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ERIE READER

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40 ERIE'S under 40



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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.

CONTENTS: June 22, 2016

Just a Thought — 4
Make sauce, not war.

Erie At Large — 7
The education money can't buy

News of the Weird — 8
Sounding silence and sculpting space, all for the sake of art.

Erie's 2016 40 Under 40 — 13
Forty young innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders shaping the future of Erie

Spotlight on Erie — 31
Here we are now. Entertain us.

Music Reviews — 42
Enliven your summer soundtrack with these four picks.



From the Editors

Putting the hammer down to drive Erie forward

We live in a hopelessly youth-obsessed culture. Everywhere you look, the message is: Stay young to remain relevant. Stay young to remain vital. Stay young to remain desirable. Just stay young. Period.

But most of this messaging only goes skin deep. We hear daily how important it is to *look* young. To *dress* young. Essentially, to *consume things* that will keep us appearing young. We hardly need to address how reliably this sort of messaging skews our cultural values toward that which is superficial, and away from that which truly matters in this life.

So what are we doing with nine fresh faces on our cover, and even more filling out the pages of this issue?

Easy. We're celebrating the *other* side of youthfulness. The side that's rarely trumpeted in the glossy realm of mass media, but that is infinitely more important in terms of positively contributing to a community. *Any* community.

The 40 individuals being honored in these pages channel youth's energy in myriad hopeful ways. They commit themselves unflinchingly to bolstering what many resignedly dismiss as a failing city. They devote themselves to finding

The 40 individuals being honored in these pages channel youth's energy in myriad hopeful ways. They commit themselves unflinchingly to bolstering what many resignedly dismiss as a failing city.

structural weaknesses in our community, and then stepping up creatively, all "If I Had a Hammer"-style, to fix them.

They might be more likely to associate a musical "Hammer" with the giant-pants-wearing MC. But lyrics from The Weaver's classic better align with what these young locals have been up to, all over this land.

"If I Had a Hammer" was written by Pete Seeger and Lee Hays as a progressive labor movement anthem. It's been taken up by the civil rights movement, the peace movement, and many movements before and since that don't sugarcoat the struggles they face, don't shy away from the hard work they'll need to overcome them, and never lose hope.

And whether they know it or not, the honorees in these pages are singing a similar tune. In harmony.

But our culture – obsessed by youthful appearances – is also debilitated by a reluctance to acknowledge how problematic things truly are.

To paraphrase czb's Charles Buki, Erie needs to have an adult conversation about our present state of affairs. And though they're young, these 40 individuals seem ready to do just that.

They didn't flee to a gentrified, next-big-thing kind of city. They also aren't under any illusions that Erie is perfect.

In fact, its flaws are a lot of why they seem to love it here. Why they *chose* to move here, or move back, or stay. They know there's work to be done. And they're *doing* it. Not after they get that grant, or after they get that degree, or after that committee meets to create yet another plan.

Now.

They believe in themselves. They believe in each other. They believe in Erie.

And though it sounds as corny as a folk song, we believe in them, too.

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NEWS & VIEWS

Just a Thought

Make sauce, not war.



KATIE CHRIEST

By: **Katie Chriest**

I'm seated on an old milk crate, clippers in hand, at eye level with the enthusiastic branches of nine lush tomato plants. At mid-June, they are the size of plants I'd normally expect six weeks from now, and covered in blossoms. A few tomatoes have even begun to form, their thumbnail-sized green selves pushing past the drying yellow flowers that ushered them into this world.

I'm pruning these vines to get them more sunlight and circulation – two essential elements often compromised by growing them in small spaces like the raised beds we've prepared just for them this year. I pause, enthralled by the vigorous nature of their growth (and also pledging tomato plant allegiance to Johnston's Nursery).

It's been one of those wildly windy, heavily humid days. Hot as Hades and never even delivering on the promise of rain such weather cunningly makes. The air is thick with pollen and poplar fuzz – Erie's greatest democratizing allergens.

I assume my favorite gardening rhythm; one I have to remind myself to maintain, when hurriedness creeps in. I prune off some of the newer shoots on the tomato vines in order to force each plant's energy into forming blossoms and then fruit – into becoming healthier and more productive where it's planted, rather than throwing itself into the "empire building" of vining out all over the place, making life unsustainable for its neighbors, and draining its resources away from self sufficiency. In this garden, there is no

such thing as "too big to fail."

Eventually, my husband comes out to see what I'm up to. The gloaming light glows and we find ourselves part of what we imagine to be a universal, timeless scene.

"I'll bet there are a lot of older people all over the world who'd rather be doing what you're doing than identifying the bodies of their children," he says. He's just watched the film *Dirty Wars*, a documentary about the efforts of journalist Jeremy Scahill to tell the truth about the wars we've all grown accustomed to as background noise. So the reference is less of a non sequitur than it seems.

Today, for most of the population, our wars happen in the abstract. As does feeding ourselves. I bring my attention back to the plants I'm pruning and am immediately grounded in this real moment – an antidote to abstraction.

But it's also what comes up for both of us, pattering around in the garden. My grandfather in North East used to fill the backyard with tomatoes and sell them to processors right there in town. A simple act of making gainful use of the land, much of which was encouraged years before amid the proliferation of Victory Gardens during both World Wars.

Today, for most of the population, our wars happen in the abstract. As does feeding ourselves.

I bring my attention back to the plants I'm pruning and am immediately grounded in this real moment – an antidote to abstraction. The work of my hands connects me to all of those whose efforts the world over will feed their families; all of those since humans first coaxed cultivated food out of this bountiful earth. All of those whose hands have been forced to kill, though they'd rather be nurturing life.

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

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Erie At Large

The education money can't buy



By: Jim Wertz

Amid the dark cloud of education funding that looms over Erie's Public Schools, there may be a silver lining. By actively engaging in the legislative budget process, the students who take to the halls and sit in the classrooms of city schools each day have received the best civics education public money can buy.

There are 47 academic standards developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for eighth grade civics and government. Most standards concern systems of government and their (dys)function. However, others relate explicitly to the civic engagement of an informed citizenry.

Meeting grade level objectives regarding civic engagement is a difficult task in most classrooms. Students *read* about engaging the political process; they *learn* about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and they come to *understand* what makes competent and responsible citizens. But their activities are routinely passive. And everything they typically learn about political leadership and public service can be boiled down to idealized half-truths that don't reflect the realities of partisan politics in a constitutional republic.

That is, until now.

Students returned to school last August still reeling from the late-July shootout on Erie's upper west side that took the lives of Shakur Franklin and Elijah Jackson, both age 16. The photograph of several school-aged youth huddled around a residential stoop holding each other, holding themselves, trying to digest what had happened and what would happen next became an illustration of the impact that guns and violence have on Erie's youth. "Education is the key to prevent this type of violence in the future," the mantra began. "We need to take care of our students and to do that we need to fund our schools." It became the most consistent talking point across local media outlets, including *Erie Reader*. By the first day of school, students were prepared to address Educational Standard 5.3.C.H: *Evaluate the role of mass media in setting public agenda and influencing political life.*

As winter set in, public school students faced a different threat. They endured the wind and winter elements blowing into their classrooms through poorly sealed windows; they danced around buckets – in some cases dozens of buckets in a single classroom – placed to collect ice and snow

melt that seeped through an aged and failing roof; and daily, they walked past or sat amid the crumbling plaster walls in gymnasiums, cafeterias, and auditoriums. These problems might have been addressed if not for the failure of the state legislature to pass a timely budget that would continue to "hold harmless" Pennsylvania's schools even as it underfunded districts across the Commonwealth.

Nevertheless, in June, Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.) visited several Erie schools as the photo of the day to promote the expansion of a bill that would facilitate public-private partnerships to restore crumbling public infrastructure. Kelly's proposal would allow government entities to leverage their futures on low-cost debt. We can stop short of calling it a "relief" package, but as Erie School District Superintendent Jay Badams told the *Erie Times-News*, he's "supportive of anything that will help us to find a way to provide equitable school buildings." Kelly's visit and the byproduct of the student's own experience brought them closer to meeting Educational Standards 5.3.8.I: *Describe various types of projects and services provided through local, state, and national taxes.*

Repeatedly, Erie's Public Schools students faced the unfortunate reality of being made pawns in a game of political chess between district administration and the state legislature. Throughout the school year, students wondered if they would return to the same school next year or if the doors would be permanently locked behind them when they left for summer break. Badams has shined a light many times on elementary and middle school students who made crafts and circulated petitions, doing their part to make sure that didn't happen.

Finally, on June 7, more than 100 students, parents, and teachers loaded onto two busses sponsored by local businessman Dale McBrier. They headed to Harrisburg to

raise awareness about the inequity in school funding across the Commonwealth and to ask the legislature to fund public schools based on the model created by a bipartisan commission last year. Inside the Capitol rotunda, Badams and members of the Erie legislative delegation took to the mic as an opening act for the stars of the day: the students and alumni of Erie's Public Schools. This was the most recent in a series of rallies this year that modeled for students participatory democratic values and exemplified Educational Standard 5.1.8.F: *Analyze how political symbols are used by the media and leaders to influence public opinion.*

Say what you will about the state of public education, but these kids learned more about the nature of American bureaucracy than those who attend the most well funded schools in Pennsylvania.

Say what you will about the state of public education, but these kids learned more about the nature of American bureaucracy than those who attend the most well funded schools in Pennsylvania.

I'd wager that there are sixth graders in Erie's Public Schools who know more about fair funding for education than many elected officials in Harrisburg; and if the community can harness the knowledge gained and the experience shared this year among so many of its youth, the future of Erie will be in good hands. In this way, Erie's public school students have more than mastered Educational Standard 5.2.C.D: *Demonstrate what makes competent and responsible citizens.*

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

News of the Weird

Sounding silence and sculpting space, all for the sake of art.

By: Chuck Shepherd

App Nauseam

In May, the Norwegian Consumer Council staged a live, 32-hour TV broadcast marathon a word-for-word reading of the "terms of service" for internet applications Instagram, Spotify and more than two dozen others, totaling 900 pages and 250,000 words of legal restrictions and conditions that millions of users "voluntarily" agree to when they sign up (usually via a mouse click or finger swipe). A council official called such terms "bordering on the absurd," as consumers could not possibly understand everything they were legally binding themselves to. (The reading was another example of Norway's fascination with "slow TV" the success of other marathons, such as coverage of a world-record attempt at knitting yarn and five 24-hour days on a salmon-fishing boat, mentioned in News of the Weird in 2013.) [Wall Street Journal, 5-25-2016]

Government in Action!

The Defense Department still uses 1980s-era 8-inch floppy disks on computer systems that handle part of America's "nuclear umbrella," including ballistic missiles. Also, according to a May report by the Government Accountability Office, systems using 1970s-era COBOL programming language are still used for key functions of the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service, among others (including Veterans Affairs, for tracking beneficiary claims). Agencies have reported recruiting retired employees to return to fix glitches in operating systems long

since abandoned by Microsoft and others. [CNBC, 5-25-2016]

In April, police in Boise, Idaho, told KAWO Radio that they will not relax the year-old ban on dachshund "racing" that was a traditional family entertainment highlight at the annual "Arena-Wienna Extravaganza" because all dog-racing in Idaho is illegal. The station had argued that the law intended to target only greyhound racing; that an exception had been carved out for popular dogsled racing (reasoning: individual dogs were not racing each other); and that, in any event, the "race" course was only about 40 feet long but reported that the authorities were "dead serious" about the ban. [LoweringTheBar.net, 4-25-2016]

Can't Possibly Be True

A watchdog agency monitoring charities revealed in May its choice for "worst" among those "helping" U.S. veterans: The National Vietnam Veterans Foundation raised more than \$29 million from 2010 to 2014 but wound up donating about 2 cents of every dollar toward actual help. The other 98 cents went to administration and fund-raising. (Similarly troubling, according to the watchdog, is that the CEO of NVVF is a staff attorney at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.) [Fox News, 5-17-2016]

More Adventures of the Easily Offended

A March video featured a black San Francisco State University woman angrily confronting a white student, accusing him of "cultural appropriation" because he was wearing his hair

in dreadlocks. (2) A March fitness club ad pitch in Sawley, England, picturing an extraterrestrial with the caption, "And when they arrive, they'll take the fat ones first," was denounced by an anti-bullying organization as "offensive." (3) A May bus-stop ad for a San Francisco money lender ("10 percent down. Because you're too smart to rent") was derided for "ooz(ing) self-congratulatory privilege." [SF Weekly, 4-19-2016] [BBC News, 4-3-2016] [SFGate.com, 5-24-2016]

Unclear on the Concept

Gainesville, Florida, performance artist Tom Miller planned a public piece in a downtown plaza during May and June as homage to the music composer John Cage's celebrated "4'33" (which is four minutes and 33 seconds of purposeful silence by all musicians who "play" on the piece). Miller said his project would consist of local artists "installing" sculpture at 15-minute intervals for five days except that the "sculpture" would have to be imagined by observers, as (in the tradition of Cage) nothing otherwise perceptible would be there. [Gainesville Sun, 5-31-2016]

The Continuing Crisis

Tex-ass Justice! Convicted murderer Charles Flores was on Texas' death row for more than 16 years (until June 2 of this year) before the state's highest criminal appeals court finally ruled that the execution might not be justified if the most important evidence was provided by a witness whom the police had hypnotized. The trial judge, and the jury, had accepted that "hypnosis" could lead to "recovered" memory

(a popular hypothesis in the 1980s and 1990s, but largely discredited today). There was no physical evidence against Flores, and the trial court was ordered to rethink the validity of hypnosis. [Fusion.net, 5-27-2016]

Government Crime Scenes: (1) The Massachusetts attorney general disclosed in May that state crime-lab chemist Sonja Farak (who was fired in 2013) worked "high" on drugs "every day" in the lab in Amherst, beginning around 2005. Among her preferred refreshments: meth, ketamine, ecstasy and LSD. (Farak worked at a different Massachusetts crime lab than Annie Dookhan, imprisoned in 2013 for improvising damaging lab results on at least 20,000 convicts.) (2) The U.S. Justice Department revealed in April that in the 20-year period ending about 2000, most FBI forensic unit examiners overstated hair sample "matches" in criminal trial testimony helping prosecutors 95 percent of the time. [Boston Globe, 5-3-2016] [Washington Post, 4-18-2016]

Wait, What?

