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## ERIE READER

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**Editors-in-Chief:**

Brian Graham & Adam Welsh

**Managing Editor:**

Katie Chriest

**Contributing Editors:**

Ben Speggen

Jim Wertz

**Contributors:**

Lisa Austin, Civitas

Mary Birdsong

Rick Filippi

Lisa Gensheimer

Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

John Lindvay

Brianna Lyle

Dan Schank

Tommy Shannon

Ryan Smith

Ti Summer

Matt Swanseger

Sara Toth

Bryan Toy

Nick Warren

Senator Sean Wiley

**Cover Design:**

Nick Warren

**Cover Photo:**

Brad Triana

**Photographers:**

Ed Bernik

Ryan Smith

Brad Triana

**Publisher's Assistant:**

Emily Hanisek

**Intern:**

Angie Jeffery

1001 State St. Suite 901  
Erie, Pa., 16501

contact@eriereader.com

The Erie Reader is the only 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 300 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

Five years of highlighting the best of Erie ... and we're just getting started.

Some towns seem to have it all figured out. All of the accouterments of progress and hipness are evident, centralized, and easy to access. You have to be a little more resourceful to discover the great things happening in Erie. Though an impressive number of individuals and organizations work tirelessly to improve daily life around here – and though many local entities offer the same level of rich cultural offerings you'd expect in larger cities – there's no single area with a blazing sign announcing: "Here's where interesting people go to do cool stuff."

Of course, that's where the *Reader* comes in. In fact, this issue marks five years of serving a similar purpose as that imaginary blazing sign.

And Erieites are nothing if not resourceful, as several featured in this issue once again exemplify.

Despite our inevitable limitations, Erie often feels like a place where fewer boundaries exist between having an idea and executing it. You don't

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Despite our inevitable limitations, Erie often feels like a place where fewer boundaries exist between having an idea and executing it. You don't have to be an expert with an alphabet of credentials behind your name. You needn't do something outrageous to set yourself apart from a sea of others trying to accomplish the same goals.

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have to be an expert with an alphabet of credentials behind your name. You needn't do something outrageous to set yourself apart from a sea of others trying to accomplish the same goals. Though challenges abound (as with anywhere), the bottom line seems to be that if you want something to exist here, you might as well go ahead and create it.

Inspired beginnings like the one depicted in Ti Sumner's feature about the Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center (TREC) exemplify this. TREC, which began when one of its founders came across an article about therapeutic horseback riding in *Parade* magazine, started from the sort of "we should do that here" mindset that has initiated so many great offerings in our area. Today, TREC has helped hundreds of local riders to cope with various disabilities and disorders through the bond between human and horse.

A similar spirit brought Chicory Hill Herbs into being almost 20 years ago. As Ryan Smith explains in his profile of this Peach Street establishment, the rest of the community – and much of the country – is catching up with Chicory Hill's forward-thinking approach to health and well-being which, in many ways, is actually a return to the pharmaceutical-free roots of wellness. The business provides a nexus for holistic perspectives, where those hoping to connect with a like-minded locals gravitate.

Musician Zack Orr, featured on this issue's cover, has demonstrated how the boundaries of a like-minded, appreciative community need not end at the city's borders. Orr's 365 Days of Song project, which enabled him to stream videos globally, will soon culminate in a celebration at Basement Transmissions.

And this spirit likewise had plenty to do with Elvage Murphy's launching of Shoot Above Par in 2010. As Jim Wertz explains in his column, "Murphy, himself an avid golfer, believes that golf helps kids learn to manage stress and anxiety, develop attention to detail, and foster relationships through casual, professional, and competitive interactions."

Murphy told Wertz, "For us it's about measuring ourselves against the values that we're talking about – honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship – and it's about exemplifying those values in a way that they see and experience."

So many locals make Erie better by exemplifying the values of a strong community. What we lack in local financial resources, we more than make up for in individual creativity and resourcefulness.

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## NEWS & VIEWS

### Just a Thought

Two-wheeled travel through our soulful surroundings



SHELDON PETERSON

**The glaciers responsible for carving this landscape moved with a steady slowness we'd do well to emulate, and a bike provides just the right pacing.**

future to notice.

Back then, the bike was my source of freedom, both physical and mental. Still is.

Riding on from Elk Creek, surrounded by spring's birds getting on with their song and dance, I recalled the blissful bike rides of my youth, and how the bike is, in many ways, transport perfected. Such a simple, pure machine. Such a perfect vehicle for appreciating one's surroundings, and for traveling at a pace that doesn't feel like you're covering miles faster than your mind can wander.

The glaciers responsible for carving this landscape moved with a steady slowness we'd do well to emulate. Ours is a landscape teeming with life, fecund

**By: Katie Chriest**

This Easter Sunday arrived as an indisputably sublime day. Shimmering, uninhibited sunlight, a sky supersaturated with blue, and warmth that drew even the most indoorsy folks outside, pale forearms bared and eyes squinting with delight against the incandescent sun.

Wherever you were in this water-kissed region of ours, if you were outside, you'd have been hard-pressed not to get an eyeful of loveliness. And with a long, post-brunch afternoon ahead of us, my traveling companion and I chose to take in a wide swath of that beauty on bikes.

We headed southwest along back roads, framed by fields of cover crops not yet plowed under to enrich the soil for summer. Farther out, chickens wandered freely, and children – having already hunted for pastel plastic replicas of eggs – chased each other through beams of dappled sunlight.

Willows wore the freshest green of the season, an almost fluorescent lime

cast that shone against the dark, still bare skeletons of surrounding trees. The color screamed, "Spring! Life!" as if to urge us on.

Eventually, off of Route 98 and south of I-90, we flew down the hill on Gudgeonville Road toward where the legendary covered bridge of the same name stood until arsonists burned it in 2008.

Eternal Elk Creek still flows clearly below the now-basic bridge, and the elderly sycamore whose roots are exposed like a cross section holds fast to the bank. Gray shale slopes rise from the creek as dramatically as skyscrapers from a concrete sidewalk.

Transported by another bike, in another era, I whiled away hours next to that bridge, trying to make sense of the ceaselessly perplexing days that were high school. Maybe I hoped I'd absorb some perspective from that stalwart wooden structure, built in 1868 by now long-deceased hands. I always knew the area was supposed to be haunted, but I was too haunted by worrying about what to do with my

and fresh, yet aged and experienced. It doesn't wear the "Look at me!" dra-

---

Ours is a landscape teeming with life, fecund and fresh, yet aged and experienced. It doesn't wear the "Look at me!" drama of the Rockies or canyon country. But layers of wonder await the attentive eye.

---

ma of the Rockies or canyon country. But layers of wonder await the attentive eye. The earth here feels settled and soulful, and it's easier to sense its depth when you're gliding along at a speed more aligned with the rhythm of natural life.

If you've forgotten what that feels like, situate yourself between a helmet and two unmotored wheels as soon as you can. Freedom awaits.

*Katie Chriest can be contacted at [katie@ErieReader.com](mailto:katie@ErieReader.com).*

## Erie At Large

First Tee: A local look toward golf for life skills.

By: Jim Wertz

There is no shortage of prescriptions for leading Erie's youth away from crime and violence and toward a path of formidable individualism, education, and hope. Jobs, civic engagement, and church regularly top the list. Rarely do shouts of "Golf!, Golf!" rise from the chorus of pols, pundits, and influence peddlers.

That is, until now.

Former judicial candidate, local attorney, and Edinboro University Professor Elvage Murphy believes that golf instills value for those who play the game. That philosophy led to the launch of Shoot Above Par in 2010. Murphy and his wife, Janel, began the organization by sponsoring golf lessons for local children, an investment that caught the attention of family, friends, and others interested in supporting extracurricular activities for kids.

Murphy, himself an avid golfer, believes that golf helps kids learn to manage stress and anxiety, develop attention to detail, and foster relationships through casual, professional, and competitive interactions.

"For us it's about measuring ourselves against the values that we're talking about – honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship – and it's about exemplifying those values in a way that they see and experience," Murphy says. "We get them on a course, and because of the partnerships we have, they can play two holes, three holes, they can play nine or eighteen. We've removed that

**Murphy's passion and the mission of Shoot Above Par, a 501c3 non-profit organization, led to the sponsorship of a new initiative called DRIVE (Develops Rewarding Inspiring Values for Everyone), a program of The First Tee junior golf program based in Florida.**



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barrier for them.”

Overcoming barriers to entry on the golf course is only one step, and perhaps not even the most important. Murphy says that creating a context for seeing and emulating black golfers, like himself, is also an important part of the program.

“Most of the kids know who Tiger Woods is, but beyond that they haven’t really been exposed to golfers of color,” says Murphy. “We start putting a face with the game that these kids can relate to.”

His passion and the mission of Shoot Above Par, a 501c3 non-profit organization, led to the sponsorship of a new initiative called DRIVE (Develops Rewarding Inspiring Values for Everyone), a program of The First Tee junior golf program based in Florida. Erie’s DRIVE is the first of its kind in the region. Murphy was able to bring the program here, in part, because of the support of entrepreneur and golf enthusiast Steve Kinch and an anonymous donor, who helped cover startup costs.

Murphy applied to establish a local

First Tee program late last year. He received notice in early December that Shoot Above Par had been granted access to the DRIVE curriculum, which includes training for instructors and access to junior golf resources. Much of the equipment for the program has been purchased by, or donated to, Shoot Above Par in the past few years.

By January, Murphy only needed a location. He chose the John F. Kennedy Center on Erie’s east side.

“The JFK staff is committed to teaching it and they had the infrastructure in place. Why not build on that? We touched base with them in December and they were excited, overwhelmed,” Murphy recalls. “It was also near public housing and I’ve found that the east side isn’t always given top priority when it comes to developments, new initiatives, and opportunities. JFK was committed to opening this up to kids who would frequent the Booker T. Washington Center and the Boys and Girls Club. So for us, that was also important because other programs like this have always been reserved for residents of a certain area, but right

now we were thinking bigger than one neighborhood and we thought these kids really deserved it.”

The First Tee DRIVE Program is based on on The First Tee Nine Core Values: Honesty, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Respect, Confidence, Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy, and Judgment.

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Murphy says he sees these values in action when he golfs with Shoot Above Par participants.

“When we’re on the golf course and

they see me pick up an aluminum can off the grass and throw it away, the kids might ask, ‘Mr. Murphy, why are you doing that?’ and it’s easy to explain to them respect for property and public space,” he continues. “A couple of holes later, they’re running off the fairway to pick up a piece of paper blowing along the course. It’s not just about the golf.”

He expects similar results when the first cohort of kids at the JFK Center completes the DRIVE curriculum. To date the DRIVE program, which meets Monday evenings at the JFK Center, has had at least 30 students per session. The program is designed for 40-60 students at a time.

Murphy’s optimism and enthusiasm for golf and the youth of Erie is palpable. He sees this sport as a metaphor for life’s struggles and an opportunity for local youth to hold themselves and each other accountable for their scores and for their behavior, both on and off the course.

Jim Wertz can be reached at [jWertz@eriereader.com](mailto:jWertz@eriereader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @jim\_wertz.



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# House for Sale! Features Three Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, and Free Tuition!

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan follows through on a free education plan for local high school grads.

By: Ben Speggen

Just a day apart, Erie and Detroit broke some opposing news. One city unveiled an initiative to retain and increase its population base. The other reported a continued decline.

You might already be guessing which is which, but let's start in Detroit.

Few cities have felt the rise and crash of the economic wave like Detroit has. Crime. Blight. Despair. Rubble left in the wake of the economic swell that collapsed upon its shores only to recede, taking with it jobs, opportunity, and hope.

It's been difficult to ignore given the amount of attention paid to the rise and fall of the great American city. There's something inherently American now about the phoenix story on the Great Lakes. Which may explain why folks like Quicken Loans and Rock Venture Chairman and Founder Dan Gilbert,

NYC hipster boutique billboard owner Philip Kafka, and Texas-based Bedrock Manufacturing owner Tom Kartsotis of Shinola are betting big on Detroit's rebound. Instead of running from the crisis, they're running toward it, each eager to rebuild in his own way.

Why? Simply put: Detroiters refuse to give up.

Detroit is America post-Great Recession. If Detroit and its people, both residents and transplants, can do it – so goes the thought – why the hell can't you? You may have it bad, folks argue, but it's not Detroit – the city *the government bailed out* – bad. Perhaps because when you have little left to lose, taking risks suddenly seems a lot less dicey than playing it safe or doing nothing at all.

For Detroit, risk-taking is paying off. Boldness has begotten boldness and there's palpable groundswell there. To wit, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan an-

nounced March 22 that from that day forward, "every Detroit high school graduate will be guaranteed two years of tuition-free college education."

But just like any good executive will tell you that there's no such thing as a free lunch, there's no such thing as free *anything*, including education. Covering the cost of education means an increase of revenue must come from somewhere else. And if you're thinking taxes, you're one-third right.

Duggan's announcement falls in line with a pretty ambitious and exciting timeline, which started back in 2009 when then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm designated 10 Promise Zones, communities providing pathways to all children by way of universal scholarships to attend college. In March 2009, Detroit City Council submitted documents to the state to establish Detroit as a Promise Zone. Two months later, it was approved.

Fast-forward to May 2013 – and for bean counters and tax-hikes-for-any-reason opponents, this is important – the Detroit Regional Chamber and the Michigan Education Excellence Foundation (MEEF) created the Detroit Scholarship Fund to award community college scholarships. This was critical. For tax increment revenue to be used toward a Promise Zone initiative, private funding, by law, must be used for the first two years (so more than 2,000 high school grads have already received some level of assistance).

On March 14, 2016, the DPZA Board of Directors submitted its Development Plan to the State Treasury. One week after that, the Treasury moved to approve the DPZA Development Plan three-part funding model, which must first exhaust all federal and state grant options. After that, it's on the backs of tax increment revenue and private fundraising.

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Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan announced March 22 that from that day forward, "every Detroit high school graduate will be guaranteed two years of tuition-free college education."

Erie County has lost a net domestic population between 2010 and 2015 of more than 7,000 people, which leaves the city argument inexcusable.

"How are we investing back in our community, and I don't mean in terms of money? What kind of quality of life are we putting into our community?" Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper asked in Weiss's report. "We need to attract and retain good jobs. Our economic development ecosystem is very fractured, and hasn't been doing well for a long time."

Scoffing at the thought of people privately donating to fund college education to people they don't know? "This initiative is based on the Kalamazoo Promise, which started in 2005 and allows anonymous donors to pay for tuition at state universities for that city's public high school graduates," reports Jen Kinney for *Next City*. And it's working.

Essentially, Detroit moved as fast as it legally could to ensure all residents have the opportunity for free education at any one of its five community colleges. And the community is pretty excited about it – and not just because of, you know, *free* education.

"Think of it in terms of what it means for our economy," says Detroit Regional Chamber CEO Sandy Baruah. "Think of any house that has a for-sale sign in front of it in the city of Detroit, and think of a sign right next to it that says this house comes with two years of college guaranteed for your child. Do you think that will help repopulate the city of Detroit?"

In short, it's certainly not de-populating Detroit by driving residents out. And increasing and strengthening the property tax base ensures the continued offer of free education.

Compare this to the front-page news in Erie March 24: "Erie County's population sinks for a fourth straight year."

Although the City of Erie's population has been on the decline, it had been explained by the argument that city residents were merely sprawling out into the county. According to Gerry Weiss's *Erie Times-News* report,

Despite its collapse, Detroit is the opposite of fractured. Collaboration between its chamber, a foundation, and smart politics resulted in free education. And that's not even the end game. So go the projections: Free education precipitates population growth (a house that comes with free education seems like a better deal than granite countertops) and long-term economic development (someone with a college degree is more likely to seek or create a job as well as a house). Such collaboration and foresight, at the very least, give hope that a fractured economic development system in Erie can be repaired. Such boldness – in Detroit, of all places, – tells us that if it's possible there, it's possible anywhere\*.

