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**ERIE READER**

July 6 - July 19/Vol. 6, No. 14/ErieReader.com



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



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## From the Editors

Keep Presque Isle ready for its closeup.

Scenes from New York City, Los Angeles, and a handful of points in between are so ubiquitous in films and television that we could practically navigate those iconic streets based solely on what we've watched.

We get to see our own surrounding landscape in high definition far less frequently. But as we demonstrate in this issue, that's changing.

As Girard native and veteran actor Marc Blucas tells Dan Schank, "Technology and tax credits have changed our industry so much, and it has allowed for independent filmmaking to happen. You no longer need \$100,000 camera packages and ridiculous budgets just to tell a story. It has allowed for creative, independent filmmakers to get out there and make movies."

Schank highlights a few recent examples of localized filmmaking, stressing encouragingly that this is in no way an exhaustive list.

From another angle, Matt Swanseger provides us with a selection of "Netflix and Chill" (or old school movie night) options born in our own backyards. They may not all offer a happy ending – ahem – but each one features a familiar scene or two.

There's something legitimizing about seeing where you live on screen. It can give you a fresh-eyed view of this particular

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There's something legitimizing about seeing where you live on screen. It can give you a fresh-eyed view of this particular corner, or that particular street.

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corner, or that particular street. And it can highlight the elements of your homeland that a director deemed unique and photogenic enough to magnify.

In our region, there is no shortage of potentially camera-ready vistas. But the obvious distinguishing star is Presque Isle State Park.

We certainly didn't need yet another reason to protect the extraordinary beauty of our beloved Presque Isle. But its ability to attract filmmakers to our area is a viable one.

And given the recent defeat – for now – of House Bill 2013, we're reminded of how tenuous the preservation of our state parks truly is.

According to a June 22 article by Jan Murphy on pennlive.com, HB 2013 "would establish a public-private state park partnership board that would solicit and vet proposals from private developers interested in landing up to a 25-year contract to operate such facilities as a hotel, an inn, water park, amusement park, golf course, office building, [or] restaurant, among others."

For a variety of reasons – including public outcry – the bill, sponsored by Rep. Brian Ellis (R-Butler), was defeated on June 28, but with the possibility of being reconsidered. "Opponents of Ellis' bill don't take issue with private businesses operating on state park land, per se," Murphy explains. "Rather, they have a problem with handing the decision-making authority about developing on parkland to a proposed nine-member board made up of political appointees."

And the fact remains that our state parks – Presque Isle included – are operating on a shoestring. A frayed one, at that.

So the imperative to not take Presque Isle for granted is once again driven home. To ensure that our regional landscape – whether starring on the big screen or our phone screens – remains ready for its closeup for years to come.



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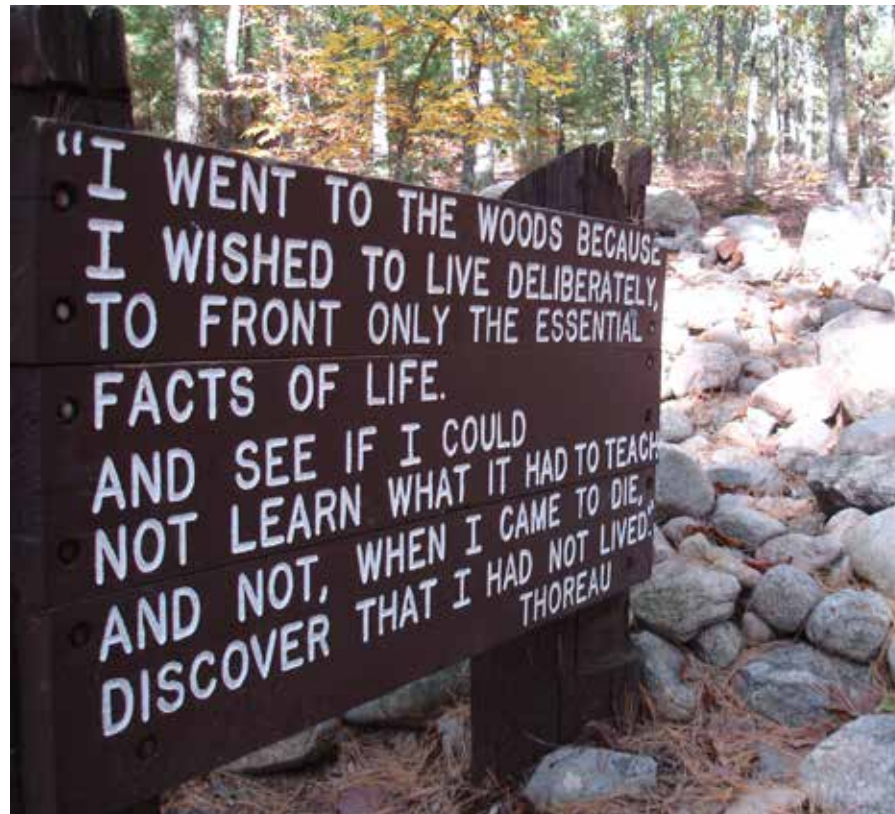
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## NEWS & VIEWS

### Just a Thought

'Only that day dawns to which we are awake.'



Whether you first encountered it in *Walden* or *Dead Poets Society*, you're probably familiar with Thoreau's "live deliberately" quote at left, near the site of his cabin at Walden Pond.

have called him a fraud for that, as if the fact that he enjoyed some company and support made him a cheater.

But he's advocating *independence*, not *isolation*.

It's a distinction our country would do well to remember.

Thoreau sees at the root of society's problems a tendency to settle for limited possibilities, as though no alternatives exist. And his questioning burrows to the purpose of human life itself.

"It appears as if men had deliberately chosen the common mode of living because they preferred it to any other," he writes. "Yet they honestly think there is no choice left. But alert and healthy natures remember that the sun rose clear. It is never too late to give up our prejudices."

Thoreau says that he's speaking "mainly to the mass of men who are discontented and idly complaining of the hardness of their lot or of the times, when they might improve them."

Today, Thoreau may be teased for his enthusiasms; chided for what many would see as his naive contention that if we are willing to question all of our assumptions, we just might get what we want: actual freedom.

With Independence Day just passed, it's the perfect time to let the long light of summer shine into all of the corners of what we take ourselves, our community, and our country to be. And what we each might improve by waking up.

But another thing Thoreau exemplified was the need to season wisdom with humor. When I visited Walden Pond years ago, I wondered if some of his wit remained in the water when I overheard this conversation between a mother and her young son:

Son: Why'd he come here?

Mom: To sit and think about things.

Son: Think about what things?

Mom: Think about two years without kids.

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

By: **Katie Chriest**

The small pond was completely surrounded by trees, and harbored a beaver dam that'd put these new hotels on the bay to shame. A somewhat secret wooded path led to the pond. I'd plod along it in my duck shoes after crossing through the fence of our back pasture and onto the neighbor's land.

Sitting on a log beside the water, my thoughts were my own, and alone didn't mean lonely. Hundreds of similar places must exist throughout Erie County, whose natural enclosures make you feel as though another world has its arms around you.

I'd take my journal and imagine this Henry David Thoreau guy I'd fallen a little in love with in English class. I developed a soul-deep connection to that quirky, long-lost fellow and have a lot of sentimental journal entries to prove it.

As a teenager, I adored *Walden's* wealth of rousing aphorisms. Unabashedly inspiring stuff about following one's dreams, being a nonconformist – the sort of life-saving assurances that make for great graduation cards (and even better realities, if we dare to believe them).

I still read *Walden*, and it still makes my heart pound. It removes the film of everyday mundanity from my eyes. And it bothers the hell out of me in all of the most essential ways, challenging me not to fall asleep in this life.

Thoreau began his famous experi-

*Walden* can be read as one long declaration of independence. That is, the independence of mind Thoreau longed to see in his countrymen. He called out the jadedness and complacency which had already infested a young America.

ment at Walden Pond on July 4, appropriately, in 1845. He'd built a cabin on Ralph Waldo Emerson's land at the outskirts of Concord, Massachusetts, where he spent two years in solitude and rumination.

*Walden* can be read as one long declaration of independence. That is, the independence of mind Thoreau longed to see in his countrymen. He called out the jadedness and complacency which had already infested a young America.

He wasn't a hermit, however. Some

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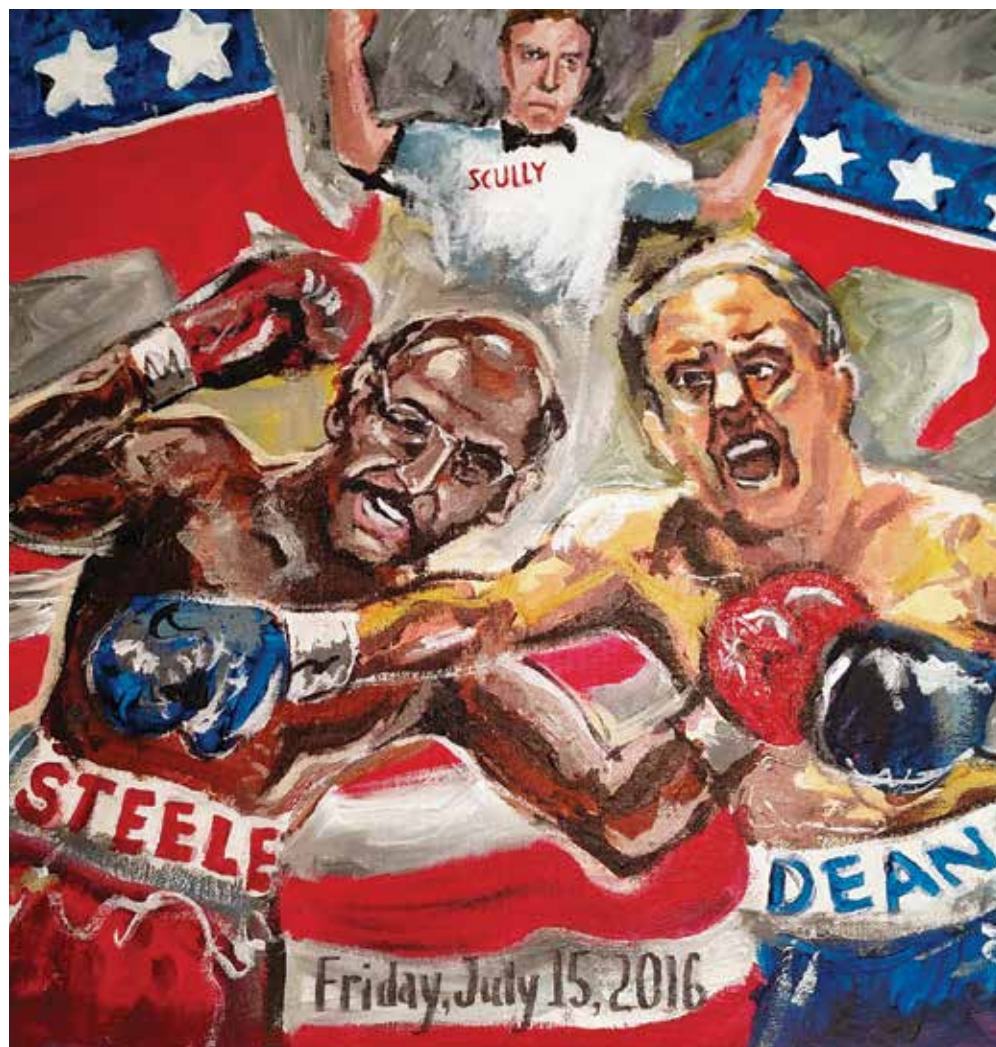
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## The Great Debate

Political hardballers pit stop in Erie on their way to the big show.



