it was the future, but it wasn't flashy; it was dirty. Things broke. Technology wasn't magic. That's not to say the Force didn't exist, but it existed to the common alien much like Harry Potter exists to us. Just stories.

This is perfectly captured by Han Solo throughout the three original films. It's why Harrison Ford's performance in the trailer is so powerful. When asked about the "stories of what really hap-

pened," he responds, "It's all true, all of it." Solo looks like a man who has seen some things.

Look, in the first film, he doesn't even believe in the force, chalking it up essentially to sleight of hand. In the second film, he watches Darth Vader effortlessly block his blaster shots, torture him using the Force, and then freeze him in carbonite. Then in *Return of the Jedi*, Luke singlehandedly saves him from Jaba the Hutt with just a laser sword. Now, we see an aged Hans Solo looking at the camera, hauntingly confirming the existence of the greatest urban legend of all time. A farm boy from Tatooine destroyed two Death Stars and saved the galaxy from the Dark Side of the Force. Can't think of a better way to set the tone of what happened since *Return of the Jedi*.

But let us not forget the great betrayal of Episodes 1-3. When George Lucas returned to the trilogy to give us the

story of Anakin Skywalker, he took us to a world where Jedi were everywhere! Jedi weren't novel or urban legends; they were a giant peacekeeping force. The world was shiny and technology

---

**But let us not forget the great betrayal of Episodes 1-3. When George Lucas returned to the trilogy to give us the story of Anakin Skywalker, he took us to a world where Jedi were everywhere!**

---

was magic. Anakin was completely unlikeable and failed to portray the

tragic hero he is. It also boringly delved deeply into politics. Damn you Jar Jar for getting played and giving Palpatine (The Emperor for those uninitiated) power, resulting in the genocide of the Jedi. You wonder why everyone hates you.

So we've been hurt before. The hype for Episode 1 was high. And the result was the beginning of a series of major bummers. Each film muddied the waters of what has become the cathedral of nerds and geeks around the world. Can JJ Abrams raise the series back up to its former glory? I sure hope so. And I swear, if that misty-eyed Harrison Ford performance turns out to be wasted, then no sin can be forgiven. I've watched the trailer countless times and I always get chills.

*John Lindvay can be contacted at [jLindvay@ErieReader.com](mailto:jLindvay@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @Fightstrife.*



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[Cont. from page 15] nicate what is being done and what needs to be done to affect change statewide. Pardon the analogy, but thinking about the Commonwealth as a patient, I imagine your pediatric background gives you a framework for dealing with the health of the Commonwealth in the sense that it's difficult to communicate some of these problems, and also that the patient doesn't always know how to express what those problems are.

**RL:** I think that's true, but I've spent my life and career seeing pediatric and adolescent patients and young adult patients and their families. So I have a lot of experience in trying to communicate things to patients and their families, and thus the public, about all of these issues. We go on many speaking engagements and do many interviews to get the word out about the scope of the opioid crisis and all the different measures the administration is doing to address it.

**JW:** How important is it for you as physician general to remind legislators and the general public that living well and being of sound mind and body are important parts of the sociopolitical welfare of the state as well?

**RL:** I have a great relationship with the legislature. Secretary of Health (Karen) Murphy and I speak with the legislature all the time about health-related issues. I had the opportunity to meet all 50 state senators during the confirmation process and to talk about opioids and other significant public health problems and I was very pleased to be confirmed unanimously by the state senate in June.

**JW:** Your unanimous confirmation, I think most people would agree, is impressive, especially given the political climate and the challenge that Gov. Wolf received on other nominations. Does that unanimous confirmation provide you a mandate or inertia for policy initiatives that you'd like to see at the state level?

**RL:** I wouldn't say that I have a mandate, but I and the Department of Health as a whole have a great relationship with the legislature, and we consult with each other all the time.

**JW:** From what I've read, it seems that you've embraced your role as a mentor and a popular figure in the LGBT community, and at the same

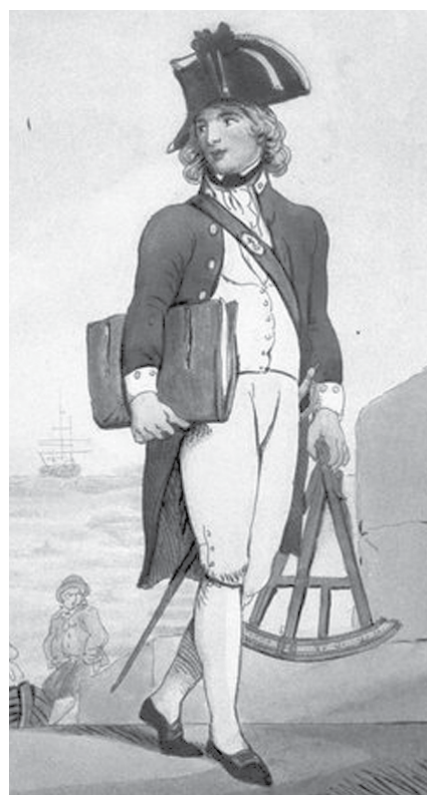
time you work hard to make sure that your personal narrative does not interfere with the work you're trying to do. Are you forced to reconcile those interests at all, particularly since you're working in a political context?