*\*Yes, Erie doesn't have a community college – yet. The existence of a community college, however, is not mandatory for creative collaboration to reverse our current trends of decline.*

Ben Spегgen can be contacted at [bSpeгgen@ErieReader.com](mailto:bSpeгgen@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeгgen.

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## Harrisburg Happenings

### March Madness comes to the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

By: Sean Wiley

The month of March always brings college basketball fever for die-hard fans. Even casual fans seem to kick up their binge-watching a notch, as no one wants to be that person who missed the game-winning shot. As a retired collegiate basketball official, I spend most of my time watching the movements of the referees during the game, but that's probably just me. Nonetheless, it's March Madness, where team colors are proudly displayed, sleep is lost, and wagers are often won and lost at the buzzer.

It's also March Madness in the General Assembly, but in a much less acceptable or collegial way. I've often heard Albert Einstein credited with the colloquial definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

It seems, in fact, that the Pennsylvania General Assembly is doing the same maddening thing over and over again and expecting different results. Most recently, by passing a spending proposal (HB 1801) that was agreed to be out of balance by \$220 million.

Since we are talking basketball, here's a hoops analogy that I think fits: The Wildcats continue to run the same zone defense that they have run for the last 10 years – the one every opposing team has a strategy to

beat – and lose in the first round each year.

The General Assembly is employing the same business-as-usual strategy in crafting a spending proposal: a zone defense full of holes. In the case of the House and the Senate, the holes are plans where the math simply doesn't compute and the fiscal liability grows exponentially over time. Both chambers also refuse the necessary shift in defensesmen when

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The General Assembly is employing the same business-as-usual strategy in crafting a spending proposal: a zone defense full of holes.

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there is a drive into the paint by failing to address much-needed revenue for our Commonwealth.

The holes in the Wildcats' age-old defense also fail to address the NBA-bound shooting guard who is as fast as he is accurate. The General Assembly follows suit in allowing three-point shots to reign uncontested, choosing not to throw up a hand in the face of spending beyond its revenue.

Every fan, from junior high parents to NBA season ticket holders, knows that any team needs a true balance between offense and defense to be success-

ful. We already likened the defense employed by the General Assembly to be that of Swiss cheese. And we can equate our offense to a series of plays designed to allow individual players to have the ball stolen, rather than a carefully orchestrated design that puts the ball in the hoop every time.

And yet, a different outcome is expected. The General Assembly expects to win games, and doesn't expect to be at the bottom of the division standings.

So whose bracket will survive? Who will hold the trophy and be crowned the winner in the General Assembly budget championship? With House Bill 1801 now law, there are no winners. This is simply over.

I know who the winners ought to be: the people of this Commonwealth. Our Pennsylvania citizens deserve an offense and a defense that wins, one that focuses on the end goal of investing in the future of our Commonwealth and driving the lane of prosperity. We deserve a team with its shoes tied tightly and its eye on the ball, one that is just as full of skill as it is of heart. Let's cheer for that team and stop the madness.

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



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## Geeked Out

### The 2015 IGF and GDC Awards



By: John Lindvay

At the start of each year the largest game development conference takes place in San Francisco's Moscone Center. The Game Developers Conference is where the industry gathers to share lectures and to celebrate the games that help to lead the industry forward. It's also when the largest independent game award ceremony takes place: the Independent Game Festival (IGF) Awards.

This year, the IGF had over 750 games submitted. Of those, only 26 games made it into the list of final nominees for seven categories. So if you were interested in which amazing indie games came out last year, this is a good place to start.

The big winner this year was *Her Story*, created by Sam Barlow. *Her Story* won both the Seumas McNally Grand Prize and the Excellence in Narrative award. Available on both PC and iOS, players get involved in a police procedural, trying to find out about the disappearance of a man through a series of interview tapes of women named Hannah. *Her Story* is not your average game; there is no running and gunning. Instead, players use a virtual desktop to search through folders, watch short video clips, and leave notes as we piece together her story. It is a stark departure from what many people understand a game to be and offers something unique in the current climate.

In many ways, it's somewhat of a throwback. It's an FMV (full motion video) game, in a style similar to *Riven* or *7th Guest*. More recently, FMV has been used mostly for camp. So seeing FMV being brought back from relative obscurity and treated with such reverence, and being married to a story that is truly engaging, has helped Barlow

**Her Story is not your average game; there is no running and gunning. Instead, players use a virtual desktop to search through folders, watch short video clips, and leave notes as we piece together her story.**

run the gamut of awards ceremonies winning a bucketful of awards.

Excellence in Design award winner is the hilarious and brilliant *Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes*, by Steel Crate Games. Have you ever watched a spy movie, where the agent needs to defuse a bomb and has to radio back to headquarters for instruction? That's the gameplay of *Keep Talking*. Originally created for the Oculus Virtual Reality Headset, *Keep Talking* is a two-player game, where one has to defuse a bomb, and the other has a manual for how to do it. The game works because of the imbalance of information. Each player can't see what the other is looking at. Much of the fun comes from how we as humans communicate information to each other, especially while on a short fuse timer!

Subway planning zen puzzler *Mini-Metro*, by Dinosaur Polo Club, won the award for Excellence in Audio. In *Mini-Metro*, players draw commuter lines to try and keep up with a rising demand of commuters. This year's Nuovo award, which is designed to recognize the games that push the boundaries of what we believe games to be, went to *Cibele* by Star Maid Games. *Cibele* is a very autobiographical game about one of the creators, Nina Freeman. And finally, the Audience Award went to *Undertale*, which is a game I keep trying to play, but continue to bounce off of. Perhaps someone younger can tell me why it gets the amount of love it does, other than it has "dank memes." I mean, it seems good ... I guess?

Every year the IGF offers a great representation of all the amazing games that came out over the past year. Only a few grab the top honors, but all of the nominees are worth your time. You can see the full list of nominees at IGF.com.

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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## News of the Weird

Cat got your tongue? Or the solution to an unsolved crime, perhaps?

By: Chuck Shepherd

## Hardly a "Do-Nothing" Congress

In March, U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions of Texas, chairman of the House Rules Committee, introduced a resolution to recognize "magic" as one of America's "national treasure(s)," backed by a 711-word paean urging all to "support and protect" the storied craft — which needs to be "understood and promulgated," especially given that, according to Sessions, it "requires only the capacity to dream." Sessions made no link of magic to resolving other congressional business (such as, for instance, ending the string of 64 consecutive failed votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act). [Politico, 3-15-2016] [H.Res. 642]

## Leading Economic Indicators

People With Too Much Money: Residents on London's swankiest street (Kensington Palace Gardens), stymied in efforts to build upward on their relatively small lots, instead plan elaborate "basements" — extending as far as five stories down, with elevators, swimming pools, gyms, climbing

walls, and one even with a "Ferris wheel" for dialing up the resident's daily choice among his several cars. However, embassies are located on the street and have challenged the construction chaos as offending their sovereignty under international law. Recent restrictions limit the basements to one story down, but billionaire entrepreneur Jon Hunt's five stories are grandfathered in (though his "Ferris wheel" appears to have been shelved). [Washington Post, 3-4-2016]

## New World Order

Mystery fiction has always been a popular genre, but now, readers who prefer that their crimes be solved by cats have several series of brilliant felines to choose from. As The Wall Street Journal reported in February, the major controversy swirling at "cat fiction" conventions is whether the clever kitties should advance the plot by speaking. "We all talk to our pets," noted one best-selling author, "and most of us imagine the other side of the dialogue." (Among the sets boasting more than a million copies are the "Joe Greys," the "Klepto Cats," the "Cat Shout for Joy"

suite, and the recently concluded, 29-volume run of "Cat Who" books, e.g., "The Cat Who Could Read Backwards.") [Wall Street Journal, 2-29-2016]

The Glasgow, Scotland, company Osdin Shield announced recently that it had designed for potential sale (for those relaxing, yet secure evenings) a fashionable yet bullet-proof sofa and upholstered chairs sturdy enough to protect against 9mm handguns, shotguns and AK47s — with special marketing to hotels, embassies and government buildings. [BBC News, 2-25-2016]

A Perfect Storm of Vacuousness: In February, British marketing company Havas Helia tapped the "millennial" generation's obsessions with craft beer and data-driven knowledge, announcing the development of 0101 — a brew created, it said, by social media messages. The company, "finding" that the generation appeared "optimistic," analyzed "thousands" of the generation's messages against 24 human emotions, which it translated to 38 particular emotional states, which were fed into the IBM Watson computer,

which selected 10 existing beers, whose recipes were then cribbed to create 0101 (a "cream ale" with honey and two specific kinds of hops, tasting of "optimism, love, imagination, and gentle overtones of excitement"). [IDG News Service (Boston) via PC World, 2-10-2016]

## Least Competent Government

Following a simplistic hack at the Internal Revenue Service that permitted several thousand tax returns to be illegally accessed and refunds commandeered, the agency created an equally porous "fix" merely copied from failed security elsewhere on the IRS website. According to a March Washington Post report, the fix admirably added one level of security (a personal PIN), but nonetheless allowed anyone to change another's PIN using publicly available information. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen told the Post that "only a handful" of taxpayers were victimized by the faulty fix (but later defined "handful" as "fewer than 200"). [Washington Post, 3-3-2016]

## Things People Believe

Murders are being committed over hair weaves, reported WMC-TV (Memphis, Tennessee) in March, with one likely explanation being a belief that a person who acquires tufts of human hair surely acquires the fortunes — good or bad — of the person who grew the hair. That is especially true of "virgin" hair from India, shorn for religious sacrifices ("tonsuring") before falling into the hands of agents who sell to Western women. Said a Memphis pastor, "A generation back or so," people were being killed over tennis shoes. "Now (it's) hair." [WMC-TV, 3-2-2016]

## Wait, What?

Infrastructure Blues: (1) A 5-year-old, slow-moving underground fire (beneath a Superfund cleanup site) is within 1,200 feet of a waste site for nuclear weapons near St. Louis, according to a December Associated Press report. The Environmental Protection Agency, of course, said not to worry, that the heat from the fire was not enough to ignite chemicals or trigger an explosion. (2) While America was outraged about the water in Flint, Michigan, the tap water in Crystal City, Tex-

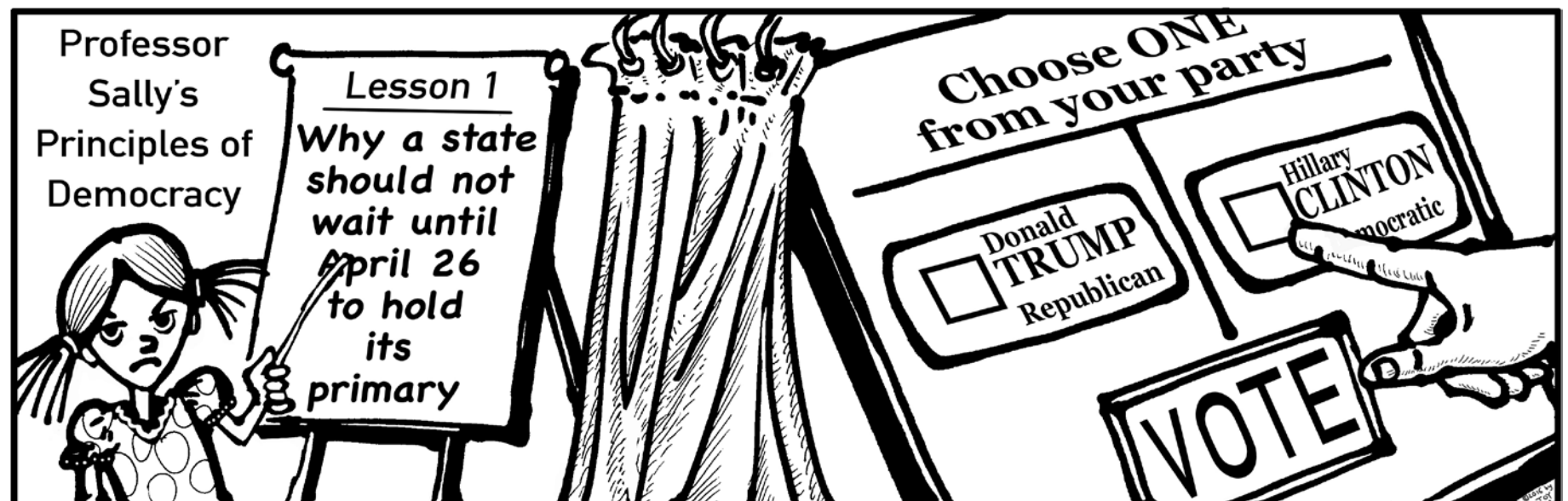
as (100 miles southwest of San Antonio) was suddenly as black and thick "as oil" and "stank," according to a resident. The city's water superintendent said the town had decided to clean residue from the system for the first time in "20 to 30 years." [Associated Press via Los Angeles Times, 1-2-2016] [KSAT-TV (San Antonio), 2-19-2016]

## People With Issues

Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., disclosed in March that in 2015 it received 8,670 noise complaints — but that 6,500 came from the same person (thus averaging 18 per day, every day). (2) Buddhist monk Julian Glew, 45, was arrested in September in Humberside, England, and later sentenced to 11 weeks in prison after he slashed (by his count) 162 tires in his neighborhood because, he said, he was angry that he had stepped on an insect and needed to be jailed. [Associated Press via WTOP Radio (Washington), 3-9-2016]

## Least Competent Criminals

Needed Training Wheels: Timothy Broad, 30, was convicted in February of a November



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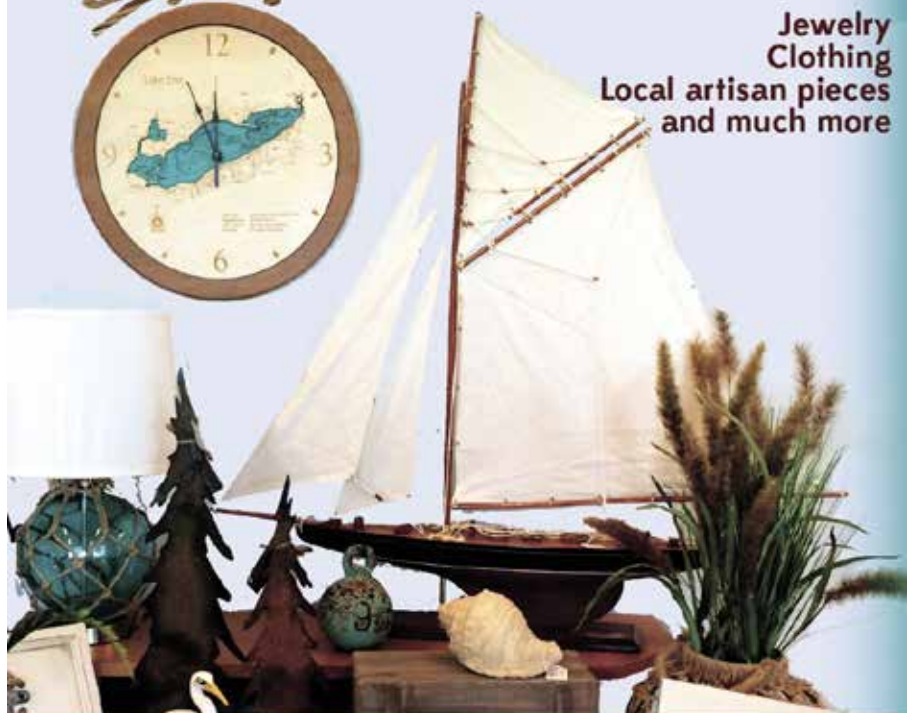


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**NEWS & VIEWS**

Clacton, England, convenience store robbery and jailed for more than three years. The balaclava-wearing Broad had pedaled away from the store with the money but managed to fall off his bicycle three separate times, in short order, in the process losing both the balaclava (from which his DNA was recovered) and all the cash. [Clacton Gazette, 2-15-2016]

