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ERIE READER

June 8-June 21/Vol. 6, No. 12/ErieReader.com

SISTER **HELEN PREJEAN**
Dead Man Walking author shares view on the death penalty

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

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From the Editors

And empathy for all

Last month, Sister Helen Prejean spoke to a full house at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery. Best known as the author of *Dead Man Walking*, adapted into the 1995 Oscar-winning film, Prejean sat down the next morning with the *Reader's* Lisa Gensheimer to talk about how her advocacy has evolved over the last few decades, and how she sees public perception of the death penalty shifting. Their conversation, along with elements of Prejean's presentation, are included in this issue.

As so often happens when we're putting together an issue of the *Reader*, a theme has arisen. Several of the pieces here address social justice ... as usual. But even more prominent is the power of empathy – even from just one human being to another – to change life's course for the better.

"It's not that the American people are ... evil or racist," explains Prejean. "It's just that people never reflected deeply because it's so out of their world. They don't know anybody on death row. So we must bring them close, share human stories. As the saying goes, 'What the eye doesn't see the heart can't feel.'"

Gensheimer adds that "to fix an unjust system ... we must leave our comfort zone and our cushioned lives of privilege and dig deep at the roots of racism and poverty."

In an expansive view of many of the concerns facing our city (and county), Lisa Austin similarly springboards from the city's "redlined" past, and examines why a more cooperative, inclusive, and just approach to regional development is an absolute must for our region moving forward. Austin connects everything from the need for fair funding of Pennsylvania schools to regional taxation to the ongoing debate over the EMTA, insisting, ultimately, that "It's time to work together."

Also in this issue, the *Reader's* Dan Schank recounts his conversation with Caitlin Strohmeier, President of TransFamily of Northwestern PA. The organization embraces person-to-person empathy, and emphasizes the power of community education to eliminate much of "the marginalization that [transgender people] experience."

"We've had people who are kicked out of restrooms and things," Strohmeier adds. "When I find out about it, I'll approach the business owner or manager and explain to them that we have a discrimination ordinance and that they're breaking the law. I can also help them to understand the community better."

Representing TransFamily, Strohmeier leads local outreach events "designed to help people understand gender diversity, and to 'get out of the mindset of a gender binary, where everything is male or female, since there is a whole spectrum in-between,'" she tells Schank.

Speaking of marginalized (though in a whole different way), Tim Grow, who owns and operates The Que Abides food truck, has gained plenty of much-deserved attention for calling out Roar on the Shore's vendor policy, which is unsupportive of local businesses.

"When the Roar comes to town," writes Jim Wertz, "local food vendors are no longer welcome because the Manufacturer and Business Association contracts for and with a single source food vendor from out of town."

"ROTS and the Manufacturer and Business Association continue to grow and reap the benefits of its success without consideration for its impact on those who make their living downtown the other 360 days each year," explains Wertz.

Acknowledging that its "reported \$25 million in economic impact is grossly overstated and we've got no real accounting of dollars spent locally," he continues, "Roar on the Shore has made significant contributions to local non-profit organizations with proceeds from the event. For that they should be recognized. However, the community concerns about the interest of local entrepreneurs should not be dismissed."

So this is an issue about understanding each other and the widely-felt impacts of our actions. About seeking ways to help bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice, as MLK would have it.

A fine goal for us all, and for the region we call home.

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NEWS & VIEWS

Just a Thought

Taking the 'lawn' view



JEROME RAUCKMAN

By: **Katie Chriest**

On any given summer weekday, our streets are narrowed not by road crews (though that'd be nice) but by mowing crews, their long trailers parked while they spin their bandannaed selves around on zero-turn mowers. Weekends bring wider roads but busier homeowners, doing lawnmower laps for hours, spreading pellets of miracle fertilizer, or setting up sprinkler systems to water a few feet of their grass and half of the street.

Given municipal budget constraints, I've always found it generous that folks take it upon themselves to try to grow nice streets. Very community-minded.

But seriously: How did grass – *grass* – become a status symbol? What is it that motivates millions of Americans to devote immeasurable money and time to growing something so impractical, so conformist, so *puritanical*?

"Nowhere in the world are lawns as prized as in America," writes Michael Pollan in a 1989 essay. "In little more than a century, we've rolled a green mantle of grass across the continent, with scarcely a thought to the local conditions or expense. ... Like the interstate highway system, like fast-food chains, like television, the lawn has served to unify the American landscape; it is what makes the suburbs of Cleveland and Tucson, the streets of Eugene and Tampa, look more alike

than not."

So much for rugged individualism.

We're so obsessed with turf grass that it's our biggest crop – a fact that floored me in an article by Charles Eisenstein last year.

You can't eat it, you can't make pants or rope or protein powder out of it, you can't weave or build with it. You can't really even grow it – at least not the "pretty" kind – without chemical pesticides and fertilizers that compromise the health of our soil, water, and selves.

Why do we cling to the idea that an enormous green lawn around a home or business is a sign of prosperity? How much money (or water, or struggling species habitat) could we save if we planted something edible, or at least native and diverse? How many people could be fed by what we could grow in these giant, underused spaces?

In "Looking for Lawns," published on NASA's Earth Observatory website, Rebecca Lindsey writes, "Most people don't think about the impact of their lawns in the big ecological picture. We associate 'fertilizer' or 'irrigation' with food crops. We associate 'carbon cycle' with fossil fuels and deforestation. But [NASA scientist Cristina] Milesi be-

Erie summers are genuine stunners. But if this is the view you see most frequently during these gorgeous summer months, perhaps it's time to rethink your love of lawns.

lieves there are good reasons to think about the impact of lawns on the national water and carbon cycle."

Lindsey's piece is from 2005. In 2013, a study published by the Soil Science Society of America concluded that "More carbon dioxide is released from residential lawns than corn fields."

Last August, Milesi and other NASA researchers published newer findings, concluding that turf grasses are "the single largest irrigated 'crop' in the U.S., occupying a total area three times larger than the surface of irrigated corn.

"If the entire turf surface was well watered following commonly recommended schedules there would also be an enormous pressure on the U.S. water resources," NASA researchers explain. "At the time of this writing, in most regions outdoor water use already reaches 50-75 percent of the total residential use."

Widespread attention on this study likely owes a lot to the timing of its release, in the wake of ongoing drought and residential water use restrictions imposed in California and elsewhere.

Since reading it, I've thought a lot about the lawns in our area. Giant, non-native mown spaces with no functional use, which – in many cases – require fossil fuels, chemical amendments, and irrigation during dry spells.

And for what? Why do we cling to the idea that an enormous green lawn around a home or business is a sign of prosperity? How much money (or water, or struggling species habitat) could we save if we planted something edible, or at least native and diverse? How many people could be fed by what we could grow in these giant, underused spaces?

How much time would we suddenly have, if we didn't have to work extra to pay for lawn care, or do it ourselves in what's supposed to be our "free" time?

It's not easy being green. Time to tell turf grass to sod off.

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

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Erie at Large

Roaring yet again



Roar on the Shore brings enormous crowds to downtown Erie. But Tickle's Deli owner Sue Wyant told us in 2014 that her business drops by as much as 50 percent during the weeklong preparations leading up to the region's much vaunted motorcycle rally.

By: Jim Wertz

“Here we go again on our own. Goin’ down the only road we’ve ever known ...”

No, this year's Roar on the Shore won't feature a *Lovehunter*-styled reuniting of David Coverdale and Tawny Kitaen, but it's already shaped up to be all we've ever known of the “Roar”: inconvenient traffic patterns, hair bands, and a massive dearth of local vendors inside the hallowed grounds that are Perry Square.

We've tackled this issue before in these very pages.

Tickle's Deli owner Sue Wyant told us in 2014 that her business drops by as much as 50 percent during the weeklong preparations leading up to the region's much vaunted motorcycle rally. “We're small business. Small businesses can't afford this kind of disruption,” Wyant said. “This used to just happen during Celebrate Erie because they put the stage down here. Now it's Roar on the Shore and Celebrate Erie, so we lose twice during the year.”

Last year, both the footprint and lead time on the event extended, further hampering some downtown businesses. Bar and restaurant owners on State Street told us that despite the volume of people in town, they are lucky to break even on the week. Mike August-

tine, the co-owner and chef at Like My Thai, attempted to make up some ground in 2015 by selling chicken on a stick in front of his restaurant.

So it was no surprise that in the first days of June social media already buzzed with talk of ROTS and its “economic impact” on local entrepreneurs.

This year the controversy began when the owner of a local food truck posted on Facebook his disapproval of a single food vendor policy instituted by the Manufacturer and Business Association, which organizes ROTS.

Tim Grow owns and operates The Que Abides, a *Big Lebowski*-themed food truck that specializes in barbecue and is ever present downtown, usually within blocks of Perry Square: ground zero for ROTS. But when the Roar comes to town, local food vendors are no longer welcome because the Manufacturer and Business Association contracts for and with a single source food vendor from out of town. Last year, the contract went to Seivers Concessions based in Grove City, Pa.

Vendors and event organizers from outside the ROTS ecosystem say that this is common practice among organizers and promoters, when possible. Having a single source food vendor makes sense because it limits the logistical chaos of recruiting, placing, and managing multiple vendors that would

share the same space as a single source vendor.

But for an event that purportedly prides itself on its boon to the local economy, the financial loss for some local vendors and businesses doesn't add up.

Grow's concern is that he already paid for a vendor license and parking pass that allows him to park in public parking spaces that are typically metered. But once the fence is erected downtown to mark the boundaries of ROTS, he needs to stake out new real estate.

Grow says he contacted the Manufacturer and Business Association last year about working ROTS, but received no response. This year he visited the Roar on the Shore website only to find a “No Food Vendors” addendum to its vendor information page.

The public support for Grow and other local vendors went “Erie-viral” and eventually garnered the attention of local media outlets. Lilly Broadcasting shared The Que Abides story on June 1.

ROTS officials had not responded to Lilly Broadcasting's request for comment at the time of its report just as they ignored *Erie Reader* requests for comment in 2014 and 2015. But on June 2, they offered an “official statement” on the event Facebook page.

In its statement, the Manufacturer

and Business Association addressed many of the questions raised on social media, including its restriction of local vendors at ROTS. “We don't restrict local vendors, and we never have,” the statement reads.

If this were a PolitiFact meter, we would rate the statement as “somewhat true.” Last year, *Erie Reader* found a few local clothing and novelty vendors, but premiere products and services, such as official screen printing, tattoo artists, and even the ROTS wine, were all from out of town. Restricted? No. Encouraged? It didn't seem so.

ROTS officials qualify – “approve” – vendors that apply to participate in the event. Vending spaces range from \$450 for 100 square feet to \$2,750 for 2,400 square feet. But that doesn't include food vendors.

To become a qualified food vendor, you'd need to meet several criteria including an itemized list of food and prices, which event organizers reserve the right to approve; a detailed service plan that includes the number of personnel on site; letters of reference and proof of \$1 million insurance for the

Having a single source food vendor makes sense. But for an event that purportedly prides itself on its boon to the local economy, the financial loss for some local vendors and businesses doesn't add up.

event. That's all standard fare. Food vendors meet the same requirements for Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Rolling Thunder in Washington, DC, and every other biker rally that ROTS emulates.

But at these major rallies, exclusivity doesn't appear to be on the menu.

The fact is that for all of the local vendors we have, it's likely that none of them would be able to serve as a single source food vendor for ROTS. Collectively, the region's local food trucks

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and restaurants would be able to pull off such a feat, although none of them is large enough to meet the burden of the event by itself.

Nevertheless, the official statement asserts that “local vendors are encouraged to apply to serve as the

sociation continue to grow and reap the benefits of its success without consideration for its impact on those who make their living downtown the other 360 days each year.

Now, we’re trying to avoid a tragedy of the commons that’s all too familiar in the wake of Blue Ocean business strategies.

A week of lost or diminished wages can cripple the small businesses and startup ventures that have begun to dot Erie’s downtown over the past few years. They should be supported, rather than asked to step aside during Erie’s “premiere event.”

But the bottom line is this: Even though its reported \$25 million in economic impact is grossly overstated and we’ve got no real accounting of dollars spent locally, Roar on the Shore has made significant contributions to local non-profit organizations with proceeds from the event. For that they should be recognized. However, the community concerns about the interest of local entrepreneurs should not be dismissed.

single source vendor for Roar on the Shore ... In the past 10 years, no local vendor has ever applied.”

Again, our PolitiFact meter would rate this, at-best, true-ish.