Robert Williams, 38, was arrested on June 1 in Calhan, Colorado, after challenging his daughter to a duel with handguns. Williams had pointed a gun at his daughter, then demanded that she grab one, too. The daughter's age was not reported, but police said she and Williams both got off shots (that missed). [KDVR-TV (Denver), 6-2-2016]

Erick "Pork Chop" Cox, 32, in an angry reconstruction-site clash in DeBary, Florida, in June, used his front-end loader to dump two heaps of dirt onto his boss, Perry Byrd, 57, burying him



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NEWS & VIEWS

up to his waist before co-workers intervened. Cox said Byrd had taken the first swing and that he had only accidentally engaged the loader when trying to turn it off, but Byrd claimed that Cox was laughing during the episode. Cox was arrested. [Orlando Sentinel, 6-2-2016]

Least Competent Criminals

Suspected drug possessor Darius Dabney finally confessed after a protracted confrontation with the judge in a Cincinnati courtroom in May a show-down initiated when the judge noticed an "overwhelming" smell of marijuana accompanying Dabney as he entered the room. Upon extensive questioning (according to a transcript provided by WXIX-TV), Dabney swore that he had no drugs though the penalty for lying would be immediate jailing, but producing the drugs voluntarily would result only in their being confiscated, without charges. One more chance, the exhausted, super-patient judge implored, just to be sure. Dabney then sheepishly pulled out a bag of marijuana. "Finally, you come clean," said the judge. "Are you sure (now)?" Dabney then pulled out another bag. "Oh, my lord," said the judge, who still kept his word and only found Dabney in contempt for "coming to court high." [WXIX-TV (Cincinnati), 5-12-2016]

Recurring Themes

In the most recent instance of a landlord ordering a resident to make his

home safe for burglars, Kevin Sheehan of Abingdon, England, was told by his housing association in May that he would be evicted unless he removed his above-ground backyard fish pond (and relocated the 80 koi carp and goldfish). The landlord was concerned that if a trespasser jumped the property wall, he could not anticipate that he would land in the pond and might hurt himself. [BBC News, 5-26-2016]

News of the Weird Classic (June 2012)

Chinese media reported that (in 2012), at the Xiaogan Middle School in Hubei province, high school students studying for the all-important national college entrance exam worked through the evening while hooked up to intravenous drips of amino acids to fight fatigue. A director of the school's Office of Academic Affairs reasoned that before the IVs were hung, weary students complained of losing too much time running back and forth to the school's infirmary for energy injections. After the media reports, the public backlash was less against China's placing so much importance on the exams and more complaining that the government was subsidizing the cost of those injections. [South China Morning Post (Hong Kong), 5-9-2012]

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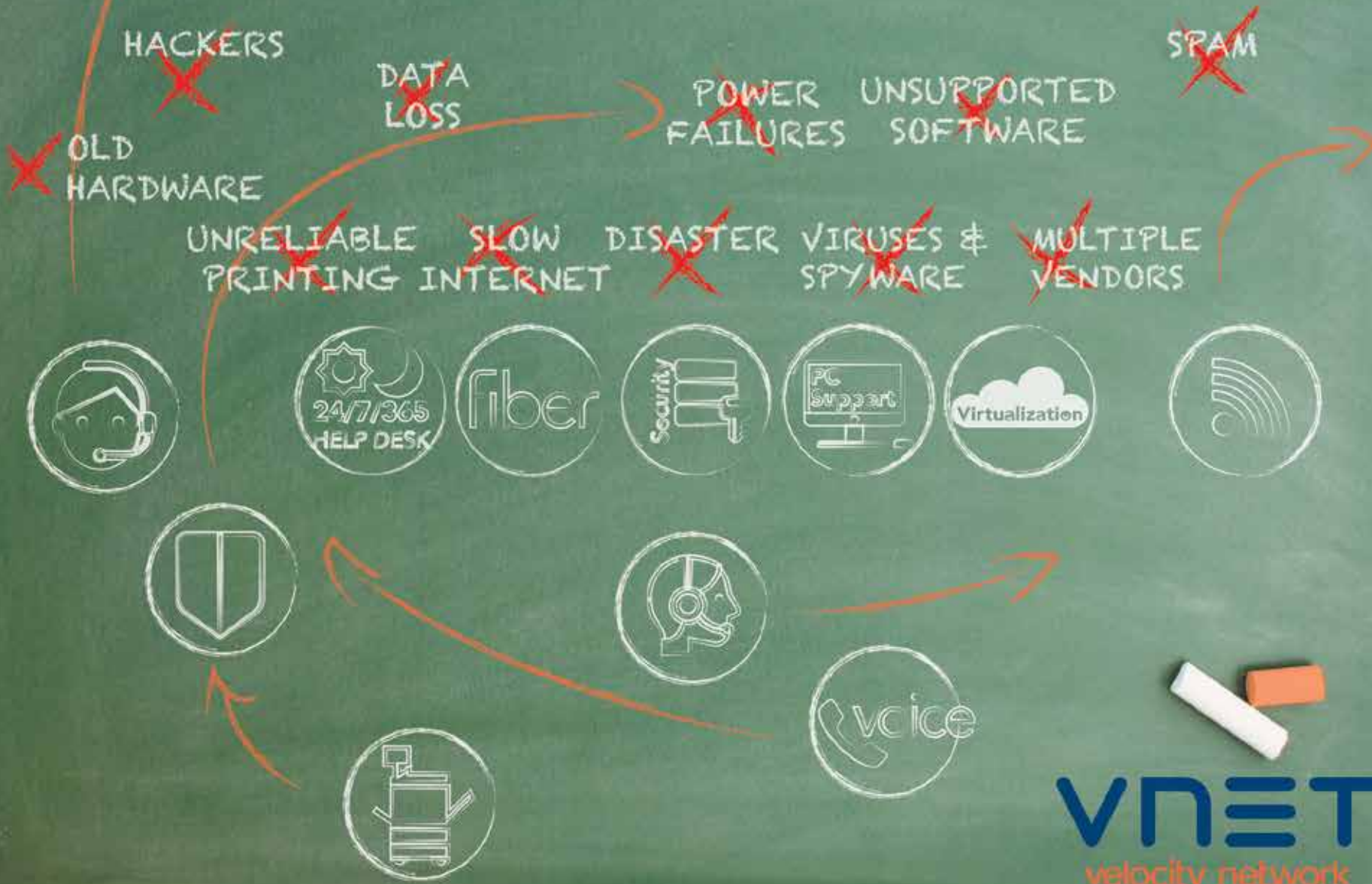
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Erie's 2016 40 Under 40

Forty young innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders shaping the future of Erie

From musicians to educators, from actors to programmers, from politicians to entrepreneurs, the 2016 class of Erie's 40 Under 40 features inspiring men and women working to make Erie a better place for young and old alike. Almost half of those chosen grew up right here in Erie County. Other young people from all over the state – and all over the world – arrived here and stayed to help build up our community. Together they represent some of the brightest beacons of hope for our city. Some faces might be familiar, while some might seem brand new. Some are leading the fight for equal rights, and some have bravely fought for our country. All are innovators, and all are champions in their fields. We had hundreds of nominations, and eventually we were able to narrow them down to an exceptional twoscore honorees. So without further ado, here they are: the 2016 class of Erie's 40 Under 40.

David Baltusavich, 32

Entrepreneur, Owner and Software Architect of SynaTree



Even though Baltusavich is not an Erie native (he's from Pottstown, outside of Philadelphia) he has a passion for local, forward-thinking projects for Erie. He is the owner and software architect of SynaTree, a consulting and programming company; the treasurer and a member of the board of directors of the Whole Foods Cooperative; the president of Box of Light Studios, Inc.; and a co-founder of Radius CoWork.

Baltusavich attended the University of Pittsburgh where he studied computer science, writing, and theater. After moving to Erie in 2010, his work with the Co-op focused on making healthy foods more available to city residents.

Baltusavich says that "Erie's up-and-coming are already changing the old, fatalistic narrative of decline and are building a culture of healthy interdependence and optimism that is the key to Erie's future."

He enjoys creating a community of entrepreneurs and likeminded creative individuals with Radius CoWork. He says that "Erie's up-and-coming are already changing the old, fatalistic narrative of decline and are building a culture of healthy interdependence and optimism that is the key to Erie's future."

If you don't see him around one of his four workplaces, you might see him building an eco-friendly home for his family on 40 acres of land along French Creek.

Nicole Bawol, 33

Executive Director for Humane Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania



Since assuming directorship of the Humane Society in May 2015, Nicole Bawol has worked tirelessly to return pet defectors to supportive troops. Her

knowledge, drive, poise, and passion have left a positive imprint on both her organization and the community at large. Bawol attended Villa Maria and the University of Dayton before earning her master's in non-profit management and leadership. She coordinates all shelter operations, events, and programs in addition to managing two dozen staff and hundreds of shelter pets. The shelter has served as a refuge for orphaned and injured pets for 124 years. While all these responsibilities may seem like a constant tug-of-war, Bawol enjoys what she does:

"I think of how proud I am to work somewhere you can bring joy to families, provide peace of mind for those saying good-bye, and most of all rehabilitate animals, helping to give them a brand new life. Passion is the key to success. Work hard and do what you love!"

Timothy Bruno, 39

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Great Lakes Region Chief



Gannon University graduate Tim Bruno has been working to protect the health of Erie's Great Lake (and, by extension, everyone and everything around it) for many years.

Coordinating water policy issues with other Great Lakes states and provinces and representing Pennsylvania's priorities on water use and water quality, the 39-year-old husband and father of three also prioritizes and manages funding for various Lake Erie water initiatives, and works closely with local and county governments, other state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to further

the goals of the Department of Environmental Protection's water protection programs.

Beyond that, he's known by his closest friends as a killer guitarist, a skilled home-brewer, an avid outdoorsman, and someone who really knows how to have a good time.

"The Erie region holds great promise and potential, but is faced with significant challenges both now and in the coming years," says Bruno. "It's up to Erie's younger generations to buy into a shared vision, find solutions to our problems through a fresh perspective, and have the determination and persistence to follow through and build this community into a Pennsylvania success story."

Heather Cash, 34

Artist



Born in Erie but raised in Florida, Heather Cash currently resides here working as a self-employed artist pursuing her creative passion of painting. After graduating from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in computer programming, she moved to California to work as programmer for Google before deciding to move back to Erie to kickstart her career as an artist. She is a painter, teacher, and freelance illustrator. Cash is not only passionate about helping others discover their inner creative sentiment through her work teaching canvas painting classes at Claytopia, but she is also adamant about creating beautiful murals around the city for all of us to admire. "I love to

create beautiful spaces all over Erie," she says. "I get a great feeling from creating a mural that makes a space feel whimsical and reminds others of the best parts of life – friendship, happiness, and togetherness." You can check out her wonderful murals at the Erie Zoo, Salvation Army, JFK Center, and the Children's Museum.

Richie Colosimo, 25

Musician



Richie Colosimo moved from Bradford, Pennsylvania to Erie two years ago after earning a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Colosimo is the guitarist and vocalist in the local band Frame and Mantle, who just released a remastered version of their EP *While Our Fields Lie Fallow* last month. In addition to playing music, Colosimo

"Young people are a force in Erie for making positive changes and bringing new ideas – whether it be in the arts, business, or technology," Colosimo says.

and his bandmates also facilitate a local all-ages venue called Conjunction Junction. They work together to bring in local artists as well as bands from all over the country to expose our community to music they otherwise would have to travel to see. Conjunction Junction also serves as a safe, comfortable place for local musicians to network amongst themselves and with touring acts. Aside from playing and organizing local shows, Colosimo works as an online sellers ac-

count manager for a locally owned and operated business called LuggageDesigners. Colosimo loves what he does and his talent and organizational skills are an asset to our community. "Young people are a force in Erie for making positive changes and bringing new ideas – whether it be in the arts, business, or technology," he says. "I think that young professionals keep Erie vibrant and help to make it a place where young people want to be."