**Recurring Themes**

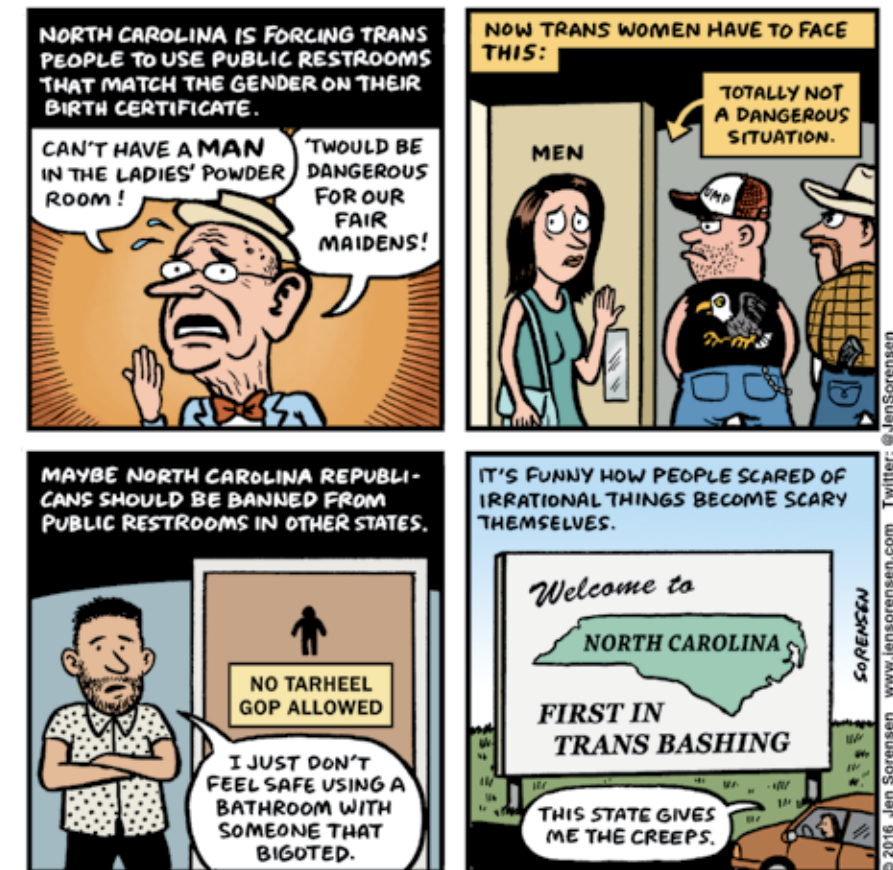
Once again, public service personnel were disciplined for violating rules even though perhaps saving a life. In March, a captain and a sergeant in the Falmouth Volunteer Fire Department near Fredericksburg, Virginia, were suspended for rushing an infant girl (who was having a seizure) to the hospital in their fire engine despite rules requiring that they wait for an ambulance (which they ascertained was still 10 to 15 minutes away). The firefighters administered oxygen and delivered the girl safely to the ER

13 minutes after the 911 call, though she had suffered another seizure in the hospital's parking lot. Said the grateful father, "My wife and I feel terrible for the fallout ... to these two gentlemen." [WTTG-TV (Washington, D.C.), 3-6-2016]

India (especially in Bihar state) has been plagued by legendary school-cheating scandals -- with parents last year even seemingly re-creating the scene of the siege of the Alamo by using tall ladders en masse to climb the walls of a testing center to pass cheat sheets to students. In February, on recruiting day for prestigious army jobs in Bihar, wary officials administered written tests in a field with all aspirants sitting cross-legged and clad only in underpants, balancing exam papers on their thighs. Officials thus avoided needing to frisk the large number of applicants. [Agence France-Presse via The Guardian (London), 3-1-2016]

**A News of the Weird Classic (October 2011)**

In October (2011), a court in Ottawa, Ontario, sentenced pornography collector Richard Osborn, 46, to a year in jail on several charges but dismissed the more serious child porn counts. Judge Robert Fournier ruled that Osborn's hard-core images of Bart and Lisa Simpson and Milhouse were not illegal, on the ground that he could not be certain of the characters' ages. (Baby Maggie Simpson was not involved in sex.) Judge Fournier was clearly exasperated at Osborn's perversions, among them his homemade video of swimsuit-clad youngsters, interspersed with shots of Osborn himself masturbating, aided by a Cabbage Patch doll with cut-open mouth. Finally, a disgusted Judge Fournier halted the presentation of evidence. "Enough," he said. "We are not paid to sit here and torture ourselves." [Ottawa Sun, 9-26-2011, Ottawa Citizen, 10-6-2011]



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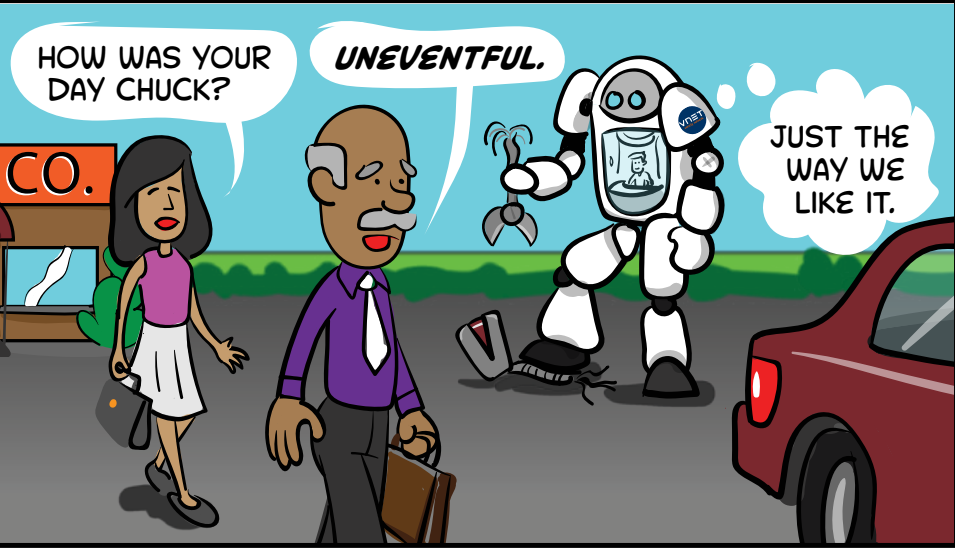
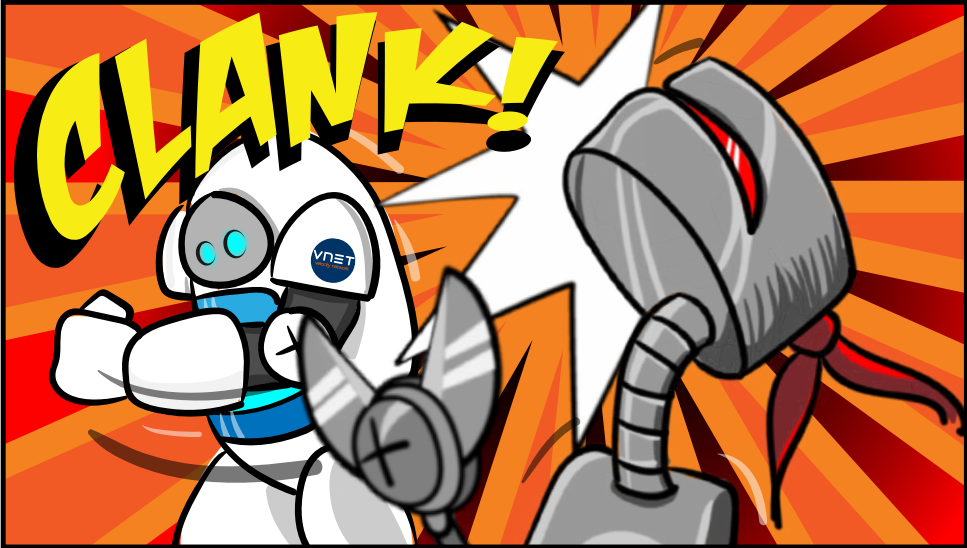
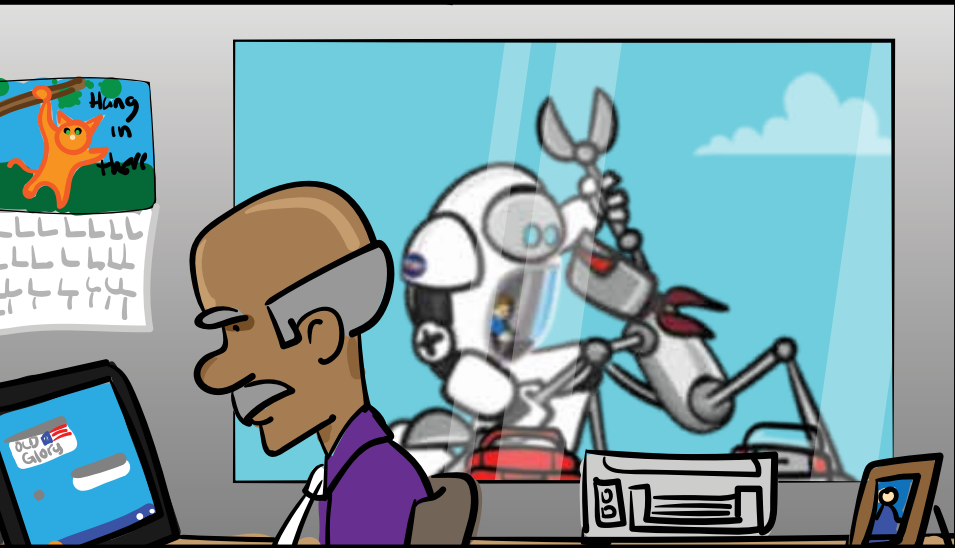
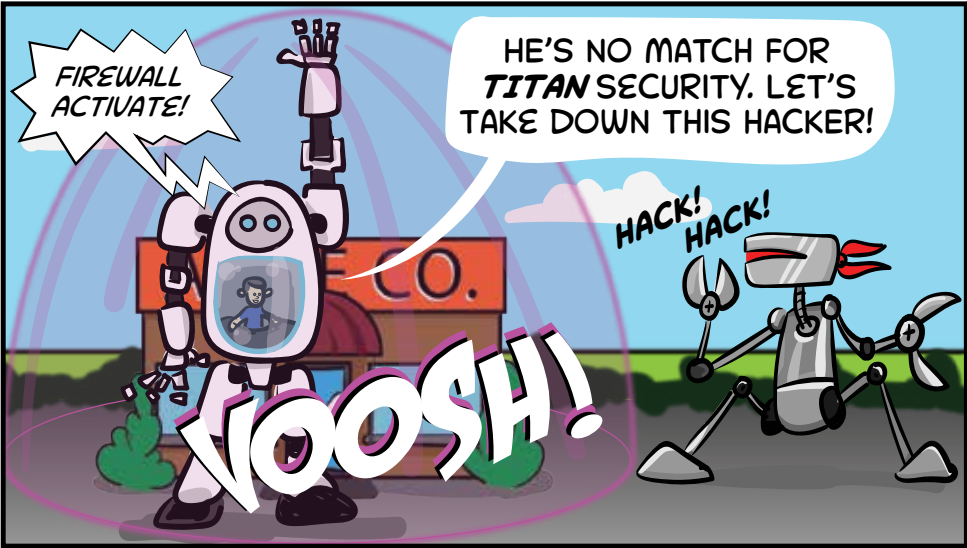
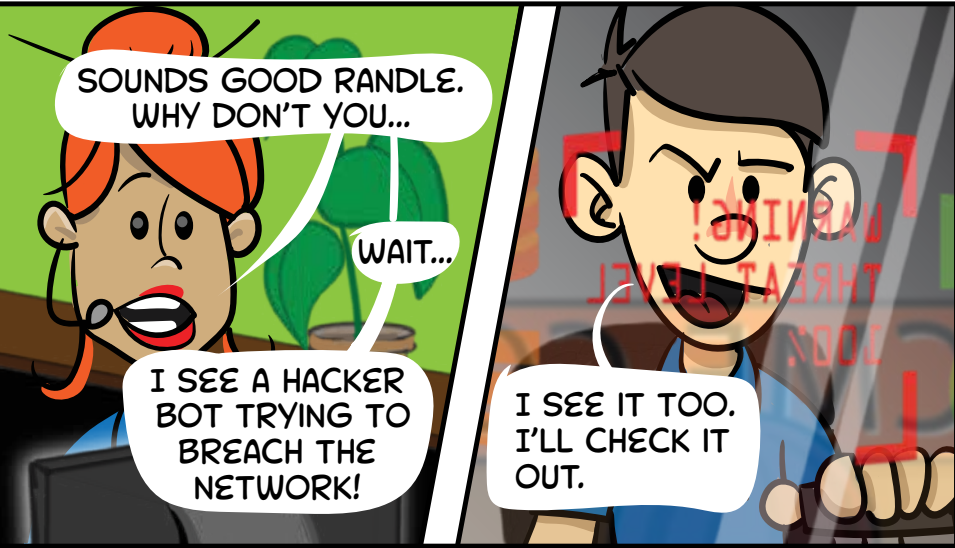
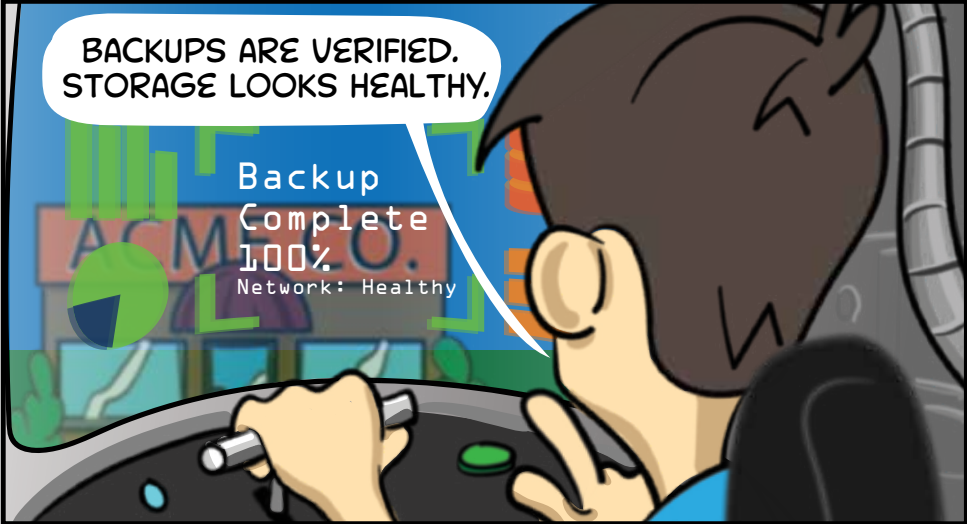
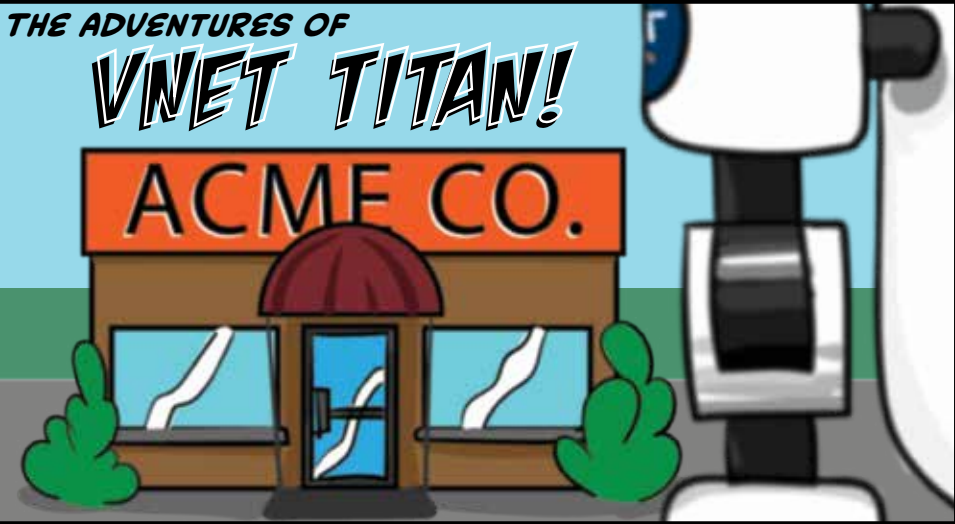
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## Chicory Hill Herbs

Holistic wellness is becoming more mainstream, but this Peach Street gem has been healing Erieites for nearly two decades.