For the past 10 years, the vendor page on the ROTS website has simply read “No Food Vendors,” just as it did up to June 1. It didn’t link to an application or include the qualifications a vendor would need to meet in order to become the next ROTS single source food vendor. It was hardly an invitation to participate. The vendor page was updated and the vendor qualifications added on June 2, only after the organization began to receive significant public criticism and just before it released its official statement on Facebook.

If local vendors are not to be included in Perry Square alongside major concessionaires, should they not have a presence elsewhere within the footprint of the event? A week of lost or diminished wages can cripple the small businesses and startup ventures that have begun to dot Erie’s downtown over the past few years. They should be supported, rather than asked to step aside during Erie’s “premiere event.”

“It is our hope that we contribute positively to the thousands of hard-working small businesses within our region,” concludes the Manufacturer and Business Association statement.

Well, what do you know? That’s our hope, too.

The interest of ROTS has been its organizers’ only concern. ROTS and the Manufacturer and Business As-

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Understanding Erie's Transgender Community

A conversation with Caitlyn Strohmeier, president of TransFamily of Northwestern PA



TORBAKHOPPER

By: Dan Schank

In 2009, Erie native Caitlyn Strohmeier decided to make her transgender identity public. She had an honest conversation with her family, changed her mode of dress, and initiated a bold new chapter in her life. However, in the aftermath of such substantive changes, she initially struggled to find local support that met her needs.

Accordingly, she took frequent trips to Ohio, where she discovered an organization called TransFamily of Cleveland and quickly “found a home there.” Her frequent visits left her feeling much more confident. “After about six months, I realized that I really wasn’t going as much for myself anymore. I was going to support others,” she claimed over coffee on a sunny Wednesday morning in early June.

After a year and a half of traveling to Cleveland, she decided to bring the organization’s model to Erie. To make this happen, she partnered with Hilary Copp and Will Koehler, two professors at Edinboro University, and TransFamily of Erie was born. The organization offers a safe place where transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people can come together to support each other. The meetings occur every fourth Saturday of the month, between 2 and 5 p.m., at the Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA (11th and Peach).

Strohmeier claims that their primary goal is “supporting the community

by providing therapeutic and peer-to-peer support.” Typical meetings “are open to anybody. Family, friends, allies, medical professionals. And we average probably 20 to 30 people per meeting. We’ve had as many as 50 and as few as five.” They also prioritize community education: “We’ve had people who are kicked out of restrooms and things. When I find out about it, I’ll approach the business owner or manager and explain to them that we have a discrimination ordinance and that they’re breaking the law. I can also help them to understand the community better.”

As the organization’s president, co-founder, and facilitator, Strohmeier often leads outreach events at places like Mercyhurst University, Wattsburg School District, and Saint Vincent Hospital. These appearances are designed to help people understand gender diversity, and to “get out of the mindset of a gender binary, where everything is male or female, since there is a whole spectrum in-between.” People also learn “how to be a good ally – ways to be respectful, how to treat people, and how to talk about the community to others.”

Her outreach often focuses on “the marginalization that the community experiences,” which can be alarmingly severe. According to a 2014 report from UCLA’s Williams Institute, 41 percent of transgender people in the U.S. will attempt suicide at some point in their lives. The number goes up to 65 percent for “those with a mental health condition that substantially affects a major

life activity.” Their survey tallied data “from 6,456 self-identified transgender and gender non-conforming adults,” and found that 57 percent of the respondents had family members who refuse to speak to them, 60 percent had a doctor or health provider refuse treatment, more than half had experienced discriminatory harassment at work, and a shocking 69 percent had experienced homelessness.

Transgender people are often physically at risk as well. A 2015 Human Rights Campaign report concluded that there were at least 53 transgender murder victims in the U.S. between 2013 and 2015. Eighty-seven percent of the victims were people of color; 74 percent were under the age of 35. And these are only the cases we know of.

Fortunately, TransFamily of Erie is growing larger in scope and more ad-

A 2015 Human Rights Campaign report concluded that there were at least 53 transgender murder victims in the U.S. between 2013 and 2015. Eighty-seven percent of the victims were people of color; 74 percent were under the age of 35. And these are only the cases we know of.

ept at addressing needs. In the past year, two smaller groups have emerged under its umbrella – TransFamily of Meadville, and TransFamily Youth, which is geared toward people up to age 21. The larger organization, which now goes by the name of TransFamily of Northwestern PA, recently established an 11-member board to pursue non-profit status as well.

When asked about the most urgent needs in our community, Strohmeier quickly mentions access to medical care: “We currently only have two doctors’ offices in Erie that will prescribe hormones. And before November or December, we didn’t have any.” She also notes that economic troubles can escalate this need: “A lot of the transgender community is underprivileged, so they don’t have the means to travel to Pittsburgh or Cleveland for medical care – if

they have insurance at all.”

TransFamily of Northwestern PA actually played a crucial role in expanding local access to hormone treatment therapy. Strohmeier explains that “since we didn’t have any doctors in Erie, I would always refer people out to doctors. I found out about a doctor named Martin Seltman in Pittsburgh, so I started referring people to him.” As Seltman’s Erie-based clientele escalated, Allegheny Health Network eventually intervened to find nearby doctors who were willing to treat transgender patients. An Erie-based general practitioner named Bradley Fox soon began offering his services.

Seltman eventually visited Saint Vincent Hospital to conduct training about medical protocols for trans people, and endocrinologist Luis Aparicio’s assistants started serving trans patients soon after. Strohmeier is cautiously optimistic: “Now I have the nurses at Saint Vincent reaching out asking about how they can treat patients more competently. But we need to get more doctors on board to actually prescribe hormones. That’s a big goal for us.”

I asked Strohmeier what advice she might have for readers who are questioning their gender identity. She emphasized the need “to find a counselor or a therapist. Somebody to talk through it who’s knowledgeable. There are five or six local therapists that I refer people to who are competent in recognizing gender identity issues.”

She also offered reading recommendations, citing Mildred L. Brown’s *True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism—For Families, Friends, Coworkers, and Helping Professionals* as a book that really changed her life, and expressed deep admiration for the work being done by Mara Kiesling at the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Her simplest bit of advice was, perhaps, the most important: “Come to a meeting!”

To learn more about TransFamily of Northwestern PA, visit their Facebook page: [facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA/](https://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA/)

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

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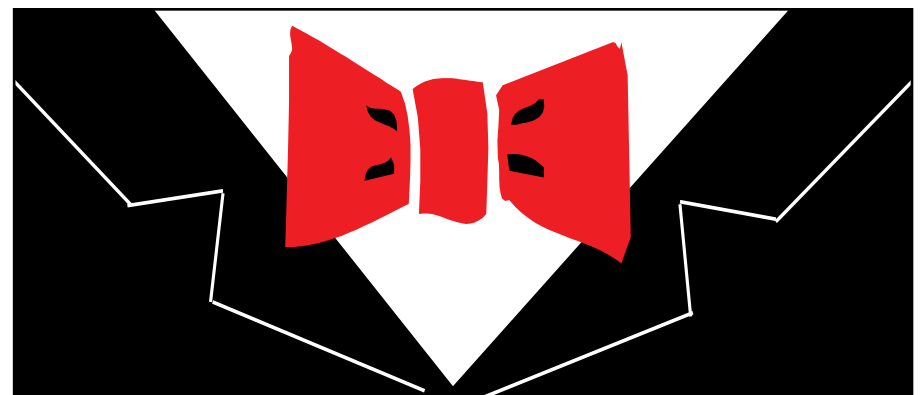
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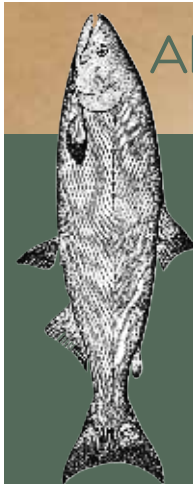
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News of the Weird

Birds create the most sophisticated sounds in all of nature. But do they slur when drunk?

By: Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY -- Cashing In

By 2009, when Zimbabwe's central bank gave up on controlling inflation, its largest currency was the 100 trillion-dollar bill – barely enough for bus fare in Harare and not even worth the paper needed to print it. However, that 100 trillion-dollar note (that's "1" plus 14 zeros) has turned out to be a great investment for several astute traders in London and New Zealand, who bought thousands of them at pennies on the trillion and now report brisk sales to collectors on eBay at US\$30 to \$40 a note – a six-year return on investment, according to a May report in London's *The Guardian*, of nearly 1,500 percent. [*The Guardian*, 5-14-2016]

Can't Possibly Be True

Long-divorced Henry Peisch, 56, has seven children, but only one is still living with his ex-wife (who had originally been awarded \$581 monthly support for all seven). (Three children are now independent, and three others successfully petitioned courts to live with Henry.) The resultant hardship (the \$581 remains in effect) caused Henry to ask the Bergen County, New Jersey, Family Court several times for a "hardship" hearing, which the court denied (thus even defying the New Jersey Supreme Court). On April 8, Family Court judge Gary Wilcox, noting Peisch's appearance on a related matter, spontaneously "granted" him his "ability to pay" hearing (with thus no opportunity for witnesses or evidence-gathering) – and summarily jailed him for missing some \$581 payments (because, the judge concluded,

he did not "believe" Peisch's hardship claims). [*Bergen Dispatch*, 4-28-2016]

Magician and professional gambler Brian Zembic, 55, finally consulted surgeons recently about removing his historic C-cup breast implants, which he bore on a \$100,000 bet in 1996 (with a rider of \$10,000 annually for retaining them). (He also won a companion game of backgammon to determine who would pay for the original surgery.) He told news sources in May that he had intended to have them removed early on, but that they had "grown on" him and become "a normal part of my life." [*Huffington Post*, 5-18-2016]

Government In Action

U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, in a May publication deriding the value of certain federally funded research, highlighted several recent National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation projects, such as the \$13 million for exploring musical preferences of monkeys and chimpanzees; the \$1.1 million judging whether cheerleaders are more attractive seen as a squad than individually; the \$390,000 to determine how many shakes a wet dog needs to feel dry; and the \$5 million to learn whether drunk birds slur when they sing. (Also strangely included was the actually valuable study by Michael Smith of Cornell University ranking where on the human body a bee sting was most painful. He found, from personal testing, that "on the penis" was only the third worst – research that brought Smith a prestigious Ig Nobel prize last year.) [*Fox News*, 5-10-2016] [Sen. Jeff Flake, "Twenty Questions," May 2016]

Australia!

Yahoo News Australia reported (with photos) a man in Tallebudgera Creek on the country's Gold Coast swimming with his pet snake. The man, standing chest-deep in water, would toss the snake (apparently a carpet python) a few feet and, according to the videos, the snake would swim back to him each time. (In the man's other hand, of course: beer.) (2) In April, police in Broome (in Australia's far northwest) on traffic patrol stopped a 27-year-old man whose "several" children, including one infant, were unrestrained in his car while "cartons of beer" were "buckled into car seats," according to an Australian Broadcasting Corp. report. He faces several charges, including driving on a suspended license. [*Yahoo News Australia*, 3-1-2016] [*Australian Broadcasting Corp. News*, 4-7-2016]

New World Order

Transgender Blues: Ms. Jai Dara Latto, 23, won the title Miss Transgender UK last September in London, but in February organizers stripped her of the title as being insufficiently trans, passing the crown to Ms. Daisy Bell. Officials had spotted Latto (who has worked as a "drag queen") in a BBC documentary wearing boxer shorts, and since switching underwear is usually such a crucial step for transgenders, officials concluded that Latto must not yet have made a sufficient-enough commitment to qualify for the title. [*The Herald (Glasgow)*, 2-20-2016]

Birdbrains

In a recent book, biologist Jennifer Ackerman noted the extraordinary

intelligence of birds – attributed to the dense packing of neurons in their equivalent of humans' cerebral cortex (according to an April *Wall Street Journal* review of Ackerman's "The Genius of Birds"). For example, the New Caledonia crow, among others, knows how to make and use hooked tools to hide food (and retrieve it from tricky-to-reach places), and the blue jay and others, which store many thousands of seeds during autumn, also steal seeds from less-vigilant birds – and they even return to re-hide food if they sense they have been spotted storing it earlier. Additionally, of course, the birds' equivalent of the human larynx is so finely tuned as to be regarded as the most sophisticated sound in all of nature. [*Wall Street Journal*, 4-23-2016]

Perspective

The president of the New England Organ Bank told U.S. News & World Report recently that she attributes the enormous upsurge in donations in recent years to the opioid "epidemic" that has produced a similarly enormous upsurge in fatal overdoses. Now, one out of every 11 donated organs comes as a result of the overdosing that in 2014 claimed over 47,000 lives. (An organ-sharing organization's chief medical officer reminds that all organ donations are carefully screened, especially those acquired from overdose deaths.) [*Washington Post*, 5-9-2016]