**RL:** I've mentioned before that I'm very pleased to serve as a mentor, a role model, an advocate for the LGBT and the transgender population and to help in any way I can. The Governor is a strong supporter of non-discrimination efforts and has always been very supportive of that and non-discrimination legislation. But I do like to emphasize that I wasn't nominated for this position because I'm an openly transgender woman. I was nominated because of my medical and professional qualifications and confirmed based on those qualifications. I am aware of the interests in terms of my being an openly transgender woman in a position such as physician general, but my private life is private and really is not relevant to the public health issues of the state.

**JW:** Does your personal experience as a transgender woman factor into your vision for the future of medical treatment and policy in the Commonwealth? And from a policy standpoint on LGBT equality in medical treatment and health care coverage, where is the Commonwealth and where should we be going?

**RL:** There are lots of internal discussions about LGBT issues, particularly emphasizing non-discrimination legislation. I think that my knowledge of the LGBT community as a transgender woman as well as my experience at Equality PA and also my knowledge of transgender medical care informs my perspective and my ability to consult with Secretary Murphy and the Governor on all of these issues. Everything I've learned during my many years of professional practice informs how I consult on these medical issues and all issues in terms of public health.

*(Read the full interview at ErieReader.com) For more information on GEAE's Intersections of Equality Conference and conference registration visit greatereriealliance.com. Jim Wertz can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @jim\_wertz.*



THOMAS ROWLANDSON

**"Oh, bugger. I just hate it when they leave the political pamphlet out on the cold cobblestones in the morning."**

phantom ships in the shape of the *Erie* appeared to onlookers on shore, first near Cleveland (after a severe thunderstorm – some contend the Hag strikes just as things begin to simmer down), then near Erie (before a severe thunderstorm). Those acquainted with the Hag advised against rescue attempts, warning that these holograms were only an invitation to their own demise.

– Winter 1942 – The tugboat *Admiral* was accompanying the oil tanker *Clevco* eastbound toward Cleveland, when early one December morning, the *Admiral* disappeared. The towline it was attached to was angled into the waves, as if it had been yanked downward. The Coast Guard was radioed and by the time it arrived, both ships were M.I.A.

The Civil Air Patrol joined the hunt the following morning and spotted the *Clevco*. The pilot's radio promptly went dead and the *Clevco* was engulfed in a sudden snowstorm. A cutter ship sighted it later, but surprise! The tanker dissolved into another spontaneously-appearing blizzard (at press time, the Storm Hag might be the most legitimate attempt to rationalize Erie weather I have yet encountered). The *Clevco* eventually reestablished radio with the Coast Guard, but only for about an hour. Communications went silent and it was neither seen nor heard from again.

Wow, look at this bloated article. That's the thing with these urban legends; they suck you in like the spindly limbs of the Storm Hag. If you would like to get sucked in further, check out *Eerie Erie*, available on Amazon for \$14.99.

Welp, time to ask the Ouija board if there's anything I need at the store.

*Local author Robin S. Swope will talk about his book Eerie Erie: Tales of the Unexplained from Northwest Pennsylvania from 1-2 p.m. on Oct. 31, at the Millcreek Branch of Erie Public Library. For more info: 451.7084.*

*Matt Swanseger can be reached at mswanseger@eriereader.com. You can follow him on Twitter @SwazzySwagga or read his blog at squanderoza.com.*

[Cont. from page 36] you're a ghastly she-demon with yellow feline eyes, pale green skin, and green shark-like teeth, you're sometimes forced to resort to desperate measures to get the attention you crave. Even (gasp!) poetry:

*Come into the water, love,  
Dance beneath the waves,  
Where dwell the bones of sailor lads  
Inside my saffron caves.*

Upon hearing her doggerel, her prospective partner would almost invariably reply "thanks but no thanks," and Greenteeth would almost invariably proceed to throw a "tempest" tantrum and sink the ship. Hence her more popular alias, The Lake Erie Storm Hag.