CA Conrad, 38

Managing Director, VCG Properties



Sometimes you have to tear down a few walls to build anew. This Springfield, Illinois native knows this better than most. Serving as managing director of VCG Properties, Conrad's most visible impact on the Erie community has been the revitalization of the West Erie Plaza. When word got out that the movie theater there was to be razed, his vision received a fair share of criticism. But this Special Operations U.S. Marine is calm, cool, collected, and driven in anything he does – whether it's transforming a weathered shopping center or rescuing primates. In fact, he once walked through one of the poorest inner-city streets in West Africa in pitch black swilling Heinekens with his VCG partner Chris Greene by his side and a rescued wild baboon hanging off his leg while others ran in fear. And today, his vision and groundbreaking decisions for development are celebrated. "Business is little more than a series of choices:

risk-versus-reward," Conrad says. "We can choose self-gratification and fall in line with entrenched establishment norms, or we can surround ourselves with talented individuals who push us to become better versions of ourselves."

Chanel Cook, 38

Manager of Outreach Services, Erie County Public Library



"Great food and genuine conversations can heal the world," says self-described foodie and change agent, Chanel Cook. Born, raised, and educated in Erie, this Villa Maria Academy and Gannon University graduate has worked in the public sector and served on local boards for 16 years, which she credits with affording her the opportunity to

"Great food and genuine conversations can heal the world," says self-described foodie and change agent, Chanel Cook, who lives by the motto, "service above self."

help others overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams. She lives by the motto, "service above self." Cook recently left the office of the County Executive to serve as the manager of outreach services for the Erie County Public Library, where she is responsible for maintaining and developing local and regional partnerships. In addition to her work for Erie

County, she's also a 2015 graduate of the Jefferson Educational Society's Erie County Civic Leadership Academy.

Erika Dauber Berlin, 35

Vice President of Technology, Larson Texts



When she finished her master's degree in learning design and technology at Stanford University, her experience and her passions could have taken her anywhere. Five years later, now VP of Technology at Larson Texts and Big Ideas Learning, a local publisher of math

"I realized that everything we envisioned for the [Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania] in 2011 has come to pass," says Dauber Berlin.

textbooks, Erika Dauber Berlin knows she is in the right place. As a graduate of McDowell High School and Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, Dauber Berlin knew that Erie had the potential to be the kind of place where cultural programs and professional lifestyles could flow and flourish. Since 2011, she has served as the president of the Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania where she helped kickstart programs such as FILM at the Erie Art Museum, the Greater Erie Film Office, and GEAR at Penn State Behrend. "I realized that everything we envisioned for the organization in 2011 has come to pass," she says. "We've fostered a film community in Erie through our film series and our partners; we've galvanized local filmmakers to come together in support of each oth-

40 UNDER 40

er; and we've educated the community, whether by facilitating and encouraging film criticism and discourse at screenings, or through education programs like Erie's Voices."

Sean Fedorko, 30

Co-founder, Radius CoWork



For Sean Fedorko, it's about making the business of making the City of Erie better easier for its downtown denizens. "We drive new businesses, events, and daily life back into the heart of the city," explains this 30-year-old Erie native. "Re-urbanization starts with people moving their work into the city; we make that easy." That we is Radius CoWork, Erie's only co-working space, which Fedorko co-founded in 2015. After studying

"Mediocrity doesn't get us anywhere," Fedorko says. "Erie's ambitious emerging leaders drive fast, take chances, and spend their money and themselves on an incredible struggle to build something. And they aren't afraid to fail along the way."

political science and philosophy at Mercyhurst University, he went on to complete his master's degree in public policy and political theory at Indiana University

Bloomington. When he returned to Erie, he didn't come back empty-handed. With cultivating a community of collaboration in mind, Fedorko created a space where folks looking to begin – or grow – a business could connect with other creatives and entrepreneurs. "Mediocrity doesn't get us anywhere," he says. "Erie's ambitious emerging leaders drive fast, take chances, and spend their money and themselves on an incredible struggle to build something. And they aren't afraid to fail along the way."

Emily Fetcko, 37

Owner, Moxie Media



Emily Fetcko chose to include "moxie" in her business name because it means "courage combined with inventiveness." It took courage to leave behind formal public relations positions and start her own business, but it's what Fetcko wanted. She grew up in Oil City, Pennsylvania, surrounded by creative family and friends who always supported and encouraged her passion for art. As owner and creative director of Moxie Media, Fetcko helps organizations to market themselves in a unique way and develop a strong brand name. When moving to Erie in 2013, Fetcko immediately took every opportunity to become involved in the community, the place she calls home. She volunteers with Dress for Success Erie and serves on the 2016 advisory panel for Athena Erie and the promotions committee for the Erie Downtown Partnership. She believes everyone can be successful and make a difference. "Don't just speak up," she says. "Show up and do something that

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Carlo Fuda, 38

Marketing Director, reCap



Carlo Fuda has been on reality TV, he's released his own music on iTunes, and he's worked for some of the world's largest science and technology firms. A native of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, Fuda graduated Cum Laude from Gannon University with a degree in medical technology, after which he lived in several mid-Atlantic cities and abroad in Italy. His travels illustrated for him the value of young talent in creating a thriving city. That's why this Erie Ambassador believes so strongly in the work he's done since returning to Erie and taking on the

“Since starting [reCap] over two years ago, we have expanded our team, experienced year-over-year growth, and have had a direct impact on the local job market,” says Fuda.

task of developing marketing and public relations strategies for a successful local startup. “I'm really proud to work for reCAP,” he says. “I was Karen Rzepcki's first employee and since starting over two years ago, we have expanded our team, experienced year-over-year growth, and have had a direct impact on the local job market by working with and supporting other Erie businesses.”

Laura Guncheon, 37

Director of Community Affairs & Public Relations, the Office of Pennsylvania Sen. Sean Wiley



At the young age of 12, Laura Guncheon and her brother started working a paper route. Aside from earning a bit of spending money, Guncheon learned that hard work is, well, hard. But, she also learned that if you continue to

“Young people are walking and talking litmus tests for an idea or even for a region,” says Guncheon. “The level of fearlessness embodied in us ultimately results in risk and reward.”

push onward – say, up a mighty hill at the end of a long route – you will reach your destination. This Port Allegany, Pennsylvania native applies this work ethic to her current role, where she directs community affairs and public relations for Sen. Sean Wiley, while also facilitating the Senatorial Advisory Committee and acting as the general eyes, ears, and boots on the ground for the senator. This graduate of Mercyhurst University (master's in administration of justice) and University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (bachelor's in administration of justice) says that “Young people are walking and talking litmus tests for an idea or even for a region. The level of fearlessness embodied in us ultimately results in risk and reward,” she adds, “and I always remember that an expert in anything was once a beginner.”

Jennifer Hunt Roden, 39

School Psychologist, Advocate



Born and raised in Erie, Jennifer Hunt Roden has built a career as psychologist for the Erie School District over the past nine years. After graduating from Edinboro University with a B.A. in music, a Master of Education degree in educational psychology, and an additional Master of Education degree in educational leadership, Hunt Roden went on to teach K-5 general music and fifth grade beginning band in Titusville, Pennsylvania. In addition to working as a school psychologist, Jennifer is a strong advocate for fair funding for the Erie School District based on her strong belief that a child's quality of education should not be dictated by his or her zip code. “Young people in Erie must rise up and put pressure on the state legislators who devalue public education,” she says. “This is a pivotal time of great moral implication. The future of our city depends on having an educated population.” Hunt Roden is also a freelance vocalist, yoga practitioner, and passionate outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking and mountain climbing.

Brett Johnson, 34

Mercyhurst University Assistant Professor, Theater Program Director

Energized. Dynamic. A consummate professional.

Those are a few of the ways 34-year-old Brett Johnson is described by his peers.

He's credited with basically single-handedly resurrecting Mercyhurst University's theater arts program and reestablishing its theater minor. He has also directed nearly a dozen challenging pro-

ductions, including *Eurydice*, *Urinetown*, and *The Laramie Project*.

He's brought important folks such as world-renowned performers Chita Rivera and Elizabeth Ashley to Erie for public speaking events, and also keeps a close working relationship with citywide groups and organizations such as the Greater Erie Council on Equality.

“The young artists with whom I've had the pleasure of working ... make Erie a better place to live through their contributions to an already vibrant arts community,” says Johnson.

Johnson says he believes that theater – like all arts – is a positive force that enhances everyone's quality of life. “I strive to create work that lifts the spirit, galvanizes the intellect, stimulates curiosity, nurtures open-mindedness, and increases our sensitivity to the values of others,” he says.

“The young artists with whom I've had the pleasure of working over the past four years are talented, compassionate, driven individuals. They challenge and inspire me daily, and make Erie a better place to live through their contributions to an already vibrant arts community.”

Safia Kassir, 31

Creator of *On Trend Social Marketing*



When the staff at the *Erie Times-News* needed a local voice to reflect upon marriage equality, they turned to entrepreneur and activist Safia Kassir. In an op-ed published last May, this Clarion University graduate remembered feeling a “sense of validation for those who have

40 UNDER 40

been cast out by family – judged, bullied, assaulted, killed, or becoming suicidal because of their sexual orientation.” Kassir combines vocal advocacy for the LGBTQI community in Erie with a keen business sense that helps others to succeed. She currently serves as an assistant to the director of the Coffee Club Divas, a local women’s networking group designed to prioritize entrepreneurial

In all of her endeavors, Kassir strives to promote “a new way of thinking free of intolerance and adversity which ultimately holds the power, creating a change for good.”

goals. Earlier this year, she was nominated for the “Woman of the Year” award by the Women’s Roundtable of Northwest Pennsylvania. She is also the creator of On Trend Social Marketing, a female-focused social media company designed to provide small business owners with an empowering digital boost. In all of her endeavors, she strives to promote “a new way of thinking free of intolerance

and adversity which ultimately holds the power, creating a change for good.”

Amanda Kochircka, 28
Business and Technology Commercialization Consultant, Gannon Small Business Development Center; Co-chair, Athena Circle of Trust

A graduate and current master’s degree student at Gannon University, Meadville native Amanda Kochircka works with clients to start and grow small businesses in Erie, and also to bring new technologies to life on the local level through Gannon’s Small Business Development Center.

Beyond that, she puts her energies into empowering local women as well, co-chairing the Athena Circle of Trust, which works to facilitate the successes of emerging female leaders and entrepreneurs throughout the community.

A former “pageant girl,” she was crowned Miss Meadville Area in 2004 and performed over 150 hours of community service within her platform, breast cancer awareness (a cause that has always been near to her heart, since her mother beat breast cancer some



nerships will build a stronger, more productive community.”

Abbey Lynn Krysiak, 29
Pharmacist and Photographer



years earlier). On top of all her other good works, she continues to volunteer with the American Cancer Society today.