Nature 2, Florida 0

Nicole Bjanes, casually zipping along Interstate 4 in Volusia County around noon on May 9, saw a red-eared slider turtle come sailing through the air and crash into her windshield, send-



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NEWS & VIEWS

ing her car off the road. The Florida Highway Patrol said the turtle had become airborne after being hit by another car. (It was apparently unhurt and swam away when a firefighter released it into a nearby pond.) (2) On May 10, police in Key West responded to a caller at the scene of a giant banyan tree (common to Florida and featuring vertical roots that thicken, spread and become entangled with the central trunk). A woman had attempted to climb the tree but had fallen among the vertical roots, making her barely visible. Said a proud police spokesperson, "They popped her out like a cork." [WFLA-TV, 5-13-2016] [WPLG-TV (Miami), 5-10-2016]

Unclear on the Concept

Prolancia Turner, 26, was arrested on May 13 at Vero Beach (Florida) Outlets mall after she allegedly walked out of a Claire's store with unpaid-for earrings tucked into her waistband. Police reported her "crying and angry" and complaining that, "Everyone steals from this store. Why are you picking on me?" [The Smoking Gun, 5-19-2016]

Update

In 2006, a court in Preston, England, apparently weary of Akinwale Arbieke's repeatedly, unconsensually "touching" men's biceps in public, issued a Sexual Offenses Prevention Order making any such future contact automatic offenses. Arbieke admitted

a longtime fascination with buffed-up physiques and continued from time to time to find biceps irresistible, but in May 2016 he convinced a Manchester Crown Court judge to lift the SOPO based on his assurance that he wanted a "fresh start" and would behave himself. The judge seemed not quite sure, but noted that police could still arrest him under other sexual or assault statutes. [Manchester Evening News, 5-5-2016]

News of the Weird Classic (May 2012)

At the 10th Arab Shooting Championships in Kuwait in March (2012), as medals were presented and winners' national anthems were played, officials were apparently ill-prepared for medalist Maria Dmitrienko of Kazakhstan. Consequently, they cluelessly played, as her national anthem, the humorous ditty from the movie "Borat." (Instead of such lyrics as "sky of golden sun" and "legend of courage," the audience heard "Greatest country in the world/ All other countries are run by little girls" and "Filtration system a marvel to behold/It removes 80 percent of human solid waste.") Dmitrienko reportedly kept a mostly straight face, although Kazakhstan later received an official apology. [BBC News, 3-23-2012]

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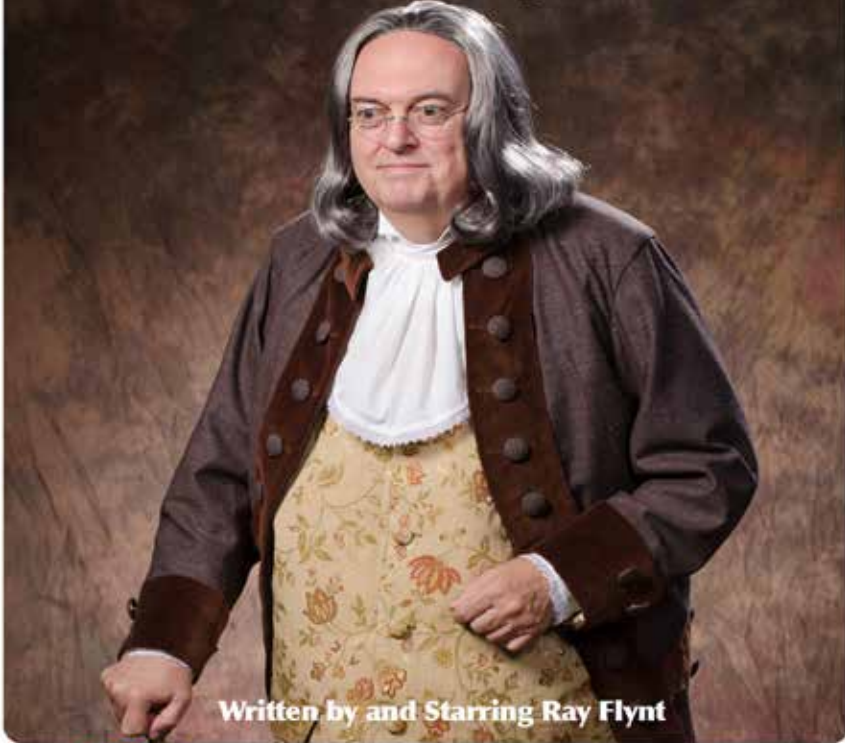
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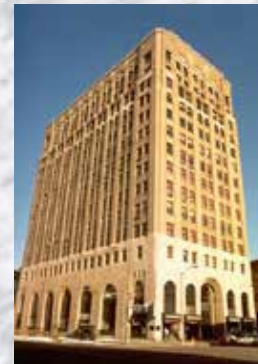
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BRAD TRIANA

By: Civitas Member Lisa Austin

A little more than a century ago, city leaders commissioned John Nolen (1869-1937) to create a plan for the improvement and extension of “Greater Erie.” In his 1913 report, Nolen encouraged improved public transportation, increased access to the waterfront, and retention of open spaces. Much of what Nolen proposed is echoed in *Emerge 2040* and the Erie Refocused planning documents.

Divestment’s Roots

Produced in the 1930s, “redlining” maps discouraged bank loans in specific U.S. urban neighborhoods, especially those with minority populations. Much of Erie’s east side was redlined and the deliberate disinvestment was effective. In fact, Charles Buki’s recent map of real estate values mirrors the 80-year-old redlining map of Erie.

But there is still hope. Dr. Onjanette Jackson recently transformed an abandoned east side property into a beautiful house. Rather than immediately addressing blight with demolition, we should empower the people willing to put in the work to make a home.

Jobs

Today, many good city jobs are filled

by people living outside the city. Continued development in the county has reduced the population and wealth of city residents, while it has increased both measures in the county.

We need to support urban pioneers like Dr. Jackson. We need to attract skilled, diverse applicants for police, fire, school and city hall positions.

The loss of family-sustaining blue-collar jobs has left many unemployed. We must proactively support workforce training and catalyze regional economic development to create jobs. In addition to eds and meds, high tech businesses, and cultural and recreational tourism, we must embrace manufacturing by promoting locally-held product-design patents.

School Funding

Superintendent Jay Badams and the school board of Erie’s Public Schools recently announced a proposal to save money by closing the city’s high schools. Badams’ dramatic solution attracted attention from the Huffington Post’s Peter Greene, who commented that Pennsylvania has “one of the most dysfunctional funding systems in the country.”

According to Badams, Pennsylvania’s 25-year-old Hold Harmless Agreement

institutionalized state-wide inequity by maintaining the proportion of funds distributed to school districts, irrespective of reductions or increases in students. We must insist on a complete fair funding system to ensure that Erie’s students are treated equitably.

Taxes

Across the U.S., most public schools are supported by a combination of state funding and local real estate school taxes. One would suppose that the city’s higher millage rate would generate a nice pile of money. Instead, because real estate values in the city keep dropping, Erie’s tax revenues are insufficient.

Regional Planning

We must increase demand for city properties by slowing suburban and rural construction with some kind of “no-growth” boundary to protect open lands and spur reinvestment elsewhere. It is crucial that we involve design professionals in all development and transportation planning to prevent short-sighted decision-making, as exemplified by the closing of Division Street and the proposed demolition of the McBride Viaduct (both of which remove safe passage over/under the railroad tracks and isolate low-income

A number of solutions have been proposed regarding how our city and county might solve the myriad problems both face. But until there is genuine cooperation between the two, and the inclusion of typically unheard voices throughout the region, little is likely to change.

neighborhoods by removing their most direct route to schools).

Non-profits / Regionalized Taxation

Much city property is tax exempt. But according to Amanda Brown Sissem, executive director of Erie Arts & Culture, Erie’s non-profits “benefit the community in ways that government and for-profits don’t.” Sissem reports that non-profits create jobs and foster regional economic prosperity as audiences utilize nearby businesses.

Taxing non-profits is not the answer. But regionalized taxation would allow county residents to share the responsibility of maintaining our vital non-profit organizations.

Another alternative, one that would require state approval, is an Earned Income Tax (EIT) to be applied to a percentage of non-resident income.

GEIDC Dispute

For the past few weeks, we’ve witnessed a showdown between the mayor and City Council over the use of a small portion of the GEIDC block grant funding. The mayor wants to address blight by hiring another code enforcement officer. Council wants to support community centers.

Decades ago, the distribution of GEIDC funding was made collectively by a committee; we must return to that inclusive decision-making process.

EMTA

Over the past half-century, a majority of appointments to the EMTA board have been made by City Hall, with the balance by county leadership. As the 50-year-old charter ends, a power struggle has erupted between city and county leadership. The argument seems to be over who makes board appointments. Given the city’s financial troubles, and the logic of regionalizing services, it makes sense to establish a new, 10 to 20-year charter handing over the responsibility of the EMTA to the county.

Since the county is anxious to take this on, perhaps **[Cont. on page 34]**

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Coming Home to The Juice Jar

Owner Heidi Lutz' green oasis serves up homemade food, a warm smile, and a bit of nutritional education.



Juice Jar owner Heidi Lutz, smiling behind the counter at her new shop, has embraced nutrition to heal her Crohn's disease. Now, she wants to encourage healthful and empowered eating in our community.

to try new things, she understood that in a smaller place like Erie, unlike larger, more cosmopolitan areas, many in the community may not independently discover nutritional healing methods, sustainable foods, and the ensuing health benefits in the same way she did. So Lutz decided that The Juice Jar would be a place to encourage this lifestyle in Erie.

"I always wanted a business," she explains, "And I decided it was time. I wanted to spend the second half of my life being healthy myself and making it easier for other people to live healthier lives. That's why the main goal of my store is education."

When Lutz mentions "education," she doesn't expect people to come in and simply sit in on classes. Lutz intends for the learning to be very active, and probably with a lot of sampling, too, because she wants to teach people about "sustainability of body and planet." The food is organic and made from scratch, the bath and body products are toxin-free, and home products are chemical-free. All store items minimize waste and include reused and repurposed items. Just look inside that aforementioned glass case, and see salads arranged in rainbow colors filling up Mason jars.

Lutz waves toward an impressive plant in the front window. It's a hydroponic food tower that will eventually be a teaching tool. This, along with a planned sustainable tiny house demo and other hydroponic gardens, will round out the The Juice Jar as an education center heavily focused on engaging youth.

"It really struck me when I heard the childhood obesity rate in Erie had doubled," she explains. "Our

By: Miriam Lamey

The air smells clean, with a hint of something vegetal. The light is natural and bright; the wood and muted colors peaceful. If not for the mechanical whirring – a buzzing far too loud to be merely bees or other insects – and glass cooler facing the entrance, one could easily step into The Juice Jar on a sunny day and not be entirely aware that he or she had moved indoors. It could be a garden. It could be a homey kitchen. And both of these things are part of owner Heidi Lutz's vision for this healthy, organic eatery and juice bar.

She aims to enable visitors to "feel like they're coming home, to receive a warm welcome." She jokes, "I'm doing my best to learn and remember everyone's names because The Juice Jar is rapidly becoming a community 'Cheers!'"

Comfort is key at The Juice Jar. Lutz hopes patrons are relaxed in the space: "I want people to feel like they feel at home and are comfortable sitting on the couch,"

even going as far to start knitting, just like one customer she described. She also hopes that people feel welcome to explore potentially unfamiliar foods, dietary options, and ingredients.

Those who are new to The Juice Jar may be seeing "vegan" or "kale juice" for the first time. Lutz explains that she doesn't want the food to seem "weird" and stereotypically crunchy-granola, but accessible to all. "We have healthy brownies [made with black beans], we have things you wouldn't know are healthy by the taste. And if someone just likes orange juice, well, they can always come by and just try a fresh-squeezed orange juice, to see the different textures, the different tastes."

She easily empathizes with those initially encountering organic and sustainable foods, as she did not always follow this kind of diet.

She tells me her story as we are sitting comfortably at a large, wooden dining table. "Nine years ago, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. At that time, I was fol-

lowing Weight Watchers, but I didn't like to cook. So I was eating a lot of frozen meals, Smart Ones, Healthy Choice."

And then she learned of her condition. "After a few years of medications, struggling with side effects," and generally feeling miserable, Lutz continues, "I started educating myself about nutritional healing. I started juicing at home. I started using organic foods. I started eliminating toxins and chemicals from the house."