By: Jim Wertz

In most national election cycles, the nominating conventions are meaningless. By July, party stalwarts have long ago chosen the candidate who will represent them in November's general election and the parties' respective platforms are firmly rooted in party traditions – the past, not the future. But this year is different.

Both parties have been shaken by internal challenges to the establishment and establishment candidates. Neither party will emerge from 2016 unchanged.

Before the Republican National Convention kicks off in Cleveland, followed by the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia a week later, two of the nation's most sought after political commentators and former officeholders are coming to Erie. As part of the Jefferson Educational Society's "Road to the White House," former Vermont

Governor and one-time Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean will debate Michael Steele, the former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland and a past chairman of the Republican National Committee. The debate will be held July 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy, and will be moderated by the most patient man on television, C-Span's Steve Scully.

Howard Dean and Michael Steele took time out of their debate prep schedules to speak with me about Hillary, Trump, and what major party politics will look like in the wake of 2016. What you're about to read is two phone calls compressed into one titillating conversation about the dark pursuit of the American Dream.

**Jim Wertz:** Let's get right to it, Michael. You've recently said that the Republican party needs to make its peace with Trump and stop talking about rule changes at the convention that

would unseat him. Are you standing by that?

**Michael Steele:** Yep! Last I checked there's nobody else running against him, so he's the guy.

**JW:** What was it that got him here? He seems to be the most unlikely choice.

**MS:** He's the quintessential salesman. He knows his audience, the buyers of what he's selling. He knows what connects with them and he's been very effective at making his case. The establishment leaders on the political side have not been able to draft a strategy that exposes his flaws. It will be a different challenge for Trump in the general election, but it's a challenge that he's met before.

**Howard Dean:** I think what gives [Trump] a core base is that people who have been left behind by globalization are angry and afraid. It reflects on the business and political class that they have not done what they have to do, which is to make sure everyone gets included in the success of globalization. Trump is just the guy

who came along and took advantage of this.

**JW:** Does none of his history matter? It seems like his business blunders and less than ethical processes continue to be exposed and no one seems to care.

**HD:** Lots of people care. He's behind significantly in the polls. His base doesn't care. The people who support Trump are not analyzing him in terms of rational economic policy. People who vote on anger and fear are not going to worry about whether somebody is telling the truth or what kind of a record he has. It has nothing to do with why Donald Trump is winning the Republican nomination.

**MS:** He may be all over the map on certain policies, he may be shaving the edges on certain concepts, but what people like about him is that he'll admit that. He doesn't run away from that. You've watched Mitt Romney and Marco Rubio get tied in knots trying to run away from past comments on Romney-

care or immigration, but Trump modifies as he goes along, and in the course of that, he's bringing people along with him. It's not that he's being inauthentic. The authenticity is that he's not hiding behind a position. That makes it very challenging for people in a system that has come to expect and only knows a more conventional approach, and he's been anything but conventional since the very beginning.

**JW:** Nate Silver has publicly stated that based on his analysis Hillary Clinton has a 72 percent chance of victory over Trump. Is it too early to make these calls?

---

"The polls mean absolutely nothing because no one has voted. Don't quote me statistics in July about somebody's chances to win the presidency in November. I appreciate what Nate Silver does, but let's talk in late October," says Michael Steele.

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**HD:** It is too early. That's why Silver, who is the best in the business, puts the chance at 72 percent. It's not that high, it should be higher. But we're five months away from the election. Could Donald Trump win? Yes, he could. Anything can happen in politics.

**MS:** The polls mean absolutely nothing because no one has voted. Don't quote me statistics in July about somebody's chances to win the presidency in November. I appreciate what Nate Silver does, but let's talk in late October. Hillary is still trying to get people to like her. She may lay down policy in the big speeches, but people still don't like her. Donald Trump is not vexed one way or the other if people like him. He's not trying to garner your favor. He figures in time that will come. Even if you're anti-Donald Trump, you're listening to what he says. He thinks, "Okay, now that I've got your attention, I'll introduce some policy," like he did recently on trade, which was antithetical to some traditional Republican views on trade.

**JW:** Is 2016 for the Republicans the catalyst for reorganization that 1968





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## NEWS & VIEWS

was for the Democrats?

**MS:** This is a transitional convention for me, just as Donald Trump has been a transitional candidate. We don't know what to. I do not think we will have the same kind of appreciation and concepts around the presidential primary process, the party, and some of the constituent parts that go into that four years from now that we do today. Whether he wins or not this fall remains to be seen. But what we do know now is that the Republican party is different for his having run and he's exposed many of the fissures that some of us have been talking about for 15 or 20 years now. This is nothing new. These pains that we're experiencing

"Younger people in this country are economically more libertarian, but they are incredibly inclusive and so all the anti-immigrant, anti-gay rhetoric is going to keep them from voting for the Republican party," says Howard Dean.

change sooner, especially if he loses. If he wins, it's going to be an enormous problem. We're going to have a very badly divided country. But if he loses, Republicans are going to have to do a reset and they have to do a reset to get millennials to vote for them. Younger people in this country are economically more libertarian, but they are incredibly inclusive and so all the anti-immigrant, anti-gay rhetoric is going to keep them from voting for the Republican party. The Republican party has to go back to basic economics to win over young people, who are now the biggest segment of the country. The Republican party knows that, but they can't figure out how to get off the deal they made in 1968 to bring all of the racist southern Democrats into the Republican party, Nixon's southern strategy. Now they're living with the consequences of that.

**JW:** Is Hillary Clinton pragmatic enough for the young voters that you're talking about?

**HD:** I think she is. I think she has long term vision and that matters enormously. I also think there are a lot of Republicans who are going to quietly pull the lever for Hillary. Michael Hayden, a very conservative former director of the CIA under George W. Bush, has said he can't support Trump. Hank Paulson's (former Secretary of the Treasury under G.W. Bush) already said he's going to support Hillary Clinton. These are people who really understand how the place works. And in the end, it's going to be a battle about competence.

*Jim Wertz can be reached at [jWertz@ErieReader.com](mailto:jWertz@ErieReader.com), and you can follow him on Twitter [@jim\\_wertz](https://twitter.com/jim_wertz).*

now go back to Ronald Reagan's last year in office when our concern was "what will the party be like post-Reagan?" Now we're in the post-Reagan era and we've become a party that's strained and frayed at the edges, substantively, and along comes a candidate that fully exposes that.

**JW:** Does either party survive 2016 unscathed?

**HD:** I think it depends what happens after the election. I think Republicans are going to have to change sooner or later and Trump may make them



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## News of the Weird

Concerned about the upcoming election? Time to develop a case of 'foreign accent syndrome.'

By: Chuck Shepherd

### Longtime Recurring Theme Peaks

In May, an apparently devout woman named Katy Vasquez of Winter Park, Florida, posted a sincerely written entry on Facebook (and told Huffington Post in an interview) that she had just seen a "sign from God" a cross as a smudge in her infant's soiled diaper. "I prayed to God for a sign that everything would be OK," she gushed to the reporter. "It might not be the prettiest sign, but he put it where he knew I'd see it." (Hence, News of the Weird retires the recurring theme begun in the 1980s with Jesus in a rust stain on an abandoned refrigerator.) [Huffington Post, 5-20-2016]

### Fine Points of the Law

To their great surprise, Sophie Scafidi and friends, on an outing in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, in June, learned that a man spying on and photographing them through a camera lens hidden in a Gatorade bottle painted black was not violating any law. Although the lens was rigged to the man's phone, which contained beach photos, including some of children, police informed Scafidi that even surreptitious photography in sleazy circumstances, as long as done on public property, was legal and that the only law broken in the incident was by the person who snatched the "camera" to show police. [WBZ-TV (Boston), 6-7-2016]

A court in Canberra, Australia, found Wesley King not guilty of a 2014 burglary despite his DNA's having been found at the crime scene on underpants containing his fresh feces. Wrote Chief Justice Helen Murrell in June: There is a "reasonable possibility" that the burglar was someone else who was wearing unwashed underwear that had previously been worn by the accused. (Thus, she found King not guilty of all charges.) [Australian Broadcasting Corp. News, 6-15-2016]

In June, a federal appeals court revived Adrian King's lawsuit against the Huttonsville Correctional Center in West Virginia for emotional distress and invasion of privacy in forcing him into surgery to remove the marbles he had implanted in his penis before going behind bars in 2008. King did not allege that he misses the marbles but only that he had chosen body-modification and that the surgery was against his will, causing pain upon touch (or whenever it gets cold, or rains or snows). Prison officials initially ordered the surgery because it was unclear that the objects were not contraband. [Reuters, 6-7-2016]

### Weird Science

Medical Daily, in a May review of recent cases, noted progress in dealing with Cotard's syndrome a disorder that leads patients to believe they have no blood or vital body parts or feeling as if they are dead (or may as well be). Studies show one in about 200 psychiatric patients exhibit the symptoms,

and one doctor, describing a brain scan of his patient, said brain activity resembled that of a person in a coma or under anesthesia. Cotard's, also known as walking corpse syndrome, leads patients to thus avoid eating or bathing (asking themselves, why bother?). [Medical Daily, 5-25-2016]

Awfwww: The Sacramento (California) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals put out a call for help in April after stray kittens were found dumped in a yard, with only two still alive but nearly blind with eye infections and needing animal blood for a serum that might save the eyes. The call was "answered" by the rescue dog Jemmie. After Jemmie's blood "donation" (not a transfusion, since the blood went only to make the serum), vets reported saving one eye of one of the kittens, earning Jemmie a "special" reward. (Said vet Sarah Varanini, "There's nothing in life (Jemmie) likes more than kittens.") [KQVR-TV (Sacramento), 4-6-2016]

Recurring Themes: Even though extraordinarily rare, two people recently reported foreign accent syndrome after their brain traumas apparently caused crossing of cranial "wires." (1) "J.C.," 50, was described in the journal Cortex as an energetic Italian who, after a brain injury, inexplicably speaks constantly in "emphatic, error-prone French." (2) Six months ago, Lisa Alamia of Rosenberg, Texas, awoke from surgery inexplicably speaking in a British accent (particularly confusing her family and friends since she previ-

ously spoke not so much "English" as "Texan"). Medical experts cited by CBS News reported that fewer than 100 people worldwide have ever been diagnosed with foreign accent syndrome. [Washington Post, 6-3-2016] [CBS News, 6-22-2016]