“What I love about emerging leaders in Erie is that we’re willing to work together to form new partnerships and collaborations where there was hesitance to do so before,” Kockirka says. “Those part-

nerships will build a stronger, more productive community.” Abbey Lynn Krysiak attributes her success to her determination and effort to be the best in her profession; plus she likes to keep busy. From DuBois, Krysiak attended Gannon University for her pre-pharmacy studies and LECOM for her Doctorate of Pharmacy. Currently, she works at LECOM as an assistant



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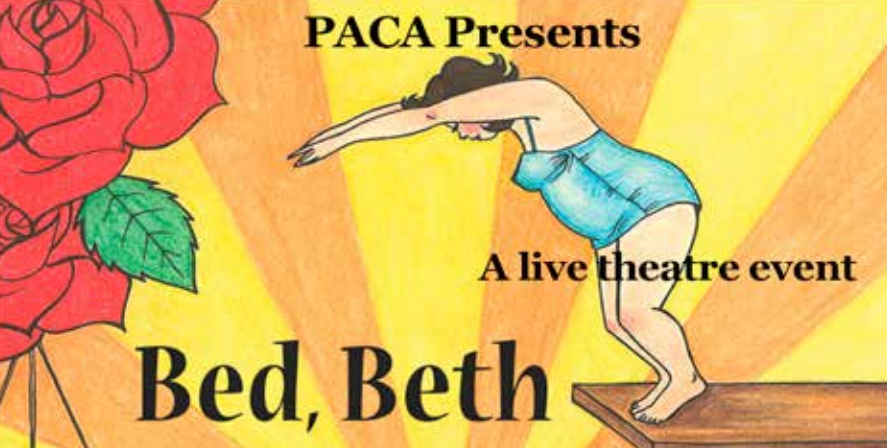
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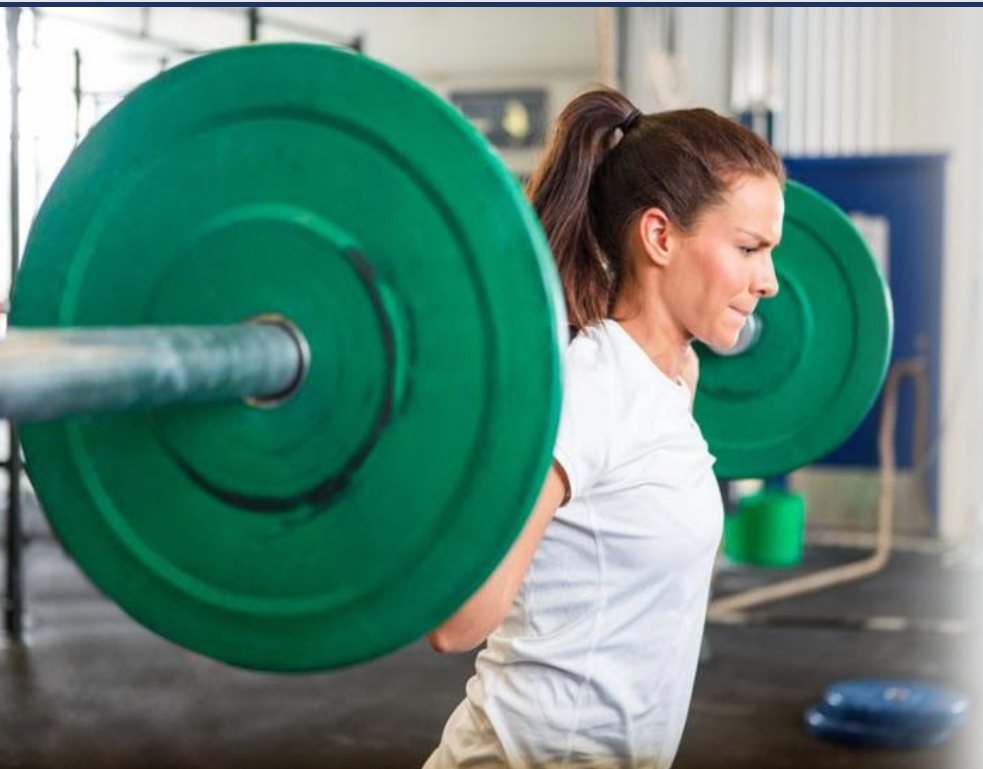
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professor and at the Millcreek Community Hospital as a clinical pharmacist in the behavioral health unit. She takes students on rotation at the hospital and works with them to hold community events that raise awareness for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and more. It's the students who inspire her. "They understand that they have a great avenue as healthcare professionals to make a large impact," Krysiak says. She has been named teacher of the year on several occasions. Additionally, Krysiak enjoys operating her business, Abbey Lynn Photography, which specializes in newborn and maternity photography. She began over four years ago, and now has two children of her own to photograph.

Afrim Latifi, 28

Licensed Sales Professional, Allstate Insurance; Soccer Coach, Erie Admirals and Gannon University



Afrim Latifi leads something of a double life. At Allstate Insurance, he encourages our community to make responsible financial decisions about their most valuable assets. When he's not at work, he's passionately devoted to soccer. Presently, he's the head coach for the Erie Admirals Soccer Club, as well as the assistant coach for Gannon's women's team. Prior to that, he served as the head coach for Villa Maria Academy High School, where they won the PIAA class AA championship in 2015. He was 27 at the time, which made him the youngest coach in Pennsylvania history to win a state championship. Latifi spent his early childhood in Kosovo, arrived in Erie in 1999, and earned bachelor's and

master's degrees at Gannon University. He believes that we need "young, driven, motivated, and determined people to make Erie a better place to work and live." We can learn a lot by following his example.

Nicole Lavery, 36

Director of Vision and Youth Services, Sight Center of NWPA; Co-founder, Co-owner Lavery Brewing Company



Ask Nicole Lavery what her secret is and she'll tell you that she fears mediocrity but that she isn't afraid to take risks. At the Sight Center of NWPA, she ensures visually impaired children don't miss out on fulfilling childhood experience due to vision loss. When she's at her other work – Lavery Brewing Company – she's economically and culturally impacting the region (and brewing delicious, multiple-award-winning beers). And when she's home, she's the proud

Lavery says Erie "can only change as much as those around it inspire it to change," adding that she sees "young people in Erie desiring change, and gaining a voice and body which is gaining momentum."

mother of three. Add in serving on the L'Arche Erie Board and recently completing a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy from Chatham University, and you know that Erie needn't fear mediocrity with risk-taking folks like Nicole Lav-

ery calling it home. Lavery says Erie "can only change as much as those around it inspire it to change," adding that she sees "young people in Erie desiring change, and gaining a voice and body which is gaining momentum. My hope is that those who are afraid of change realize it *will* make things better and that remaining status quo is not an option."

Amanda Loose, 32

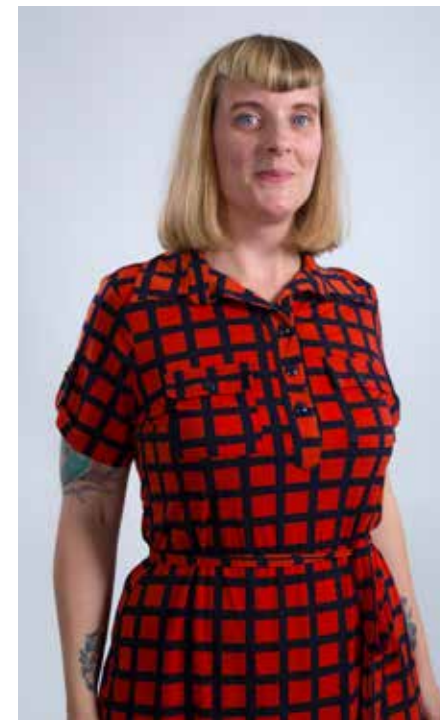
Bayfront Maritime Center Program Coordinator



Amanda Loose started working at the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC) 17 years ago as a sailing instructor. Loose attended Mercyhurst Preparatory School before studying at Edinboro University. Following graduation, Loose left for rural Alaska where she taught grades four through 12 in a two-room schoolhouse. However, she returned to her hometown where she uses her skills in a "more meaningful way." Loose coordinates the BMC's Project SAIL – an after-school job skills development program – and the Bayfront Summer Credit Recovery Program, which works with Erie high school students. She wears many hats, but she has the "whatever-it-takes attitude" to successfully juggle all her responsibilities. Loose has helped hundreds of students, who have struggled in traditional learning environments, to transition back into their normal schools and graduate from high school. She hopes to leave an impact on the students, but knows the students have impacted her. "While we teach our students about life," she says, "our students teach us what life is all about."

Jessica Makowski, 37

Clerk, Erie County Public Library; Co-creator of the Erie Library Local Music Project



While performing everyday duties such as clerical work and customer service, Jessica Makowski goes above and beyond to form connections with the great people of our community in order to make Erie an even better city. In addition to lending her skill to the functions of the library, she also endeavors to call attention to local musicians. As co-creator of the Erie Library Local Music Project, Makowski has a hand in collecting and organizing a catalog of local artists' CDs to highlight their tal-

"Erie's local music is a part of our culture as well as our history, and I'm thrilled to be a part of not only highlighting that, but also preserving it," Makowski says.

ent and help them gain exposure. She works hard to raise awareness of the importance of supporting local musicians in order to keep the Erie music scene thriving. "Erie's local music is a part of our culture as well as our history, and I'm thrilled to be a part of not only highlighting that, but also preserving it," Makowski says. "I strive to connect the people of our community to the information they need to improve their lives, as well as to other like-minded individuals."

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Tavon Markov, 35

Erie Art Museum Operations and Events Manager; Owner, Horizontal Experiment Productions



Tavon Markov is described as a can-do (and, will-do) kind of guy – whether that means helping a friend fix a furnace or steering the production of a major local music event.

Add to it that he's lived in the Gem City for 34-and-a-half of his 35 years, and you've got just the kind of young professional – driven, artistic, talented, and dedicated to his hometown – that Erie's arts scene needs.

He says that throughout his life, music has been his main motivator. Launching his own studio, Horizontal Experiment Productions, he began recording and producing local singer-songwriters and hip-hop acts as early as the late 90s. And after beginning to study business management and marketing, Markov entered the fray of live music production at local clubs.

He could soon be found behind the soundboard at Erie music hotspots including the Dockside, the Crooked i, and, more recently, the Kings Rook Club. He's also been the sound engineer for local country legends Next of Kin over the past few years, and, in 2015, took on a well-deserved gig as operations and events manager for the Erie Art Museum.

In Erie, he says, driven young professionals "are the ones to inherit the torch. They are the ones that will be influencing and ultimately making the decisions that will sculpt the future of our city. They are the workers, the business owners, the employers – the visionaries of the future. They face all odds to forge their way in

this crazy mixed up world we live in. We have the drive, passion, desire and conviction to effect change in our community."

Mario Mazza, 39

General Manager and Enologist at Mazza Wines



The Mazza family sowed its fortunes in the vineyards, but their fields have grown beyond the grapevines under Mario's stewardship. Just as long as they stay there – Mazza is committed to preserving area farmlands against the slow creep of sprawl. "I hope that by creating these products we provide a viable market for local agriculture, which will keep our region beautiful by keeping ag-land from being turned into housing," he says. As the general manager and enologist at Mazza, he oversees production from grape or grain to bottle (as opposed to a viticulturist, who addresses the planting/growing aspects – a different subdivision). Mazza has spent most of his life in the Great Lakes area – North East

"I hope that by creating these products we provide a viable market for local agriculture, which will keep our region beautiful by keeping ag-land from being turned into housing," Mazza says.

High School and then Case Western University in Cleveland – before receiving his master's in oenology down under in Adelaide, Australia. Besides Five & 20's distilled spirits, nothing warms him quite like young people "breathing new life, ideas, and enthusiasm into our com-



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munity." We could certainly use more of that vintage.

KC McCloskey, 35

Director, Footlights Theatre Program; Area Theater Arts Teacher



KC McCloskey is the wearer of several hats, all of them in the style of youth theater.

And whether she's teaching performing arts classes to homeschooled students, running the drama club and directing spring musicals at Westlake Middle School, or steering the Footlights Theatre Program for youth throughout the Gem City and Erie County, she's making a dramatic impact on young people's lives.

"Theatre arts benefit students on a number of levels, socially, academically, and emotionally," says the Harborcreek native and Edinboro University of Pennsylvania graduate. "What I do, especially [with] Footlights, is helping the students in Erie grow in all [of those] areas."

She adds, "I believe in them and support them, and that's the best gift we can give to our students."

Tiffany LaDonna McCloud, 34

CEO & Founder of HER P.O.W.E.R. Inc. and Adjunct Professor at Gannon University

As a child, McCloud struggled with reading and speech. Later, however, she not only won the U.S. Academic Decathlon speech competition, but held the national record for several years. A graduate of East High School in Erie, she received a B.A. in marriage and family therapy from Mercyhurst University and later went on to receive her master's degree in social work.

Today, she is a licensed social worker who teaches at Gannon University while also staying busy as the chief executive



of HER P.O.W.E.R., an organization that provides consulting services for women in business. She is also certified in Autism Spectrum Disorder and Multisystemic Therapy.

She is admittedly tough on herself and extremely competitive, putting forth every effort to make her best better. "As the late Mr. Robert Barney would say, 'Good, Better, Best; never let it rest, until your good is better and your better is your best,'" she says. "What you will be is what you are now becoming."

Angela McNair, 35

Owner/Director at Jump Start Early Learning Center, LLC



Since Angela McNair was 15 years old, she has wanted to own and operate a childcare facility. In 2016, that dream is about to become true. As the founder and director of Jump Start Early Learn-

Inspired by the "creative and hungry spirit" she recognizes in our community, McNair dedicates herself to an impressive array of community events, which she designs to "raise awareness, reduce violence, and increase unity."

ing Center, LLC – an educational childcare facility she is opening in the same building as the Booker T. Washington

Center in Erie – McNair will expand upon her eight years of experience with trauma-focused therapy in our community. An active member of the Erie School Board, McNair also hosts the "Better Together" family workshop series at her alma mater, East High. The events teach young people about college applications, career readiness, environmental stewardship, and money management techniques. As if that's not enough, this mother of five is the driving force behind the annual "Erie Rips the Runway" fashion show in the school's auditorium. Inspired by the "creative and hungry spirit" she recognizes in our community, she dedicates herself to an impressive array of community events, which she designs to "raise awareness, reduce violence, and increase unity."

George Morgan III, 33

Vocational Counselor; Academic Success Coach; Adjunct Professor at Mercyhurst University



In his professional and personal life, George Morgan III prioritizes service to his community above all else. As a counselor and academic success coach at Mercyhurst North East, he helps young people set firm goals to ensure academic progress. This work often takes unusual and inspiring forms – building on his love of hip hop (especially Notorious B.I.G.), he has organized open mic nights at the university that encourage musical expression, creative writing, and strong dialogues between students.