RYAN SMITH

By: Ryan Smith

**M**y wife and I have never had a problem finding a good reason to visit Chicory Hill Herbs.

Most recently, while I was there looking to pick up the pieces needed to tell some of the story about this colorful, vibrant upper Peach Street holistic living store, she was aiming to grab some activated charcoal (for the teeth); some bentonite clay (for the face); and some of Chicory Hill's in-house migraine-relieving tea blend (for the babysitter).

Most of that done, Lisa (my wife) and Lyla (my three-year-old) were sitting on a sun-splashed corner of the floor, playing with some beautiful stones, when a young mother walked into the shop, her baby – a sort of fussy, kind of fidgety little thing – in tow.

She got right to the point with shop manager Kellea Wilson and employee Lainey Will: She was looking for information about natural methods for dealing with gut worms.

"Is this for a person, or a pet?" Wilson asked peacefully.

"A person," the young mother answered

calmly, proceeding to tell them it was the baby boy who needed to be de-wormed. The doctor recommended garlic supplements, she said, but she wanted to know what the folks at Chicory Hill had to say on the matter, as well.

Without missing a beat, Wilson and Will began consulting and perusing – their own mental libraries, the Internet, and the herbs,

---

**At Chicory Hill, whether it's helping people to heal physical ailments or to maintain their celestial health, it's all in a day's work. And within that, it seems, kindness and understanding, comfort – love, even – are always at play.**

---

books and other holistic stuffs of the space around them – almost immediately finding what the mother came in for: information.

At Chicory Hill, whether it's helping people to heal physical ailments or to maintain their celestial health, it's all in a day's work. And within that, it seems, kindness and understanding, comfort – love, even – are

---

**Chicory Hill Herbs is a setting where, for nearly 20 years, the mystical has met the non-mysterious, where the esoteric had melded with the obvious – all from a place in Mother Nature's lap.**

---

always at play.

"We get asked about everything from intestinal parasites to how to cleanse your house spiritually," says Wilson, from astral projections to flea removal, from gem and mineral wisdom to common headache relief.

It's a setting where, for nearly 20 years, the mystical has met the non-mysterious, where the esoteric had melded with the obvious – all from a place in Mother Nature's lap. Everyone there has a space in that place, too: Wilson, the shop manager and self-professed "resident rock nerd;" Will, the quiet-mannered tea expert; Amy Keiper, the in-house researcher and oracle reader; Danny Burger, a curious mind, an easy smiler and all-around nice guy; and his mother, Judy Burger, the one who started it all.

"Everyone has some knowledge" in various specific areas of holistic health practices and methods, Wilson said, and with that knowledge, "we bounce off of each other all



RYAN SMITH

day.”

The stated mission of Chicory Hill, started by Burger some 18 years ago, is simple enough: “Exploring holistic living with herbs, oils, teas, spiritual goods, and incense to preserve and maintain physical well-being and spirituality.”

And, essentially, that’s all they do. But there’s so much to doing all of that, especially as more and more people become aware that there may be a lot of good, old sense in practicing good, old, time-tested-and-honored approaches to better health and well-being.

“Erie’s waking up left and right,” said Wilson, with the local holistic community in general growing in leaps and bounds in recent years.

That seems to flow right along with what’s been an expanding national movement: Since 2013, upwards of 50 percent of Americans have been employing at least one method of complementary alternative medicine in their own health practices – ranging from healing herbs to healing energies to

healing touches and more – according to a July 2013 report in *USA Today*.

Here in Erie, with their myriad natural products, books, and tools, and a lengthy calendar of ongoing workshops, discussions, and other natural health-minded presentations and events, Chicory Hill “is providing a little bit of a support system that people kind of come to,” said Wilson.

In everything they do, she added, “we support a ‘coexist’ mindset. We get wildly varying groups of folks in here all the time, and everyone gets cozy.”

And shares what they know. And leaves at least a little (and, sometimes, a lot) better for it.

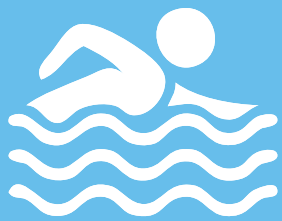
*To find out more about Chicory Hill Herbs, what’s on its shelves, and everything that’s happening there, visit the shop (at 2516 Peach St.); call 454.5844; or check out chicoryhill.com.*

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

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## Lessons Learned or Ignored from Japanese Internment

Terrorist attacks in Belgium drew fresh blood over what constitutes American values.



In 1942, two months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the military to imprison more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent – two thirds of them American citizens – in the name of national security.

tor General, U.S. Attorney General, and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Best known for his work as Chief U.S. Prosecutor of the top Nazi leaders at Nuremberg, he was also one of the most brilliant writers ever to serve on the Supreme Court.

The military's use of the Supreme Court to uphold the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans weighed heavily on Jackson's now famous dissent in the *Korematsu v. United States* case.

"He thought the legal issue was extremely clear. The accident of ancestry – Japanese American or Scotch-English as Jackson's own – is no basis for criminal sanctions under our Constitution and our system of equal protection," said Jackson biographer John Q. Barrett in an on-camera interview for *Liberty Under Law*.

"What Jackson also objected to was the military making the civilian court system its puppet," Barrett continued, "Because a military will in the end do what the military is going to do. It has the power to accomplish that. But it will do these things in wartime. And hopefully we'll return to peacetime, we'll have cooler heads, and we'll restore the liberties we took away – unless we make it our constitutional law that the military *always* has the power to behave this way. Then, as Jackson warned, it lies around like a loaded weapon waiting for the hand of authority to pick up that power and use it in the next and the next and the next context."

If Jackson's legal argument escapes our would-be leaders, perhaps the personal stories of everyday people will reach them. Among the film's more than 400 images are photographs by Ansel Adams and Dorothea Lange, who documented the daily life of Japanese-Americans interned at the Manzanar War Relocation Center. Surely our interview with Precious Yamaguchi, whose grandparents were

By: Lisa Gensheimer

The recent terrorist attacks in Belgium stoked an already paranoid public and played right into the hands of Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump, whose controversial proposal to close down mosques, track American Muslims in a database, and ban all Muslims from entering the country is a dark reminder of one of the most shameful moments in American history.

In 1942, two months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the military to imprison more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent – two thirds of them American citizens – in the name of national security. They were rounded up, evicted from their homes, and transported to internment centers (the politically correct term for what amounted to concentration camps surrounded by barbed wire) where they would be confined for three years in 10 locations

throughout the American West. They lost businesses, personal belongings, pets, and even family members, taking only what they could carry. In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the order in *Korematsu v. United States*, a decision that today is universally condemned as a grave injustice.

"What I'm doing is no different than FDR," Trump brazenly told ABC News last December in response to the terrorist attacks in Paris and the government's plan to join other nations in accepting Syrian refugees. "If you look at what he was doing, it was far worse ... and he's one of the most highly respected presidents — they name highways after him," Trump said. "Security rules."

Trump is not the only one to prey upon fear to gain the upper hand. After the Paris attacks, governors and legislators in at least five states suggested closing their borders or setting up refugee camps for Muslims.

Moments after the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the Brussels attacks, GOP presidential candidate

Ted Cruz called for security patrols in Muslim neighborhoods "before they become radicalized." He said, "The days of the United States voluntarily surrendering to the enemy to show how progressive and enlightened we are at an end."

In my book, anyone aspiring to be President of the United States could use a little enlightenment, if not a history lesson.

They could begin by watching the latest documentary my husband Rich Gensheimer and I produced, *Liberty Under Law: The Robert H. Jackson Story*, fast-forwarding to the segment on Japanese internment.

Jackson spent his hardscrabble youth along the banks of Brokenstraw Creek on a farm not far from Corry, Pennsylvania. His fascination with books and the study of law ultimately led him to Washington where he would influence some of the most pivotal events in American history before, during, and after World War II. Jackson is the only American to have served as U.S. Solicitor

DOROTHEA LANGE



TOM PARKER

first detained in horse stalls at the Santa Anita Racetrack in California, will touch them. We recorded Yamaguchi's story at the Erie Art Museum against the backdrop of Roger Shimomura's powerful paintings of

---

We bring to life the stories of people who are not so different from you and me, and who are certainly not to be feared — old men playing cards, children in cowboy hats, young women making camouflage nets for the War Department, boys and girls playing baseball — America's game — in a dusty desert far from home.

---

barbed wire barracks in an exhibit entitled "Shadows of Minidoka."

By sharing these photos and paintings, we bring to life the stories of people who are not so different from you and me, and who are certainly not to be feared — old men playing cards, children in cowboy hats, young women making camouflage nets for the War Department, boys and girls playing baseball — America's game — in a dusty desert far from home.

We can only hope the winds of today's war on terror will not erode our values and will instead bring us to our senses.

"Our job is to work closely with

our allies around the world to fight terrorism wherever it occurs," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren after the Brussels attack. "Terrorists must have no place to run and no place to hide. We must also remember that terrorists commit these senseless acts of violence to paralyze and divide us, and we should never cower to fear by turning against our neighbors or by rejecting our values," Warren added.

Maybe, this time, it is possible to turn our wary outpouring of compassion and humanity into something more.

*Lisa Gensheimer is a documentary producer and writer who lives in North East. She can be reached at [lisa@onmainstreet.com](mailto:lisa@onmainstreet.com)*

Liberty under Law: The Robert H. Jackson Story, premieres locally at the Jefferson Education Society, Tuesday, April 5, 6-8:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion with Sean McLaughlin, a former chief U.S. district judge who now serves as Executive Vice President, Secretary & General Counsel at Erie Insurance; and Gregory L. Peterson, co-founder of the Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York. Producers Lisa and Rich Gensheimer gifted all rights to the Robert H. Jackson Center, which is arranging for national distribution on public television and educational programming about Jackson's life and legacy in schools across the nation.

# Spring

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## Walking On with the Aid of a Horse

How riders find freedom at the Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center.



BETH RACINE

By: Ti Sumner

“Walk-on,” Kate said, squeezing her heels into Charlie’s sides and clucking her tongue like the plod of a horse hoof. Charlie, a chestnut Haflinger, stepped lightly over a 2-inch diameter ground pole lying on the arena floor. Outside, it was one of those gray November days with skin-stinging sleet, searing winds bustling over the lake from Canada, and torrents of rain leaving shoe-soaking puddles outside every door. It was the kind of day Erie, Pennsylvania is known for. But to Kate, it was simply TREC day.

Despite the overcoat-penetrating cold, the Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center (TREC) was doing what it al-

ways does: providing riding lessons to children and adults with mental, emotional, or physical challenges. In the middle of the arena, layered with a borrowed red hat and gloves with holes in the fingers, the instructor, Karen Mead, called out for the class of five riders to repeat the ground pole section by changing direction. Five riders on five horses, each accompanied on the ground by a leader and two side-walkers, followed the instructions.

Holding the reins in her left hand, Kate guided Charlie through a 180-degree, right-hand turn by touching the left rein to the left side of his Charlie’s neck. Resembling a pony-sized version of a Clydesdale, Charlie was the perfect companion for riders like Kate. Sturdy and muscular with a

steady, smooth gait, Charlie was attentive, eager to please, and patient. Possibly most important of all, he had been trained to neck-rein: a Western riding technique not all horses understand. Simply touching one rein to one side of Charlie’s neck tells him to turn in the other direction. And on this day in November, Kate and Charlie traversed poles and cones, other horses and humans, through an obstacle course in an arena – nearly 22 years after Kate’s accident.

Two days before Christmas in 1993, Janet Csir, Kate’s mother, kissed her six-year-old daughter goodbye before leaving for her job as a surgical scrub nurse. Janet’s sister, who had come home for the holiday, had arranged to take Kate to the Millcreek Mall for the afternoon.

“I hadn’t seen my sister in a long time,” Janet said via phone. “I was excited to see her. We were all excited.”

Kate and her aunt spent the afternoon as any aunt-niece combination might, bouncing between stores, tumbling in and out of a van. Around 5:30 p.m., on the way home from shopping, an uninsured drunk driver struck the van from behind and pushed it into oncoming traffic. Kate, who had been riding in the back seat, flew head-first into the seat in front of hers. The seat she had been so happy to occupy just a moment before unhinged from its track and pinned Kate between the two seats.

At six years old, Kate suffered a subdural hematoma. Tiny veins that bridge the virtual space between the dura matter covering the brain and

the brain itself had ruptured. Blood trickled into the space, pressing on her brain tissue as she lay waiting for an ambulance.

“Kate’s survival is the kind of miracle you hear people talk about,” Janet said. “For months, we didn’t know if she would make it. For months, our lives were only about hospitals and waiting. My husband and I married late. Kate was all we had.”

Janet paused for a moment and then added, “People think the accident is the worst part, but it’s not. The recovery is the worst part. There’s just so much waiting.”

### TREC Begins

In 1980, more than a decade before Kate’s accident, a different, much less severe accident also forever changed the life of Kimberly Danylko.

"The only thing I ever wanted to do when I grew up was be around horses," Danylko said over the phone early in November, 2015, when yellow leaves still clung to lush branches on her farm in Waterford, Pennsylvania. "Horses were my life. When I tore the ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in my knee, I thought my life was over. I laid on my back for months with my leg in the air and a cast from toe to hip. Now, they want you walking the day after surgery, but back then, they casted you and strapped you up and left you hanging."

She paused before continuing, "I just remember thinking: This is it, you know? This is the worst possible thing that could happen to me. I later realized it was one of the best things that ever happened to me."

One day, frustrated and depressed about her long recov-

ery, Danylko happened upon an article in *Parade* magazine about therapeutic riding and the benefits horses can provide to individuals with mental and physical challenges. Within the article was a photograph of a smiling girl who could not walk unassisted. But she could ride a horse.

"That's all it took," Danylko said. "Just that one article on that one day and I forgot about myself. I was instantly excited about the possibility of using horses for therapy. The next day, I called my friend, Carolyn Belczyk, the 4H county agent, and we started the process that later became TREC."

By 1982, TREC received full accreditation as a riding program for the handicapped through the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), now called the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International.

Danylko became the first certified TREC instructor and, with the help of other volunteers and horse people throughout the area, obtained donations of part-time facilities, horses, and tack. Twenty-one riders enrolled in the first full year.

While PATH provides membership to more than 850 therapeutic equine centers today, the organization had only existed for about a decade before Danylko decided to take on the challenge of growing a grassroots foundation. At that time, there was neither Internet nor social media to facilitate networking and research.

"We did [Cont. on page 41]"

The photos accompanying this article were taken by Beth Racine, a longtime volunteer who has held multiple positions at TREC. Both riders and volunteers return year after year to this rewarding community, witnessing firsthand the transformation that riding can create.



BETH RACINE

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# Spotlight on Erie

March 30 — April 12, 2016

**Wednesday, March 30**

## **The True Cost Exposes the Dark Side of “Fast Fashion”**



Toward the beginning of Andrew Morgan's 2015 documentary *The True Cost*, we are introduced to Shima Ahkter, a 23-year-old garment worker in Bangladesh who is trying to organize a labor union. Ahkter makes less than three dollars an hour working in what we would almost certainly call a sweatshop. While trying to support her young daughter, she advocates for the basic improvements necessary to prevent workplace catastrophes like the Rana Plaza disaster – an atrocity that took the lives of over 1,000 Bangladeshi workers in 2013 when a poorly maintained factory collapsed.