### Redneck Chronicles

At the monthly pro wrestling show in Ringgold, Georgia, in June, Patricia Crowe, 59, apparently having had enough of "bad guy" Paul Lee, reportedly jumped into the ring to rescue "good guy" Iron Mann, whom Lee had "tied up" and been beating with a chair. First, she cut Mann loose with her knife and then pulled a loaded handgun on Lee (and was eventually arrested by sheriff's deputies). Crowe admitted that Lee's earlier "mean" banter with ring-side patrons had unnerved her, especially when he told Crowe to sit her "toothless self back down." [Northwest-GeorgiaNews.com (Rome, Ga.), 6-8-2016]

### Compelling Explanations

A former Malaysian legislator (Mr. A.S. Manikavasagam), who was charged in June with taking a bribe worth about US\$7,300 from a contractor, claimed innocence that somehow a package of money was thrown into his car as he drove down a city street. (2) A woman in Goldsboro, North Carolina, acquired a freezer from her neighbor several months ago but said she hadn't looked inside until May, when she discovered parts of a dead body (and called authorities). She said the neigh-





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### NEWS & VIEWS

bor had discouraged her from opening the freezer because "a church" was using it as a "time capsule." [Straits Times (Singapore), 6-18-2016] [WNCN-TV (Raleigh, N.C.), 6-2-2016]

#### Government in Action

The Illinois secretary of state stopped mailing reminders about license-plate renewal deadlines in October because his office said the state could no longer afford the \$450,000-a-month mailing cost (thus saving taxpayers \$3.6 million so far). The Belleville (Illinois) News-Democrat and The Associated Press reported in June that the state has collected (not surprisingly!) \$5.24 million more in the resultant "late fees" people had to pay on their license-plate renewals than it had collected the year before the reminders stopped. (A proposal for a 30-day grace period for expired plates failed in the just-concluded legislative session.) [Belleville News-Democrat, 6-23-2016]

#### Drugs Is There Anything They Can't Do?

University of Georgia student Benjamin Abele, 22, was finally subdued by four police officers on May 29 after he had run naked down an Athens

street and leaped into the gooey, malodorous back end of a garbage truck, wallowing in the slimy liquid that pools under the gunk (hindering arrest), and then attempting to burrow further into the filthiness to somehow "escape." Two Taser shots had no effect, and he was identified as high on PCP. [Athens Banner-Herald, 6-3-2016]

#### Meanwhile, Overseas

Voters in June in the village of Draguseni, Romania, elected Vasile Cepoi mayor no, not the Vasile Cepoi who lost, or the other Vasile Cepoi who lost. The winner was the incumbent mayor, Vasile Cepoi. (There was also a fourth candidate, who was not named Vasile Cepoi.) (2) In June, an "artificial intelligence" robot ("IR77") being taught to "avoid obstacles" while moving around the Promobot lab in Perm, Russia, apparently "learned" how to walk out the door undetected, causing a downtown traffic jam when its batteries died. Handlers modified the computer script, but IR77 "escaped" again several days later, and engineers said they may have to dismantle the program and start over. [New York Times, 6-14-2016] [RT.com (Moscow), 6-23-2016]

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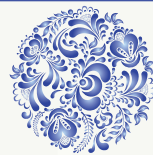
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## North East's 4 N.I.N.E. Place

Collaborating for the common good might be missing in other areas of American life, but not here.



PHOTOS BY: LISA GENSHEIMER



By: Lisa Gensheimer

Vicki Stetson is part Mother Teresa, part Attila the Hun.

The founder of North East's 4 N.I.N.E. Place works fiercely behind the scenes to build a sense of community. And if there's a battle to be won, she and a corps of 123 dedicated volunteers are already winning it.

Need affordable clothes for your kids? Work shoes that don't cost an arm and a leg? Furniture for a new apartment? A place to prepare for your GED?

Want to learn how to cook on a budget or figure out finances so you can get ahead?

As each problem presents itself, Stetson finds resources to solve it, all without a dime of government assistance. I serve on the board of this non-profit, and my only job is to nod my head "yes" and stay out of the way. We don't get bogged down in meetings. There are no committees. No paid employees. It just works.

Erie's anti-poverty initiatives, Erie School District officials, and for that matter, anyone interested in building a healthy, sustainable community, could benefit from taking a look at 4 N.I.N.E.'s creative approach. The acronym

stands for 4 Neighbors in North East, but in a larger sense we're all part of the same neighborhood.

What began 17 years ago as a non-profit thrift store along the railroad tracks at 49 Smedley Street is now channeling funds from donated goods into day care and kindergarten readiness programs, money management education, healthy eating and exercise classes, a community garden, shade trees for public spaces, safety equipment for fire, police and emergency services, and a partnership for jobs skills training.

4 N.I.N.E. also serves as a site

**Above left: Volunteer Bobbi Torrence (right) helps Mimi Rouse find some bargains at 4 N.I.N.E. Thrift Store. Rouse stopped to visit after her shift at the North East Food Pantry, located across the parking lot. Above right: Saturday Superstars, held throughout the school year, engages students like Kennley Conn in activities that reinforce what they're taught in kindergarten. Laurie Baker, an academic success coach at Mercyhurst-North East and an adjunct professor there in early childhood education, developed the curriculum and manages the program. (2014 photo) Right: It's all about building community, says Vicki Stetson, founder of 4 Neighbors in North East, (4 N.I.N.E.), shown here at a recognition dinner for thrift store volunteers.**

for Erie Free Taxes, Al-Anon, GED preparation and testing, and PennDOT's Child Safety Seat distribution. Awhile back, the thrift store gifted some of its property to the North East Food Pantry, and up went a new building across the parking lot. With so many people coming and going, it's easy to understand why the organization opened a separate meeting place nearby at 103 Clay Street in May. Now thrift store volunteers have more breathing room for sorting merchandise, and classes can meet

offsite without interruption.

To give you an idea of how indispensable this place has become, when a couple of misguided kids set fire to the thrift store's loading dock in 2012, the townspeople, led by the North East Community Foundation, collected more than \$50,000 to help the thrift store rebuild. Two weeks later, the store was up and running in a temporary location. Two months later, the North East Grape Pickers football team was hauling heavy boxes back inside the refurbished building.



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**Volunteers Belinda Lemon (foreground) and Nancy Goodman sort clothing donated to 4 N.I.N.E. Thrift Store.**

Stetson was a teacher in the North East School District for decades. When she noticed some kids weren't showing up for the annual choral concert after singing their hearts out all year, she confronted them. "You mean to tell me you're going to take a bad grade when you've done all this work?" Stetson asked. "That's ridiculous!" Turns out these middle-schoolers had to wear dress shirts and pants, and they didn't have them.

"I envisioned a way to get people the clothing they needed," Stetson said. Even she marvels at how 4 N.I.N.E. Place took off from that one, simple idea and a conversation with a few likeminded friends.

I like to think of the thrift store as the ultimate recycling project. Clothing and household furnishings that would typically be thrown away are left by local residents on the loading dock, sorted and arranged by volunteers, and sold – often within hours of landing on a shelf or rack – at a cost people can afford. It's not uncommon to find as many as 40 shoppers waiting for the doors to open. Volunteers ring up 600 cash register transactions every day the store is open. Proceeds go right back into the community, completing the circle.

The thrift store supports programs for all ages – and right now there's an emphasis on reaching out to seniors, based on a recent community needs survey – but in my opinion one of the

best decisions the board ever made was investing some of its proceeds in early childhood education.

There's no question Pennsylvania's system for funding public schools is broken, but until it can be fixed, communities like North East have to find creative ways to patch the holes in their pockets so our kids aren't short-changed.

"Early childhood education is critical," said Dr. Jenny Ritter, principal of North East's Earle C. Davis Primary School. "All of the research shows that the more we do between preschool and grade two is going to have a huge impact on a child's success. If they're not reading by third grade their likelihood of dropout is higher, and we know where that can lead. What we're trying to do in partnership with 4 N.I.N.E. Place is pile on as much love and support as we can."

Yearly tuition for preschool, which in North East costs between \$864 (three days a week) and \$1,521 (five days) is out of the question for many families.

Thanks to the thrift store, incoming kindergarten students who don't have the benefit of preschool or who have trouble recognizing letters and numbers can get up to speed with Summer Superstars, a free program run by experienced teachers at Earle C. Davis Elementary School. Children come every morning, Monday through Thursday, from July 11 through August 5. They're treated to breakfast, lunch, and curric-

ulum-based activities that make learning fun. 4 N.I.N.E. picks up the tab for teacher stipends, field trips, supplies, and snacks.

"We want to make winners out of children who otherwise might struggle," Ritter said. "It's not only about academics. It might be about: How do I sit still to hear a story? How do I have a conversation with somebody? How do I walk in a line? How do I use a public restroom? How do I eat in the cafeteria? Over the summer their self-confidence grows and they not only feel good about coming to school, they become leaders."

A similar program, Saturday Superstars, helps children in kindergarten through grade three on Saturday mornings during the school year.

New this summer is a weeklong young writers project designed to teach incoming third graders about empathy.

About 60 percent of children in the North East School District qualify for free or reduced lunches, making it an economically disadvantaged school district under the U.S. Department of Education's Title I guidelines.

Challenged with how to bring busy families together to encourage parental involvement, Ritter and Stetson decided to host a free dinner at the school last spring. Title I children, who receive extra help with reading and math, were invited to bring siblings and parents. More than 180 people showed up. After everyone enjoyed a nutritious meal, younger children went off to the school library to play games supervised by volunteers while teachers demonstrated learning activities parents could do at home. Kitty Harrington, a retired librarian, showed parents how to read to their children. She told Ritter most Title I programs she goes to have 18 parents attend, not 180.

No wonder the North East School District topped the *Pittsburgh Business Times'* statewide Overachiever rankings in 2016 for exceeding expectations on standardized test scores. The percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged is included in the formula for calculating the ranking.

Recognizing that education at all lev-

els of society is essential to economic well-being, 4 N.I.N.E. and the North East School District last fall entered into a partnership with the Higher-Ed Council of Warren, which makes career-building courses accessible to adults in rural communities at low cost. So far 80 North East residents have enrolled. A list of upcoming classes can be found on 4 N.I.N.E.'s Facebook page.

Whether it's the thrift store's efforts, the Law of Attraction, or the simple human kindness that resides within all of us, people in North East seem to be gravitating toward doing good.

"When you build community, everybody benefits," said Stetson, noting that her volunteers, many of whom put in more than 1,000 hours a year, have become like family.

A few weeks ago, some people from

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**It's not uncommon to find as many as 40 shoppers waiting for the doors to open. Volunteers ring up 600 cash register transactions every day the store is open. Proceeds go right back into the community, completing the circle.**

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Wesleyville visited 4 N.I.N.E. Place to see how they might adapt some of the ideas. Someone suggested opening a coin-operated laundromat that could fund worthwhile programs in their community, too. (*Money laundering for a cause – don't you love it?*)

She will have my head for writing this, but I couldn't help thinking of Stetson when I read that activist Father Daniel Berrigan, a tenacious Jesuit priest known for his radical ideas, died last April.