But Morgan doesn't stop there. He's also the vice president of the Erie chapter of the NAACP, where he shares his belief in equality for all people. He also serves as board chairman of the Human Relations Commission of Erie County, where he works to eliminate discrimination in housing, hiring practices, and public accommodations. As if that's not

enough, being the father of a one-year-old daughter keeps him pretty busy as well. Morgan describes himself as part of a new generation of local leadership, which is "gracefully taking the baton, working with and standing on the shoulders of our older, well-versed leaders." We couldn't have put it better ourselves.

Jason Pero, 39

Owner and President of Pero Real Estate



Jason Pero strives to "make Erie a better place to live one property at a time." He owns and operates approximately 400 apartments in the Erie area with his wife, Nadia. Pero attended North East High School and studied public relations at Westminster College. Shortly after completing his education, Pero left his job as a medical device professional to focus on real estate. He believes that if landlords, investors, individual homeowners, and renters all do their part, Erie can become a better place to live. He stresses the importance of continual improvement and strongly believes that Erie, with all its young people, is "on the upswing." He says, "The people that recognize this will benefit greatly." Additionally, Pero loves spending time with his wife and two children. He is a proud Cleveland Cavaliers fan and an avid music collector, as he currently has over 4,000 titles and 1,000 vinyl records.

Anthony Sardini, 26

Music Teacher and Owner of Accurate Performers Music School

Music instructor Anthony Sardini has struck a resounding chord with his clientele. His students are singing the



before transferring to the prestigious Berklee School of Music, where he concentrated on pop and rock piano. Whereas public schools are scaling back on education, Sardini and his staff (which includes violin instructor Brianna Morrow and vocal coach Abigail Franc) are stepping it up, guiding over 250 students a week. No musical background? Don't fret – that is, unless you're learning the guitar, banjo, mandolin, or ukulele. The musically illiterate can also learn how to read on the trumpet or harmonica. Or perhaps the drums will stick. Whatever the case, Sardini is passionate about Erieites getting in sync with their passions, and in turn, enhancing their quality of life.

Ashley Sayre de Rivas, 29
Chef, Bourbon Barrel

praises of the Accurate Performers Music School, where the former personal trainer helps children and adults of all ages bulk up their skill sets and solidify their self-esteem. Sardini studied voice, piano performance, and composition at Mercyhurst University for one year

Ashley Sayre de Rivas is best known for creating some of the most delectable sushi in town. After graduating from Mercyhurst University with a degree in Spanish and Japanese language and culture, Sayre de Rivas began working as a chef at 1201 Kitchen where she

honed her sushi making skills. She continued pursuing her dream of being a



through food," Sayre de Rivas says. "I hope that sharing a dish might spark an interest in that culture and give someone an opportunity to try something they might not commonly find around Erie." She currently works as a chef at Bourbon Barrel while sporadically doing pop-up kitchens at Kings Rook Club and

"The goal of my work is to share my passion for world cultures through food," Sayre de Rivas says. "I hope that sharing a dish might spark an interest in that culture and give someone an opportunity to try something they might not commonly find around Erie."

chef when she moved to New York City to work as a sous chef for Daniel Boulud for two years. Her passion for Latin and Asian cultures is obvious in the tastes she creates. "The goal of my work is to share my passion for world cultures

teaching sushi classes at 1000 Beers. She plans to continue acting on her goal of making Erie a more culturally savvy place by opening up a food truck, specializing in international cuisine. She is also working toward starting a local community kitchen.

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Annie Schmitt, 29*Co-director, Box of Light, Erie Studio*

Schmitt grew up just a block from Jude Shingle in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Luckily for Erie, the two met and are now the force behind Box of Light.

Although Schmitt joined Box of Light after Shingle, her origins in art started well before her arrival in Erie. She received a B.A. in political science and environmental art from Allegheny College. Later she earned a permaculture design



certificate from Cornell.

Working with children from all districts and populations, Schmitt has a unique cross perspective on education in Erie. She enjoys giving students the tools and freedom to create, and then stepping back and watching their minds go to work. "It's incredible to see how newfound confidence ripples out into the rest of their lives," she says.

In her spare time, Schmitt enjoys gardening and farming wherever she can, especially if it's a strange or heirloom vegetable. She believes that youthfulness is a mindset that we should all try to adapt to, "it's open, it's playful, it's risky – and it's what Erie needs!"

Bill Scholz, 30*Co-founder, Radius CoWork*

If you've never entered a co-work space, the concept might conjure up the image of cubicled wasteland where people spend their days working independent of some rube in another cube. Bill Scholz knew better. As the co-founder of Radius CoWork on the ninth floor of the Renaissance Centre in downtown Erie, Scholz wanted to create a space that would



bring people into the city's downtown and would, most importantly, foster a much deeper sense of community. He received a master's degree from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) in economics after graduating from Cathedral Prep and Gannon University. His time abroad helped the Erie native develop a context for the complexities facing his

"Young people are special to Erie because we are building innovative businesses that overcome Erie's toughest challenges," says Scholz.

hometown and his role in its future. "Erie faces significant challenges revitalizing its Urban Core and competing in the global economy," Scholz says. "Young people are special to Erie because we are building innovative businesses that overcome Erie's toughest challenges."

Jude Shingle, 30*Co-director, Box of Light, Erie Studio*

Box of Light has served over 3,000 young people this year through classes and school workshops. The educational non-profit studio puts innovation at the forefront of learning, using technology to create workshops for students.

Participants actually make electronics, movies, and video games at the State Street location, they don't just consume them. "Young people are demanding to



be makers; to develop their creative capacity," Shingle says. "Box of Light is becoming a place where they can realize

"Young people are demanding to be makers; to develop their creative capacity," Shingle says. "Box of Light is becoming a place where they can realize their creative power."

their creative power."

Shingle is a Pittsburgh native and received a B.A. in studio art from Allegheny College. There, he met Box of Light's co-director, now his spouse. He's no stranger to the art world: He's an award-winning filmmaker, has participated in several artist residencies, worked at the Erie Art Museum for two years, and taught film classes at the Inner City Neighborhood Art House.

Shingle insists that he's "actually very boring," but his packed schedule suggests otherwise. That, and his Minecraft t-shirt.

Rebecca Styn, 39*Foundation Director of the Regional Cancer Center*

Throw a stone in Erie and you're likely to hit either a person or organization Rebecca Styn has somehow worked with or helped. Currently, as foundation director, she's responsible for leading the communications, marketing, fund development, and community relations for the Regional Cancer Center, while



also studying to complete her doctorate in organizational leadership at Gannon University. She obtained a bachelor's degree in music at Mercyhurst University (she's been known to rock out in several local bands), and earned a master's of public administration from Gannon (put well into action through leading various prior organizations, serving on numerous boards, running for elected office [twice], assisting other candidates' campaigns, and racking up bylines for several publications). She's done this, she says, "in an effort to challenge our com-

Styn believes that "we have the greatest asset any city could ask for: the people. We just need to empower them."

munity to be better and stronger – and to help others get involved," adding, "we have the greatest asset any city could ask for: the people. We just need to empower them."

Ally Thomas, 29*Education Coordinator, Erie Art Museum*

Ally Thomas can sing in 10 languages. "My favorite song is in Nepali and it's about eating mangos out of a tree until your belly hurts," she says. She learned the song as part of an Erie Art Museum folk art program, for which she secured a major grant, called Old Songs New Opportunities.

The program brings students, families, refugees, and artists together in order to

teach each other songs that “communicate sweet stories from their cultures,” as Thomas pleasantly puts it. The program also works with the refugees to collect children’s songs from all over the world. So far, they have sung in Ara-



bic, French, Swahili, and Nepali.

Originally from Erie, Thomas attended the University of Pittsburgh where she received a B.A. in art history and anthropology. She later returned to Pitt in 2010 to receive her teaching certificate.

In addition to her other fun duties at the museum (making tea with pre-

“Young people in Erie are a special breed: intrinsically motivated, wildly creative, and eager to collaborate with each other,” says Thomas.

schoolers in a Chinese pottery exhibit, for example) she is also the project coordinator for the Big Picture Mural Project. She loves Erie and the youthfulness of the city, “Young people in Erie are a special breed: intrinsically motivated, wildly creative, and eager to collaborate with each other.”

Jason Wallace, 36

Owner and President of McClymonds-Wallace Trucking & Supply Co.

Jason Wallace is extremely hardworking, and has been for quite some time. After graduating from Fairview High School, he began his successful career in the military. Wallace was a cadet at the United States Air Force Academy, graduating from the com-

petitive academy in 2004. He saw three overseas deployments, being stationed at Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan and as a Captain at Cannon Air

“I wanted to start something of my own in Erie to keep the family name going, and to provide people with a quality service and product at a low cost,” Wallace explains.

Force Base in New Mexico until 2010. He now holds the rank of Major with the United States Air Force Reserves. After his active duty, he began building his family’s business. His grandfather, Dale McClymonds, along with his great uncle, founded their Pittsburgh trucking businesses in the 1940s. Focusing in on the Erie area, Wallace has built his business up into the largest landscape suppliers in the area. They manufacture and dye their own mulch using 100 percent recycled tree products. “I wanted to start something of my own in Erie to keep the family name going, and to provide people with a quality service and product at a low cost,” he explains. “Today, combined, we employ over 500 people.”

Shawn Waskiewicz, 39

Executive Director of the Niagara League

Shawn Waskiewicz will not give up the ships – and that’s a good thing for a city that made its reputation wringing them (Oliver Hazard Perry’s fleet, War of 1812) and focused on righting itself now. The U.S. Brig Niagara is not only the flagship of the Commonwealth of

“I ask our youth to be change agents, be willing to adapt to change, and help your fellow neighbor make our city great once again,” says Waskiewicz.

Pennsylvania, it is an essential and inextricable aspect of our civic heritage. As executive director of the Flagship Niagara League, Waskiewicz balances the ledgers and does everything he can to keep the boat afloat, including gaining sponsorships and fundraising. The Harbor Creek graduate holds a bachelor’s degree from Edinboro University in business administration and a master’s in organizational leadership from



Mercyhurst University. This September will mark the second Tall Ships Festival Waskiewicz has facilitated since his hiring in 2012. This summer, the tall ships will sail all five Great Lakes before porting at Erie for the highly profitable festival, which draws tens of thousands of tourists into the city. He hopes that it’s all hands on deck as Erie sails towards its future. “I ask our youth to be change agents, be willing to adapt to change, and help your fellow neighbor make our city great once again.”

Steve Weiser, 36

Executive Director of the Erie Philharmonic

Erie Philharmonic Executive Director Steve Weiser is a self-proclaimed nerd, professing an affinity for *Star Wars*, *The X-Files*, video games, and Marvel Comics – but above all, he is a music fanboy. Weiser took the helm of the Philharmonic in August 2015 and has been conducting an orchestral sweep of the Erie area ever since, helping to drag an increased interest in classical music out of the pit. There is no tremolo to Weiser’s unwavering commitment to the community, which includes master classes, free performances, and educational programs for every age. His driving purpose is to open the curtain for those who could or would otherwise not attend a concert at the Warner Theatre, including 5,000 Erie’s Public



Schools students through an outreach initiative last season. His harmonious relationship with the city (he moved to Erie from Reading) and his fellow musicians (he was percussionist with the

Weiser’s driving purpose is to open the curtain for those who could or would otherwise not attend a concert at the Warner Theatre.

Chamber Orchestra three years prior to his appointment) should easily sustain itself with all the applause he’s earned so far.

Nicole Wethli, 32

Assistant Facilitator, Erie Together

Nicole Wethli always wanted to be a teacher. That’s what brought her

“Every day, I have the privilege of working with community volunteers who inspire me with their passion and dedication to the Erie community,” Wethli says.

to Gannon University to pursue a B.S. in business, computer, and information technology education. She intended on



returning home to Dayton, Ohio; but when she graduated, Welthi couldn't pass up the opportunity to play a role in the future of her adopted home. Today she is the assistant facilitator for Erie Together – a countywide anti-poverty initiative launched in 2009 by Mercyhurst University, United Way of Erie County, and GECAC – where she leads several volunteer teams working to prevent and reduce poverty in Erie. "Every day, I have the privilege of working with community volunteers who inspire me with their passion and dedication to the Erie community," she says.

Brandon Wiley, 27

Executive Director of Opened Eyes

In an era where political partisanship and institutional racism often prevent substantive dialogues from occurring, Brandon Wiley is helping to bring people together. In 2014 – as tense stand-offs between activists and police were erupting across the country – he founded Opened Eyes, a diversity awareness campaign that offers programming and



Wiley, who earned his master's in clinical mental health counseling at Gannon University in 2013, the answer involves a combination of African-American, Ital-

In an era where political partisanship and institutional racism often prevent substantive dialogues from occurring, Wiley is helping to bring people together.

ian, and Native American ancestry. As others are asked this question, Opened Eyes hopes to inspire people to think critically about where they come from and open up to conversations that may exceed their comfort zone. At Corry Counseling Services, Wiley works with young people in need of skills to modify their behavior. He also recently became a licensed professional counselor and opened a private practice of his own.