Swope admits the whole Storm Hag story seems a little farfetched, but does not discount it entirely, referencing examples of ships that have vanished without a trace on Lake Erie:

– Fall 1782 – After withstanding a violent storm, it seemed to be clear sailing for an owler (a ship smuggling wool) on its way to Presque Isle. Less than a mile from shore under the light of a full moon, the water bubbled, the Storm Hag popped out, poisoned the crew with her untrimmed talons, and dragged the boat down, the screams of sailors echoing in the night. What a diva!

– Summer 1841 – The steamship *Erie* exploded 33 miles from Buffalo, killing 250 people. Twice thereafter, burning



## ER Sports

JRL is on a roll!

By: James R. LeCorchick

After making predictions for football games for over 40 years, there are numerous weekends I have blocked out of my mind. The pain of being so wrong can mess with one's self-esteem, and that's not good for the fragile mental state I possess. Also, people love to bring a bad weekend of selections to my attention while failing to acknowledge a successful effort when that occurs.

So with that in mind, and sounding like a braggart, I will not wait to hear from my "friends." I will pat myself

Let me begin with my picks from a few weeks back. The breakdown shows an incredibly strong effort that I have to admit I am extremely proud of.

on the back for the past two weeks. Wow! This feels good already.

So let me begin with my picks from a few weeks back. The breakdown shows an incredibly strong effort that I have to admit I am extremely proud of.

Let me proceed before I hurt myself patting myself on back and am unable to continue.

WEEK 7: High Schools — 21-1, Colleges — 8-1, Pros — 2-1. This gave me a week seven card of a magnificent 31-3.

WEEK 8: High Schools — 20-2, Colleges — 10-0, Pros — 2-1. This week ended with a showing of 32-3 for a pretty incredible two-week showing of 63-6: a winning percentage of .913.

Quick Book Report  
Charles N. deGravelles' *Billy Cannon: A Long, Long Run* is

the story of the 1959 Heisman Trophy winner from Louisiana State University. It was a terrific read for someone in my age group; but unfortunately, that group is dwindling and sometimes way too rapidly. This would've been a tremendous book 40 years ago, but Cannon never found an author he trusted until recently.

The book was well written and informative, but way too late and not very meaningful to most readers.

If you really want some great info on the LSU great, I suggest renting the movie *Everybody's All-American* starring Dennis Quaid as Gavin Grey. It's presented as fiction but there's no doubt the 1988 film is about Cannon, referred to as the Grey Ghost in the film. This is an entertaining film for people of all ages.

Week 9  
HIGH SCHOOLS  
Meadville 49 EAST 12  
Cochran 24 EISENHOWER 20  
Maplewood 34 UNION CITY 16

Youngsville 26 SAE-GERTOWN 14

CORRY 21 Slippery Rock 20  
GREENVILLE 28 Sharon 26  
WARREN 30 Grove City 20  
HICKORY 41 Titusville 20  
NORTH EAST 22 Fairview 21  
HARBOR CREEK 36 Girard 20  
Seneca 38 MERCYHURST  
PREP 20