"About practically everything in the world, there's nothing you can do. This is Socratic wisdom," Berrigan once said. "However, about a few things you can do something. Do it, with a good heart."

*Thrift store open Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 4 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. // 49 Smedley St., North East // 725.9804 // facebook.com/4NeighborsInNorthEast*

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



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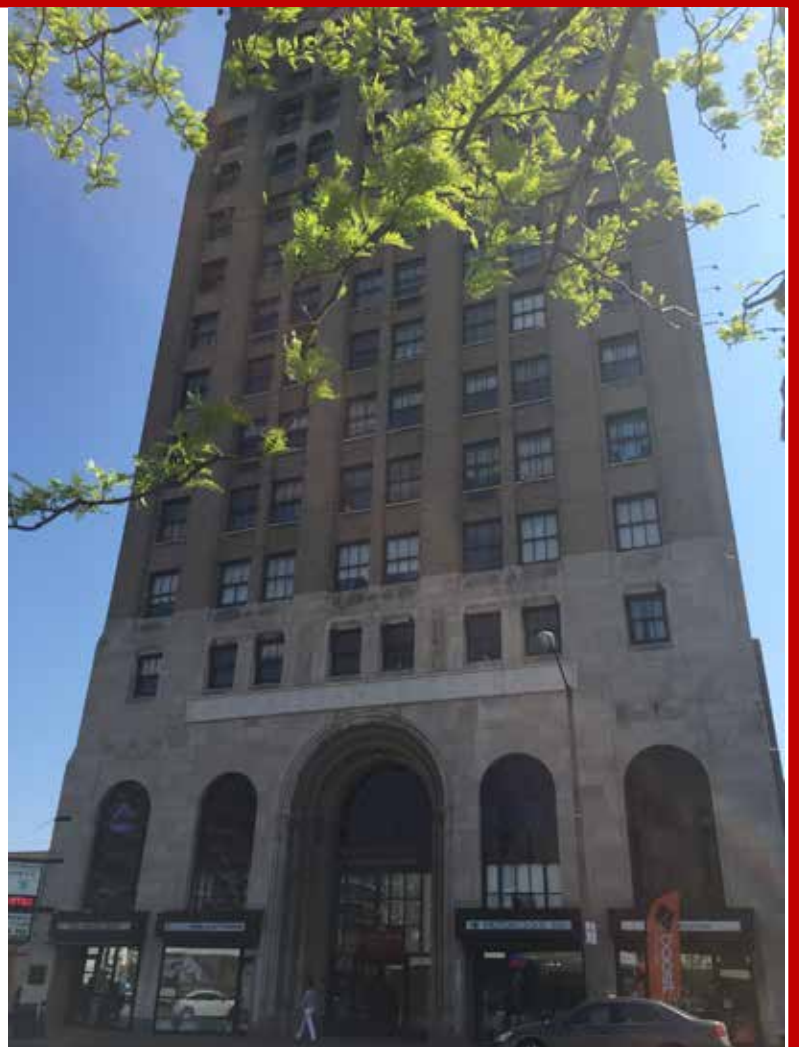
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## Making Movies in Erie

Meet the filmmakers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and ex-vampire slayers putting Erie on the map.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One was Blucas, who was eager to spend more time with friends and family in the region – and to revisit the Great Lake where he married his wife. The other was Allison McAtee, an Edinboro native who portrays an ambitious political operative on *The Haves and the Have Nots*, Tyler Perry's highly-rated series for the Oprah Winfrey Network. A few years back, McAtee met Postas on a flight out of the Erie airport. When *Unearth* went into production, he suggested McAtee to Lyons and Swies, who remembered her fondly from a guest appear-

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*Unearth* is emblematic of the grassroots spirit taking hold in our region currently, as a new generation of filmmakers, producers, actors, and go-getters are forgoing the high costs of New York and Los Angeles to make independent cinema right at home.

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By: Dan Schank

Over the past few years, the number of films made in Erie has grown at a surprising rate. So much so that Girard native Marc Blucas recently found himself back in his old neighborhood to star in a local feature.

“Technology and tax credits have changed our industry so much, and it has allowed for independent filmmaking to happen,” says the veteran actor. “You no longer need \$100,000 camera packages and ridiculous budgets just to tell a story. It has allowed for creative, independent filmmakers to get out there and make movies.”

You might remember Blucas as Riley Finn, the earnest, long-suffering, non-vampiric

boyfriend of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* during the show's fourth and fifth seasons. He later starred in USA's sports drama *Unnecessary Roughness* and currently plays an abolitionist lawyer on WGN's slavery-themed series *Underground*.

Blucas is working on an upcoming feature in Erie called *Unearth* with directors John C. Lyons and Dorota Swies. The film is emblematic of the grassroots spirit taking hold in our region currently, as a new generation of filmmakers, producers, actors, and go-getters are forgoing the high costs of New York and Los Angeles to make independent cinema right at home.

Introducing all of them would be nearly impossible. There's enough good work be-

ing done around town to fill an entire issue of the *Erie Reader*. With apologies to the many people I've left out, here's an introduction to some folks who really inspire us.

### A “fracking horror film” with homegrown support

While writing the script for *Unearth*, John C. Lyons wanted to respond to the “several thousand cases of water contamination due to fracking in the state of Pennsylvania.” But he wanted to entertain people while raising awareness. Accordingly, he took what he describes as “an arthouse approach to horror, in the same vein as *The Witch*, *The Babadook*, and *10 Cloverfield Lane*.” The result is “a female-led, character-driven

film” about two neighboring farm families at odds over hydraulic fracturing.

Sound good? The film's 257 Kickstarter backers seem to think so. Last October, Lyons and Swies turned to the crowdfunding site in hopes of generating \$15,000. By the end of their campaign, they had generated \$22,620.

With momentum on their side, the husband-and-wife filmmaking team decided to scale up. They hired a professional casting director, local storyboard artist Adam Calfee, and Erie native Ryan Postas (who recently screened one of his projects at the International Short Film Festival at Cannes) as their director of photography. They also hired two Hollywood veterans with a connection to the area.

ance on Showtime's *Californication*.

McAtee, who devotes herself to a variety of philanthropic efforts in Los Angeles, was especially attracted to the film's message. She describes fracking's potential for water contamination as “an important social issue to make sure that people are aware of” – especially in response to the media domination by the natural gas industry. She also liked the script's creative approach to the issue, because “you can educate people in different ways. Some people clearly learn if they are given facts, and other people might be more deeply impacted if they're touched emotionally.”

Though Lyons and Swies





**Opposite and at left: Scenes from the filming of *Unearth*. Directors John C. Lyons and Dorota Swies have employed talent with local ties to create this highly anticipated film, which far exceeded its Kickstarter goal.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

have made two features prior to *Unearth* (2013's *There Are No Goodbyes* and 2008's *Schism*), this is their first film to feature industry standard equipment and a team of allies in the Big Apple. "There's a giant difference between what we've done before and what we're doing now," says Swies. The duo recently met with six potential distributors in New York City to share the half-dozen scenes that they've produced thus far

– and to brainstorm the film's completion.

**Remembering (and re-staging) the Battle of Lake Erie**

After Scott L. Reda's son took a job at Gannon University in 2009, he began spending long hours in our Maritime Museum whenever he'd drive out from his home in South Jersey to visit. During

these trips, he "fell in love with the subject matter of Oliver Hazard Perry, Lake Erie, and the War."

To build on this enthusiasm, Reda became the executive producer of *We Have Met the Enemy*, an upcoming documentary about the Battle of Lake Erie that will debut on a cable news network in 2017. "What we want to bring out in this film is Perry's personality," says Reda, as well as "the significance of the battle to the War of 1812, to Canada, to Great Britain, and to our nation today."

Along with fellow producers Mark Nixon and John Kuzdale, Reda began working closely with regional experts to bring our history to life. Within the walls of the lovely Watson-Curtze Mansion, they filmed interviews with Walter Rybka (Senior Captain of the Erie Maritime Museum & U.S. Brig Niagara) and William Garvey (President of the Jefferson Educational Society). Reda cites Captain Jaime Trost, the project manager of the Maritime's ship-building Porcupine Project, as the production's "rock star" because of his on-screen charisma during interviews.

Reda's team also employed local talent for the production. Ferralli Studios supplied them with a sound engineer and a grip truck for tracking shots. They hired two student interns – one from Gannon and one from Penn State Behrend – and formed productive partnerships with the Greater Erie Film Office, the Historical Society of Erie County, and Presque Isle State Park.

When the documentary airs, expect ample footage of present day Erie to offset the interviews and historical recreations. According to Reda,

"it's very important, visually, to remind people with contemporary footage that something major took place here."

**Helping hands in Harborcreek**

Both *Unearth* and *We Have Met the Enemy* rely heavily on Penn State Behrend for state-of-the-art film supplies.

This is thanks to Greater Erie Arts Rentals (GEAR), a initiative designed to "provide the local and regional film making community with affordable, professional grade film making equipment, develop a film culture and economy in Erie, and at the same time allow students to learn about film making," according to Professor Sharon Dale, program chair for Digital Media, Arts, and Technology. GEAR began after Dale turned to Samuel Black III, the chairman of Erie Management Group, LLC, for a generous donation that allowed the university to buy Hollywood-level production resources.

According to manager Rob Frank, "we have everything you could need for a small

budget indie production." He's not kidding. For example, as Reda's production headed to Newport, Rhode Island for additional filming, he assumed he would secure the digital media cards he needed in Boston. Instead, GEAR sent him off with the necessary equipment. In fact, clients from as far away

When Reda's documentary airs, expect ample footage of present day Erie to offset the interviews and historical recreations. According to Reda, "it's very important, visually, to remind people with contemporary footage that something major took place here."

as Los Angeles have relied on them for supplies.

Frank is especially excited about GEAR's educational potential: "There are a lot of local people who are aspiring filmmakers. And they may have simple equipment, but they have **[Cont. on page 37]**



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## Getting in Touch with Erie Cinema

Is he or she – or these films of the 814 – worth the encore?

By: Matt Swanseger

From the dawn of VHS to the rise of “Netflix and Chill,” “movie night” has become the most over-handed play in human courtship. Whoever’s making the pitch isn’t trying to throw one past you; they’re serving up a hanging curve-ball right over the plate. If you just met this person, you can probably assume his or her WHIP (Walked-out-ons and Hit-and-runs per Invitations Pitched) is astronomical. If you’re better acquainted, it can be the base-path towards a more serious (and/or complicated) relationship. Before you slide into it, ask yourself how you want this film to be – summer blockbuster, all flash and no substance? Or winner of a Golden Globe, celebrated for your individual merits?

Whether or not you #KeepItLocal on the couch or futon is, as always, your choice and yours alone. If Casanova is all over you like Erie on top of Crawford County, tell him you’re going to make like Vengano and give it some space. You shouldn’t feel pressured to be anything but Warren County until you’re ready.