The film forces us to confront the ugly consequences of our access to cheap goods through long shots of polluted rivers, glimpses of congested factories, and interviews with exhausted workers.

Ahkter's story exemplifies Morgan's documentary at its best – it takes an easily ignored problem (the astounding inequality often produced by globalization) and gives it a relatable, human face. The film forces us to confront the ugly consequences of our access to cheap goods through long shots of polluted rivers, glimpses of congested factories, and interviews with exhausted workers.

As an investigation into the shady supply chains that produce “fast fashion” for companies like H & M and For-

ever 21, the film is stirring, powerful, and honest. But its ambitions somewhat exceed its running time. As *The True Cost* expands its scope – tackling related issues like genetically modified cotton in India, free trade fashion lines in Europe, and the culture of consumerism in the West – it often loses focus.

Morgan's well-meaning documentary offers a startling and ambitious glimpse into the most immoral peripheries of our consumer economy. It doesn't offer clear alternatives to the system we're currently stuck with (or a particularly nuanced assessment of how it came to be), but it will definitely leave you with a strong gut feeling about the wastefulness of the globalized present. – Dan Schank

Film at 7 p.m., with Fashion Panel to Follow // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // [erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html](http://erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html)

**Wednesday, March 30**

## **Dorrance Dance Brings Visual Rhythm to MIAC**



With dancing, it's usually more important that the audience watch, rather than listen. But that's not the case with Dorrance Dance, a company that aims to honor the uniquely American history of tap dance – a highly aural dance form, filled with complex syncopations and a pulsing beat.

And when Dorrance Dance takes the stage at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, the audience will experience first-hand (or first-ear) how the company pushes tap's traditions to its limits. The combination of street, club, and experimental dance forms are the brainchild of Michelle Dorrance, a New York City-based dancer and choreographer who was awarded a MacArthur Genius grant in 2015. (And as I've previously noted – they don't just give those things away.)

Dorrance has led her company in sold-out performances at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Kennedy Center, and the Barcelona Tap Festival,

The combination of street, club, and experimental dance forms are the brainchild of Michelle Dorrance, a New York City-based dancer and choreographer who was awarded a MacArthur Genius grant in 2015.

among other venues across the United States and Europe. She's collaborated with Martha Graham Dance – another alum of the MIAC series – and she won a Bessie Award for “The Blues Project,” a depiction of the history of the blues through tap-based works and collaboration between dancers and musicians. Oh, and she's performed solo on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* with house band, Jon Batiste & Stay Human.

Tap's an art form that's as American as jazz, and Colbert is basically a bald eagle incarnate. So if Dorrance Dance is good enough for Colbert (and America), it's worth checking out. – Sara Toth

7:30 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St. // Tickets \$5 - \$32 // [miac.merychurst.edu](http://miac.merychurst.edu) or 824.3000

**Friday, April 1**

## **Dancing Through Time: Dafmark Dance Theater Celebrates 25 Years**



“Markers,” says Dafna Rathouse-Baier, Dafmark's choreographer and co-founder, “are a collection of moments that make it impossible not to respond, moments

that shatter the boundaries of one's intellect, emotions, and thoughts, that change perceptions, taste, and esthetics.”

On April 1 and 2, to celebrate these markers over the past 25 years of the company's existence, Dafmark is mounting *A Still Unfinished Journey*, a multi-genre, five-part performance with dance, poetry, and visual art.

According to Rathouse-Baier, each segment will be a tribute to a different marker in the creative life of the company, such as three-quarter time, which Rathouse-Baier calls an eternal rhythm, and poetry, which she considers a partner to dance.

In addition, the performance will pay homage to Pina Bausch and Alvin Ailey, whom she sees as pivotal players in the field of dance. Rathouse-Baier says they “left an indelible mark on me, in part because of the luck and privilege I had of getting to know them and their work.”

On April 1 and 2, to celebrate these markers over the past 25 years of the company's existence, Dafmark is mounting *A Still Unfinished Journey*, a multi-genre, five-part performance with dance, poetry, and visual art.

Dancers for the performance include Jennifer Dennehy, Megan Sabatini, and Charlotte Twitchell, with a guest appearance by Scott Heinrich. Charlie Corritore will narrate, but he will also act and contribute poetry. Marsha Langman Cisek will create a visual work of art while the performance unfolds. The music used will range from classical to contemporary including spirituals, featuring works by Tchaikovsky, Schnittke, David Hope, Khachaturian, Schumann, and more.

“Twenty-five years of incredible friendships, artistic encounters, a wealth of creativity, and unwavering support from the community has made Erie our home,” says Rathouse-Baier. “Thus, this is a journey that is still ongoing.”

The markers evoke a motionlessness for her as well. “Think of a moment that affects a person to such an extent that time stands still and that moment accompanies you in your journey.”

## CALENDAR

When all of these elements – the markers, the influences, the artistic encounters – are juxtaposed, Rat-house-Baier says “they represent the essence of that which has given so many facets to Dafmark for the last 25 years in Erie, and keeps on feeding its creative journey.”

Go for the soul food. – Mary Birdsong

1033 State St. // 8 p.m. both evenings // April 1, \$30 includes reception; April 2, \$15 // 454.3993 // dafmark.org

### Saturday, April 2

#### The Clarks Return to Sherlocks



Sherlocks once again finds itself in the path of Pittsburgh's The Clarks, a band that has spent fewer of the past 30 years gathering moss and more of them gathering fans and momentum. The foursome of Scott Blasey (vocals),

Robert James Hertweck (guitar), David Minarik Jr. (drums), and Greg Joseph (bass) has rock'n'rolled its way along the I-79 corridor dozens of times, bowling crowds over with its no-frills power pop and sing-along choruses.

The group's popularity peaked in the

The Clarks' most recent album, *Rewind* (2015), is a collection of covers that formed the framework of their shows in their early years – and the band they would eventually become.

early 2000s after they joined up with producer Justin Niebank and the Razor & Tie label, for the albums *Let It Go* (2000), *Another Happy Ending* (2002), and *Fast Moving Cars* (2004) all charting on *Billboard's* Heat Seekers Albums list. While they faded from the ever-fickle public consciousness shortly thereafter, the band still holds a great deal of cachet with local audiences. Success has always been a two-way street with this bunch, who has toured and worked tirelessly since their inception in the mid-'80s at hard-partying

IUP. The Clarks' most recent album, *Rewind* (2015), is a collection of covers that formed the framework of their shows in their early years – and the band they would eventually become. The Replacements, The Smithereens, and R.E.M. are obvious comparisons – but Scruffy the Cat and the Hoodoo Gurus might escape the memory of the average listener. – Matt Swanseger

9:30 p.m., doors open at 8:30 // 508 State St. // clarkstickets.shop.ticketstoday.com // \$20

### Thursday, April 7

#### Matuto Ignites MIAC with Intercultural Flair

Matuto may be the Brazilian word for “country bumpkin,” but its



namesake band is hardly ignorant. Founding fathers Clay Ross and Rob Curto are neither afraid to leave the homestead (they tour globally) nor

are they loath to embrace foreigners – they've played alongside musicians from the world, jazz, and roots scenes and have incorporated elements of each into their eclectic sound. For an alleged rustic, this Matuto is suspiciously enlightened.

As they often do, they'll be pulling their oxcart into a place of higher education when they arrive at Mercyhurst University's Walker Recital Hall on April 7. The melodic interplay of Ross's

The melodic interplay of Ross's guitar and Curto's accordion is the baling wire that ties the intercultural harvest together, a wholesome blend of Brazilian folk and American bluegrass spiced with Latin, Caribbean, progressive, and jazz fusion.

guitar and Curto's accordion is the baling wire that ties the intercultural harvest together, a wholesome blend of Brazilian folk and American bluegrass spiced with Latin, Caribbean, progressive, and jazz fusion. A song like “Ivo-

## MUSIC

### Richter Uzur Duo

Mar. 31 — noon to 1 p.m.

McGarvey Commons, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

### Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Mar. 31 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Maxi's Restaurant, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

### Colony House Band

Mar. 31 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

### Friday Night Jazz

Apr. 1, 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

### Brit Floyd

Apr. 1 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

### The Hornitz

Apr. 1 — 10 p.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921

Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

### Saturday Night Latin, Blues & More

Apr. 2, 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Oasis Pub, 3122 West Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

### The Clarks

Apr. 2 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

### The Bees Trees

Apr. 2 — 10 p.m.

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

### Rankin & Schell Band

Apr. 3 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. facebook.com/Arundel-Cellars-398619953537600.

### Kansas

Apr. 3 — 7:30 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

### Newsboys

Apr. 7 — 7 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

### Matuto

Apr. 7 — 7:30 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

### Mister F

Apr. 8 — 10 p.m.

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

### Toxic Prom

Apr. 9 — 5 to 11 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/basement.transmissions.

### Eva

Apr. 9 — 7:30 p.m.

Struther's Library Theatre, 302 W. 3rd Ave. strutherslibrarytheatre.com.

### Tropidelic, Special Guest and LEC

Apr. 9 — 10 p.m.

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

### Visiting Artist Series: Violinist Jinjoo Cho

Apr. 11 — 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

### The Celtic Hooligans

Apr. 12 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Molly Brannigans, 506 State St. hooligansmusic.com.

## DANCE

### Dorrance Dance

Mar. 30 — 7:30 p.m.

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

### A Still Unfinished Journey

Apr. 1, 2 — 8 p.m.

Dafmark, 1033 State St. dafmark.org.

### Beginner Tap Dance with Melanie Titzel

Apr. 6 — 5 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Community Class with Elec Simon

Apr. 10 — 1 to 5 p.m.

Erie Dance Theatre, 1603 Cherry St.

## FOOD & DRINK

### CVC & Erie Dawn Fundraiser at Bourbon Barrel

Mar. 31 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. cvcerie.org.

### Wine on the Lake 2016

Apr. 2 — noon to 9 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier wineonthelake.com.

### Downton Abbey Dinner

Apr. 2 — 7 p.m.

Watson Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. eriehistory.com.

### Move, Mix and Mingle

Apr. 4 -- 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, 1507 Grimm Dr. nwpafoodbank.org.

### Cut the Salt

Apr. 5 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Asbury Woods Maple Festival

Apr. 9, 10 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

### 10th Annual Erie Microbrew Festival

Apr. 9 — 12:15 to 8 p.m.

The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

## FILM

### Robots Movie

Mar. 30, 31 — 11 a.m.

& 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trecpi.org.

### D-Day: Normandy

## CALENDAR

ry Coast" sounds like something you might hear in a cabana, while "Maracatu Dos Anjos" sounds like it wouldn't be misplaced in a Kansas set list. Did I mention they also do a cover of Beyonce's "Drunk In Love?"

If you can have the stomach for all that, you shouldn't have to chew the cud much on this one. Go on, git your tickets while supplies last. — Matt Swanseger

7:30 p.m. // 501 E. 38th St. // [miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/matuto](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/matuto) // \$15 adults, \$12 seniors & military, \$9 youth and students

### Friday, April 8

#### Women Blends Louisa May Alcott with Lena Dunham

**L**ittle Women has to be one of the most widely known American books ever written. It's a story about growing up, and it's a story we grew up with. Writer Chiara Atik has taken Louisa May Alcott's work and put it in a new perspective: *Girls*. Anyone familiar with the HBO show will recognize the tone, full of idiosyncratic self-analysis, even in the 1860s. As part of its Radius CoWork Studio Series, Dramashop is presenting this hilarious, award-winning play.

Directed by Jessica Flock, the show is fast-paced and insanely clever. "We spend so much time laughing hysterically," Flock admitted. Rehearsals are no doubt a pleasure with such a funny, intelligent cast. "Everyone is playing a character that fits their own sense of humor, which is lucky," Flock added.

Writer Chiara Atik has taken Louisa May Alcott's work and put it in a new perspective: *Girls*. Anyone familiar with the HBO show will recognize the tone, full of idiosyncratic self-analysis, even in the 1860s.

Lacey Johnson plays Jo, the independent, tomboy-ish writer who drives the narrative. Alaina Manchester is the eldest sister Meg, who, even as a teenager, feels her biological clock ticking. Jennifer Dennehy is Amy, the starry-eyed artist of the family. And Sonya Krokus is Beth, the gentle and sweet one, who dies. That's not a spoiler, in fact, it's the preferred hashtag: #bethdies.

The production also stars Sue Ellen Wojciechowski as Marmee, and Michael Leone as Laurie. Roman Denisyuk

#### 1944 Movie

Mar. 30, 31 — noon & 4 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).

#### Tiny Giants

Mar. 30, 31 — 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).

#### Raiders of the Lost Ark

Mar. 30 — 2 & 7 p.m.  
Cinemark's Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### The True Cost

Mar. 30 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Werewolf in Girl's Dormitory (1961)

Mar. 31 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### The Internet's

#### Own Boy

Mar. 31 — 8:30 p.m.  
Edinboro University, 405 Scotland Rd. [facebook.com/edinborofilmseries](http://facebook.com/edinborofilmseries).

#### Beat the Devil (1953)

Apr. 1 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### MET Opera: Madama Butterfly (Puccini)

Apr. 2 — 12:55  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

#### MET Opera: Madama Butterfly

Apr. 2 — 12:55 & Apr. 6 — 6:30 p.m.  
Cinemark's Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### A Clockwork Orange

Apr. 3, 6 — 2 p.m. & Apr. 6 — 7:15 p.m.  
Cinemark's Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### A Space Odyssey

Apr. 3, 6 — 4:30 p.m.  
Cinemark's Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

#### Brooklyn

Apr. 6 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Evil Dead II (1987)

Apr. 8 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### Charlie Chaplin's the Circus (1928)

Apr. 9 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

#### It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World

Apr. 10, 13 — 2 p.m. & Apr. 13 — 7 p.m.  
Cinemark's Tinseltown, 1910 Rotunda Dr. [cinemark.com](http://cinemark.com).

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## CALENDAR

doubles as Mr. Brooke and Professor Bhaer, while Elizabeth Diehl triples as Mr. Lawrence, Clovis, and Carl. Half of the cast is new to Dramashop, which falls in line perfectly with the theatre company's invigorating ideas for community involvement.

The spin is contemporary, but the story is timeless. Flock described Atik's interpretation, illustrating that "the girls are young and dreaming about their futures. We see them having achieved their original dreams, although the end results still look differently from how they imagined life would be." — Nick Warren

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays Apr. 8–23  
// Dramashop, Renaissance Centre,  
2nd Fl., 1001 State St. // Tickets \$12 //  
dramashop.org

**Saturday, Apr. 9**

### Tropidelic Brings the Party Back to the Rook

Cleveland's Tropidelic will cruise into the Kings Rook Club on April 9, just one week after the release of their brand new album, *Go Down With The Ship*. The band is currently amid an 18-stop tour in support of their new record, with Erie being the



penultimate night. Tropidelic formed in Kent, Ohio in 2009, later relocating to Cleveland. In 2014, the group made headlines when their practice space was mistakenly raided by police. Sheriff's deputies had their guns drawn, searching for a previous tenant who had no other relation to the band. That hasn't discouraged the band by any means, though. In 2015 they put out the aptly named *Police State*. They've been growing their fan base thanks to hard work and a love of music. The eight-piece group, which features a full horn section, plays a kinetic blend of reggae, funk, hip-hop, and jam. Fans of Sublime and 311 will fall

Apr. 13 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Assembled Visions

Mar. 30  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Annual Gmitter Scholarship Exhibition

Ongoing though Apr. 1  
Bruce Gallery,  
219 Meadville St.  
[brucegallery.info](http://brucegallery.info).

#### Student Art League Art Auction

Ongoing through Apr.  
2 — 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Bates Gallery, 215 Glasgow  
Rd. [events.edinboro.edu](http://events.edinboro.edu).

#### Joel Quiggle

Ongoing through Apr. 5  
Glass Growers  
Gallery, 10 E. 5th St.  
[glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).