Today, Lutz is glowing, and it's not just from the Mason jar lights hanging above us. "Two years ago, I went off my medications. And I'm healthier than I've ever been."

It was education that led Lutz to alternative ways to live with Crohn's and to feel better. So, feeling excited and inspired, she had what she called a "midlife enlightenment" at age 45. "I decided that I needed to steer this [way of eating and living] into the community."

Lutz has traveled extensively and spent 10 years living in Colorado. While she is open and eager

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MIRIAM LAMEY

demographic is elementary students to people in their 80s. Some kids bring their parents, too. One kid every day comes in after school and gets a kale and berry smoothie." Clearly, kids are excited by her products, and she

wants to help them learn more about what they are eating, drinking, and generally putting in their bodies, as well as how they can make the planet a better place.

As it stands, the space is welcoming

to all ages; there's a scavenger hunt around the store that she developed with her son, plenty of no-frills decorations, and big, sturdy furniture with an accessible couch and low coffee table in proximity to the front counter and register. It's simple and straightforward, just like her vision.

Yet Lutz knows there is work to do, and she will do everything she can to refrain from complicating things. "Nepal was my favorite place to visit," she explains "Because I have a huge love for the mountains, and for the people, the peacefulness, the simple way of living."

She indicates the pictures on the mantel, positioned so she can see them from the register, where the majority of her day is spent. "Next to the picture of my son up there are pictures of my overseas travels. One is of me on the top of a mountain in New Zealand, and I have it so I can see it, with my son. It reminds me that when I'm overwhelmed, especially with the big picture [for The Juice Jar] I got to the top of the mountain one step at a time." She pauses. "One

step at a time, I can make it [all] happen."

A line is forming at the counter. People look up at the board, debate which smoothie to try.

Others step back, waiting for their order. A mother and daughter look

"I always wanted a business," Lutz explains, "And I decided it was time. I wanted to spend the second half of my life being healthy myself and making it easier for other people to live healthier lives."

into the display case, hanging back, pondering choices, looking at foods, learning about new ingredients. Lutz moves back behind the counter, beaming at her guests, greeting some by name, showing people new ways to be healthy one step and one organic ingredient at a time.

Miriam Lamey can be contacted at Miriam@eriereader.com.

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At entrance to Presque Isle State Park



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Spotlight on Erie

June 8 — 21, 2016

Wednesday, June 8

UPMC Sunset Music Series Gives Audiences that Summer Feeling



The Presque Isle Partnership will again hold the UPMC Sunset Music Series on Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park.

From June 8 to July 13, Erie residents and vacationers are welcome to attend any of the weekly Wednesday concerts. With the backdrop of an Erie sunset, the audience can enjoy the best regional music for free.

Driftwood will perform June 8 with Matt Texter. Other performances throughout the summer include Sirsy, Big Mean Sound Machine, and Dangermuffin.

Erie residents and vacationers are welcome to attend any of the weekly Wednesday concerts. With the backdrop of an Erie sunset, the audience can enjoy the best regional music for free.

From Binghamton, New York, Driftwood describes itself as an Americana and roots band with a “rock n’ roll soul and a folk art mind.” They’ve become known for their upbeat performances that include violin, banjo, acoustic guitar, and upright bass.

“We try to push the boundaries and limits of the instruments,” said violinist, Claire Byrne.

While Binghamton might not come to mind when thinking of music, bands like Old Crow Medicine Show, The Horseflies, and The Highwoods String Band are from this area. Driftwood members call them a “huge influence.”

An Erie native, Texter considers himself an Americana and roots music troubadour. He cites his long family

ancestry of farmers, steel workers, and preachers as the reason he loves this type of music, which he’s grown up listening to. He recalls singing upbeat, traditional songs in church when he was young.

When performing, Texter tries to get the audience relaxed; he has a carefree, summer vibe. His most recent album is “Live As Usual” with Jim Zahniser. Texter’s influences include Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan.

Sirsy and Six Year Stretch will perform the following week, June 15. *The Boston Globe* called Sirsy the “Little band” with “big sound.” Sirsy brings its indie rock sound to over 200 shows per year and has been a special guest for Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, Maroon 5, Train, and others. Six Year Stretch, a band made of three brothers, was named the 2015 REMA Alternative Band of the Year and the 2015 *Erie Reader’s* Best Up-and-Coming Band.

“The entertainment has really stepped up a notch from previous years,” said Presque Isle Partnership talent buyer, Ryan Bartosek. “[And] some changes have been made to make it feel like more of a festival-type atmosphere.”

There will be face painting, corn hole, and hula hoop lessons at every concert. Ice cream and kettle corn, along with other food and beverages, will be available. Raffle tickets can be purchased for chances to win prizes like gas cards and local restaurant certificates.

In order to make the beach a more accessible venue, the stage will be placed east of its previous location to a wider, more level area, and newly purchased Rec Path walkways will allow wheelchairs to easily roll across the sand. Additionally, a section of Old Lake Road will be blocked to protect pedestrians. — Tracy Geibel

5:30 p.m. // Peninsula Dr. // 838.5138 X101 // discoverpi.com

Thursday, June 9

Erie Downtown Partnership’s Downtown Block Parties Return

With the annual Downtown Block Party series, rockin’ out on Thursday nights for great causes has become a Gem City summer institution.

Last year’s series featured various bands performing at several downtown



town hot spots to benefit a variety of worthy local charitable organizations. And get this: It raised a whopping, record-breaking total of \$58,579.

Hoping to up those impressive figures (and the rockin’ out) even more, the 2016 Block Party series kicks off Thursday, June 9. Erie live music staples Jake’s Blues and Key West Express will perform at Molly Brannigan’s and Sherlock’s Park Place between 6:30 and 10 p.m.

The kickoff party will benefit #AJO (the AJO Forever Foundation), an Erie-

Last year’s series featured various bands performing at several downtown hot spots to benefit a variety of worthy local charitable organizations. And get this: It raised a record-breaking total of \$58,579.

based non-profit organization that strives to raise awareness about epilepsy, and provides support and seizure monitors to area people in need of such services.

The Block Parties continue with the Breeze Band and Radio Age performing at U Pick 6 Tap House to benefit the Boys and Girls Club on June 16; School of Rock, Next of Kin, and Refuge at Erie SeaWolves to benefit YMCA of Greater Erie on June 23; Malpractice and Radio Age Bank at Sullivan’s Pub to benefit ANNA Shelter on June 30; Smilo & the Ghost, C. Cross, and East Coast Turnaround at McCoy’s Barrelhouse & Grill to benefit Boots on Ground on July 7; Whiskey Road and Small Town Revolution at Sluggers Sports Bar and Grill to benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation on July 21; Small Town Revolution and Geek Army at Park Place and 28 North Gastropub to benefit Therapy Dogs United Inc. on July 28; Ruby Port Band and Man’s Room Band at the Brewery at Union Station to benefit Flagship Niagara League on Aug. 4; Money Shot 2.0 and First to Eleven at Bourbon Barrel

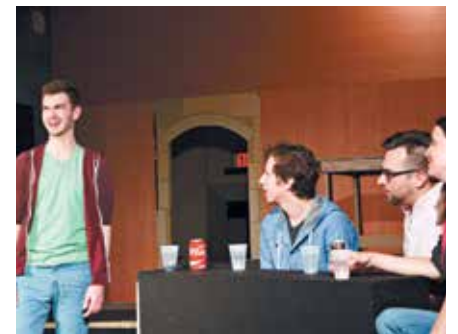
to benefit Crime Victim Center of Erie County on Aug. 11; and The Groove and Erie All-Stars at Calamari’s Squid Row and 814 Pub & Grille to benefit Voices for Independence on Aug. 25.

For further information about the Downtown Block Party series, its performers, the causes it supports, and other details, visit eriedowntown.com. — Ryan Smith

6:30 to 10 p.m. // Thursdays, June 9 thru Aug. 25 // various downtown Erie locales // eriedowntown.com

Friday, June 10

Farragut North is the Perfect Play for an Election Year



In 2016, political junkies are hardly in need of a fix. The drama of our upcoming election rarely dips below a fever pitch — offering violent campaign protests, secret email servers, JFK assassination conspiracies, and a still-shocking level of xenophobia on a daily basis.

Beau Willimon’s *Farragut North* captures the malevolence and cynicism

Beau Willimon’s *Farragut North* captures the malevolence and cynicism of our time quite accurately. In fact, Willimon has become one of our era’s defining chroniclers of political treachery.

of our time quite accurately. In fact, Willimon has become one of our era’s defining chroniclers of political treachery. In 2011, he helped George Clooney turn the play into *The Ides of March*, a feature film which paired Clooney with Ryan Gosling. Next, he created the Netflix series *House of Cards*, which offers one of the most venomous takes on American politics in TV history.

CALENDAR

When Zach Flock, the artistic director of Dramashop, decided to bring *Farragut North* to Erie last year, he deliberately chose to stage it at the height of the election drama. Since the play takes place, in his words, in “one of those worlds where you’re not sure whom you can trust and where everybody’s got a secret,” he assumed there would be interest in the “heightened reality” that the production offers.

But he couldn’t imagine the degree to which this “heightened reality” would be matched by actual reality. “Nobody knew that the election would be as dramatic as it is. So, in some respects, maybe the drama in this play is not as surprising as it would have been a year ago,” he says in a humorous tone.

For my money, this makes the play more relevant than ever. What could be more cathartic than turning off your cell phone for a few hours and soaking in the betrayals, adultery, and backstabbing of a fictional election before returning (reluctantly) to the real one? — Dan Schank

8 p.m., June 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25 // Dramashop, Renaissance Centre, 2nd Floor // 1001 State St. // dramashop.org/shows-events-dramashop/mainstage/farragut-north/

Friday, June 10

Erie Playhouse Presents *Kiss Me, Kate*



Kiss Me, Kate is a classic musical that promises as many onstage fireworks as a Roman candle factory afire. It’s a song-and-dance show written by Samuel and Bella Spewack, with lyrics by Cole Porter.

Debuting on Broadway in 1948, this comedy has seen several major-league revivals plus countless small-theater productions in its almost 70-year history, even garnering the first Tony Award for Best Musical.

But why?

“First, it was written in the golden age of musicals and by Cole Porter, who is one of the most prolific composers of that era,” explained Richard Davis, director of the Playhouse’s current incar-

nation.

“We are doing the most recent Broadway revival which has re-orchestrated the show. It has fantastic new dance arrangements and the script has been tweaked. But any changes have been made with respect to the intent of the original,” he added.

Debuting on Broadway in 1948, this comedy has seen several major-league revivals plus countless small-theater productions in its almost 70-year history, even garnering the first Tony Award for Best Musical.

Kate’s plot orbits around actor-director-producer Fred Graham, in a production of Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew* alongside ex-wife, Lilli Vanessi, with whom he feuds constantly. Though busy with *Shrew*, he manages time to chase sexy young co-star Lois Lane, though she’s involved with fellow costar, Bill Calhoun, who himself was involved with *Lady Luck* — until recently. Hence, the gangsters who prowl the theater seeking recompense. A play set

within a musical, *Kate* offers a daisy chain of people and events more interlaced than the Olympic flag.

Then there’s the music.

Along with such toptapping tunes as “Too Darn Hot” and “So in Love,” what else can patrons anticipate?

“[Theatergoers] can expect to have a thoroughly entertaining evening with great laughs, innovative dances choreographed by James Dixon, fantastic music, and a little tug on the heartstrings,” guaranteed Davis. — Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

June 10-26. For more information, visit erieplayhouse.org or call 454.2852.

Friday, June 10

Lake Effect Hardcore is Alive and Kicking at Basement Transmissions



CAPTAIN'S PRESS

There was once a time when hardcore dominated Erie’s underground

MUSIC

Mid-day Art Break: Tyler Smilo

June 8 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum’s Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Driftwood and Matt Texter

June 8 — 5:30 p.m.
Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

June 8, 15, 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Maxi’s Restaurant, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Salmon Frank

June 9 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Erie Yacht Club, 1 Ravine Dr. eriyachtclub.org.

Big Dog Acoustics

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

Colony Trio

June 9, 16 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Songwriter Sunset

June 9, 16 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Piano Students of Linda Kobler

June 10 — noon to 1 p.m.
Studio Q, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Captains Press Show

June 10 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Next of Kin

June 10 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Dave Callaghan Quartet

June 10 — 6 to 6:30 p.m.
Wegman’s Cafeteria, 6143 Peach St. jazzerie.com

Salmon Frank

June 10 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew

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

The HighLife

June 10 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Savannah & The Kings

June 10 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Chris Higbee

June 10 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Band of Peace featuring members of Big Leg Emma

June 10 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Summer Kickoff Show

June 11 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Key West Express

June 11 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Eric Brewer & Friends

June 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 Singer Rd. lakeeriewinecountry.org.