So it is too with the action onscreen. A handful of motion pictures, both independent and major, have been filmed in the 814 – but are they worth grabbing onto?

**Krampus: The Christmas Devil (2013)**

**DIRECTED/WRITTEN BY: Jason Hull**

**STARRING: A.J. Leslie, Richard Goteri, Paul Ferm, Brad Weaver**

**SYNOPSIS:** A local police officer connects a string of pre-holiday kidnappings to an incident of his own childhood. The title character is based on the demonic figure from Austro-Bavarian folklore, Santa Claus’ half-goat brother (obviously from another mother – I



suppose it’s best to leave it at that) who punishes the ill-behaved.

**FILMING LOCALES:** Edinboro (Police Station, Edinboro Hotel Bar), Cambridge Springs

**AVAILABLE ON:** YouTube (may require linking small screen to big screen; always carry an S-video cable in your wallet if you plan on hooking up)

**IMDB RATING:** 1.8/10 (618 users)

**COMMENTS:** Krampus your style? You must be a cheap date. This flick is two tangled strands of Christmas lights

Whether or not you #KeepItLocal on the couch or futon is, as always, your choice and yours alone. A handful of motion pictures, both independent and major, have been filmed in the 814 – but are they worth grabbing onto?

with a few bulbs missing – the affected seriousness of cop drama doesn’t quite mesh with the affected silliness of creature feature, and bright spots are few and far between. Those tend to be the bro-ments between Krampus and Kringle, especially as they prioritize the (quintessential)

Naughty List. The “priority” brats are dragged into a detainment cave where they are interrogated by Santa, then either sentenced or released (yes, the North Pole has its own corrupt judicial system). I would have liked to see Krampus as more than a mere errand-runner (maybe in the sequel due out in September), but it’s worth seeing him progress through his workflows. What he lacks in refinement he makes up for in charisma: “You ... have ... been ... naughty!” Two hooves up for keeping Hammurabi’s Law alive for the holidays.

**Skull Forest (2012)**



**DIRECTED/WRITTEN BY: Len Kabasinski**

**STARRING: Sara Brooks, Lisa Neeld, Pamela Sutch, Melissa Scott**

**SYNOPSIS:** A camping trip goes awry as four female friends find themselves hunted by “The Society,” social elites who kill for sport.

**FILMING LOCALES:** Downtown Erie, Fairview

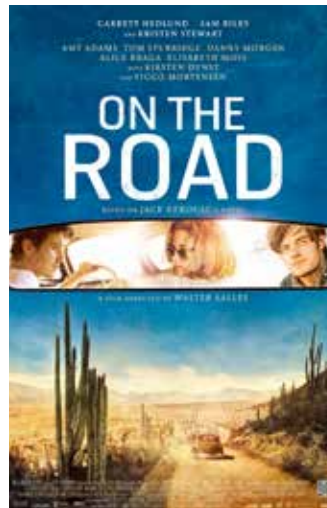
**AVAILABLE ON:** Amazon Video

**IMDB RATING:** 3.0/10 (123 users)

**COMMENTS:** “Starring Playboy Centerfold Lisa Neeld” is a dead giveaway of where this one’s focus lies. If only the film’s other aspects (plot, dialogue, characters) were

as developed as the female anatomy showcased throughout. Essentially, this film boils down to stock characters stalking stocked up-top characters, interspersed with the gruesome gore effects of “Monster” Mark Kosobucki. The hunters are hastily introduced at a banquet ceremony, and most of the lady friends are killed off before we learn much about them. Of the four protagonists, Caroline (Sara Brooks) is the survivor and most fully realized of the bunch – as a young mother, she has much to live for and kicks some ass along the way. Call me shallow, but Daniel Spinelli, aka “The Rockstar” (James Scott Charles Howells), seems the likeliest candidate for marquee villain (of course, there’s more to villainy than heterochromia and an Australian accent, but it’s a decent start).

**On The Road (2012)**



**DIRECTED BY: Walter Salles**  
**WRITTEN BY: Jack Kerouac (novel), Jose Rivera (screenplay)**

**STARRING: Sam Riley, Garrett Hedlund, Kristen Stewart**  
**SYNOPSIS:** This adaptation of the largely autobiographical Kerouac novel chronicles the journeys of writer Sal Paradise and friend Dean

Moriarty across America. Sex, drugs, and rockabilly figure heavily into this inside look at the Beat Generation of post-WWII.

**FILMING LOCALES:** Spans the USA (New York, San Francisco, and everything in between) and beyond. Astute observers might recognize Erie’s rural outskirts as the gang passes through – only because they’re coated in snow.

**AVAILABLE ON:** Netflix  
**IMDB RATING:** 6.1/10 (32,000+ users)

**COMMENTS:** Believe it or not, the moral decline of America’s youth began long before the emergence of “Netflix and Chill.” Moriarty’s debauchery will make your divan dalliances seem almost chaste by comparison. Marijuana, peyote, orgies, and buggery!

Believe it or not, the moral decline of America’s youth began long before the emergence of “Netflix and Chill.” Moriarty’s debauchery will make your divan dalliances seem almost chaste by comparison.

(Gasp!) Repeat traffic violations! (*exasperated arm fling*) However, one person’s degenerate is another’s visionary, and so it was with the so-called beatniks (who presaged the counterculture movements of the ‘60s that followed). The Beat Generation celebrated freedom to its most unfettered extremes, which is both as exhilarating and frightening as it sounds. The cast here does a respectable job of conveying that – even if their behavior is, at least to this upstanding Millennial, reprehensible.



**The Road (2009)**

**DIRECTED BY:** John Hillcoat  
**WRITTEN BY:** Cormac McCarthy (novel), Joe Penhall (screenplay)

**STARRING:** Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Robert Duvall, Charlize Theron

**SYNOPSIS:** The housing bubble – along with society in general – collapses in the wake of a global cataclysm, leaving a man and his boy desperately seeking food (that isn't human flesh) and refuge (i.e. a "real fixer-upper" not already inhabited by cannibals).

**FILMING LOCALES:** Presque Isle, Conneaut Lake Park

**AVAILABLE ON:** Amazon Video

**IMDB RATING:** 7.3/10 (174,000 + users)

**COMMENTS:** Boy, it's not easy being the Man. Taking charge during your premeditated kissy-face time can be intimidating, no question, but taking



charge during the downfall of civilization? Downright nerve-wracking. But hey, a Man (Mortensen) has got to do what a Man's got to do. And that's keep Boy (Smit-McPhee) safe at any cost. At its core, this is a father-son bonding film, albeit a fairly depressing and bittersweet one. In our reality, fathers and sons bond over learning to ride a

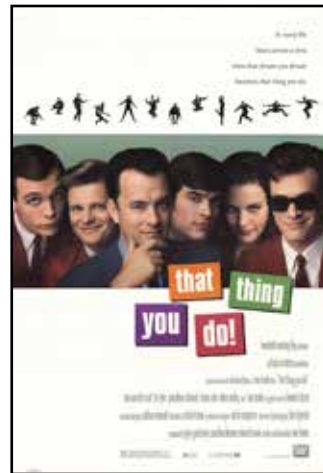
bicycle or swing a golf club. In theirs, tender moments include explaining the concept of perishable foods (c'mere, junior – it's time to have the old Birds Eye and Bumblebee tuna talk) or how to properly load a revolver to deliver your own coup d' grace. You'd be taking *The Road* less travelled queuing this up for date night, but you'd be on track for the ideal Father's Day gift.

**That Thing You Do! (1996)**

**WRITTEN/DIRECTED BY:** Tom Hanks

**STARRING:** Hanks, Tom Everett Scott, Liv Tyler, Johnathon Schaech, Steve Zahn

**SYNOPSIS:** When Erie drummer Guy Patterson (Tom Everett Scott) isn't selling appliances in his dad's store, he's ad-libbing fills to jazz records in his basement. Soon enough he's filling in for regular drummer Chad (Pete Best – I mean, Giovanni Ribisi) in his friends'



band. One fateful tempo shift to a Jimmy Mattingly (Johnathon Schaech) ballad later and the Oneders (O'Nayders? O'Needers?) are on a ride to overnight stardom.

**FILMING LOCALES:** Exterior shots were taken of Mercyhurst College, but the commercial district is actually a section of Orange, California retrofitted to look like the Erie of the 1960s.

**IMDB RATING:** 6.9/10 (50,000 + reviews)

**COMMENTS:** Good vibes eroded from the other titles on this list? Let *That Thing You Do* replenish the sands of your soul. Director Tom Hanks (who also plays the band's manager, Mr. White) also needed a pleasant distraction when he penned the script, and that is reflected in the result. Musical drama, pop culture satire, and romantic comedy harmonize wonderfully in a film that yields more warm fuzzies than a poplar grove in early June. Your eyes may get a bit runny during its storybook ending, but don't worry – a little sensitivity is nothing to sneeze at.

*Matt Swanseger can be reached at mswanseger@eriereader.com. You can follow him on Twitter @SwazzySwagga.*

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For the full Summer Term 2016 lineup and to register for these events,  
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# Spotlight on Erie

July 6 – 19, 2016

**Wednesday, July 6**

## Mid-day Art Break Continues at the Erie Art Museum



It's the middle of the day in the middle of the week. Meh ... damn slump.

But stop, look, and listen. The Erie Art Museum's Fifth Street patio is where you'll find your remedy: just the kinds of things – live local music, beautiful art, and some good grub – to get, and keep, you movin' and groovin' for the rest of the day and through to the weekend. A metro-Erie summertime lunch hour favorite happening every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m., the 2016 run of EAM's Mid-day Art Breaks features short-and-sweet sets by highly talented local performers, along with free gallery tours from 12:30 to 1, and tasty vittles on offer from the museum's Wave Cafe.

The series – which kicked off June 1 – continues Wednesday, July 6 with a set by Erie blues-rockers Ron Yarosz

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EAM's Mid-day Art Breaks features short-and-sweet sets by highly talented local performers, along with free gallery tours from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

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and The Vehicle, followed by a performance by local singer-songwriters/folk-soundscapers The Heliotropes on July 13.

From there, the series runs through Aug. 31 with a stacked schedule of live music for the lunch break. The museum hosts the events with funding and support from various local business sponsors.

Summertime and Mid-day Art Breaks are both well under way – and so is the work week – but there are still two months' worth of good times to help you get over the hump. See you there. – Ryan Smith

Noon to 1 p.m. // 411 State St. // [erieartmuseum.org/performances/middayart](http://erieartmuseum.org/performances/middayart)

**Wednesday, July 6**

## Holler if You Want to Hear The Ghost of Paul Revere



The Ghost of Paul Revere's rollicking, folksy tunes will soon carry the band back to Erie where they are excited to take the stage as part of the UPMC Sunset Music Series. The band brings its raw authenticity to headline at Beach 1 on Presque Isle, supported by Max Garcia Conover – one of the band's "favorite" musicians according to Sherry Griffin, lead singer and guitarist. "It sure sounds like we're going to have quite a bit of fun on the beach that day," he adds.