#### Senior Art Thesis Exhibition

Ongoing through Apr.

20 — 9 a.m. (Reception  
Apr. 2 — 2 to 4 p.m.)  
Cummings Art Gallery, 501  
E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

#### Henry Katzwinkel

Ongoing through May 1  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Plenty

Ongoing through May 7  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Art of the Comic Book

Ongoing through May. 22  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Dark Garden

Ongoing through  
Jan 8, 2017  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Annual Student Show

Apr. 5 through 17  
(Opening Reception Apr.  
5 — 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.)  
Allegheny College,  
520 N. Main St. sites.

[allegheny.edu](http://allegheny.edu).

#### New Voices, New Visions

Apr. 6 through 22  
(Reception Apr.  
6 — 5 to 7 p.m.)  
Bruce Gallery,  
219 Meadville St.  
[brucegallery.info](http://brucegallery.info).

#### Into Alignment

Apr. 8 through May 17  
Glass Growers  
Gallery, 10 E. 5th St.  
[glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).

#### Barber National Institute Art Show

Apr. 8 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
& Apr. 9, 10 — noon to 3  
p.m. & Apr. 11 — 1 to 6 p.m.  
Barber National Institute,  
100 Barber Place  
[barberinstitute.org](http://barberinstitute.org).

#### Slow Art Day: The Art of Seeing

Apr. 9 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State  
St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

#### Second Sundays

Apr. 10 — 2 to 4 p.m.

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DATE/TIME	LECTURES	INSTRUCTOR
Apr. 5 / 6-8:30	Liberty Under Law: The Robert H. Jackson Story	Hon. Sean McLaughlin, Gregory L. Peterson, J.D.*
Apr. 6 / 6-9	Erie Torch Club Presents: Fun with Physics	Karim Hossain, Ph.D.
Apr. 7 / 7-8:30	U.S. Senate Democratic Candidates' Forum: Foreign Policy and the Role of U.S. Senators <i>Free</i>	John Fetterman*, Joe Sestak*
Apr. 12 / 7-8:30	Erie Mayor Tom Flaty – An Irish Tragedy?	William P. Garvey, Ph.D.
Apr. 13 / 4-5:30	Remarkable Women: Barbara Jordan <i>Free</i>	Corrine Egan, B.A.
Apr. 14 / 7-8:30	Beads of Destruction: A Great Lakes Plastic Pollution Survey	Sherri A. Mason, Ph.D.*
Apr. 20 / 7-8:30	The State Erie's Economy and Updates on the Second Jefferson Essay: "Erie's Advanced Industries" <i>Free</i>	R. James Wertz, Ph.D., Perry Wood, M.S.
Apr. 21 / 7-8:30	The Politics of Climate Change	Charles Brock, M.Litt, and Gretchen Dahlkemper, B.A.*
Apr. 25 / 7-8:30	Presidents or Superheroes: Examining the Role of Commander-in-Chief	Dana D. Nelson, Ph.D.*
Apr. 26 / 7-8:30	Examining the Erie City Comprehensive Plan: A Foundation for Stability and Prosperity <i>Free</i>	Peter Lombardi, M.A.*
Apr. 27 / 7-8:30	Uncharted Territory: The Road to National Marine Sanctuary Designation <i>Free</i>	Kathy Dahlkemper, B.A.

Tickets at [behrend.psu.edu/concert](http://behrend.psu.edu/concert)

*Paric! at the Disco*

Friday, April 22  
8:00 p.m.  
Junker Center



**PennState**  
Behrend



## CALENDAR

in love with the band right away. Songs range from chilled out, slow-burning grooves to heavy-hitting ragers. This show is going to be a party. The downstairs concert complex will be opened up for the evening. Special Guest, that cleverly named local band, will open up the show. They're a high-energy, dance-

The entire Rook will be filled with wild and wonderful tunes from start to finish. Every band shares the same exciting sensibilities, which should build the perfect environment for a great Saturday night out.

able quintet that adds just the right touch of psychedelia and shred. Later on, upstairs, you can find the LEC for the afterparty. The much-loved local act blends hip-hop, funk, and rock to create an infectious atmosphere that'll get you moving. The entire Rook will be filled with wild and wonderful tunes from start to finish. Every band shares the same exciting sensibilities, which

should build the perfect environment for a great Saturday night out. – Nick Warren

10 p.m. // Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. // [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](https://facebook.com/kingsrookclub) // \$7 for current members, \$10 for non-current and new members (includes 2016 membership)

### Monday, April 11

#### David Sedaris Thinks Erie is "Nice." Soon, He's Headed for the Warner Theatre.

A spoken-word master. A euphemism slasher. A trenchant social critic. A damn fine writer, and a damn funny man.

Pre-eminent American humorist David Sedaris is all of those things. He's also an award-winning author and speaker with a hyper-singular voice and more than 10 million copies of his works in print.

Local author and former *Reader* writer Cory Vaillancourt – a damn fine and funny wordsmith himself – said it like this when Sedaris last (and first) toured through Erie, in 2011: "Sedaris forges an instant connection to his readers, because, like his readers, he knows that real life is awkward. Real life is dirty.



Real life is bizarre. Real life is absurd, and he has the unique and enviable gift of being able to present the awkward dirty bizarre absurdity of real daily life in an entertaining, thought-provoking way."

When Vaillancourt asked Sedaris off-the-cuff what he thought of Erie

following that 2011 appearance at Mercyhurst College, here's what the always-insightful, always-incisive social

Pre-eminent American humorist David Sedaris, an award-winning author and speaker with a hyper-singular voice and more than 10 million works in print, will be stopping in the Gem City on his current tour.

critic had to say: "It's nice."

Hopefully, Sedaris will feel the same the second time around, as he'll once again be stopping in the Gem City on his current tour, appearing Monday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the historic Warner Theatre.

Whether you're a reader, a writer, or just a fan of laughing at things that are funny because they're true (sometimes painfully so), it's an event that's not to be missed. – Ryan Smith

7:30 to 10 p.m. // 811 State St. // 452.4857

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

### THEATRE

#### Six Characters in Search of an Author

Mar. 31 & Apr. 1, 2 — 7:30 p.m. & Apr. 3 — 2:30 p.m.  
*Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. [laughrioterie.com](http://laughrioterie.com).*

#### Jump I'll Catch You

Apr. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. & Apr. 3, 10, 17 — 3 to 5 p.m.  
*All an Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).*

#### Drinking Habits

Apr. 2, 9 — 5:30 p.m. & Apr. 3 — 2:30 p.m. & Apr. 5, 6 — noon  
*Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [canterburyfeast.com](http://canterburyfeast.com).*

#### The Diary of Anne Frank

Apr. 7, 8, 9 — 8 p.m. & Apr. 9, 10 — 2 p.m.  
*Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. [miac](http://miac).*

[mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

#### Fool for Love

Apr. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 — 8 p.m.  
*PACA, 1505 State St. [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com).*

#### Sondheim on Sondheim

Apr. 8, 9 — 7:30 p.m.  
*Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).*

#### Women

Apr. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 — 8 p.m.  
*2nd Fl. Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. [dramashop.org](http://dramashop.org).*

### COMMUNITY/VARIETY

#### Great Lakes Shipwreck Exhibition Featuring Lake Erie's Maritime Heritage

Ongoing through Apr. 25 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).*

#### Monthly Book Club

Mar. 30 — 11 a.m.  
*Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St. [wernerbooks.com](http://wernerbooks.com).*

#### Beat Women's Life-writing

Mar. 30 — 11 a.m.  
*Cooper Science Center, 230 Scotland Rd. [events.edinboro.edu](http://events.edinboro.edu).*

#### Birding by Trolley: Waterfowl

Mar. 30 — 2 to 5 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).*

#### Box of Light LEGO Animation Night

Mar. 30 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
*Plymouth Tavern and Restaurant, 1109 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).*

#### The Vibrant Life Series

Mar. 31 — 9 to 10 a.m.  
*LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).*

#### PA Department of Revenue Tax/Rebate Program

Mar. 31 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
*Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).*

#### Jon Lovitz

Mar. 31 — 7 p.m. & Apr. 1 — 6:45 p.m. & Apr. 2 — 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.  
*Jr.'s Last Laugh, 402 State St. [jrslastlaugh.net](http://jrslastlaugh.net).*

#### Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Championships

Apr. 1, 2  
*Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).*

#### Erie Tip-Off Classic

Apr. 1, 2, 3  
*Gannon Recreation and Wellness Center, 100 W. 4th St. [eriesportscommission.com](http://eriesportscommission.com).*

#### Recycling 101 and Beyond

Apr. 1 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
*Whole Foods Co-Op, 1341 W. 26th St. [theerievegssociety.org](http://theerievegssociety.org).*

#### Cupcakes for Kids

Apr. 3 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
*Villa Maria Elementary School, 2549 W. 8th St. [cacerie.org](http://cacerie.org).*

#### Great Books: Seven Even Deadlier

Apr. 5 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
*Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).*

#### Creativity Matters

Apr. 5, 12 — 1:30 to 3 p.m. & Apr. 7 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
*LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).*

#### The Practice of Breath

Apr. 5 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
*Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).*

#### Liberty Under Law: The Robert H. Jackson Story

Apr. 5 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).*

#### Qi Gong: Wellness Wednesdays

Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 2 to 3 p.m.  
*Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).*

#### Whose Line is it Anyway?

Apr. 6 — 6 p.m.  
*Jr.'s Last Laugh, 402 State St. [cvcerie.org](http://cvcerie.org).*

#### Wine Glass Painting Class

Apr. 6 — 6 p.m.  
*Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [facebook.com/Arundel-Cellars-398619953537600](http://facebook.com/Arundel-Cellars-398619953537600).*

#### Fun with Physics

Apr. 6 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
*Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).*

#### Backyard Beekeeping Workshop

Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).*

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Memphis Industries

The British Isles have a curious penchant for cultivating clever songwriters. Lennon-McCartney is the pair history best remembers, but the tradition continued well beyond the '60s with Tillbrook-Gifford (Squeeze), Partridge-Moulding (XTC), Brown-Squire (The Stone Roses), and others. Fellow Brits Peter and David Brewis have carried the pedigree into the 21st Century as the brains behind Field Music. Their sixth LP, *Commontime*, is a cunning cross-pollination of these influences, marrying groove and sophistication in equal measure. Tight, funky tracks dominate the first half, with the propulsive "I'm Glad" and mid-tempo "How Should I Know You Have Changed?" evoking the sleek new wave of Squeeze and The Fixx. The latter half opens up a bit, crossing Abbey Road a few times in the process. "They Want You To Remember" and "The Morning Is Waiting" are lovely baroque pop pieces in the vein of Sir Paul, while "Trouble at the Lights" borrows the haunting Mellotron harpsichords of the Beatles' "Because" before building to Pink Floyd-esque crescendos in its choruses. – Matt Swanseger



**Into It. Over It.**

Standards



Triple Crown Records

How long will it take make another perfect emo album? Evan Thomas Weiss seems to have come close. Almost all of the pieces are there. At first listen, it's uncanny. There are plenty of "emo revival" bands out there, but few of them have the commitment to authenticity of Into It. Over It. There's the vocal timbre. Softly sung parts sound like Ben Gibbard, and high-register strains mimic The Anniversary. The acoustic chimes are pure Dashboard Confessional, while the omnipresent scalar noodlings are right out of the American Football playbook. Slower songs channel the Get Up Kids, while frantic drum and keyboard sections remind one of Motion City Soundtrack. In other words, it's emo. At worst, the amalgamation of parts can feel like robotic parroting. While it might detract to have a record's influences be so transparent, it's oddly welcome. Maybe it's my sense of early 2000s nostalgia talking, but this is a loveable record. Weiss says it best himself, admitting that he was "Born too late. I always find my interests remain intact just behind the times." – Nick Warren



**Iggy Pop**

Post Pop Depression



Loma Vista

This is the best record Iggy Pop has made in quite a long time. Of course, "A long time" is a relative term, considering The Stooges formed almost 50 years ago. Iggy Pop is an absolute icon, a proto-punk symbol, and a veritable household name. *Post Pop Depression* knows this. The record latches onto a new sound for the singer. After questionable forays into jazz (*Preliminaires*), segueing into foreign crooning (*Après*), it seems like he's found a better home. The sound is dark. The instruments pound themselves out into a surf-garage death march, while Pop's gurgly, haggard, unmistakable voice freely narrates with spoken-word tirades and hooks alike. This music belongs in a smoky club at the outskirts of Las Vegas, or cooler parts of Cleveland. The secret weapon is collaborator Josh Homme (Kyuss, Queens of the Stone Age, Eagles of Death Metal, etc.). This is Homme's first major effort since the terrorist attack at Paris' Bataclan Theatre. Recording this album helped him process some of that, as Pop was dealing with the death of his friend and collaborator, David Bowie. – Nick Warren



**Bent Shapes**

Wolves of Want



Slumberland Records

Some great albums arrived this month! There was the acidic garage rock of CFM. Little Green Cars' *Ephemera* had a gorgeous indie folk presence. Koi Child's self-titled debut (produced by Tame Impala's Kevin Parker), was an astounding blend of jazz and hip-hop. Damien Jurado put out a great 12th studio album. UK's The Bonnevilles cooked up some pitch perfect garage-blues with *Arrow Pierce My Heart*. One album that grabbed me immediately, though, was *Wolves of Want* by Bent Shapes. Jangly guitar hooks chime in instantly. The treble-heavy twee of the Boston quartet is infectious. Fans of Ted Leo and Jonathan Richman will quickly find footing. A few songs in, however, you really start to notice the lyrics. At first the album just seems to be peppered with metered wordplay and a few clever allusions. It inches closer and closer to being too recondite for its own good. Singer Ben Potrykus is "testing the limits of language to see how long you last." His narration acquiesces enough affable self-awareness to still garner a winking sympathy, through devices like the *mise en abyme* of "USA vs Por." See, I told you it was infectious. – Nick Warren



**Resurrecting a Tall Ship, the Schooner Porcupine**

Apr. 7 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
*LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.*

**Mo Mandel**

Apr. 7 — 7 p.m. & Apr. 8, 9 — 6:40 & 9:30 p.m.  
*Jr.'s Last Laugh, 402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.*

**U.S. Senate Democratic Candidates' Forum**

Apr. 7 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.*

**Shoot the Rock Future Stars Classic**

Apr. 8, 9, 10  
*Family First Sports*

*Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesportscommission.com.*

**Romero Award Presentation and Lecture**

Apr. 8 — 7 p.m.  
*Mercy Heritage Room, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.*

**Presque Isle's 60th Spring Clean-up**

Apr. 9 — 8 a.m. to noon  
*Rotary Pavilion, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.*

**Book Lover's Bus Trip to Buffalo**

Apr. 9 — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
*Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St. wernerbooks.com.*

**Raptor Experience**

Apr. 9 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.*

**Cyberchase Earth Day Rocks**

Apr. 9 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
*Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.*

**Jonnie W.**

Apr. 9 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
*Erie First Assembly of God, 8150 Oliver Rd. wctl.org.*

**Lake Erie National Cheer and Dance Championships**

Apr. 10 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
*Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.*

**Jedi Academy Training at the Museum**

Apr. 10 — 10 a.m. to noon  
*Experience Children's Museum, 420 French St. eriechildrensmuseum.org.*

**Talking Turkeys**

Apr. 10 — 1 to 2 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.*

**'Empty Bowls' Hunger Awareness Event**

Apr. 10 — 4 to 6:30 p.m.  
*Laker Inn, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.*

**Master's Viewing Party**

Apr. 10 — 4 to 7 p.m.  
*Fox and Hound, 250 Millcreek Mall Plaza eventbrite.com.*

**David Sedaris**

Apr. 11 — 7:30 to 10 p.m.  
*Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriewarnertheatre.com.*

**Masterclass: Violinist Jinjoo Cho**

Apr. 12 — 2 p.m.  
*Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.*

**Therapy Dogs**

Apr. 12 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
*Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.*

**County Council Meeting**

Apr. 12 — 7 p.m.  
*Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriecountypa.gov.*

**Erie Mayor Tom Flatley: A Tragic Tale?**

Apr. 12 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.*

**Remarkable Women: Barbara Jordan**

Apr. 13 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
*Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.*

**Adopt-A-Beach**

Apr. 13 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.*

**39th Annual English Awards Night**

Apr. 13 — 7:30 p.m.  
*Waldron Campus Center, 109 University Square gannon.edu.*



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# Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture 2015-16 SEASON



## Matuto

Thursday, April 7 | 7:30 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall

Brazilian rhythms rumble beneath blues-drenched vocals, Telecaster twangs, accordion acrobatics and folksy fiddle tunes in this unorthodox, animated blend of Afro-Brazilian percussion and American roots music.