Abbey Road

June 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Tony Kellogg

June 11 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Midnite Voodoo

June 11 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

GNOSiS and VWLS

June 11 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Sunday Sesh with

Good for Nuthin’ String Band

June 12 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. fiveand20.com.

Doug Phillips

June 12 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com/events.

Jay Baumgardner

June 12 — 5 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Dark Moon Life Barrier

June 12 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble

June 13 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Perry Square Stage, 600 State St. gemcitybands.org.

Gem City Concert Band

June 14 — 7 to 8 p.m.

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 5440 Washington Ave. gemcitybands.org.

Mid-day Art Break: World Refugee Day

June 15 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum’s Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Sirsy and Six Year Stretch

June 15 — 5:30 p.m.
Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Rankin & Schell

June 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Adam Cook

June 17 — 4 to 5 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Refuge

June 17 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

CALENDAR

music community. The city fostered a myriad of local hardcore bands, many of which toured and made enough of a name for themselves to put Erie on the same playing field as bigger hardcore scenes like Boston or L.A. The scene has since considerably slowed down, but that doesn't mean the bands have given up on Lake Effect Hardcore. And on June 10th, Captain's Press and Basement Transmissions are reminding

There was once a time when hardcore dominated Erie's underground music community. Erie's scene has since slowed down, but that doesn't mean the bands have given up on Lake Effect Hardcore.

Erie what hardcore is all about.

xRepresentx, the longest-running active hardcore band in Erie and the show's headliner, cut their teeth in the heyday of the scene and have stuck around to ensure that it didn't die off completely. Enter Livid Life, Erie's newest hardcore band, whose song "Lake Effect Style" is a declaration of their intentions to carry the scene's torch from

this point on.

Filling out the bill are Meth Mouth, an up-and-coming hardcore band from Syracuse, New York, and one of Erie's favorite metal acts, Bravura.

Captain's Press will be shooting live music videos for each band playing, so be sure to come out and show off your best mosh moves for the camera. — Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$10, All Ages // facebook.com/events/243131666058319/

Saturday, June 11



The Erie Art Museum Hosts its First ARTrageous Event

Get ready for an ARTrageous good time at the Erie Art Museum: the fundraiser with live performances, music, food, and drink – and, of course, remarkable art.

Erie Art Museum's Party On the Patio

The Highlife

June 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Scarlet Ledbetter

June 17 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Charity Nuse

June 17 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. facebook.com/TheCork1794.

Key West Express

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

Greatest Hits

June 17 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort Regency Pub, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Chasing Moira

June 17 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

JazzErie Jazz &

Blues Walk

June 18, 19
Various Locations, jazzerie.com

Jake's Blues

June 18 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Junction PA

June 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Ron Yarosz and The Vehicle

June 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 Singer Rd. lakeeriewinecountry.org.

Aaron Work

June 18 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Junk Shop Failure CD Release

June 18 — 8 p.m.
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/JunkShopFailure.

Jon Box

June 18 — 8 to 9 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

The Groove

June 18 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Bat House, Wave Trails, Jess Royer & Nick Warren

June 18 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Bus 17 Acoustic Trio

June 19 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com/events.

Dark Moon

June 19 — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Tommy Link

June 19 — 5 p.m.

The Erie County Human Relations Commission
& The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Present

11th Annual Employment Seminar

Thursday, June 23, 2016

9:00AM - 4:30PM

Hemingway Ballroom at the Ambassador Center
7794 Peach Street Erie, PA • 1-90, Exit 24

\$40 Registration due by June 17th

Contact cscalise@eriecountygov.org or call (814)451-7021

For more info visit: www.eriecountygov.org or www.eriecountygov.org/hrc

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- BOOTLEGGERS: \$2.75 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
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- ERI CAFÉ: \$5.00 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLE
- FIDDLE INN: \$2.75 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- IRISH COUSINS: \$1.50 16oz. BUDWEISER DRAFTS
- JAMMIN' VINE: \$2.50 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- LAKESIDE TAVERN: \$2.50 16oz. ALUMINUM BOTTLES
- LOWVILLE TAVERN: \$2.50 16oz. BUDWEISER DRAFT

- NEW HARVEST: \$2.75 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- ODIS12: \$2.25 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- PARK PLACE: \$2.00 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- PITTSBURGH INN: \$2.00 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- SLOPPY DUCK: \$3.00 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- SLUGGERS: \$2.50 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- SPEED'EEZ: \$3.00 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- SULLIVAN'S: \$2.75 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- THAT PLACE: \$2.75 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- TREEHOUSE: \$10 for 5 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLE BUCKET
- TJ TRAFFIC JAM: \$2.00 16oz. BUDWEISER DRAFT
- TWINS: \$2.50 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES
- WATERFORD HOTEL: \$2.00 BUDWEISER 12oz. BOTTLES

Budweiser

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- COACH'S SPORTS BAR \$2.00 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
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- SHICKALAY'S \$2.00 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- NUNZI'S \$2.75 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- PRIMANTI BROTHERS \$2.95 23oz. TALL BUD DRAFTS

MONDAY:

- PARK TAVERN \$2.00 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- THE CAB .75 16oz. BUDWEISER DRAFT
- 408 BAR & GRILLE \$2.50 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES

TUESDAY:

- CREEKSIDE BAR & GRILLE \$2.50 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES

WEDNESDAY:

- HILLSIDE \$2.25 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- PLYMOUTH \$1.50 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES*⁹⁻¹¹

THURSDAY:

- DAN'S RT8 BOARDWALK \$2.00 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- MOLLY BRANNIGANS \$2.25 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES
- THE BARRACKS \$3.00 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES*⁴⁻⁹
- 814 PUB & GRILLE \$2.50 12oz. BUDWEISER BOTTLES

SATURDAY:

- KELLY DOWNS: \$1.50 16oz. BUDWEISER DRAFT

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY THRU FRIDAY:

- ANDY'S PUB \$2.50 12oz. BOTTLES*⁴⁻⁶
- OASIS PUB \$2.00 12oz. BOTTLES*⁵⁻⁷

has been replaced in a bigger and better way, in order to make their fundraising more interactive. Experience ARTrageous as you walk through art in all its forms; there is sure to be something to please everyone. Featured artists each have unique displays representing their exceptional talents and culture.

Erie Art Museum's Party On the Patio has been replaced in a bigger and better way, in order to make their fundraising more interactive. Experience ARTrageous as you walk through art in all its forms.

Begin the evening with the Old Customs House steps on State Street, decorated by Jesse and Ricardo. Tabla for Two, featuring Masood Omari and Abigail Adams Greenway, will perform in the lower Customs House. Meet Jose Picayo, a renowned New York photographer, and see his exhibit.

Local artist Alison Stinley's work will also be on display, as well as the 93rd Annual Spring Show.

Relax and dance to Matty B and the Dirty Pickles' special reunion show. Enjoy the music of Tasana Camara, who is not only a keeper of West African tradi-

tions, but also a griot musical storyteller and healer. Continue your evening with a mesmerizing fire-hoop routine by Jennifer Dennehy.

ARTrageous also includes an ART-tini bar, as well as beer provided by Magic Hat Brewing Company and food by Make It Fabulous. Every nook and cranny of the Erie Art Museum will be infused with art, refreshments, and excitement. — Elisa Kownacki

7 to 11 p.m. // Tickets are \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members; non-members will be mailed an individual membership following the event // erieartmuseum.org

Saturday, June 11

Basement Transmissions Signals Summer Loud and Clear

The month of June for many of Basement Transmissions' patrons also means the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacation, and on June 11th, Basement Transmissions is hosting this year's summer kickoff show.

This show will feature a variety of styles joining together under one roof in a celebration of musical diversity and a showcase of local talent.



DYSMORPHIA

Bathed in Formaldehyde and Primal Scream Therapy represent the growing metal scene in Erie. They exemplify two distinct styles of the genre: The former play a more melodic, Rise Records-esque style, and the latter commit to a thrash/death metal sound.

Well Below Average are just coming back from hiatus with a new drummer,

For this year's summer kickoff show, Basement Transmissions is featuring a variety of styles joining together under one roof in a celebration of musical diversity and a showcase of local talent.

and a pop punk sound in the vein of Blink 182 and All Time Low. In fact, you can probably expect to hear a few Blink covers during their set.

BT regulars and all-female band Dysmorphia bring their raw, straightforward punk stylings to the stage, while Jivan is one of the only representations of progressive hard rock for the BT crowd.

And to give your ears a break from all the blaring guitars and pounding drums is Jack Stauber, whose acoustic guitar will leave you wanting more. — Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // facebook.com/BasementTransmissions

Saturday, June 11

Kindred Spirits GNOSIS and VWLS Rock the Rook



VWLS

Two of Erie's best up-and-coming bands, GNOSIS and VWLS, will capitalize on their hard work at the Kings Rook Club. Both bands are gearing up for a full summer. GNOSIS released their debut album, *Silver Matter* this

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Mid-day Art Break: Erie Philharmonic

June 22 — noon to 1 p.m. Erie Art Museum's Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Big Mean Sound Machine and Jess Royer

June 22 — 5:30 p.m. Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

DANCE

Long's School of Dance

June 10, 11 — 7 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Pancake Breakfast

June 12, 19 — 8:30 to 10 a.m. YMCA Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd. ymcaerie.org.

Marguerite's Academy of

Dance Concert

June 17, 18 — 7 p.m. Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Stardust Membership Appreciation Dinner Dance

June 18 — 5 to 10 p.m. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. facebook.com/Stardust-Ballroom-Dance-Club-of-Erie-597514403606573.

FOOD & DRINK

Erie Food Tours

June 10, 11, 17, 18 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Get your Phil of Mac n' Cheese

June 12 — 1 to 4 p.m. The Concourse at Union Station, 121 W. 14th St. eriephil.org.

In the Kitchen: Authentic Latin Cuisine

June 13 — 5:30 to 8 p.m. LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Father's Day Buffet

June 19 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

FILM

Robots Movie

Ongoing through June 16 — 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. & June 17 through Oct. 31 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

Ongoing through Oct 31 — noon & 4 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Tiny Giants

Ongoing through June 16 — 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental

Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Suffragette

June 8 — 7 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Captain America Serial (1944)

June 9 — 8 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Sita Sings the Blues (2008)

June 11 — 7 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Mustang

June 15 — 7 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Salome (1922)

June 16 — 8 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Blood Feast (1963)

June 17 — 8 p.m. Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

June 18 through Oct. 31 — 1 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Journey to Space

June 18 through Oct. 31 — 2 & 5 p.m. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Cameraperson

June 22 — 7 p.m. Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Origins of Realities by Heather Miller Kanazawa

Ongoing through June 21 Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Reflections of Erie

Ongoing through June 30 ArtLore Studio, 3402 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/Artlorestudio.

93rd Annual Spring Show

Ongoing through July 17 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Art on the Hill

Ongoing through Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Nocturnal Emissions

Ongoing through Sep. 17 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Henry Katzwinkel

Ongoing through Oct. 17 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Dark Garden

Ongoing through Jan 8, 2017 Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

CALENDAR

December, and are already setting their sights on what's next. Guitarist Pat Scutella detailed the process, noting that they're "tweaking some old songs, writing new material for our next CD, getting sets ready for summer festivals, and working on improvising." The progressive instrumental band is already well-known for their live

Two of Erie's best up-and-coming bands, GNOSiS and VWLS, will capitalize on their hard work at the Kings Rook Club. Though the styles of each group vary slightly, the bond they share is strong.

prowess. Scutella explained that "I love where our jams have been taking us lately. We're becoming more and more comfortable with each other's playing and we're recognizing each other's tendencies, which is vital to any jam band. It allows us to take more risks and feel comfortable while doing it."

Taking musical risks is something VWLS is no stranger to, either. The GNOSiS guitarist emphasized that "they're one of the most creative bands on the scene. Their ability to mix psychedelic rock, rap, and post-rock is real-

ly something else."

VWLS will begin the evening with their refreshing amalgam of styles. Their kinetic rhythms intermingle with rich soundscapes to create a distinct new flavor.

Though the styles of each group vary slightly, the bond they share is strong. Kindred spirits have no loyalty to sub-genres.