Written by: Erie Reader Staff

Photos by: Brad Triana

workshops to local schools and businesses. These events often begin with a simple question: What are you? For

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Spotlight on Erie

June 22 — July 5, 2016

Wednesday, June 22

Globetrotting Cinematographer Reflects on the Ethics of Her Craft in *Cameraperson*



For the past 15 years, cinematographer Kirsten Johnson has been jet-setting across the globe to film some of the world's most vulnerable, inspiring, and troubling places.

In Iraq, she profiled the first female soldier ever sent into combat for the documentary feature *Lioness*. With Academy award-winning filmmaker Laura Poitras, she interviewed prisoners at Guantanamo Bay (2008's *The*

Documentaries are often associated with objectivity and neutrality – facts instead of fiction. Johnson's film complicates these assumptions.

Oath) and set up camp in a Hong Kong hotel room as Edward Snowden exposed big secrets about government surveillance (2014's *Citizenfour*). She has visited refugee camps in Sudan, profiled French philosopher Jacques Derrida, documented political campaigns in Liberia, and interviewed rape victims in the American military.

With 2016's *Cameraperson*, she shifts her focus inward. According to a statement released on the film's website, she hopes to "convey the immediacy of finding oneself in new territory with a camera as well as giving the audience a sense of how the accumulation of joys and dilemmas a cameraperson must juggle builds over time."

Documentaries are often associated with objectivity and neutrality – facts instead of fiction. Johnson's film complicates these assumptions by focusing on the power imbalances that arise alongside her work. How can documen-

tary filmmakers avoid jeopardizing the safety of their subjects? How can one establish trust in a war-torn area? Is it ethical to offer exposure to the subjugated, rather than material goods?

Cameraperson raises these questions – and more – while avoiding tidy, reassuring answers. – Dan Schank

Doors at 6 p.m., Film at 7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.htm

Wednesday, June 22

Presque Isle Partnership's UPMC Sunset Music Series Continues



Talent buyer Ryan Bartosek and the other fine folks at the Presque Isle Partnership weren't kidding when they said they're stepping things up a few notches during this season's UPMC Sunset Music Series.

So far, crowds at Presque Isle State Park's beautiful Beach 1 – one hell of a fine place to catch some live music – have been treated to the sounds of mega-talented performers Driftwood and Matt Texter (who opened the series on June 8), as well as Six Year Stretch and Sirsy (who rocked the beach on June 15).

Next up, the series welcomes Ithaca,

Along with bringing in seriously killer, top notch local and national acts, organizers also recently said they wanted this year's series to have more of a festival feel.

New York-based world-beat re-imaginizers Big Mean Sound Machine (with dynamic duo Jess Royer and Nick Warren opening) on Wednesday, June 22. Then come jam scene roots-rockers Dangermuffin (with Erie troubadour Tyler Smilo) on June 29.

Along with bringing in seriously killer, top notch local and national acts, organizers also recently said they wanted this year's series to have more of a festival feel than previous years – and, with weekly showcases like these, they've most definitely delivered.

Add to that the other fun happening at every show – hula hoop lessons, face-painting, cornhole games and other cool stuff – and we have a sweet little summer getaway, right in our own backyard, and in the middle of the week.

Awesome.

And remember: Every installment of the UPMC Sunset Music Series is free. – Ryan Smith

5:30 p.m. // Presque Isle Beach 1, Peninsula Drive // discoverpi.com; 838.5138 ext. 101

Thursday, June 23

Metalcore Fills the Bill at Basement Transmissions



The Young Souls Tour, featuring metalcore bands Myka Relocate, Light Up the Sky, and Out Came the Wolves, is coming to Basement Transmissions on Thursday, June 23.

This is the first national headlining tour for Myka Relocate, who will be promoting their 2015 album and the tour's namesake, *The Young Souls*. The band formed in 2007 in Lafayette, Louisiana, and has since released two EPs, two full length albums, and played in four South By So What!? Festivals.

All three bands on the tour play similar styles of metalcore, characterized by mixing dirty, guttural, screamed vocals with clean, chorus vocals on top of highly produced metal riffs, and often conjoined with synthesized keys or other computer programmed elements. – Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St. // \$12 advance, \$15 day of show // facebook.com/events/616125628537567/

Friday, June 24

The LEC and C.Brown will Have The Rook 'Feelin' Outta Control'



Erie's own Lower Eastside Connection, commonly known as The LEC, are bringing the funk to the Kings Rook Club with special guest C.Brown to premiere the music video for their latest release, "Feelin' Outta Control."

It is difficult to limit The LEC to one particular genre. They are a funky jam band who incorporate bluesy rhythms with soulful vocals. Their self-description "Hippie-Hop" suits them perfectly.

If you're unfamiliar with the vibes that The LEC's live performances bring to the room, fear not; their high energy stage presence is contagious. The group's stacked lineup delivers funky bass lines, dexterous guitar riffs, impressive keyboard parts, and incredible vocals. Johnny Evans' raw hip-hop vocals laid down over the jams will keep you engaged and ensure that you dance. The music video featuring local Erie hip-hop artist C.Brown was shot in February at the Kings Rook Club, the most suitable spot for the video's release party. It was directed and produced by the talented videographers at MenajErie Studios.

"We put our hearts and souls into this music," said guitarist/vocalist Justin Tapper. "It's been a long time coming. Both directors and producers displayed their artistic take on our vision and shared the passion to create the best of what has come from camp LEC yet."

Rock Erie Music Award Best Hip-Hop Artist winner C.Brown will open up the show. C.Brown's soul shines through his impeccable storytelling. He also recently released a music video for his track, "Angels."

The LEC's video release is a party you do not want to miss. – Bridget Fessler

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

CALENDAR

Saturday, June 25

Basement Transmissions Offers Variations on its Theme



Frame and Mantle are celebrating the remastered release of their EP *While Our Fields Lie Fallow* on Further Sky records with a headlining show at Basement Transmissions on Saturday, June 25.

Since moving to Erie in 2014 and leaving behind their old band, the quirky ska-meets-metal-meets-pop punk Skylime, to become more serious musicians, Frame and Mantle have become one of the city's most interesting bands. Influenced by bands like Title Fight, This Will Destroy You, and American Football, Frame and Mantle's EP *While Our Fields Lie Fallow* is five indie rock anthems full of ambient and surreal instrumentals with the occasional vocal lines thrown in, challenging typ-

ical songwriting structure to create a unique listening experience.

Picking it up from California, Pennsylvania (not the Golden State) are Soulios a young ska-punk band in the vein of Reel Big Fish and Sublime, whose upbeat songs are sure to get you skanking along to the music.

Filling out the bill are Oakkao and Wave Trails, a pair of alternative indie bands to complete the show's theme of diverging from the typical heavy bands that have become the norm at BT. — Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St. // \$10 // All Ages // facebook.com/events/105407577998298/

Saturday, June 25

Erie Renaissance Singers Perform with a California Ensemble



The Erie Renaissance Singers (ERS) will welcome the Vocal Art Ensemble

(VAE) from Davis, California for this year's summer concert at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Beginning in 1999, ERS has made a reputation for itself and its "exquisite choral music." The *Post-Journal* from Jamestown, New York said that one performance had audience members so "deeply involved" that they leaned forward in their pews to participate in the concert.

Now under the direction of Steven Woods, ERS was led by its founder, Carolyn Brock, for more than a decade. The group strives to uplift and connect with audience members through its music, which is held to consistently high standards.

Led by Tracia Barbieri, VAE is incorporating elements from its "Rooted" concert in a tour that leads group members through Pennsylvania, upstate New York, and Toronto, Canada; Erie is one stop along the way. The group was formed in 2008 with a mission "to blend musical artistry, passion, and camaraderie." Like ERS, the VAE hopes to nurture and grow human connection with its choral music.

Dick Frantzreb from the Sacramento Choral Calendar called its performance a "visual and auditory feast."

VAE toured England and Scotland in May 2014 and Ireland in 2010. In 2012,

VAE won the American Prize for Creative Programming and Collaboration, and in 2014, it played an important role at the SacSings choral festival in Sacramento, California. — Tracy Geibel

7:30 p.m. // 134 W. 7th St. // erierenaisancesingers.com

Tuesday, June 28

Erie Playhouse Presents Motherhood Out Loud



Mother's Day may be over (and already forgotten by other family members), but mommy's memories live on.

Erie Playhouse will present *Motherhood Out Loud*, a series of fictional comic vignettes and monologues recounting the joy and angst of pregnancy as well as the begetting, birthing, and raising of kinder.

MUSIC

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.

Dave VanAmburg & Friends

June 22, 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Maxi's Restaurant, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Obelus

June 23 — 5 p.m.
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/obelusmetal/app/2405167945.

Myka Relocate

June 23 — 6 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/events/616125628537567.

Big Dog Acoustics

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

Colony Trio

June 23, 30 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

First to Eleven

June 23 — 7 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. firsttoeleven.com.

Nanny, Spreaders, Matt Luczak, and Abjection Ritual

June 23 — 7 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

Songwriter Sunset

June 23, 30 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd.

edinborolakeresort.com.

The Vocal Art Ensemble

June 24 — noon to 1 p.m.
Studio Q, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Acoustic Showcase

June 24 — 4 to 5 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Music is Healing

June 24 — 5:15 p.m.
Crime Victim Center, 125 W. 18th St. peachst.cvcerie.org.

Jackson Station

June 24 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Acoustic Jukebox Happy Hour

June 24 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Sean Patrick Mcgraw

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

The Groove

June 24 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Rum Runners Cove, 2 State St. visiteriepa.com.

Dionisio

June 24 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Addison Moon

June 24 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Chris Higbee

June 24 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Grunge Monkey

June 24 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State

facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

The LEC and C. Brown

June 24 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Frame and Mantle, Oakkao, Wave Trails, and Soulios

June 25 — 5 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/basementtransmissions.

The Gilligans

June 25 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Eric Brewer & Friends

June 25 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 SInger Rd. lakeeriewinecountry.org.

Tyler Smilo

June 25 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Erie Renaissance Singers Summer Concert

June 25 — 7:30 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Paul, 134 W. 7th St. erierenaisancesingers.com.

Whisky Road

June 25 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Old School Erie

June 25 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Erie Brewer & Friends ft. Jess Royer

June 25 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.



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CALENDAR

Conceived by Susan R. Rose and Joan Stein, different scenes were written by several writers, most famously Jessica Goldberg (creator of Hulu's *The Path*), Beth Henley (*Crimes of the Heart* playwright) and novelist Luanne Rice (*Beach Girls*).

"We wanted to pull the idea of 'motherhood' down off a pedestal and explore the real people behind that label of 'mother,'" explained the show's director, Alaina Manchester. "I hope the

"We wanted to pull the idea of 'motherhood' down off a pedestal and explore the real people behind that label of 'mother,'" explained the show's director, Alaina Manchester.

audience gains a new respect for the different mothers or caregivers in their lives and that those who self identify as such hear some of their own thoughts, concerns, or jokes reflected onstage."

But beyond traditional aspects of parenting, the show also explores non-traditional roles such as adoption, gay parenting and step-parenting.

According to Richard Davis, produc-

ing director at the Playhouse, *Motherhood* met the standards for their monologue-based series, *On the Edge*.

"There are a limited number of good scripts out there that fit this bill, so when we come across a great script, we jump on it," explained Davis. "I really liked how *Motherhood Out Loud* addressed a variety of stages and looks at what it means to be a mother and to have a mother."

The Playhouse website does caution, however, that the show "contains strong language." (My guess is the expletives fly during any birth-related recountings.)

"I think our show is entertaining and funny while still highlighting moments of vulnerability," opined Manchester. — Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

7:30 p.m. // Tuesdays, June 28; July 12, 19, and 26 // erieplayhouse.org or 454.2852

Saturday, July 2

Romolo Summer Music Series Melts In Your Ears, Not In Your Hands

The cacao tree is a notoriously fickle specimen, growing only in the tropics (within 20 degrees north or south of the equator), requiring heavy rainfall (no less than 66 inches), a shading

Boyd Baker

June 26 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy.
presqueisledowns.com.

Matt Texter

June 26 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd.
arundelcellars.com/events.

Celtic Woman Destiny

June 26 — 3 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St.
erieevents.com.

The Ark Band

July 26 — 4 to 10 p.m.
Shickalay's On The Bay, 2860 W. 6th St.
facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay.

Ron Yarmon

June 26 — 5 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd.
edinborolakeresort.com.

Mid-day Art Break: The Four Grads

June 29 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum's Wave Cafe, 411 State St.
erieartmuseum.org.

Dangermuffin and Tyler Smilo

June 29 — 5:30 p.m.
Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr.
discoverpi.com.

Rankin & Schell

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

GGU Punk

July 1 — 3 to 4 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St.
basementtransmissions.com.