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Wednesday...9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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Saturday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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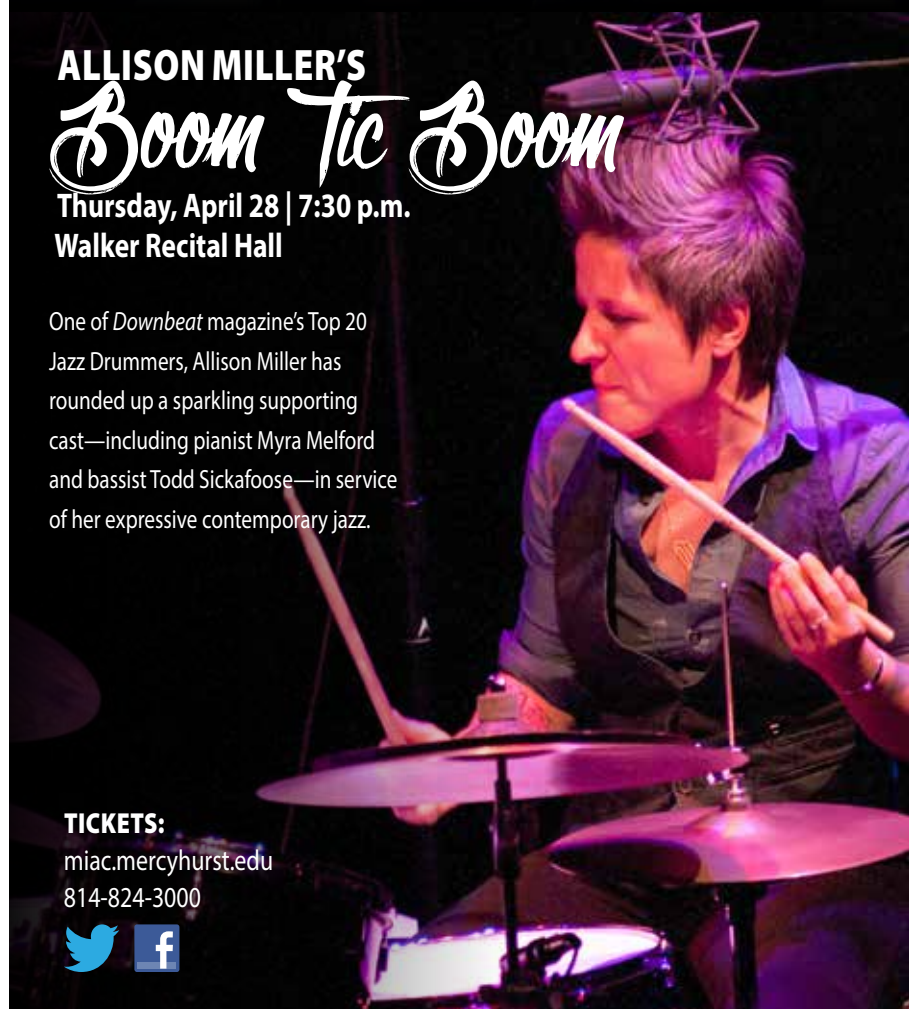
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## ALLISON MILLER'S Boom Tic Boom

Thursday, April 28 | 7:30 p.m.  
Walker Recital Hall

One of *Downbeat* magazine's Top 20 Jazz Drummers, Allison Miller has rounded up a sparkling supporting cast—including pianist Myra Melford and bassist Todd Sickafoose—in service of her expressive contemporary jazz.



**TICKETS:**  
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814-824-3000



## Conflict Kitchen Serves Foreign Policy on the Take-out Menu at Penn State Behrend

Thursday, April 7



AOL/VEEX

**Pittsburgh-based Conflict Kitchen offers take-out cuisine from nations with which the U.S. is in conflict. On April 7, co-founder Dawn Weleski will speak at Penn State Behrend.**

they might know little about outside of the polarizing rhetoric of governmental politics and the narrow lens of media headlines.” Visitors to the restaurant aren’t only asked to consider the Bolivarian Socialism of post-Chavez Venezuela, they’re also confronted with the great taste of a bean-and-cheese arepa.

Conflict Kitchen began in 2010 as the brainchild of Carnegie Mellon art professor Jon Rubin and artist/curator Dawn Weleski. Their idea was to offer take-out cuisine from nations with which the U.S. was in conflict. For example, Iranian food is their current focus. This means that when you visit their storefront in Pittsburgh’s Schenley Plaza, you can try out Khoresht-e Fesenjan, a chicken dish marinated in walnuts and pomegranates. And as you eat, you might be tempted to learn more about Iranian and Persian history.

Conflict Kitchen is much more than a restaurant. Each design of the shop is approached in conjunction with members of Pittsburgh’s ethnic communities, and the restaurant hosts a variety of cultural events intended to increase awareness about the country and culture in focus. Conflict Kitchen doesn’t simply fill bellies – it also organizes film screenings, cooking lessons, solidarity dinners, and social media blasts on Instagram. Even your meal’s paper packaging features texts written by thinkers and activists from the featured region.

If Conflict Kitchen sounds familiar, it may be because of a controversy in 2014 that made national headlines. At the time, the restaurant was serving food from Palestine, and the Jewish advocacy orga-

nization B’nai B’rith International took issue with the restaurant’s perceived reluctance to consider pro-Israeli perspectives in their packaging and programming. B’nai B’rith eventually contacted the Heinz Foundation, which awarded Conflict Kitchen a \$50,000 grant, to express their concerns over what they believed to be “Anti-Israel propaganda” featured on the food wrappers.

Soon after, conservative news outlets began sensationalizing the controversy. For example, the reliably hysterical *Breitbart.com* ran an article titled “Report: John Kerry’s Wife Funds Radical Anti-U.S., Anti-Israel Eatery.” By November of 2014, the restaurant was forced to close temporarily in response to death threats.

Rubin, who is Jewish, defended Conflict Kitchen’s Palestinian offerings in an interview with *Guernica* last year. He acknowledged that much of their featured content was critical of Israel, but that the design and menu were in keeping with their mission to “use food as a way of bypassing people’s defenses in order to pull them into narratives that are sometimes foreign and not always comfortable.” Roughly a month after Conflict Kitchen’s temporary shut-down, Rubin was awarded the Pittsburgh Foundation’s Carol R. Brown Established Artist Award. Things have been getting back to normal at the restaurant ever since.

One of the encouraging things about world history is that recipes often outlive regional conflicts. The wars of the 20th century haven’t prevented us from enjoying German pilsners, Japanese sushi, or Vietnamese Pho. Twenty years from now, the name “Afghanistan” might call to mind chickpea pakoras rather than Taliban insurgents. Conflict Kitchen reminds us that it’s possible to live in a world where we break bread instead of breaking bones. – Dan Schank

4:30 p.m. // Penn State Behrend, Metzgar Lobby // 4701 Behrend College Dr.

**A**fghanistan. Venezuela. North Korea. When you think of these places, what comes to mind? Foreign policy blunders? Human rights abuses? Global quagmires?

What if we looked at these locations through the culinary lens of lamb tikka kebabs, empanadas, or kimchi? Would we be less likely to rush to judgment when faced with a good meal instead of a heated argument?

On April 7, Dawn Weleski, the co-founder of Pittsburgh’s Conflict Kitchen, will speak at Penn State Behrend about the need to cultivate cultural awareness through cooking. According to their website, Conflict Kitchen “uses the social relations of food and economic exchange to engage the general public in discussions about countries, cultures, and people that

## The 10th Annual Erie Micro Brew Festival Brings Brewers and Beer Lovers Together at the Brewerrie

Saturday, April 9



ALEGRE CZARINA

**This year’s Erie Micro Brew Fest will feature select breweries from the tri-state region, such as Great Lakes, Ellicottville, Voodoo, Full Pint, Victory, and the newly reopened Blue Canoe Brewery.**

thing to beer lovers that they couldn’t find in the local bottle shop or package store. So I met with all the local and regional brewers and asked them what they would do – they said create an intimate environment for people to sample beer: Have brewers and beer people pour the beer.”

That’s the most important factor in differentiating this beer tasting event from most others. To get the most out of your experience, you want to talk to the folks who made your beer. It’s tough to get the people behind the beer to pour

at festivals. People who own breweries are busy running businesses. They have payroll checks to sign, wort to mash, hops to order, and distributors to keep happy. This means that most of the people filling your glass at these events are volunteers or employees working for distributors. Sadly, it’s not unheard of to get someone who knows virtually nothing about the beer they are serving.

So why is this festival the one where you will meet the most brewers, the most proprietors, the most knowledgeable and worthy beer connoisseurs? Jason Lavery, owner of nationally-renowned Lavery Brewing Company, took time out from washing bottles to explain why he will personally attend. “Chris [Sirianni] is one of my closest friends. He takes good care of the brewers. He makes sure we eat well. There’s a lot of fraternization among the brewers. We’re always looking to bring

new ones into the club.”

In an effort to slow things down and give festival-goers a chance to talk to those brewers, this year’s Micro Brew Fest will sell fewer tickets. (So get yours early!) It will feature select breweries from the tri-state region. Participants include such favorites as Great Lakes, Ellicottville, Voodoo, Full Pint, Victory, and the newly reopened Blue Canoe Brewery in Titusville. Every brewery will also feature a rare beer, something unavailable at a bottle shop or grocery store. – Bryan Toy

Sampling Session 1 VIP - 12:15-4 p.m.

Sampling Session 1 - 1-4 p.m.

Sampling Session 2 - 5-8 p.m.

The Brewerrie at Union Station // 123 West 14th St. // VIP Pass for Sampling Session 1: \$50 in advance // Tickets for Sampling Session 1 or 2: \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door // Designated Driver Ticket: \$20

**Wake Up With The Wolf**

# 2<sup>ND</sup> DATE UPDATE

**93.9**  
the **Wolf**

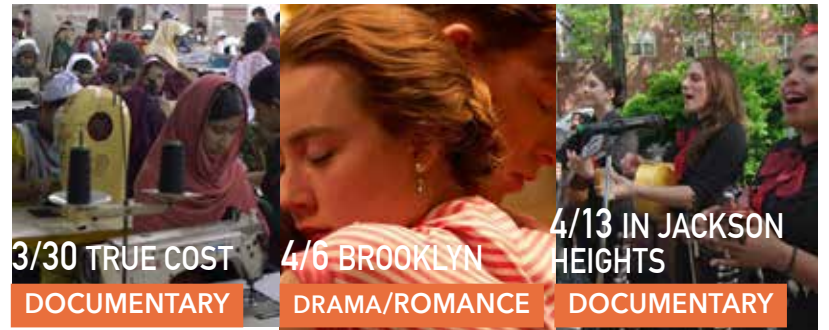


MON. 7:10AM  
WED. 8:10AM  
& FRI. 6:25AM

## Sammy Stone

# at the Erie Art Museum

\$5      [filmsocietynwpa.org](http://filmsocietynwpa.org)      @ 7pm



3/30 TRUE COST

DOCUMENTARY

(2015) This is a story about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the impact the industry is having on our world. The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically.

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4/6 BROOKLYN

DRAMA/ROMANCE

(2015) An Irish immigrant lands in 1950s Brooklyn, where she quickly falls into a new romance. When her past catches up with her, however, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within.

SPONSOR:

LILLY BROADCASTING

4/13 IN JACKSON HEIGHTS

DOCUMENTARY

(2015) Jackson Heights, a community where 167 languages are spoken and the 40th film from 86-year old filmmaker Frederick Wiseman. Experience the conflict between maintaining ties to old traditions and adapting to American values.

5:30 PM INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & MARKET

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- DJ NBC at after party



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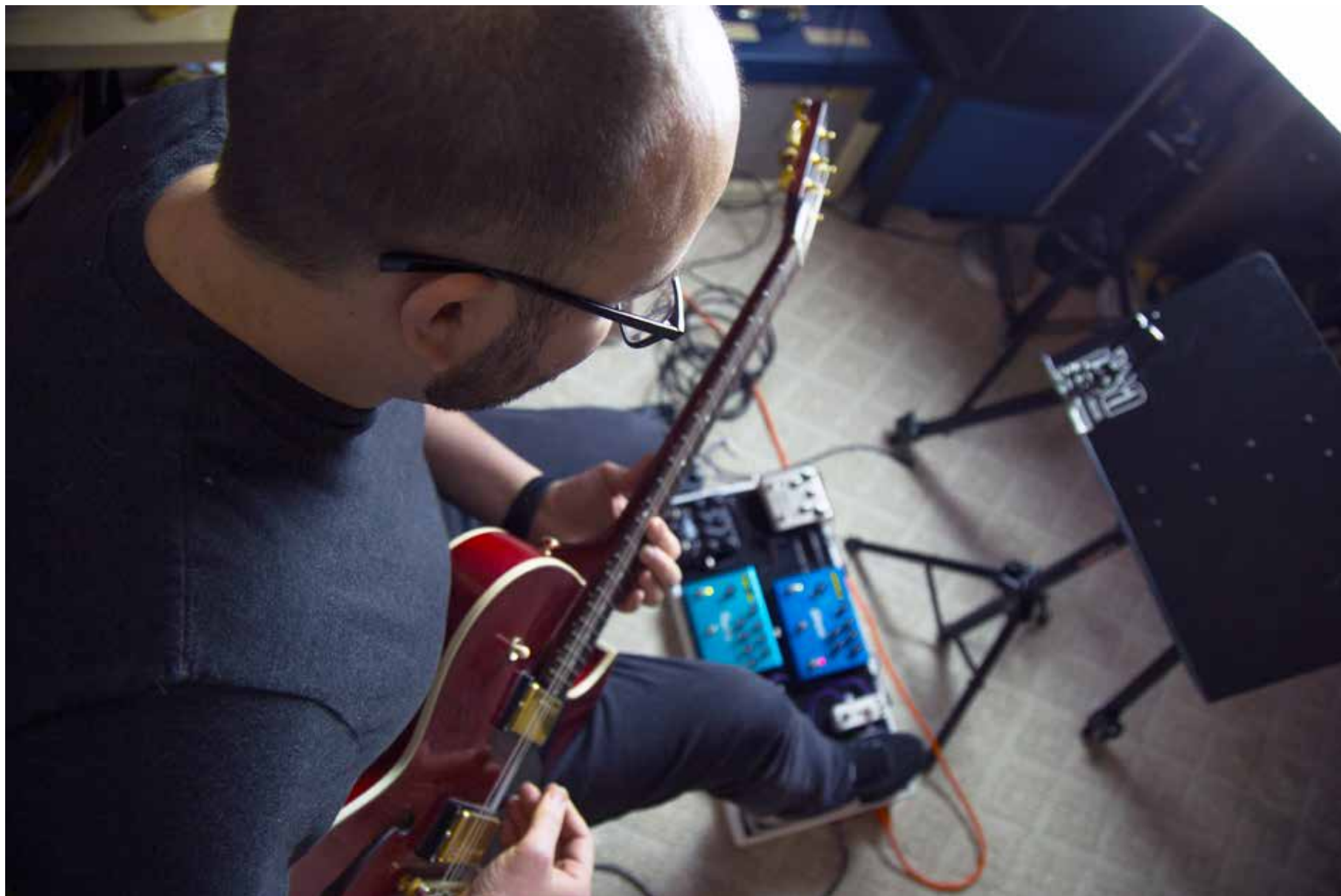


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## A Daily Rhythm

Zack Orr concludes 365 Days of Song with a celebration.