---

The Ghost of Paul Revere open up their souls through their music, carrying the essence of several American places.

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This self-described "hollerfolk" band is comprised of a group of Maine-based childhood friends. Max Davis plays banjo and contributes to the thoughtful, harmonious vocals; Sean McCarthy is on bass (he also sings and rounds out the tight three-part harmonies); and Matt Young plays harmonica and mandolin. So what is hollerfolk, exactly? Griffin explains that the sound "takes inspiration from old field hollers and traditional American folk music with a fair amount of rhythm & blues and rock 'n' roll." The band showcase their sweeping, melancholic – and, at times, foot-stomping – sound on their Spotify page. A standout track, "San Antone," places jangling guitars as punctuation over gorgeous, echoing harmonies; in this track, the bluesy, folksy vibe is palpable, and a hefty dose of mid-song harmonica gymnastics add some homegrown Americana.

It's clear The Ghost of Paul Revere open up their souls through their mu-

sic, carrying the essence of several American places, straddling eras, and combining genres to create their distinctive sound. "I think nothing compares to the honesty and emotion of old time roots music," Griffin says. "The musicians have nothing to hide behind and their passion fuels the energy of the performance" – something that will be demonstrated when they take the stage. – Miriam Lamey

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

**Wednesday, July 6**

## Ray Flynt Brings Ben Franklin to Erie



Ray Flynt, 70, has participated in more than 65 theatrical productions.

Perhaps the perfect man to play Ben Franklin, this cheerful and lively actor portrayed America's beloved founding father three times in 1776, the musical, before writing and performing in his own one-man play, *Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life*.

From July 6 to 10, Flynt will assume that role again. Shows begin each evening at 8 p.m. in the Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA) Theatre, where he first performed the play in May 2014.

When the curtains open, Flynt welcomes the audience into Franklin's living room and tells them a series of charming, entertaining stories that reflect Franklin's unique personality. About 95 percent of the play consists of Franklin's own rhetoric, but an *Erie Times-News* review assures that the wording isn't difficult to understand.

Within two acts, there is something to appeal to everyone in the audience.

"If you don't like what you're listening to right now. Just wait a minute and a half," Flynt jokes.

While the setting is Franklin's Philadelphia home, his stories take the au-

dience to New York, Boston and even across the Atlantic to London and Paris.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Flynt now resides in Florida. He is the author of several books, including a mystery series about Brad Frame, a private detective. He began writing because he took a job that required him to travel; he wasn't able to perform as often, so writing served as a "creative outlet." He is currently working on *Embalmed*, the sixth book in the Brad Frame series.

---

Flynt welcomes the audience into Franklin's living room and tells them a series of charming, entertaining stories that reflect Franklin's unique personality.

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Following the show, Flynt returns to the stage as himself, where he holds a conversation with the audience. He hopes to receive feedback regarding the performance and enjoys sharing additional anecdotes that he couldn't include in the play. – Tracy Geibel

8 p.m. // 1505 State St. // 434.0687 // [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com)

**Thursday, July 7**

## Erie Downtown Partnership's Block Parties Continue



SMILO & THE GHOST

A good time for a good cause. That's the idea behind the Erie Downtown Partnership's Block Party series. Now until August 25, you can spend your Thursday nights at a local venue, listening to live music and supporting a worthy charity.

On July 7, Smilo & the Ghost will perform with C. Cross and East Coast Turnaround at McCoy's Barrelhouse and Grill. Proceeds will benefit Boots on Ground.

Tyler Smilo, vocalist and guitarist



from Smilo & the Ghost, was born in Texas, raised in Ohio, and lived a “vagabond’s lifestyle” before finding a permanent home in Erie, where he became an important part of the music scene. He has two solo albums, *Blood Into Sound* and *Dust in a Grave*. He hopes his mu-

East Coast Turnaround classifies its music as “trucker rock,” considering its band members to be the fathers of the genre.

sic will leave a “lasting impression” on everyone who listens.

East Coast Turnaround classifies its music as “trucker rock,” considering its band members to be the fathers of the genre. From Jeannette, Pennsylvania, the band enjoys music from the Highland Brothers Band, The Hawkeyes, and others.

Later this month, a party at Sluggers Bar and Grill will support Make-A-Wish, and another at Sherlock’s Park Place and 28 North Gastropub will support Therapy Dogs United, Inc.

Block Party locations and entertainers vary each week, but they will be held Thursday nights until Aug. 25 from 6 to 10:30 p.m. – Tracy Geibel

6:00 p.m. // 1013 State St. // [eriedowntown.com](http://eriedowntown.com)

Friday, July 8

**Tiger Maple String Band Kicks Off WQLN’s Sounds Around Town Series**



From murder ballads and love songs to old-time work tunes – all rendered clear, true, and from the heart – the talented members of Tiger Maple String Band are some of the region’s finest progenitors of deep-rooted Appalachian string music traditions.

The Edinboro-based quintet is also a staple of the area’s live performance scene, especially during the summer’s various open-air, family-friendly, laid-back musical gatherings.

WQLN’s Sounds Around Town summer concert series is a sweet little set of such happenings, and Tiger Maple will kick off the 2016 season when they perform at the pond-side pavilion on the local public radio station’s campus.

Sounds Around Town continues each

Friday evening, with slated sets by the Gem City Jazz Ensemble on July 15; Salmon Frank on July 22; Erie Playhouse performers on July 29; and Liquid Nixon on Aug. 5.

Tiger Maple String Band are some of the region’s finest progenitors of deep-rooted Appalachian string music traditions.

Each installment of Sounds Around Town (free to everyone, and recorded for airing both on WQLN radio and TV stations) is emceed by WQLN Radio’s Gary Finney. As an added bonus, local craft beer and coffee samples will also be on hand.

As always, it’s good, local music (and other good, local stuff) presented by people in the know about such things. That’s well worth tuning in to. – Ryan Smith

7 p.m. // 8425 Peach St. // [WQLN.org](http://WQLN.org)

Friday, July 8

**One Slight Hitch Debuts at the Erie Playhouse**

Don’t always equate Black with blue. *One Slight Hitch*, a 2013 play by comic-cum-social critic Lewis Black, is soon to hit the Erie Playhouse foot-

lights as part of their Mainstage Series. Black is best known as a stand-up comedian and contributor during Jon Stewart’s tenure on *The Daily Show*, with his *Back in Black* expletive-laced jeremiads. However, unbeknownst to most, Black graduated from Yale School of Drama in 1977 and began his public career as a playwright, having “wrought” many plays since 1981.

“*Hitch* does not have the explosive rants and colorful language that are signatures of Black’s own comic persona,” assures Shawn Clerkin, the show’s director. “While the patriarch character, ‘Doc,’ may share some of Black’s comic perspectives, the other characters in the play are cleverly drawn and as recognizable as members of our own families.”

Unbeknownst to most, Lewis Black graduated from Yale School of Drama in 1977 and began his public career as a playwright.

He adds, “Ultimately, while [*Hitch*] has Black’s unmistakable rhythms and visions, it is more sentimental, even somewhat ‘sweet’ in its celebration of the strength of family and power of individual resolve in the face of matrimonial madness.”

Cast member Adele Crotty Gross,

MUSIC

**Sing-along with Lori**

July 6, 13, 20 — 11 to 11:50 a.m.  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org)

**Midday Artbreak: Ron Yarosz**

July 6 — noon to 1 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum’s Wave Cafe, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://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](http://discoverpi.com)

**Songwriter Sunset**

July 7, 14 — 7 p.m.  
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com)

**Abbey Road**

July 7 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Frontier Park Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org)

**Frank Singer plays Solo Jazz Guitar**

July 8 — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Bayfront Grill Lounge, 55

W. Bay Dr. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com)

**Geek Army**

July 8 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com)

**Abbey Road**

July 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com)

**Dave Callaghan Quartet**

July 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Wegman’s Cafeteria, 6143 Peach St. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com)

**Tiger Maple String Band**

July 8 — 7 p.m.  
WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. [wqln.org](http://wqln.org)

**The HighLife**

July 8 — 7 p.m.  
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com)

**Chris Higbee**

July 8, 9 — 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com)

**The American Idiots**

July 8 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/](http://facebook.com/)

[sherlocksparkplace.com](http://sherlocksparkplace.com)

**Formula 5**

July 8 — 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub)

**Elvis Returns**

July 9 — noon to 1 p.m.  
Borough Stage, 134 W. Main St. [girardboroughpa.us](http://girardboroughpa.us)

**The Breeze Band**

July 9 — 5 to 9 p.m.  
Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. [pennshore.com](http://pennshore.com)

**Ron Yarman**

July 9 — 5:30 p.m.  
Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Dr. [uglytunatavern.com](http://uglytunatavern.com)

**Next of Kin**

July 9 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com)

**Pat Martino Organ Trio**

July 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Romolo Chocolates, 1525 W. 8th. [facebook.com/romolochocolates](http://facebook.com/romolochocolates)

**Crown the City 2016**

July 9 — 6 to 11 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com/events/1791678424398489](http://facebook.com/events/1791678424398489)

**The Legendary Leader of Men**

July 9 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace)

**Claire Stuczynski & Friends and SYMBA**

July 9 — 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub)

**Chelsea & Friends**

July 10 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com)

**Simply Because**

July 10 — 5 p.m.  
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com)

**The Groove**

July 10 — 7 p.m.  
WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. [wqln.org](http://wqln.org)

**Chris Higbee**

July 12 — 6:30 p.m.  
Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier porterie.org.

**Gem City Jazz Ensemble**

July 12 — 7 to 8 p.m.  
New Hope Presbyterian Church, 5440 Washington Ave. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com)

**Midday Artbreak: The Heliotropes**

July 13 — noon to 1 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum’s Wave Cafe, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)

**Eric Brewer & Friends and Tennessee Backporch**

July 13 — 5:30 p.m.  
Beach 1 at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [discoverpi.com](http://discoverpi.com)

**Rock & Roll Sherlocks**

July 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace)

**Old School**

July 14 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com)

**Familiar Spirit Band**

July 14 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Frontier Park Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org)

**Adam Cook**

July 15 — 4 to 5 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [basementtransmissions.com](http://basementtransmissions.com)

**Small Town Revolution**

July 15 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe’s, 28 North Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com)

**The Vendetta’s**

July 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com)

**Gem City Jazz Ensemble**

July 15 — 7 p.m.  
WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. [wqln.org](http://wqln.org)

**Claire Stuczynski**

July 15 — 7 p.m.  
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com)

**AVE3 by the Avenue Collective**

July 15 — 7 to 11:45 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com/events/207444152983051](http://facebook.com/events/207444152983051)

**The Groove**

July 15 — 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs &



## CALENDAR

who's playing "Melanie," explains: "It's one of the funniest shows I've ever done, without a doubt. The cast and director spend most of the rehearsals laughing our butts off, even though we've heard the lines every night. The comedic and acting talent in the cast is excellent and we are having a blast with it."