Scutella summed it up, wagering that "it's always fun playing shows with great musicians, but playing shows with bands that you also consider family? That's even better." — Nick Warren

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // Free admission with member ID // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday, June 18

JazzErie's Jazz and Blues Walk Brings Seven Bands to Six Downtown Locations

It's a night perfect for any music fanatic.

As in previous years, a \$10 donation will cover participants' entrance to all Jazz and Blues Walk shows, even though they are scattered throughout downtown Erie at different venues. According to JazzErie's historian, Ed Goebel, the walk has been held annual-



TONY GREY

ly for about 16 years.

This year's event will begin at Calamari's on State Street with the headlining performance by internationally recognized musician, Tony Grey. From England, Grey began playing guitar after a near-fatal accident. While rehabilitating, he found relief in playing guitar. With help from his uncle, the legendary guitarist John McLaughlin, Grey's passion for music-making grew. He toured with pianist Hirome for over four years and was named "Outstanding Performer" by Berklee College of Music in Boston.

After Grey's performance, The Blues

Beaters will take the stage at Calamari's. With over 20 years of experience in blues, pop, and jazz, The Blues Beaters will attempt to play nearly any request.

However, JazzErie Jazz and Blues Walk attendees are encouraged to walk, or ride the provided trolley if they please, to other venues for more music. Ron Yarosz and the Vehicle will

As in previous years, a \$10 donation will cover participants' entrance to all Jazz and Blues Walk shows, even though they are scattered throughout downtown Erie at different venues.

perform at Docksider Tavern, Joe Dorris will have a "jam session" going on at 814 Pub and Grill, Jim Madden and Marilyn Livosky will appear at the Brewery, Duke Sherman Blues Band will bring the blues to the Plymouth Tavern, and the Steve Trohoske Trio will keep the music playing late into the night at Scotty's Jazz & Cigars.

The complete schedule of performances and times can be found at jazzerie.com. — Tracy Geibel

6 p.m. // 1317 State St. // jazzerie.com

A Retrospective

June 10 through Jan. 8, 2017
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Second Sundays

June 12 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

THEATRE

Nana's Naughty Knickers

June 8, 14, 15 — noon
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Lettice and Lovage

June 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 — noon
Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

Kiss Me, Kate

June 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 — 7:30 p.m. & June 19, 26 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

The Glass Menagerie

June 10, 11, 17, 18 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. & June 12 — 3 to 5 p.m.
All an Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

Farragut North

June 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 — 8 p.m.
2nd Fl. Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

Maid

June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 — 7:30 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

COMMUNITY

Lagoon by Pontoon

Ongoing through Sept. 5 — 11 a.m. & 1 & 2 p.m.
Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

Ongoing through Oct. 5 — 11 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

asburywoods.org.

Vision Board Workshop

June 8 — 5:45 to 8 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. facebook.com/events/1558549491106127.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Altoona Curve

June 8, 9 — 7 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

June 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Life Enrichment Event

June 8, 22 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. bhaktaschool.org.

Garden Sprouts

June 9, 16 — 11 a.m. to noon
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Behind Prison Walls: A Guided Tour of the Erie County Prison

June 9 — 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Erie County Prison, 1618 Ash St. lifeworkserie.org.

Blasco Senior Day

June 9 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Teen Card Collecting Club

June 9, 16, 23, 30 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Erie Downtown Block Party

June 9 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
Molly Brannigan's, 506 State St. & Sherlock's, 508 State St. eriedowntown.com.

Experiences in Germany as a Student

June 9 — 7 p.m.
Erie Maennerchor Club,

1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

The Art of Inner Transformation

June 9, 16 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. abodeoftheheart.org.

Evening Lagoon Paddle

June 9 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Waterfront Weekend on Erie's Bayfront

June 10, 11
Wolverine Park Marina, 34 State St. eriesportscommission.com.

But I Can't Draw

June 10 — 10 a.m. to noon
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Radius CoWork Open House

June 10 — 4 to 8 p.m.
9th floor Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. radiusco.work.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Trenton Thunder

June 10, 11 — 7 p.m. & June 12 — 1:30 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

White Party Fundraiser

June 10 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier psbehrend.psu.edu.

Presque Isle Open Martial Arts Championship

June 11 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Family First Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesportscommission.com.

Gibson Days

June 11 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & June 12 — noon to 6 p.m.
Gibson Park, North East PA northeasteachamber. liveeditaurora.com.

Woofstock 2016

June 11 — 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Humane Society of NWPA, 2407 Zimmerly Rd.

\$25



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June 12 from 1-4pm @ the Concourse of Union Station

455-1375 or eriephil.org/mac



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CALENDAR

Saturday, June 18

Boston's Bat House Soar into the Kings Rook Club



BAT HOUSE

Mark your calendars for another night of incredible live experimental music right here in Erie. Bat House is self-described as "spacemusic," which does their sound absolute justice. The intricate rhythms laid out by vocalist and bassist Emmet Hayes and drummer Pompy correlate with riffs shredded by dual guitarists Ally Juleen and Shane Blank in utter synchronicity. If you're into up-and-coming math rock, you definitely want to find yourself at the Kings Rook Club on Saturday, June 18th.

Erie-based acts Wave Trails will fol-

low Jess Royer and Nick Warren, who'll kick off the evening. The dynamic duo will be churning out dreamy melodies accompanied by soothing vocals that will be sure to leave you swooning.

"We are excited to be a part of bringing a different variety of bands to the Rook," adds Wave Trails drummer, Ben Himan.

The psychedelic punk trio have recently been taking the local music scene by storm. Their live performance is chaotic, cohesive, and mesmerizing. You absolutely want to bring your dancing shoes to this show.

This upstairs venue show is free to all club members and their guests.

Be sure to bring some extra cash and your appetite, for Sakura's Kitchen will be there serving up some of Erie's finest gourmet tacos as well! – Bridget Fessler

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // Free admission with member ID // [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](https://www.facebook.com/kingsrookclub)

Saturday, June 18

All Aboard for a Historical Event

The Lakeshore Railway Museum will be taking patrons on a historical journey overnight in North East. The



museum also has various locomotives, passenger cars, cabooses, and freight cars to admire while you wait for the action on the tracks. – Taryn Pieper

The Lakeshore Railway Museum is located at 31 Wall St., North East.

Saturday, June 18

Junk Shop Failure Succeeds with *Bottoming Out* at Bobby's Place



museum will open on Saturday, June 18th at noon, remain open overnight, and close at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 19th. The event is held each year in June to coincide with the summer solstice, ensuring there will be warm weather for the grand passing of the trains. Museum volunteers will educate guests on the beginning and growth of railway history in our part of Pennsylvania, northeastern Ohio, and western New York. People will have the chance to observe the trains pass by with monumental force, view an educational slide-show program and a demonstration of the museum's refurbished telegraph system, and take part in a photo session that night. Don't worry about using a flash on your cameras; the tracks will be lit throughout the night. The

Junk Shop Failure can perfectly camouflage themselves with a humbly inviting, exterior sound. Josh Zimmer plays mandolin, while splitting the main vocal duties with Jesse Guerrein on acoustic guitar. The two share a back-and-forth camaraderie that helps to fuel their songwriting. "When we write, it's usually Jesse and I in a basement somewhere with a couple of

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SAT 06/18
BAT HOUSE
+ WAVE TRAILS
+ JESS ROYER & NICK WARREN
[FREE]

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CALENDAR

instruments and a 12-pack," Zimmer explains. "It's helpful to have two people writing, so when one of us shuts down and can't finish something the other one can pick up the slack."

Using lighter acoustic instrumentation, they construct a sound that's equal parts punk rock and prairie. Violinist Kevin O'Neal adds welcome texture to the mix. The sound is reminiscent of the Pogues and other folk-inspired acts. But don't expect an affected Celtic brogue. Just below the surface is a bleaker, cynical point of view that you might not expect. If you were to get to know any of the band's five members, though, such a winkingly mordant tone would come as no surprise.

It's right there in the name, after all. The band was formed in 2013 inside of Coach Z's Consignment Shop. Bassist and then-store owner, Zac Lucas, referred to his business as a "Junk Shop" without hesitation. Guerrein recanted that "Zimmer, Zac, and I just decided to hang out at Zac's junk shop. Zimmer had borrowed Kevin's brother's mandolin, and before I got there they had already worked out our cover of 'California Love.'"

That song made its way onto the EP. It's more lighthearted than most, but it's also undeniably charming. The

seven tracks of *Bottoming Out* all hit in different ways: beginning with the anthemic singalong of "We All Want to Run," transitioning to the emo-tinged "Watching You Walk Away." There are mournful ballads like "Between the Bridge and the River." The EP culminates in the ne'er-do-well celebration of "Tin Whistle." The EP, recorded by drummer Jeff Burick, masterfully captures the band's spirit and ethos. The group is already looking ahead, planning to release a seven-inch record this August, and a full-length album at the end of the year.

Joining the band will be Erie favorites, This American Song. The quintet blends rock and roll and Americana, with indie sensibilities. Musical brethren, the band shares a cat's cradle's worth of musical ties to members of Junk Shop Failure. Earlier this year, the band helped launch Presque Isle Records, a collective label for like-minded musicians. The Ice Cream Socialists will also be featured. This under-showcased act will be championing their intelligent post-rock propaganda. New local band, The Cartwrights, will open the show with pop-punk hooks, forged by impressive local resumes. — Nick Warren

8 p.m. // 1202 W. 18th St. // Free Admission

humanesocietyofnwp.com.

9th Annual Art & Sole 5k Run/ Walk

June 11 — 9 a.m.
Neighborhood Art House,
201 E. 10th St. nah.
eriebenedictines.org.

Parkinson's Awareness Walk

June 11 — 10 a.m. to noon
Presque Isle State Park
Rotary Pavilion, 301
Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Wild by Design

June 11 — 2 to 3 p.m.
Blasco Memorial
Library, 160 E. Front
St. erielibrary.org.

Car Cruise

June 11 — 2 to 9 p.m.
State Street, from 4th to
12th St. eriedowntown.com.

ARTrageous

June 11 — 7 to 11 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State
St. erieartmuseum.org.

Slow Roll

June 11 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle State

Park, 301 Peninsula
Dr. [facebook.com/
events/551569035010270](http://facebook.com/events/551569035010270).

Tofurky Trot

June 12 — 8 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m.
Frontier Park, 1501 W.
6th St. eventbrite.com.

The Great American Book Sale

June 12 — noon to 8 p.m.
& June 13, 14, 15, 16 — 10
a.m. to 8 p.m. & June
17 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Villa Maria Center
Gymnasium, 2552 W.
8th St. [facebook.com/
EriePAFriendsOftheLibrary](http://facebook.com/EriePAFriendsOftheLibrary).

Sunset Tai Chi Classes and Worship

June 12, 19 — 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park
Beach 6, 301 Peninsula
Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

2016 Erie Golf Premiere

June 13
The Kahkwa Club,
3300 Kahkwa Club Rd.
golftourney.com.

Cattle Call Auditions

June 13, 14 — 6 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 1158 E. 12th
St. erielibrary.org.

Make-It-Monday: Retro Gaming

June 13 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial
Library, 160 E. Front
St. erielibrary.org.

City/County All Star Baseball Game

June 13 — 7 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E.
10th St. erieevents.com.

Gentle Yoga & Meditation

June 13 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Edinboro Branch
Library, 413 W. Plum
St. E. erielibrary.org.

Summer Church Tours

June 14 — 11 a.m.
to 3:30 p.m.
Meet at Holy Cross
Church, 7100 W. Ridge
Rd. lifeworkserie.org.

Therapy Dogs

June 14 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center
Library, 1255 Manchester



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Nowadays Woodstock may seem like an idyllic daydream or hippie naïveté, but peace and love has been wagging its tail at our feet all along, as evidenced by these two bohemian bowwows.

JUNE 11

During the dog days of summer in 1969, the original Woodstock Music Festival brought together over 400,000 people to celebrate peace, love, and great music. The lineup, of course, was legendary – Janis Joplin, Joe Cocker, Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Grateful Dead – but more resounding was its cultural impact. It demonstrated, however singularly, that we *could* all just get along. *Homo sapiens*, at least for one weekend, were the prototypical pack animal.

Nowadays Woodstock may seem like an idyllic daydream or hippie naïveté, but peace and love has been wagging its tail at our feet all along. Opposable thumbs or no, canines have never let go of *their* pack mentality, remaining our steadfast companions *without* chemical inducement. It is in that spirit that Woofstock was born – not in a commune, but in the kennels of the Humane Society of NWPA.

Humane Society Executive Director Nicole Bawol is giddy in discussing the event, an evolution of the highly successful open houses held at the shelter the past four years. The proverbial doorbell rang in Bawol's head after 2,000-plus visitors

showed up at last year's event. Her mind raced to greet the opportunity – a bona fide festival to truly bowwow the crowd.