BRAD TRIANA

By: Nick Warren

**Z**ack Orr doesn't mind a challenge. Last year, the musician began a yearlong journey. He decided to perform one song each day, and broadcast it live. The final day will be a musical celebration. On Thursday, April 7, Basement Transmissions will host Zack Orr and the 365s. Recruiting some of the best musicians around, the band will consist of Orr, Eric Brewer on guitar, Ian Maciak on drums, and Stephen Trohoske on bass. Along with many guests from the past year (Jake Johns, Gem City Revival, Hayes Moses, and more), they'll run through some of the favorites, including covers and originals.

Orr has been writing his own great music for a long time, but to fill up the year, he needed to dig into his record collection. There are classics like the Beatles and Neil Young, and cuts from artists like Ween, Beck, and the Flaming Lips. Using the Periscope app, Orr is able to stream his videos all over the world. Followers tuning in can give live feedback in real time. It's a great new way to have an intimate back-and-forth between an audience and a performer.

I recently sat down with Orr to experience the process first hand. The wonderful singer Jess Royer and I had the honor of contributing to day 349. We all pitched a few ideas, landing on the Magnetic Fields' "Yeah, Oh Yeah."

Thanks to Orr's know-how, everything was smooth and amazingly fun. With years of experience in both television and music, this kind of thing is second nature to him. We ran through the song a couple of times, and were ready to roll.

It was exceptional to see comments from across the country pop up right then and there. Shimmering hearts appeared in the corner whenever followers liked something they heard. The video lived on Periscope for the next 24 hours, until it was replaced by the Beatles' "Sexy Sadie." After all was sung and done, we talked about the process.

Nick Warren: First off, what inspired you to start up such an ambitious project?

**Orr has been writing his own great music for a long time, but to fill up the year, he needed to dig into his record collection. There are classics like the Beatles and Neil Young, and cuts from artists like Ween, Beck, and the Flaming Lips.**

Zack Orr: Well, it was my 25th year playing music. It's my 26th year now. But it started as a sort of New Year's resolution to go about things in a new way, and morphed from there. I had just found out that Periscope existed, and I thought it was a great way to be accountable and produce results right away.

NW: Were there any specific songs that stood as highlights for you?

ZO: I really enjoyed when songs were



BRAD TRIANA

a conceptual success, when I was able to match the performances with the content of the songs, and record a few in ideal locations. I did “NY, I Love You But You’re Bringing Me Down” [by LCD Soundsystem] in New York. I went out on the streets with my friend Nori Kikuta on guitar, and you can see the Empire State Building and the whole New York skyline lit up. I played Wilco’s “California Stars” on a Venice Beach rooftop, with my old bandmate, David Irelan. I also played “Boys of Summer” and you could see the Hollywood sign.

I lost a bunch of videos when my hard drive crashed. It was terrible, but there was nothing I could do to save them. I guess I’ll have to look at it as a unique experience for people who were watching on Periscope (laughs).

There was also “American Pie.” We did that on the Fourth of July outside as

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BRAD TRIANA

a big group, and everyone sang along with the chorus as fireworks were going off.

Then there were others, like “Via Chicago,” by Wilco. I had every intention of playing that one in the O’Hare airport. My guitar was supposed to be gate checked, so I could grab it on my layover, but it was checked all the way back home! I ended up singing it at 11:55 p.m. at the Erie Airport, just under the wire for that day. It ended up being pretty funny, but hey, that’s how it goes!

NW: There were a couple that got some special attention too, right?

ZO: Oh yeah, those were some special ones, too. Joe Henry, part of ANTI-Records, is one of my all-time favorites, kind of a songwriter’s songwriter. My cousin is a rock critic at the *LA Weekly* and tagged Henry on Facebook. And



BRAD TRIANA

he liked it! He was really nice about everything. It was amazing getting feedback directly from someone I respect so much.

Then there was the retweet from George Harrison. Well, the official estate of George Harrison, for "Isn't It a Pity." That meant a lot to me. The Beatles are a big part of my life.

Another one that got more attention than I expected was that Killers song, "When You Were Young." That ended up being one of the featured videos on Patreon [a crowdfunding platform]. A lot of those ended up being the song of the month.

NW: And those are going to be re-recorded?

ZO: Yeah, I'm going to redo the 12 "songs of the month," so each month the most popular song is getting re-recorded and mixed. There's going to be a super-limited, hand-pressed vinyl edition for some of the Patreon supporters. Then there's a standard vinyl edition which I'll be selling online and at shows.

NW: That was one of the tiered benefits if you donated?

ZO: Yeah, that was for the inner circle. I like to explore new ways to

do crowdfunding, and Patreon really worked for me. The thing about Patreon as opposed to other crowdfunding sites is that it can operate on micro-loans and monthly donations that almost work like a subscription service. Coincidentally, I was one of the first musicians to successfully fund an album on Kickstarter. That was around 10 or 11 years ago. It's interesting that it's become kind of par for the course for a lot of artists.

Not to get too negative, but I guess you could say that I don't have much faith in the music industry being a good place for the artist making a living as a musician, so I'm constantly trying new things. Something as little as a dollar doesn't sound like much, but when you have people all over the world donating, it can add up! I think that it's cool and I'm proud of it.

*Nick Warren can be contacted at [nWarren@ErieReader.com](mailto:nWarren@ErieReader.com).*

*April 7 at 8 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // Free (\$10 Suggested Donation), all ages // [zackorr.com](http://zackorr.com)*

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**4:00—7:00 p.m.**

- ◆ Tenant Open Houses
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**[Cont. from page 23]** it all through phone calls and letters,” Danylko said. “The response was unbelievable. So many people jumped in and helped with this unheard-of program. My grandfather’s company built wheelchair ramps, somebody donated helmets – I don’t even know where the helmets came from – and that was it. We somehow got it going from nothing.”

#### **Kate’s Recovery**

Because of the car accident, Kate suffered what is referred to as a TBI, or Traumatic Brain Injury. Kate, now 27 years old, has limited use of the right side of her body due to increased muscle tone causing such stiffness that she barely is able to move her right arm or leg. Kate’s brain injury also affects her speech, short-term memory, cognitive function, and balance. She requires assistance to walk and to perform many activities of daily living.

“I always tell people there are ups and downs when dealing with this kind of thing,” Kate’s mother, Janet, continued by phone, referring to Kate’s recovery. “The road is not a straight one. You continue down it, you continue searching for therapies that will work because it is worth it to see someone you love live the best quality of life possible.”

“Over the years, we tried many different therapies,” Janet added. “Kate often endured pain as part of her therapy. I was frustrated. She was frustrated. Sometimes I didn’t know what else to do for her. There was progress followed by setbacks. She had to learn how to function again.”

Janet’s determination to improve her daughter’s quality of life eventually led to a cocktail support system that now includes chiropractic release via cranial manipulation, Japanese acupuncture with fine needles, psychiatric therapy, visits to a chronic healer, and since 2005, riding lessons at TREC.

#### **Therapeutic Riding Grows**

By the early 1990s, around the time of Kate’s accident, TREC had settled into a single facility now called Tailwinds on Platz Road in Fairview, just south of Erie. Volunteerism, donations, and class attendance increased as people heard about TREC.

Sue Moczulski, whose son has autism, started volunteering more than 20 years ago when she brought her son to TREC for lessons. Moczulski said the biggest change she has noticed is the diversity of riders.

“I see older riders and more riders with physical disabilities now than I did 20 years ago. This is thanks to donations of bigger, stronger horses and the lift that someone built and donated four or five years ago. At one time, we had to lift a rider from the ramp onto the horse ourselves. Now, we have the mechanical lift,” Moczulski said.

According to TREC’s annual reports, statistics show that the average age increased from 14.8 in 2003 to 21 in 2014. The range of disorders or disabilities experienced by riders also has increased over the years.

In 2009, TREC’s busiest year on record, 285 riders took part in classes. Riders experienced disorders or disabilities such as autism, depression, cerebral palsy, and Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), among others. That year, TREC received help from 535 volunteers for a total of 10,468 volunteer hours.

“The classes end in November for the winter, but the horses stay,” said Betty Rositer, the new executive director, from inside the TREC office. “We provide food, board, and medical expenses for the horses until classes start up again in March. Classes take a break, but the organization never does.”

Although the riders pay a fee for classes, most funding comes from private donations.

“Last year, we were very fortunate also to receive corporate sponsorship from Pizza Hut and Erie Insurance,” Betty

said. “Meeting our budget goal enables us to expand. We’ve been working on new programming for 2016, including classes for veterans and at-risk youth.”

#### **It All Comes Together**

When Karen Mead, now a physical therapist assistant and PATH certified TREC instructor, moved back to Erie in 1990, she started coming to TREC to be near the horses.

“I didn’t have the money to be around horses any other way, so I came out to TREC to be with them for free. It was the closeness of the volunteers that kept me coming back, making me feel like family. I just wanted to learn about the horses and be near them,” Mead, who had just finished

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**“Riding has helped her physically, with her strength, because she uses muscles on the horse she doesn’t usually use. Her balance is better, her confidence is better. She is just like many other riders: TREC is the highlight of her week.”**

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instructing Kate’s class, said from the TREC office with Danylko and Rositer.

Even once she became an instructor, Mead insisted she taught classes because of the horses.

“Then one day it dawned on me. I wake up, take care of myself, go to work, do my thing, go to bed. These families get up and deal with so much more than I will ever think about dealing with in my whole wide world. Ever. And they show up here and they don’t say, ‘Oh, I’m late because my kid did this or my kid did that,’ you know, like I do. These families, they just show up. And they’re happy. Their kids are happy. And they

just climbed a mountain to be here.” Mead laughed. “And that was when I realized I was here for the riders.”

Rositer experienced a similar awakening one day while watching riders mount their horses before class.

“I taught special education for about 10 years,” Rositer said, when describing why she chose to work at TREC in her retirement. “So I knew a little about the program and believed in the ways the horses help the riders. Then one day I saw a man, a 34-year-old veteran, who worked so hard to get on the horse. He’s in a wheelchair and he has to let volunteers lift him up onto the horse and after he worked so hard to get up there, his whole aspect just changed. And I just thought that was so amazing how much courage that must take to get on the horse.”

Mead nodded and added, “Now I have long-term riders like Kate in class, and I see how much her balance has improved, how much more confident she is to ride the horses – she even projects her voice commands better – and I know this is all worth it. All the time we put into coming out here and being here is all worth it.”

According to a literature review published in *Health Psychology* in 2013 on the effectiveness of equine therapy, two things are definite: 1) The sample base for scientific studies on the subject is thin and lacking, and 2) The few studies conducted thus far show results substantiating Mead’s claims that horseback riding can improve balance, confidence, and communication skills. To date, nearly the entire equine therapy system has been based and built on observed improvements in class participants. Mead is not the only one to witness skill enhancement in riders like Kate.

Outside the arena in the TREC facility, Kate’s father, Floyd Csir, a physician in town and a quiet man with a neatly trimmed beard, stood on the

wheelchair ramp behind Kate after class. He nodded his head as Kate spoke about feeling free on a horse.

“Coming to TREC seemed to help all of Kate’s other therapies come together for her,” Floyd said. “Everything just seemed to get a little bit better after she started riding.”

“Riding has helped physically, with her strength, because she uses muscles on the horse she doesn’t usually use,” Janet continued. “Her balance is better, her confidence is better. She is just like many other riders: TREC is the highlight of her week.”

“When I get up in the morning and see it is TREC day on the calendar, I know I can relax,” Kate said. “I suffer from tightness in my muscles from my brain injury from my car accident,” Kate continued after her mother prompted her to explain the relaxation. “When I am on the horse, I relax the muscles I don’t use and work on the muscles I need to ride. And I relax my brain. I just ride.”

Janet said it took a number of years to put together the plan that works best for Kate. “It took a lot of work, but we are in a pretty good place now.”

As Janet helped Kate to rise from her chair, Kate said, “I do this because I am a hard worker.” With her mother’s assistance for balance, Kate took a couple steps toward the open barn door, then turned her head and added, “And I’m not a quitter. Nobody should ever quit.”

*For more information about TREC or to volunteer, contact executive director Betty Rositer at 474.5276 or [bdrositer@treceerie.org](mailto:bdrositer@treceerie.org). To donate online or to view TREC’s “ways to give,” visit [treceerie.org/donors0.aspx](http://treceerie.org/donors0.aspx). Snail mail donations should be sent to TREC, 8342 Platz Road, Fairview, PA, 16415.*

*Ti Sumner can be contacted at [tSumner@ErieReader.com](mailto:tSumner@ErieReader.com).*

# Erie Faces Erie

**Brad Lethaby**  
portrait painter

**Ed Bernik**  
photographer

*"I'm not out to change the art world, I just want to make some good images."*

**EB:** How does one end up a portrait painter? Its not an occupation that somebody would think of as being in the norm, even as a fine artist.

**BL:** Well, I started my career in advertising after graduating from Columbus School of Art. I spent some time in Florida working for a toy company, then spent time in Washington, D.C. working in advertising. I decided to take a break from commercial and worked two years in Oregon in the fruit orchards. I really didn't do much painting. One day I decided to do some pastels and hiked out into the woods right through a patch of poison ivy. I was so bad, I had to get on steroids and spent two weeks in bed, so I hit the pastels very hard. I then returned to northwest Pennsylvania. My first job interview was in Smethport, Pennsylvania, to work doing the Wooley Willie magnetic drawing toys. Luckily, I didn't take the job and came home to Erie. I spent some time with different ad agencies finally landing at Dix and Eaton, where I worked for eight years. They eventually closed their Erie office and I began doing freelance graphic design.

I was doing fine art painting in my free time and came to the realization that people wanted to buy my work, so I decided to quit commercial advertising and paint full time.

**EB:** But why the portrait?

**BL:** Well first, I've always loved watching



people. To this day I take hundreds of photos of people.

Out my studio window, on the street, I'm always looking for interesting faces, interesting events.

Secondly, I love painting and drawing the human form.

**EB:** Does it change your approach when money changes hands to paint a portrait?

**BL:** Of all the fine arts, portrait painting is the most commercial. When you accept a commission, you want to exemplify the sitter. Sometimes I do labor over a painting trying to get the right feeling. This painting I'm doing right now, even though its a young boy, I'm obsessed with the background: Did I paint it too tight in relation to the figure?

**EB:** Looks wonderful to me.

**BL:** Yes, but look at that door knob. Too

much detail.

**EB:** Is portrait painting a lost art? It's not something you see much of.

**BL:** You don't see it much in Erie, but there are a lot of great painters doing it around the country.

I travel to workshops around the country to work with other portrait painters.

**EB:** How does that affect your style?

**BL:** Well I love to see paint! Some painters don't want you to see the brush strokes.

Da Vinci painted that way, all the brush strokes were **bl**ended together. If you look at his painting of the Mona Lisa, you know it's a painting, but the paint is applied very thin. I use a much thicker paint. I try to walk the line of an impression without losing a realistic likeness of the sitter.

For 20 years I've used the same palette of colors and just recently changed up

my colors and mixing of paints. It's been challenging to work with these new colors. Working in cool tones for shadows while keeping flesh tones and highlights warm.

**EB:** How do you keep your work fresh?

**BL:** I take part in a figure drawing class once a week to keep my skills fresh. You work fast and it's about the feel; just **bl**ack and white, **bl**ocking out the essence of the human form.

I'm also as intrigued with the landscape as I am with the figure. Nature has always been a part of my life. I continue to hike in northwest Pennsylvania and am continually inspired by the beauty of the region. I bring these memories back to my studio and paint these scenes of my youth.

Brad Lethaby: [www.bradlethaby.com](http://www.bradlethaby.com)  
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