Gross concludes: "If you like Lewis Black, you'll love this show!" – Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

July 8 through July 24, showtimes vary // 13 W. 10th St. // 454.2852 or [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org)

### Friday, July 8

#### Erie Art Museum Holds a "Vibrant" Gallery Night



Erie comes alive on Gallery Night, as local arts organizations open their doors after hours to show off the city's vibrant arts scene.

On July 8, the Erie Art Museum will hold its third Gallery Night of 2016.

The event features local artwork at the museum and several other local venues. Those who hope to attend should start mapping out their road trip now, as there are eight different locations to visit in only three hours.

Participating galleries will feature

Erie comes alive on Gallery Night, as local arts organizations open their doors after hours to show off the city's vibrant arts scene.

everything from Lena Logvina's new jewelry collection displayed at Artlore Studio and Maggie Flately's beautiful landscape paintings at Lighthouse Jewelers, to John Ballard's unique, upcycled driftwood projects at Glass Growers Gallery and E. Michael Camp's masterful pastel and oil paintings at the Bayfront Gallery.

The Erie Art Museum will present Jose Picayo Polaroids (1986-2015) for this occasion and offer a meet and greet with Picayo. The 93rd Annual Spring Show, *Nocturnal Emissions* by Alison Stinely, and *Dark Garden*, an installation by Linda Huey, will also be on display.

Visitors can travel around the city to experience it all for free, while sharing the fun on social media with the hashtag, #vibranterie.

Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

#### Ron Yarosz and The Vehicle

July 15 — 10 p.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### Kevin Howard

July 16 — 5 to 9 p.m.

Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. [pennshore.com](http://pennshore.com).

#### Jake's Blues

July 16 — 6 p.m.

Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com).

#### Richie Cole

July 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Romolo Chocolates, 1525 W. 8th. [facebook.com/romolochocolates](http://facebook.com/romolochocolates).

#### Adam McKillip

July 16 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

#### Division Street Machine

July 16 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

#### Purple Jam II

July 16 — 10 p.m.

Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### Gem City Jazz Ensemble

July 17 — noon to 1:30 p.m.

Waterford Park, Waterford, PA [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

#### Sunday Sesh with Gem City Revival

July 17 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing, 8398 W. Main Rd. [fiveand20.com](http://fiveand20.com).

#### The Coteries

July 17 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com/events](http://arundelcellars.com/events).

#### First to Eleven

July 17 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [basementtransmissions.com](http://basementtransmissions.com).

#### Jesse Weston

July 17 — 5 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. [edinborolakeresort.com](http://edinborolakeresort.com).

#### Tennessee Backporch

July 17 — 7p.m.

WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. [wqln.org](http://wqln.org).

#### He is Legend

July 19

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [basementtransmissions.com](http://basementtransmissions.com).

#### 10,000 Maniacs and Smilo & the Ghost

July 19 — 6:30 p.m.

Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier [porterierie.org](http://porterierie.org).

#### Midday Artbreak: Erie Philharmonic

July 20 — noon to 1 p.m.

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

### DANCE

#### Hollywood Canteen Dance

July 16 — 7 to 11 p.m.

Weis Library United Methodist Church, 6020 Heidler Rd. [facebook.com/Stardust-Ballroom-Dance-Club-of-Erie-597514403606573](http://facebook.com/Stardust-Ballroom-Dance-Club-of-Erie-597514403606573).

### FOOD & DRINK

#### Erie Food Tours

July 8, 9, 15, 16 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Like My Thai, 827 State St. [eriefoodtours.com](http://eriefoodtours.com).

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A complete list of locations and their addresses is available on Erie Art Museum's website.

The next Gallery Night is scheduled for Friday, September 23. Any organization can join in, but all venues should display original artwork and are encouraged to offer live entertainment, artist meet-and-greets, and demonstrations. If your business or studio would like to participate, contact the Erie Art Museum by Friday, August 5. — Tracy Geibel

7 p.m. // Various locations // 459.5477 // [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)

**Saturday, July 16**

**Purple Jam II Debuts Six New Bands**



Purple Jam is a different kind of show: a large scale musical collaboration that produces interesting results. This year, 38 musicians signed up

to participate. They wrote down their instrument of choice and waited. Soon, local musician and event organizer Adam Holquist announced six brand new group lineups.

Purple Jam is a tribute to local musician Kurt Sahlmann, who passed away suddenly in 2015. Sahlmann fronted the group Kurt's Purples.

Growing out of the "Barrage Band" shows helmed by Martin Wolper, Purple Jam mashes together an eclectic collective of Erie musicians ready to create something new, no matter how ephemeral. More than that, the show is a tribute to local musician Kurt Sahlmann, who passed away suddenly in 2015. Sahlmann fronted the group Kurt's Purples, whose musical mythology held that the color in question served as a kind of creative conduit. Holquist explained the conception, noting that "I had been a part of some of the Barrage shows, which was an experience that I really loved and one that I'd been thinking was due for a comeback. And apparently, shortly before he passed away, Kurt had been having similar conversations with [music promoter] Ryan Bartosek, about

wanting to see this idea come back. So, we thought, what better tribute?"

Each band is given time to practice and write original songs. Band members vary from professional sidemen and music educators to relative newcomers. There are poets, punks, shredders, and singer-songwriters all making music together.

Holquist detailed how the event holds meaning for many involved, saying that "Kurt was a friend, and a big supporter of what I do, along with so many others in Erie. He spent years and years hosting jams and open mics and trying to foster collaboration, so it's the kind of event that we think he would've really gotten behind and been happy about." — Nick Warren

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

**Tuesday, July 19**

**More Great Summer Sounds on the Bay**

Another sonically promising installment of 8 Great Tuesdays arrives July 19 at the Amphitheater at Liberty Park. Icons 10,000 Maniacs will take the stage, supported by local artist Tyler Smilo heading up his latest outfit, Smilo & the Ghost. Smilo, lead vocalist and guitarist, says that this folk and Americana-influenced project "features some



10,000 MANIACS

of the best players in the city." The lineup also includes Adam McKillip (mandolin, vocals), Jassen Wilber (bass), Abby Barrett (violin and viola), and Eric Brewer (lap steel, guitar) — whom local music aficionados will recognize from his eponymous band, Eric Brewer & Friends.

Smilo, lead vocalist and guitarist, says that this folk and Americana-influenced project "features some of the best players in the city."

According to Smilo, the group came together quickly and have been working hard. "I am extremely proud of what this band have been able to do in such a short amount of time." He adds, "I couldn't have asked for a better lineup — [these are] all seasoned, creative players." The sound is classic Amer-

**Yappy Hours: Dog Friendly Happy Hours**

July 8, 22 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
The Brewerrie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. [brewerrie.com](http://brewerrie.com).

**FILM**

**Robots Movie**

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trecpi.org](http://trecpi.org).

**D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie**

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — noon & 4 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trecpi.org](http://trecpi.org).

**Mysteries of the Great Lakes**

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 1 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trecpi.org](http://trecpi.org).

**Journey to Space**

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 2 & 5 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trecpi.org](http://trecpi.org).

**The Fits**

July 6 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Phantom from Space (1953)**

July 7 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

**Gabriel Scott from the Bleeder Project and Sons of Steel (1988)**

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

**Songs My Brother Taught Me**

July 13 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Cowspiracy (2014)**

July 15 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

**The Wasp Woman (1959)**

July 16 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 Westlake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).

**VISUAL ARTS**

**93rd Annual Spring Show**

Ongoing through July 17  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Upcycled Shores: Collages, Sculptures & Bowls by John Ballard & Christine Salva**

Ongoing through Aug. 2  
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. [glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).

**Art on the Hill**

Ongoing through Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

**Nocturnal Emissions by Alison Stinely**

Ongoing through Sep. 17  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Henry Katzwinkel**

Ongoing through Oct. 17  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Dark Garden**

Ongoing through Jan 8, 2017  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State

[erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Jose Picayo Polaroids: A Retrospective**

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

**Gallery Night**

July 8 — 7 to 10 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Reflections of Erie**

July 8 — 7 to 10 p.m. & July 9 — 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. & July 10 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Niagara Bank Community Room, 801 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Second Sundays**

July 10 — 1 to 5 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**InnovationErie Competition 2016**

July 15 through Sept. 25  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**Teacher Week**

July 18 through 22  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

**THEATRE**

**The Fantasticks**

July 6, 11, 12, 13 — noon & July 8, 9, 15, 16 — 7 p.m. & July 10, 17 — 2:30 p.m.  
Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. [theriversideinn.com](http://theriversideinn.com).

**Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life**

July 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 — 8 p.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. [pacal1505.com](http://pacal1505.com).

**One Slight Hitch**

July 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23 — 7:30 p.m. & July 17, 24 — 2 p.m.  
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

**Dick Clarkson's Jukebox Hop**

July 9, 16, 23 — 5:30 p.m. & July 12, 13, 26, 27 — noon & July 17 — 2:30 p.m.  
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [canterburyfeast.com](http://canterburyfeast.com).

**Hamlet**

July 11, 13, 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Frontier Park Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org).

**Fortinbras**

July 12, 18, 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Frontier Park Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org).

**Motherhood Out Loud**

July 12, 19, 26 — 7:30 p.m.  
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

**Bed, Beth and Beyond**

July 14, 15, 16 — 8 p.m. & July 17 — 1 p.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. [pacal1505.com](http://pacal1505.com).

**COMMUNITY**

**Branching Out**

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

**Thursday Teen Time**

Ongoing through Aug. 18 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.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](http://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](http://asburywoods.org).



# Little Italy Farmers' Market

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## Event Dates:

July 18<sup>th</sup> & September 19<sup>th</sup>  
Live Music from Matt (Broke) Boland,  
JC Nickles, Yung Skolar and Heather  
DeVore/Clever Normans

Little Italy Farmers' Market doubles SNAP benefits and also accepts WIC and Senior vouchers.



## CALENDAR

icana, with a hearty emotive lilt and jaunty melodies. Check out "Nothing's Changed" via the band's Facebook page for a taste of their locally-spiced sound. This track layers instrumentation carefully, with a strong violin sweeping listeners into the first verse, and then into a hearty, booming chorus which sways up and above the rapid strumming and rhythm. "I've always wanted a full string band," Smilo says.

Smilo & the Ghost will no doubt raise up the crowd for 10,000 Maniacs, whose wide-ranging appeal and rich musical experience has engaged fans for decades. The Maniacs' latest release from last April, *Twice Told Tales*, is a collection of British Isles-inspired folk songs, complementing the storytelling sonic theme. — Miriam Lamey

6:30 p.m. // Lawrence Pier // [porter.org](http://porter.org)

### Tuesday, July 19

## He is Legend Brings Superlative Modern Rock to Basement Transmissions



Some would have you believe that rock music, at least good rock music, is dead in the dirt. But He is Legend is here to dissolve that belief, and "He" is

coming to Basement Transmissions on July 19 to prove it.

He is Legend formed in 2003 in North Carolina, and released two albums before going on hiatus in 2009, then returning in 2011. The band's latest album, *Heavy Fruit*, peaked at number 148 on the U.S. Billboard 200.