"It's going to be quite the event. We are going all out," Bawol asserts.

The first leg of the gala invites bipeds and their quadruped friends to Frontier Park for the 5K Dog Jog. The \$35 registration fee includes a t-shirt for you, a bandana for Woofsain Bolt, and entry to the festival at the shelter (dogs must be leashed, lest you find them chasing the White Rabbit – or traffic). If you are on the fence about the whole physical exertion thing, you can leap over it and right into the

puppouri of activities at the Humane Society (general admission \$5), highlighted by the inaugural Battle of the Bands.

Online voters whittled 30 entrants down to the six finalists that will compete at the festival. Each band will perform half-hour sets and receive feedback from a prestigious panel that includes Ryan Bartosek (talent buyer for Kings Rook Club, UPMC Sunset Music Series, and Gathering at Chaffee's), longtime *Erie Times-News* music columnist Dave "Dr. Rock" Richards, Berklee graduate and director of Make It Great Media Ben Henry, and local musician and music critic (the *Reader's* very own) Nick Warren. Happi 92.7's Sherri McBride will MC. Bands will receive points for originality (which probably rules out Baja Men covers), musicianship, showmanship, and audience engagement. Extra credit can be earned for raising additional donations for the shelter pets, who will receive 100 percent of Saturday's proceeds.

Attendees can also dig into delicious barbecue (courtesy of Three B's) and homemade ice cream (Connie's) or lap up a pint of ale (Glenwood Beer). Kids who haven't mastered the sit or stay commands can expend their energy in the on-site Bounce Houses or get their faces painted for free. Local businesses have fetched over 30 gift baskets for the Chinese auction, which includes packages from Conventina Day Spa, Splash Lagoon, the Lake Erie Ale Trail, and more.

"It's a great opportunity for people to come out to the shelter and do something healthy with their pets," says Bawol.

Like music, pets bring people together. Although no adoptions will take place during the festival, applications can be filled out for a later date.

Who let the dogs out!? The answer could be you (you, you-you, you)! – Matt Swanserger

Dog Jog (Frontier Park) 8 a.m., Battle of the Bands 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. // 2407 Zimmerly Rd. // humansocietyofnwpa/events/woofstock-2016 // \$35 (Dog Jog participants), \$5 (children under-5 free)

Rd. erielibrary.org.

Taken: The Plight of Human Trafficking

June 15 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

World Junior Pool Championships

June 16, 17, 18, 19
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier erieevents.com.

Wise Words for Wellness

June 16 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Downtown Block Party

June 16 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
U Pick 6 Tap House, 333 State St. #110 eriedowntown.com.

Shoot the Rock Summer Jam

June 17, 18, 19
Family First Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesportscommission.com

27th Annual Garage Sale

June 17, 18 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy. uuerie.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Bowie Baysox

June 17, 18 — 7 p.m. & June 19 — 1:30 p.m.

Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Keystone Bass Buddy Circuit

June 18 — 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Presque Isle Marina Launch, 301 Peninsula Dr. eriesportscommission.com

Bay Fishing by Pontoon

June 18 — 8 to 10 a.m.
Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Detox Your Home

June 18 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Erie City Mission 2016

Summer Celebration

June 18 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Erie Martin Luther King Center, 312 Chestnut St. eriecitymission.org.

Night at the Railroad Museum 2016

June 18 — noon through June 19 — 4 p.m.
Lake Shore Railway Museum, 31 Wall St. facebook.com/events/1491302941177067.

Botanical Beverages: Herbs & Spices

June 18 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Father's Day

Fishing Program

June 19 — 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Perry Monument, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

2016 National Pollinator Week

June 20 through 26
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie SeaWolves vs. New Hampshire Fisher Cats

June 20, 21 — 7 p.m. & June 22 — noon
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Branching Out

June 21 through Aug.

9 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Mercyhurst Corry Open House

June 21 — 4 to 6 p.m.
Corry Higher Education Council, 221 N. Center St. mercyhurst.edu.

Hatha Yoga 1 and Beyond

June 22 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. E. erielibrary.org.

Farmers Market

June 22 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

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The Hotelier

Goodness
Tiny Engines



To state it simply, *Goodness* is just that. The third studio album release from the trio hailing from Worcester,



Massachusetts is a leap from their 2014 sophomore release *Home, Like Noplace is There*. Vocalist and bassist Christian Holden delivered a broody, cathartic, fast-paced narrative of love and loss that gained attention of emo/post-hardcore fans. *Goodness* is about personal growth. It's about deconstructing yourself to find potential for progression. The lack of anguish on *Goodness* in comparison to that of *Home, Like Noplace Is There* leaves space for bone-chilling emotive intimacy. The album opens with Holden reciting a poem about solidarity with the moon and a perspective under the moonlight. Basking in the light of present day to reevaluate the past is a recurring theme throughout the album. Viewing familiar things and past events in a new light in order to achieve a secure sense of objectivity is part of acceptance and personal growth. *Goodness* is absolutely stellar. It exceeded all of my expectations. – Bridget Fessler

Various Artists

Day of the Dead
4AD



Celebrating the music of the Grateful Dead, this massive 59-song collection brings together dozens



of modern artists. Aaron and Bryce Dessner of The National helped curate this impressive playlist. All in all, the tracks clock in at around five-and-a-half hours, about the length of a cookin' live show from the band. Most Dead tributes you'd imagine would have a roster that read like the original lineup of Bonnaroo. This one reads like ... today's Bonnaroo. There are plenty of highlights, but the mood stays at that steady mellow. Even some of the band's most upbeat tunes ("Til the Morning Comes," "Cumberland Blues,") end up sounding like they've had their levity surgically removed. Some artists are keen to attempt their best Jerry Garcia impression. Top awards for that go to the Tallest Man On Earth, Jim James (of My Morning Jacket), and – surprisingly – Stephen Malkmus. There's so much to choose from in this hippie-meets-hipster deluge. If you pay attention to well-reviewed rock music, and have a soft spot for the Haight-Ashbury days, this is worth a listen. – Nick Warren

Car Seat Headrest

Teens of Denial
Matador Records



It doesn't quite matter if you've been a fan of Car Seat Headrest or not. *Teens of Denial* is virtually undeniable. Songwriter



Will Toledo has made one of the best albums in recent memory. Last year's *Teens of Style* brought the band to a wider audience, rerecording older material to great wide critical acclaim. Before this, Toledo had already recorded 11 albums, releasing them on the website Bandcamp. This album succeeds where so many others fail. Crossing that delicate line from underground darling to major label band too often sees the results woefully mishandled. Gone is the Ty Segall-esque vocal filter that was omnipresent on *Style*. You hear every word and remember it like a story from your childhood. The 24-year-old Toledo draws upon more life experiences than you would ever expect. The album's protagonist narrator, "Joe" is followed through tumultuous times filled with existential ennui. Diary-like lyrics waver as both conversational and anthemic. Half-spoken sections are reminiscent of the Velvet Underground or Okkervil River. At over 70 minutes, the album has plenty to digest while still leaving you hungry. – Nick Warren

Kristin Kontrol

X-Communicate
Sub Pop



It's time to officially mourn the Dum Dum Girls. Gone are the lo-fi, retro '60s grooves of frontwom-



an Dee Dee Penny. *Only In Dreams* dropped way back in the glory days of 2011 surf pop. Even though she married Crocodiles' frontman Brandon Welchez, Dee Dee has moved on. Her name is Kristin Welchez, and she's Kristin Kontrol. This is a synth pop album. A dance album. Welchez is the next to worship at the altar of Chvrches. It's not a total shock if you soaked in 2014's *Too True*, the Siouxsie-esque missing link between the two sounds. *X-Communicate* is a finely produced album. It's obviously the work of an expert. Every song is radio-ready, replete with hooks. Interestingly enough, the retro vibe is still there, it's just waxing nostalgic for another era: the '80s. These tracks are comparable to Madonna's earlier work, save for a fuzz filter on the bass tracks. This is perfectly in line for fans of HAIM or The 1975 who don't mind a little post-punk. Welchez' identity has fully shifted, entering a new wave. – Nick Warren

[Cont. from page 17] They would pay the city an annual fee for the privilege; but EMTA jobs must remain secure. Appointments to the EMTA board should be by application of qualified individuals, and should include a bus-riding expert and advocate such as All Aboard Erie's Julie Minich.

Board Appointments

A transparent model for applications and appointments for the boards of the county, cities, townships, boroughs, and authorities would encourage more civic engagement and better decisions.

2016

Add to these issues the painful fact of increasing gun vio-

lence. We must move beyond reacting to each crisis and proactively address the systemic structures creating the problems.

Our Home

Erie County encompasses 13 school districts, two cities, 13 boroughs, and 22 townships. Dozens of mayors, supervisors, and other officials manage communities with populations as large as 100,000 (Erie) and as small as 200 (Elgin). When many of these places were founded, people traveled by horse. Each municipality has its own zoning plan, resulting in regional sprawl.

It's time to work together.

Consolidation

Seeking to create safer communities in 1854, the City of Philadelphia expanded from two to 130 square miles when it annexed the entire County of Philadelphia. Philly's pro-annexation motto, "In Union There is Strength," ought to inspire Erie.

Leaders from Erie should join with those from other distressed Pennsylvania cities (Bethlehem, Allentown, Scranton, etc.) to collectively propose some kind of long-term, state-wide incentive to advance annexation of existing townships. Let's study consolidating our 20-square-mile city with our 800-square-mile county.

However, as Lawrence Park leadership just demonstrated (in its refusal to participate in a free study regarding a possible consolidation with Wesleyville) even a discussion of change will meet strong resistance.

Still, we must persevere, keeping in mind the public good resulting from a coordinated vision for zoning and land use, fire safety and law enforcement, preK-14 education, community and recreation centers, and transit and economic development.

United we stand.

Readers are invited to attend Erie CPR's third

community conversation on Tuesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at the Erie Art Museum. For more information, email connectplusrespect@gmail.com, or check out the Erie CPR: Connect + Respect page on Facebook. Leave a message for the ErieCPR board president, Dr. Anthony Harris, at the Shiloh Baptist Church office, 453.4909.

Civitas members can be reached at civitaserie.com, via Facebook at CivitasErie, by emailing Lisa@civitaserie.com, or by scheduling a Friday morning meeting at the Civitas office in the Masonic Building.

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Life, Death, and Forgiveness

Social justice advocate tells Erie to get out of its comfort zone



SCOTT LANGLEY

By: Lisa Gensheimer

What does a nun wear to the Academy Awards?

No, it's not a riddle answered by black-and-white-and-red-all-over. It's a question faced by Sister Helen Prejean, whose soul-wrenching relationship with a death row inmate inspired her Pulitzer Prize-nominated book and the movie *Dead Man Walking*, nominated for four Oscars.

The iconic 1995 film, produced and directed by Tim Robbins, stars Susan Sarandon as Prejean and Sean Penn as Patrick Sonnier, sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison for the gruesome murder of two teenagers.

More than two decades after its release, the film begs viewers to explore the power of forgiveness and the moral dilemma imposed on all of us by the death penalty, still practiced in 31 states including Pennsylvania, which for now has a moratorium imposed by Gov. Tom Wolf.

After hearing Prejean's talk at Mount St. Benedict on May 25, and the anguish over recent murders in our own community, maybe it's time to watch that movie again.

Prejean spoke to a packed house at the invitation of Benedictines for Peace. She cracked jokes in a southern drawl about her experiences as a Catholic nun, but her call to action was dead serious.

The criminal justice system is "broken, broken, broken," said Prejean.

And to fix an unjust system, we must do more than pray. We must leave our comfort zone and our cushioned lives of privilege and dig deep at the roots of racism and poverty.

"I used to pray, 'Look God, these big problems are your problems, so help all these poor people. Good night.'"

Or, Prejean continued, "You might say you're gonna go into a cave and fast for 40 days and 40 nights. You're gonna have a little press conference 'afore you go in, and say 'I will come out enlightened!' Yeah. You might come out skinnier. But one thing you can't promise is that you're gonna be enlightened. Or that your soul is gonna catch fire and change your life."

Not going to happen on its own.

"It takes what Pope Francis calls the Gospel of Encounter," said Prejean. And that means going to sit at the feet of the poor.

Prejean's journey began when she left her job as a middle school religion teacher in suburban Baton Rouge for the St. Thomas Housing Project in New Orleans, moving into Hope House.