Jake's Blues Happy Hour

July 1 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row
cjoes.com.

Rankin & Schell

July 1 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd.
arundelcellars.com/events.

Romantic Era

July 1 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Rum Runners Cove, 2 State St.
visiteriepa.com.

Salmon Frank

July 1 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd.
edinborolakeresort.com.

Midnight Voodoo Band

July 1 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St.
facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

The Remnants

July 1 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St.
facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

East Ave

July 2 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd.
pennshore.com.

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canopy, and protection from a host of diseases and pests. But considering its pods yield the beans used to produce “theobroma cacao” – or “food of the gods” (i.e., chocolate) – the fuss seems pretty well worth it.

Unlike cacao trees, great music can be found living where you least expect it – even at a candy shop. Since 2010, the Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series has been treating Erieites to cochlear confectionery free of charge. Of course, the goodies inside the facility will be available at cost (call it “shameless chocolatiering” or call it “business”) – but considering that Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortez had to pose as a deity, infiltrate the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, and ultimately usher the fall of an empire for his taste of *chocolatl* (kind of a hassle, believe me) – well, a few bank notes are but a “truffle.”

You won’t need a golden ticket or the backing of the Spanish Crown to voyage into the world of imagination that is jazz. However, you should plan on enlisting the backing of a lawn or patio chair for lumbar support – the outdoor piazza fills up quickly. Lean back, relax, and be a sponge for the ear candy Grandpa Romolo’s boy Tony Stefanelli has assembled for you:

Michael Occhipinti and the Sicilian

Since 2010, the Romolo Chocolates Summer Music Series has been treating Erieites to cochlear confectionery free of charge.

Jazz Project (July 2) – Guitarist and arranger Michael Occhipinti wanted to reference American jazz in his research of traditional Sicilian music – so he asked for extensions on it. Re-imagined and re-harmonized takes of standards such as “Muorica” (as a seductive bossa) and “Vitti na Crozza” (drizzled with a little extra virgin honest-to-goodness funk) highlight the series opener.

Martino Organ Trio (July 9): Pat Martino is a six-string Lazarus, relearning his instrument from the ground up

after suffering a brain aneurysm in the ‘80s. He is still killing it in his second life, continuing to play alongside top-flight musicians such as the (also) Grammy-nominated Pat Bianchi (organ) and Carmen Intorre Jr. (drums) in this combo.

Richie Cole “Alto Madness” (July 16): Chocolate is a known saxphrodisiac, and sure enough, sax tonalities will be explored here at Romolo. An alumnus of the Buddy Rich Big Band, Cole championed bop when others of his time were eschewing jazz conventions during the fusion movement. Cole is noted for his sense of humor and lively, exuberant sound.

Don Braden Group feat. Vanessa Rubin (July 23): It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that swing. Is that to say an existence *without* swing is therefore meaningless? It’s a difficult notion to swallow (it may go down easier with a delicious handspun milkshake from the Cocoa Café), but those in attendance may find relief in Don Braden Group’s well-defined sense of rhythm.

Victor Garcia Trio (July 30): No, the other Victor Garcia. Trumpeter and bandleader Garcia shares a name with the Latin heartthrob behind the hit “Otra Vez” (and little else) – but you will assuredly feel the pulse (your circulation may improve after consum-

ing an antioxidant-rich dark chocolate meltaway – just saying) in this trio’s cool command of the caliente. – Matt Swanseger

All shows 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. // 1525 W. 8th St. // jazzerie.com // free

Sunday, July 3

Schickalay’s On The Bay Brings New Orleans Northward



If you like Live Action Creole-Playing, then you’ll love the Presque Isle Food and Music Festival at Schickalay’s On The Bay. The celebration embraces the diverse food and culture of New Orle-

The Earthquakers

July 2 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Collin Steves

July 2 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Michael Occhipinti and the Sicilian Jazz Project

July 2 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Romolo Chocolates, 1525 W. 8th. facebook.com/romolochocolates.

Six Year Stretch Acoustic

July 2 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Toro Blanco

July 2 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Oakkao and Optimistic Apocalypse

July 2 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Gem City Revival

July 3 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com/events.

Terrance Simien

July 3 — 3 to 8 p.m.
Schickalay’s On The Bay, 2860 W. 6th St. facebook.com/events/1007600265995697.

Brooke Surgener

July 3 — 5 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Erie Phil at the SeaWolves

July 3 — 6 to 11 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. eriephil.org.

Brenna Bone Band

July 4 — 5 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Rock, Roll & Remember

July 5 — 6:30 p.m.
Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier porterierie.org.

Sing-along with Lori

July 6 — 11 to 11:50 a.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Mid-day Art Break: Ron Yarosz

July 6 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum’s Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Ghost of Paul Revere and Max Garcia Conover

July 6 — 5:30 p.m.
Beach 1 at Presque Isle

State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

DANCE

Spotlight Dance Spectacular

June 24 — 7 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Erie Food Tours

June 24, 25 & July 1, 2 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Brew-tique

June 24 — 6 to 10 p.m.
The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerrie.com.

Erie Thunderbirds Drum and Bugle Corps Pasta Dinner

June 26 — 1 to 5 p.m.
American Legion Post 773, 4109 W. 12th St. erethunderbirds.org.

Rotary Pancake Breakfast

June 25, 26 — 7:30 a.m. to noon
Rotary Pavilion, 301 Peninsula Dr. facebook.com/events/439200296255376.

July Veg-Out: Finding Balance

July 1 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. theerievegsociety.org.

FILM

Robots Movie

Ongoing 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.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

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

Journey to Space

Ongoing 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.

The Outlaw (1943)

June 24 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Edward Scissorhands (1990)

June 25 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

eriephil.org
455-1375

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OCTOBER 29 @ THE WARNER THEATRE
10 GREAT CONCERTS - SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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JUNE 11 - AUG. 15, 2016
YOU'RE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE AT THE ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 11
FREE EVENTS FOR ALL AGES
READ & WIN!
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.ERIELIBRARY.ORG/SUMMERLIBRARYCHALLENGE

GOODELL GARDENS & HOMESTEAD
July Events

Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 3-5 pm
Sing-A-Long with Lori Burke
Wednesdays in July 11 am

Erie Handmade Fair
Sun. July 10, 1-4 pm

Planting your Fall Harvest Class
Thurs., July 14, 6 pm

Patchouli/Terra Guitarra
live in concert
Friday, July 29, 7 pm

221 Waterford St. (Rt. 6N)
Edinboro, PA
www.goodellgardens.org

WQLN
PUBLIC MEDIA
TV 54.1 • Radio 91.3FM • WQLN Education • Q-Media
Schedule Highlights

American MASTERS
JIMI HENDRIX

June 24 at 9pm
on WQLN-TV 54.1

Customs, Coupes, and Classics will not air on June 23 as scheduled. Look for it late in 2016 on WQLN-TV 54.1

STEPHEN POLIAKOFF'S
DANCING ON THE EDGE

Sundays at 8pm
June 26 - August 14
on WQLN-TV 54.1

ans, which can be best described as a gumbo and/or a jambalaya, depending on your personal preference. Both will be available for your consumption, among other Cajun and Creole fare.

Few regions embody the “melting pot” of America like Southern Louisiana, which was alternately occupied by the French, Spanish, and their West African slaves before being passed on to the United States in the Louisiana

The celebration embraces the diverse food and culture of New Orleans, which can be best described as a gumbo and/or a jambalaya, depending on your personal preference.

Purchase of 1803. A mass immigration in 1809 brought an influx of both Europeans (Italian, German, Irish) and Caribbean peoples (Haitians, Cubans) and effectively doubled the population of New Orleans. Combine all these ethnic influences, bring to a low boil, and you’ve cooked up something resembling zydeco music.

According to Creole folklore (Creole = a native-born Louisianan tracing his

or her roots to the colonial period), the term zydeco is derived from the phrase *les haricots sont pas sale* – which translates to “the snap beans aren’t salty.” See, *les haricots* (pronounced “lay zari-co”) were typically infused with salted meat, and the Creoles were reluctant to switch to a low-sodium diet unless economic pressures compelled them to do so. Zydeco – literally “snap bean” – music kept the Creoles from snapping during tough times, drawing communities to the dance hall to forget their troubles. *Legumea matata*. Don’t worry – bean happy.

The timing for zydeco is impeccable for Erie, which could use a pinch of positivity to enliven our community. Who better to conduct than Terrence Simien, the eighth-generation Creole accordionist whose Zydeco Experience has collected two Grammy awards? The band uplifts with its effervescent blend of swamp pop, reggae, boogie-woogie, and R&B, creating an atmosphere where you can just bayou.

Buffalo’s 12/8 Path Band (an homage to New Orleans street bands) will also be bringing its top brass to town to march through the Schickalay’s facilities. Come on down and join the parade. It’s about to get cray, crawdads and daddettes. – Matt Swanseger

3 – 8 p.m. // 2860 W. 6th St. // en-us.

fievent.com/e/presque-isle-food-and-music-festival/3147974 // \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under

Tuesday, July 5

Port Erie Celebrates Summer with 8 Great Tuesdays



Port Erie doesn’t settle for six or seven good concerts.

From July 5 to Aug. 23, Port Erie will host its annual 8 Great Tuesdays concert series at the Liberty Park amphitheater. This year’s lineup includes The Record Company, 10,000 Maniacs, Key

West Express, and Think Pink Floyd.

The first show in the series will serve as a tribute to several music legends who have been lost and missed by music fans everywhere. Rock, Roll, and Remember will bring together approximately 20 local artists, including Eric Brewer, to honor beloved musicians like David Bowie, Prince, Glenn Frey, and others.

“Their influence can’t be understated,” said Doug Phillips, who will participate in the show. “It’s an honor to be asked, especially to put on a show like this.”

The July 12 show will feature Chris Higbee with opening performers, The Gilligans. From Dawson, Pennsylvania, Higbee grew up on a farm with a passion for country music. He claims that his “performance energy is so infectious it has been known to convert the most stubborn non-country music fans into HigBillies, the self-named fan base.”

Performances begin at 6:30 p.m. (except on Aug. 2 when it will begin at 6 p.m.). The shows are free to all ages, though anyone under age 18 should be accompanied by an adult. A free shuttle service, courtesy of the EMTA, will be available from 5 p.m. until after the event ends. – Tracy Geibel

6:30 p.m. // Lawrence Pier // porter.org

Refugee Kids: One Small School Takes on the World

June 26 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

The Diary of a Teenage Girl

June 29 — 7 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

Love Affair (1939)

June 30 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Island of the Doomed (1967)

July 1 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

The Fits

July 6 — 7 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. erieartmuseum.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Reflections of Erie

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

Songs of Creation by Theresa Musatoo

Ongoing through July 1
Urraro Gallery, 135 W. 14th St. facebook.com/Urrarogallery.

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 by Alison Stinely

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.

Jose Picayo Polaroids: A Retrospective

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

Upcycled Shores: Collages,

Sculptures & Bowls by John Ballard & Christine Salva

June 24 through Aug. 2
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

THEATRE

Lettice and Lovage

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

Kiss Me, Kate

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

Maids

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

Farragut North

June 24, 25 — 8 p.m.
2nd Fl. Renaissance

Centre, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

Dick Clarkson's Jukebox Hop

June 25 — 5:30 p.m. & June 26 — 2:30 p.m. & June 28, 29 — noon
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Motherhood Out Loud

June 28 & July 12, 19, 26 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

The Fantasticks

July 1, 2 — 7 p.m. & July 3 — 2:30 p.m. & July 5, 6 — noon
Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life

July 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 — 8 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

COMMUNITY

2016 National Pollinator Week

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

Branching Out

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

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.

KIDS - Vacation Bible School - FREE

THEME: *Jesus IS the Treasure*

ALL KIDS FREE!

Ages 5-10
Your children are invited to a fun 2 day adventure.