Conneaut 35 CENTRAL  
TECH 30

OIL CITY 26 Strong Vincent  
20

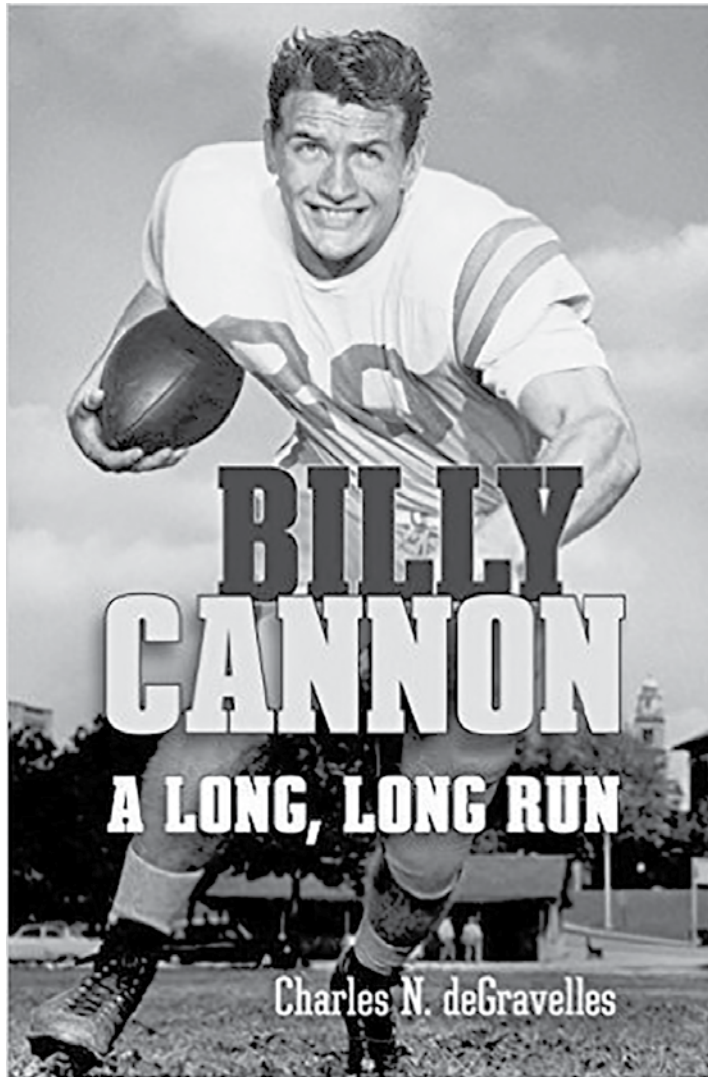
McDOWELL 24 Buffalo St.  
Joe's 21

GENERAL McLANE 44 Du-  
Bois 40

TOP 3 GAMES  
3. NORTHWESTERN 20 Fort  
LeBoeuf 19: A good one for the  
fans.

2. CANISIUS 31 Cathedral  
Prep 21: Buffalo team is a pow-  
erhouse.

1. Cambridge Springs 28



IROQUOIS 24: Pair of well-  
coached, entertaining squads.

COLLEGES  
MERCYHURST 30 Seton Hill  
28

GANNON 35 California 31  
Slippery Rock 38 EDINBORO  
21

North Carolina 27 PITT 24

PENN STATE 24 Illinois 17  
GEORGIA 28 Florida 24  
North Dame 27 TEMPLE 24

PROS  
Cardinals 27 BROWNS 20  
STEELERS 24 Bengals 21  
Seahawks 21 COWBOYS 20  
Packers 28 BRONCOS 24  
PANTHERS 27 Colts 24

Left: Well written and informative, this would've been a tremendous book 40 years ago, but Cannon never found an author he trusted until recently. Now it's way too late.

Week 10  
MEADVILLE 40 Franklin 38  
CONNEAUT 35 Oil City 22  
General McLane 34 STRONG  
VINCENT 18

WEST MIDDLESEX 22 Fort  
LeBoeuf 20  
Cambridge Springs 30  
NORTHWESTERN 20  
Harbor Creek 44 SAE-  
GERTOWN 12

CORRY 38 Union City 14  
SENECA 40 Youngsville 14  
CATHEDRAL PREP 45 East 12  
Iroquois 34 MERCYHURST  
PREP 18

TOP 3 GAMES  
3. SHARPSVILLE 28 Green-  
ville 24: There will be some se-  
rious hitting going on here.

2. NORTH EAST 26 Reynolds  
20: Could go other way.

1. McDowell 31 CENTRAL  
TECH 28: Good for all the fans.

COLLEGES  
CALIFORNIA (PA) 28 Mercy-  
hurst 24

IUP 38 Gannon 35  
SETON HILL 34 Edinboro 27  
SMU 28 Temple 27  
MEMPHIS 30 Navy 28  
NEBRASKA 24 Michigan  
State 21

CLEMSON 24 Florida State 22  
PITT 28 Notre Dame 27  
TCU 48 OKLAHOMA STATE

45  
ALABAMA 31 LSU 27

PROS  
BENGALS 28 Browns 21  
Dolphins 27 BILLS 24  
STEELERS 34 Raiders 21  
Eagles 28 COWBOYS 24  
Packers 27 PANTHERS 21

James R. LeCorchick  
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on Twitter @JRLSports.





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# GET IN YOUR GAME!

## ATV GIVEAWAY



**OFF-ROAD EXPRESS**  
GET OUT AND PLAY!

1- ATV Winner and 2 - \$500 Cash Prize Winners  
Every Friday in October!

10 Lucky winners, every 30 minutes from 4pm - 9:30pm  
will receive \$100 in free play.

3 Lucky winners at 10pm will have a chance to take home an ATV! Pick a winning  
key and take home the ATV, pick a non winning key and get \$500 Cash!

One free entry for every Friday you play in October One bonus entry for every 500  
points earned on Fridays in October

## HAPPY HOUR

50% OFF DRINK SPECIALS  
\$5 APPETIZERS



**FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS**  
**5PM TO 7PM**  
FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

October 30 & 31 (no happy hour entertainment due to Breeder's Cup Weekend)

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

IN OCTOBER • CLUBHOUSE 9PM



**THE HIRED HIT MEN**  
OCTOBER 30



**MALPRACTICE**  
OCTOBER 31

## BACKSTRETCH BUFFET

A la Carte Menu

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