"It was as if I had gone to another country," Prejean said. "I witnessed the suffering, the violence, the drive-by shootings. I wasn't scared of the police – but I'm a white woman in Louisi-

Sister Helen Prejean's book *Dead Man Walking* became an Oscar-winning film starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn. Over two decades after its release, Prejean remains hopeful as she continues to advocate against the death penalty.

ana, and these were all black kids, and they all had terrible experiences with the police. In the public school, if you dropped out maybe you got your GED but you still couldn't read a third grade reader. What's going to happen to an African American kid who gets out of school and can't read? When you need money, you sell drugs on a street corner. The mainstream economy is working against you. It's like a river, and these kids are getting caught in the eddies."

While at Hope House, Prejean was invited to write and later visit Sonnier at Angola's maximum-security prison. She got to know him as a human being. And it changed the trajectory of her life.

Prejean began to understand that "everybody's worth more than the worst thing they ever did in their life."

Her next revelation came from an unlikely source: the father of one of Sonnier's victims, Lloyd LeBlanc. LeBlanc said he pictured himself pulling the switch on the electric chair. He was angry. He lashed out at his wife and daughter in fits of rage. Everybody told him 'You have to be for the death penalty or it looks like you didn't love your boy.'

"All my life I've been kind, and I wasn't kind anymore. They killed my boy, but I'm not going to let 'em kill me," LeBlanc confided to Prejean.

"He taught me forgiveness is not about lifting the burden of guilt from the other, though it may do that – it's to save your own life," said Prejean. "LeB-

lanc was not going to allow his love to be breached by hatred. He was not going to lose *himself* in it."

Prejean witnessed Sonnier's execution on April 5, 1984, and from that moment has campaigned for fair trials, prison reforms, and the abolition of the death penalty. Today she fights not only on behalf of those who wait on death row – whether they are innocent or guilty – but also on behalf of the victims, their families, and others who are deeply affected by what amounts to state-sanctioned murder.

"The guards and the people who are paid to do the killing for us – who've had to take a live human being from a cell, strap him down and kill him, and be told it's part of your job – it's beginning to have an effect on them, too. More and more of them are speaking out," Prejean said.

The woman who began her journey at Hope House still has hope after all these years.

In 2015, states and the federal government imposed 52 death sentences according to the Death Penalty Information Center, down from more than 300 death sentences handed down each year between 1994 and 1996. According to Amnesty International, last year only 28 executions were actually carried out, the lowest number since 1991.

More than 150 people have been released from death row since 1973 following evidence of their innocence.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, in dissenting opinions, has on



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three separate occasions questioned the constitutionality of the death penalty, suggesting it violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

In a direct appeal to Congress last September, Pope Francis urged abolition of the death penalty.

National polls in 2015 showed historic declines in support for the death penalty. Pew and CBS polls found support for capital punishment was 56 percent; Gallup reported 63 percent, just above the poll's 40-year low.

Numbers might be trending in the right direction, but it is people who give Prejean hope.

"It's not that the American people are wedded to the death penalty. It's not that they're evil or racist. It's just that people never reflected deeply because it's so out of their world. They don't know anybody on death row. So we must bring them close, share human stories. As the saying goes, 'What the eye doesn't see the heart can't feel.'"

Activists Robbins and Sarandon aren't ones to hang their hats on Academy Awards, but when Tom Hanks announced Sarandon had won the Oscar for best actress, she ascended the stage in a copper-colored dress designed for her by Dolce and Gabbana.

What *did* Prejean wear on the red carpet? She borrowed a simple black dress from a friend.

Lisa Gensheimer is a documentary producer and writer. She can be reached at lisa@onmainstreet.com

Resources:

Sister Helen Prejean
sisterhelen.org

Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
padp.org

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
ncadp.org

Benedictine Sisters of Erie
eriebenedictines.org

The politics of death



JOERAVI

legacy of rigged trials and Jim Crow lynchings, think again.

In February, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in *Williams v. Pennsylvania* on whether former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald Castille violated the Constitution when, instead of recusing himself, he ruled on the appeal of Terrance Williams, a man he sent to death row in 1984 when he was district attorney in Philadelphia.

In 2012, a state court judge issued a stay of execution, setting aside Williams' death sentence because of prosecutorial misconduct after a new hearing revealed the prosecution had hidden important mitigating evidence from Williams' defense attorney. The state then filed an appeal with Castille's Supreme Court, which reinstated the death penalty.

When he ran for election to the state Supreme Court, Castille bragged to the Philadelphia Inquirer that he had "sent 45 people to death row." Williams was one of them.

Castille served on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1994 to 2014 and was chief justice from 2008 to 2014. He stepped down in 2014 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. —L.G.

"You get political points for putting people on death row," Sister Helen Prejean told the more than 200 people who crowded the chapel at Erie's Mount St. Benedict. "Some prosecutors who aspire to be judges use their support of the death penalty as a steppingstone to advance their political careers. In my own state of Louisiana, prosecutors give one another a backroom award called the Louisiana Prick Award – prick as in the prick of a lethal injection needle. A defense attorney friend of mine went into a judge's chambers, and there they were, three of these awards on the wall. Each one shows a Louisiana pelican – the official state bird – flying with a hypodermic needle clutched in its talons."

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Erie Faces Erie

Jill Flanagan

park ranger at
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Park

Ed Bernik

photographer

"We are outdoors dealing with whatever situation comes up."

Ed Bernik: When you were 18 years old, did you say to yourself, "I want to be a park ranger?"

Jill Flanagan: I always knew I wanted to be a police officer. However, I started out in the U.S. Air Force at age 18 as a medic. When I returned home from the military, I worked in the social services field at Erie Homes for Children and Adults. I also worked at Sarah A. Reed Children's Center. After that, I decided I wanted to follow through with becoming a police officer.

EB: What was the spark going into the Air Force?

JF: It was really that I am a strong person who was supporting the U.S. It was more of a drive of what I can do for my country. The Air Force definitely appealed to me because they had a higher education requirement. The USAF wants their people to push themselves 110 percent and excel at everything they do, which was very appealing to me.

EB: How did you become a park ranger?

JF: I took the Pennsylvania State Civil Service Exam for Park Ranger II, and attended the Act 120 Municipal Police Officer training at Mercyhurst North East which is required for all DCNR park rangers. I

also attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and have a bachelor's in individualized studies with chemistry, biology, and criminal justice. Park rangers are required to

have 15 environmental credits. After being hired by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), I attended new ranger training where we are taught rules and regulations.

EB: Are you originally from this area?

JF: Yes, and I graduated from Girard High School.

EB: What's a typical day like?

JF: I don't know if there is a typical day because our job is really weather dependent. When it's sunny out, we can at times have up to 55,000 visitors at the park. We are going from the time we walk in until the time we walk out. It can be anything

from assisting people to informing our visitors of ways they can enjoy the park and activities. It's really a mixed bag. Unlike other municipal departments, we never deal with the same people. Every situation we run into is different when it comes to the law enforcement aspect. As park rangers, we enforce the Pennsylvania criminal code, the vehicle code, Game Commission rules and regulations, Fish Commission rules and regulations, and DCNR rules and regulations. We are outdoors dealing with whatever situation comes up.

And, we are police officers. We have to address things like theft, assaults, public drunkenness, speeding, traffic accidents, domestic disputes, and driving under the influence.

EB: You are there to help visitors as much as you are there to police and make arrests.

JF: Yes. For example, last year



a man clipped a bicyclist with his waterski being transported on a trailer because he was in a really big rush to get by him. It was a group effort of myself

I don't know if there is a typical day because our job is really weather dependent. When it's sunny out, we can at times have up to 55,000 visitors at the park. We are going from the time we walk in until the time we walk out.

and the lifeguards to treat the bicyclist's injuries. In another incident, there was a young woman with special needs who got separated from her family. A park visitor flagged

me down and we found her family. They were very grateful that we found their daughter.

EB: Do you folks work with the Coast Guard?

JF: We do a lot of rescues together. For instance, if we have people like ice fishermen fall through the ice. That's a big one.

EB: That must get the adrenaline going.

JF: It does, it's different. West Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Coast Guard have air boats and other things they use to go out onto the ice. We have only a limited amount of time when the water is 32 degrees.

EB: What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?

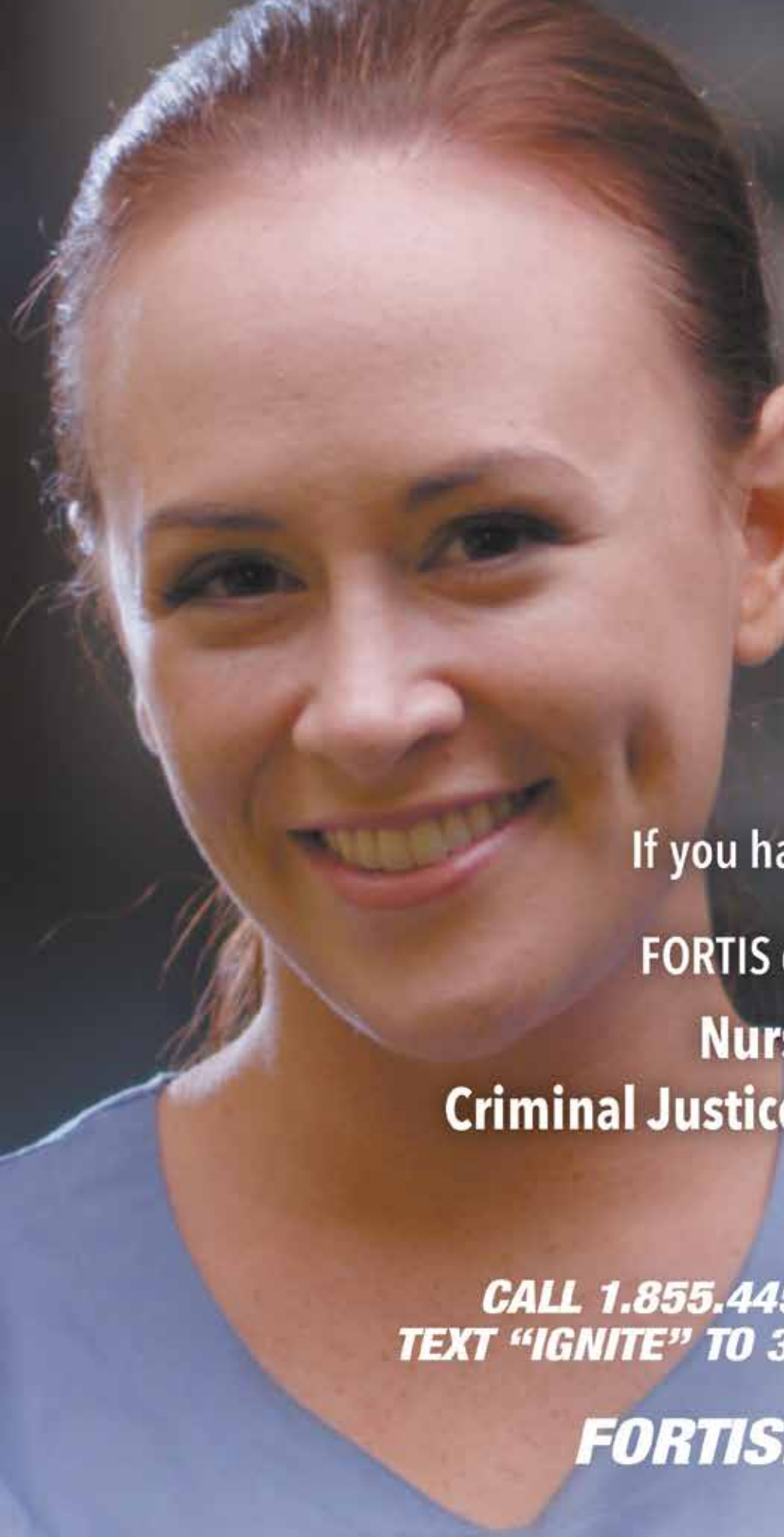
JF: I don't think I have any (laughs). But I do enjoying baking and cooking. My middle son plays cello and goes to the YMCA. My daughter is in ROTC at McDowell Intermediate, so

there are drill competitions. My youngest son is in the gifted program at Westlake and has activities with that. So with all that, the only other time I get is to go walking with my dog who is a Pit Bull mix.

EB: So do you have a good story to tell us?

JF: I had a woman and her five children come into the ranger station. She was reporting a man that she confronted breaking into her vehicle at Beach 11. After confronting the man, she also provided us with his vehicle information. Because of her bravery, we were able to convict him of her incident as well as three other thefts he committed in the park. I give her a lot of credit for what she did, especially since she had her four children and nephew with her all under the age of 10.

*Ed Bernik:
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