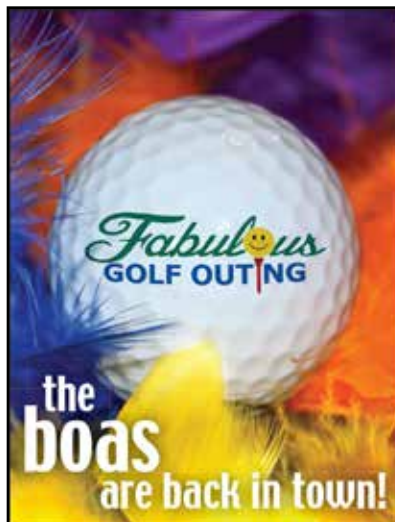
August 11th & 12th

2pm - 4pm

- Story time
- Crafts
- Activities
- Songs
- Snacks

3126 State St
Erie, PA 16508

Registration & information please
contact Rebecca:
sis.rebeccagrace@gmail.com

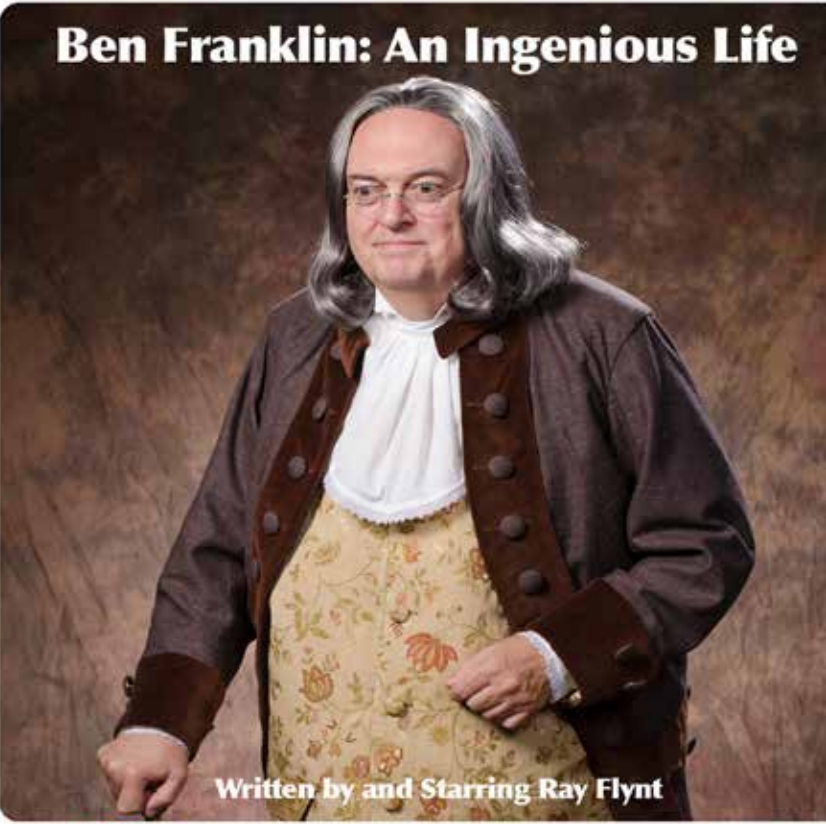


4th Annual Fabulous Golf Outing


Friday, June 24, 2016
Venango Valley Golf Course
Registration at 11 a.m.
Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
\$600/foursome

For more information, visit
NAMIErie.org/fabulous

Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life





Written by and Starring Ray Flynt



JULY 6 - 10, 2016
Wednesday to Sunday - 8pm

All Tickets
\$10

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NEWS 7 DAYS A WEEK
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CALENDAR

Innovation and Emerging Plastics Technologies Conference

June 22 — 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. & June 23 — 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Burke Center at Penn State Behrend, 4701 Behrend College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

Community Rain Barrel Art Project Walk

June 22 — 8:30 to 10 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Hatha Yoga 1 and Beyond

June 22, 29 & July 6 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. E. erielibrary.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. New Hampshire Fisher Cats

June 22 — noon
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Book vs. Movie Teen Summer Reading Club

June 22 — 1:30 to 5 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Digital Photography: Seeing with New Eyes

June 22, 29 & July 6 — 2 to 4 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Farmers Market

June 22, 29 & July 6 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Young Erie Professionals Networking Event

June 22 — 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Schickalay's On the Bay, 2860 W. 6th St. facebook.com/YepErie.

Change Your Food, Change Your Mind

June 22 — 6:30 to 7 p.m.
Blasco Memorial

Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Life Enrichment Event

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

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

June 22, 24, 29 & July 1, 6 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Asbury Woods Ridge Run 2016

July 23 — 8:30 a.m. to noon
Brown's Farm, 5774 Sterrettania Rd. asburywoods.org.

Thursday Teen Time

June 23 through Aug. 18 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Teen Card Collecting Club

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

Evergreens in the Garden, a lecture with Dana Atwood

June 23 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Erie Downtown Block Party

June 23 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. eriedowntown.com.

Battle of Lake Erie Softball Tournament

June 24, 25, 26
Walnut Creek Complex, 5901 Sterrettania Rd. eriesportscommission.com.

World's Largest Swim Lesson

June 24 — 9 to 11 a.m.
Waldameer Park & Water World, 220 Peninsula Dr. waldameer.com.

Metalworking Art Class

June 24 & July 1 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Erie County Public Library Locations, erielibrary.org.

Pennsylvania Bats Talk and Build a Bat Box Workshop

June 24 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Relive the Magic of Harry Potter

June 24 — 7 p.m.
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. stores. barnesandnoble.com/store/2572.

Bicycle Tour of Presque Isle

June 25 — 9 a.m. to noon
Cookhouse Pavilion, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Life Enrichment Event

June 25 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. bhaktaschool.org.

Young Erie Professionals Relay for Life Team

June 25 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. facebook.com/YepErie.

So You Want to be on a ... SWAT Team

June 25 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Yogilates with Michele Curtze

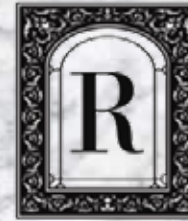
June 26 & July 3 — 11 a.m. to noon
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Afternoon for Equality Fundraiser & Celebration

June 26 — 3 to 7 p.m.
The Sunset Inn, 1990 Lakeside Dr. greatereriealliance.com.

Sunset Tai Chi Classes and Worship

June 26 & July 3 — 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park Beach 6, 301 Peninsula



Renaissance Centre

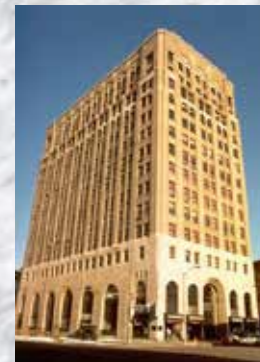
Looking for office space?
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msscott@pdainc.us 814-451-1110

RenaissanceErie.com



MUSIC REVIEWS

Whitney

Light Upon the Lake
Secretly Canadian



Whitney has made an anachronistically spectacular debut album. Relaxed vocal harmonies lusciously blend with vintage finger-plucked twang to take you back to bygone days before the band was born. There's antiquity in the sound of the ever-so-slightly out of tune horns. The dream of *Pet Sounds* is alive and well here, faithfully passed down from 90s bands like The Minders. Sometimes you hear musicians describe their sound as "warm." This is what they mean. Guitars that would normally sound cutting are subdued and filled out. Max Kakacek continues the work he began with the Smith Westerns, aided by Julien Ehrlich of the Unknown Mortal Orchestra. Writing the album in their Chicago apartment, both parties mitigate their rock personas in favor of a calmer state. Melodies are revered, all instruments playing in support of each whistle-able tune, whatever it may be. The album opens in the minor, foggy reminiscence of "No Woman." Tones shift as "The Falls" bounce upstream. The titular track of *Light Upon The Lake* is solemn and dulcet, the music box tones unfolding and fading. – Nick Warren

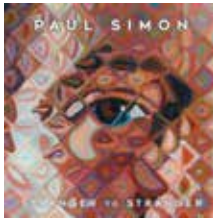


Paul Simon

Stranger to Stranger
Concord Records



Paul Simon is one of our greatest living songwriters, and you can rest easy knowing that he's not done putting out good material. An undisputed lyrical master, Simon's understated, intelligent style has been an integral chapter of the American songbook for more than half a century. Peering past Chuck Close's painting on the cover we find another great entry. The album starts off with a "boing." In case you were feeling unfamiliar, Simon almost immediately evokes "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover's" loveable name-checking. *Graceland*-era polyrhythms are in full effect during groovy shuffles like "Wristband." One of the more indelible earworms comes in the similarly toned "In a Parade." Meditative, sweeping landscapes are traversed in prayer-like "Proof of Love." Goopy slapback guitar tones introduce you to "The Riverbank," as its bell chimes march in lockstep. Almost a decade ago, Vampire Weekend stole the sound that Simon had forged (or arguably, also stole) from South African music and other diverse genres. If 2011's *So Beautiful Or So What* didn't finish the job, then *Stranger to Stranger* has successfully brought it back. – Nick Warren



Diarrhea Planet

Turn to Gold
Infinity Cat Recordings



If you've never heard of Diarrhea Planet, you might not know what to expect. This Nashville six piece have a memorable name to say the least. *Turn to Gold* begins with an opening that begs to be described as "epic." Those pleas are answered when you hear the band's triumphant harmonies. They're playing to their strengths. To call Diarrhea Planet a guitar band might be an understatement: they have four guitarists. Vocalist Jordan Smith finds himself a tad less gruff than on their previous records. Song structures are slightly more focused than their 2013 breakout album *I'm Rich Beyond Your Wildest Dreams*. There's plenty here whether you're a fan of Jeff the Brotherhood or the Darkness. "Bob Dylan's Grandma" is a gem about learning guitar, gorgeously reminiscent of a video game's end credits. "Headband" closes out the album with an eight minute epic, an odd amalgam that's part doom metal and part powerpop. It's getting harder and harder to identify them as any sort of punk rockers. They're an undeniably fun band. A party band. A hard rock band. – Nick Warren

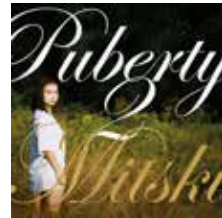


Mitski

Puberty 2
Dead Oceans



At first, a title like *Puberty 2* might strike you as clumsy, or even crass. Then you listen to this record, and you realize that life changes you. The dirt and oils of your experiences form into the acne of your personality. It's that kind of raw, fearless, sometimes ignorant metaphor that's been getting scrawled into teenage diaries for decades. Mitski's writing has that same ruthlessly personal bravery, but with dead-on precision. Envision a more emotional, less baroque St. Vincent. Picture a more aggressive, experimental version of Cat Power. The best way to listen to this album is to feel it, to let the fuzz and the bass wash over you. The songs exemplify a tonal variety. There's the frenetic, Thermals-esque plea of the beautifully titled track "My Body's Made Up of Crushed Little Stars." Others like "Crack Baby" make further nods to bands like Massive Attack and Portishead. *Bury Me at Makeout Creek* was easily one of the best albums of 2014, due largely in part to the undeniable promise of the opening tracks. This album not only completes that reach, it exceeds it. – Nick Warren



Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Little Leaves

June 27 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. to noon

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Preschool Summer Programs: How a Garden Grows

June 28, 30 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Tuesday Teen Tech Time

June 28 through Aug. 16 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Blasco Memorial

Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

County Council Meeting

June 28 — 7 p.m.

Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriecountypa.gov.

Mind, Body, Beer

June 28 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com/ErieAleWorks.

Walk at Scott Park

June 29 — 8:30 to 10 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Cactus Rock Garden

June 29 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

The Art of Inner Transformation

June 29 & July 6 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. abodeoftheheart.org.

Summit on Certified Teacher Shortage

June 30 — 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Butterfield Hall, 219 Meadville St. events.edinboro.edu.

Erie Downtown

Block Party

June 30 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Sullivan's Pub, 301 French St. eriedowntown.com.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks

June 30 & July 1, 2, 3 — 7 p.m.

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

Lake Erie Fishing History

July 1 through Oct. 30 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Olde Fashioned

4th of July

July 1 — 5 p.m.

North East Chamber of Commerce, 44 W. Main St. facebook.com/TheNorthEastChamber.

Campfire on the Beach

July 1 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Beach 11, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

North Pier Trail Hike

July 3 — 9 to 10 a.m.

North Pier Parking Lot, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

LECOM Health Challenge

July 4 through 10

Peek'n Peak Resort Regency Pub, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Friends & Family Day

July 4

Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. flagshipniagara.org.

Debunking Food Labels

July 6 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Children's Art Classes

July 6 — 10:30 a.m. to 2:30

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

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NINA is an EU graduate student in the
Master of Arts in Social Sciences program



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GET IN YOUR GAME!

MUSCLE CAR *Madness*



Fridays in June

4PM - 10PM



• 5 Lucky cash prize winners every hour 4pm-9pm

• One Grand Prize Winner Every Friday at 10pm will win \$1,000, or a 2016 Camaro, or a Classic Chevelle SS

• Earn entries each Friday with every 200 points earned with Bonus entry multipliers on Wednesdays

Live in' THE LAKE LIFE GIVEAWAY

Saturdays in June

4pm - 10pm

- 5 Lucky cash prize winners every hour 4pm-9pm
- One Grand Prize winner at 10pm each Saturday!
- Earn entries each Saturday with every 200 points earned
- Earn bonus entries on Thursdays with Entry Multipliers



RED, WHITE BBQ Brews



Friday, July 1st at 5pm

Trackside/Outdoor Patio

Free Admission!

Live Entertainment

Kevin Dale: 6pm-7pm • Chris Higbee: 7pm-9pm

Try out Erie's best BBQ by
Three B Saloon, Dickey's BBQ Pit, and Famous Daves

NOW OPEN!

The BREW BROTHERS

MEALS. MUSIC & BREWS

Entertainment 7 Days a Week!

30 Beers on Tap!

Happy Hour: Friday and Saturday, 5pm - 7pm

Visit www.presqueisledowns.com for details

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1.866.ERIE.FUN

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