He is Legend might not sound like the typical hard rock bands that topped the charts back when the genre was at its pinnacle. But the band's music

He is Legend's music is modern hard rock at its finest, incorporating the best aspects of other rock genres and creating something wholly original.

is modern hard rock at its finest, incorporating the best aspects of other rock genres and creating something wholly original. Songs like "Attack of the Dungeon Witch" blend hard rock with Southern metal, "The Seduction" toes the lines of punk and screamo, and "Suck out the Poison" could be mistaken for a Foo Fighters song if it weren't for the vocals. Pick out any of their songs at random, and you could find a set of influences completely different from the rest.

Also on the bill are Jesse Smith & The Holy Ghost. Smith was the founding drummer of the Christian metal band Zao, but left the band to write his own music: still Christian-themed, but with a more mellow alternative and hard rock sound. — Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$15 // All ages // [facebook.com/events/246400792409179/](http://facebook.com/events/246400792409179/)

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Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov)

### Debunking Food Labels

July 6, 16 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org)

### Hatha Yoga 1 and Beyond

July 6, 13, 20, 27 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. E. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org)

### Children's Art Classes

July 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 — 10:30 a.m. to noon

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org)

### Vigil to Stop the Bomb

### Trains in Erie, PA

July 6 — 12:15 to 1 p.m.

US Federal Building, 17 South Park Row [actionnetwork.org](http://actionnetwork.org)

### Digital Photography: Seeing with New Eyes

July 6 — 2 to 4 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org)

### Farmers Market

July 6, 13, 20 — 3 to 6 p.m.

Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org)

### The Art of Inner Transformation

July 6, 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. [abodeoftheheart.org](http://abodeoftheheart.org)

### Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

July 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 — 7

to 8:30 p.m.

Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov)

### LECOM Health Challenge

July 7, 8, 9, 10

Peek'n Peak Resort Regency Pub, 1405 Olde Rd. [lecomhealthchallenge.com](http://lecomhealthchallenge.com)

### Life Enrichment Event

July 7, 13 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. [bhaktaschool.org](http://bhaktaschool.org)

### Wise Words for Wellness

July 7 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org)

### Erie Downtown Block Party

July 7 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.





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# LECOM Health Challenge Tees Off At The Peak

The Web.com Tour brings world class golf to our region.



PEXELS

By: Matt Swanseger

It's a long way to the top if you want to golf with pros. Peek N' Peak's Upper Course will host the Web.com Tour for the first time since 2007 with the inaugural LECOM Health Challenge, daring would-be PGA golfers to get on its level.

The Web.com Tour first teed off in 1990 as the Ben Hogan

Tour and has since undergone an identity crisis befitting a disenfranchised 'tween, variously known as the Nike Tour (1993-99), Buy.com Tour (2000-02), and Nationwide Tour (2003-2011) before its current sponsor acquired naming rights in 2012. Typical events (e.g. the LECOM Health Challenge) split a pot of \$600,000 amongst the qualifi-

ers, with \$108,000 going to the winner. While a pittance compared to the multi-million dollar prizes at stake in the PGA Tour, it's still enough to cover the guacamole up-charge at the golfer's burrito establishment of choice.

The top 25 regular season and top 25 Finals finishers are granted their PGA Tour Cards, but competitors will ultimately want to win the whole enchilada, as first place in each category merits exemption status and an invitation to the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida (with a purse in excess of \$10.5 million – i.e., even 36th place is worth at least the “super premium” option at the automated car wash). The current Web.com Tour earner (as of the Nashville Open which wrapped up June 19) is Wesley Brown, with a total haul of \$296,092. Richy Werenski is within putting distance of

Brown at \$263,470 YTD, but the rest of the top 25 trails him by \$100,000 or more. Thus they can scarcely afford to settle for second on the Peak's unforgiving Upper Course.

The 7,061-yard par-72 grades

The 7,061-yard par-72 grades on a steep curve, with hazards and “menacing” bunkers awaiting the LECOM challengers at every turn – a fair way to label it would be rough.

on a steep curve, with hazards and “menacing” bunkers awaiting the LECOM challengers at every turn – a fair way to label it would be rough. As with any course worthy of a professional place-setting, a premium is placed on club selection and precision. On the menu for less

savvy competitors is golf ball dredged in sandtrap, served with a pitching wedge. However, those equal to the task may one day sip champagne with the likes of Web.com graduates Zach Johnson, Brandt Snedeker, Bill Haas, Bubba Watson, and Jason Dufner in a Majors clubhouse.

Don't miss a live sneak peek at upward mobility amidst the untouchable splendor of Clymer, New York this summer – for as little (\$10) or as much (\$100) as your caste designation allows.

Thursday and Friday tee times 7:30 a.m., Holes 1 and 10; Saturday and Sunday tee times 8 a.m., Hole 1 // 1405 Olde Rd., Clymer NY // [pknpk.com/golf/pga](http://pknpk.com/golf/pga) // Free for 18-and-under, \$10 single day pass, \$25 four-day pass, \$100 VIP day pass (air-conditioned tents, all-you-can-eat-and-drink)

McCoy's Barrelhouse and Grill, 1013 State St. [eriedowntown.com](http://eriedowntown.com).

### Metalworking Art Class

July 8 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Erie County Public Library  
Locations, [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Greek Fest

July 8 — 2:30 to 11 p.m. &  
July 9 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. &  
July 10 — noon to 7 p.m.

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 4376 W. Lake Rd. [erieorthodox.org](http://erieorthodox.org).

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Altoona Curve

July 8, 9 — 7 p.m. &  
July 10 — 1:30 p.m.

Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### Magie Steve

July 8 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd. [ymcaerie.org](http://ymcaerie.org).

### Dead Pond Trail Night Hike

July 8 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Thompson Circle, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### Don't Give Up the Disc

July 9, 10  
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [erieultimate.com](http://erieultimate.com).

### Harley-Davidson Bikefest

July 9 through 17  
Harley-Davidson, 3712 West 12th St. [hderiebikefest.com](http://hderiebikefest.com).

### 15th Annual 2016 NW PA Hamfest

July 9 — 7:30 a.m.  
Greene Township Municipal Building, 9333 Tate Rd. [wattsburg-wireless.us](http://wattsburg-wireless.us).

### The Labatt Undomesticated Games

July 9 — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier [labattgames.com](http://labattgames.com).

### Girard Boro Pool Benefit Action

July 9 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. &  
July 10 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Girard Boro Hall, 134 W. Main St. [girardboroughpa.us](http://girardboroughpa.us).

### Erie Land Lighthouse Tours 2016

July 9, 10 — noon to 4 p.m.  
Foot of Lighthouse St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).

### Mid Summer Wine Festival

July 9 — 1 to 8 p.m.  
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. [lakeeriespeedway.com](http://lakeeriespeedway.com).

### 24th Annual MDA "Miles for Smiles" Ride

July 10 — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Harley-Davidson of Erie, 3712 W. 12th St. [facebook.com/events/1011057208940934](http://facebook.com/events/1011057208940934).

### Pinterest Kids Summer Camp

July 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
The Light in the Woods, 12270 Edinboro Rd. [facebook.com/events/184552998610329](http://facebook.com/events/184552998610329).

### Yogilates with Michelle Curtze

July 10, 17 — 11 a.m. to noon  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org).

### Erie Handmade Fair supports Goodell Gardens

July 10 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org).

### Sunset Tai Chi Classes and Worship

July 10, 17 — 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle State Park Beach 6, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### Teddy Bear Picnic

July 12, 14 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### Therapy Dogs

July 12 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Road to the White House Continued: No Ordinary Time

July 12 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Roar on the Shore

July 13, 14, 15, 16, 17  
Downtown Erie, [roarontheshore.com](http://roarontheshore.com).

### Summer Fairy Gathering

July 13 — 10 to 11 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### Garden Seedlings

July 13 through Aug. 10 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Carrie's Cabin at Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org).

### Gears & Grub

July 14, 15, 16 — noon to 8 p.m.  
West Erie Plaza, [westerieplaza.com/west-erie-gears-grub](http://westerieplaza.com/west-erie-gears-grub).

### Planting your Fall Harvest

July 14 — 6 to 7 p.m.  
Goodell Gardens &

Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org).

### ACA Intro to Kayaking Instruction Course

July 15 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

### "The Debate" Howard Dean vs. Michael Steele moderated by Steve Scully

July 15 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.  
Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy, 2825 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Wine and Dine in the Woods

July 15  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### Punk Rock Flea Market

July 16 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [facebook.com/events/750660895077188](http://facebook.com/events/750660895077188).

### 2nd Annual Kenneth Snider Memorial Car Cruise

July 17 — noon to 4 p.m.  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 950 W. 7th St. [stmattslutheranchurch.org](http://stmattslutheranchurch.org).

### Little Leaves

July 18 — 10 to 10:45 a.m. & 11:15 to noon  
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. [leaferie.org](http://leaferie.org).

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Harrisburg Senators

July 18, 19 — 7 p.m. &  
July 20 — noon  
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### Not Your Mother's Library

July 18 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Bubble and Splash

July 19, 21 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### Cherry Fest

July 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Heard Park, North East [necherryfestival.com](http://necherryfestival.com).

### Erie's Tall Ship

July 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Jim Gaffigan

July 20 — 8 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).



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## The Roar-schach Test

See what you will in Roar as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

By: Matt Swanseger

In case you haven't heard (and if you haven't, you will), Roar on the Shore is returning to Erie for its 10th anniversary this year. Some can Harley wait and others can Harley stand it, but regardless of your stance, you can Harley stop it. If none of this revs your engine, it serves no purpose idling around downtown. However, if you'd like to motorcycle through the array of entertainment options, there are plenty in the hopper for you and your chopper.

**Wednesday, July 13** – The tour roars into town like a Lion with the Fallen Riders Memorial Run, starting at the Penn State Behrend campus and ending at the Hub at Perry Square. REMA-winning cover/tribute band Refuge (rock and country hits) and local favorites Leader of Men (nu-metal/post-grunge) will each play sets before Manufacturer & Business Association and Roar Board Chairman Don Hester and Mayor Joe Sinnott of-

fer welcomes. Opening night concludes with an intro to former Miss Roar on the Shore winners and a headlining performance by Jackyl – who said living in the past couldn't be appealing? Jackyl frontman Jesse James Dupree (literally) takes a chainsaw to that notion with sleazy, bluesy romps such as "The Lumberjack" (although swinging a chainsaw around onstage is a definite liability, it's Stihl kind of awesome).

**Thursday, July 14** – If you have faith in freedom, you're not going to want to miss day two (just wear a helmet, because freedom can sometimes betray you at high velocities). The Faith and Freedom Ride (with stops at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Soldiers' and Sailors' Home) gets things started before the Biker Hoard gathers at Presque Isle Downs & Casino prior to Bringin' in the Roar. Grand Marshal Paul Teutul Jr. leads the parade. Not enough excitement? Vince Neil, who was at many times the

voice of freedom with Motley Crue (see "Girls, Girls, Girls"), will aim to kickstart your heart.

**If Thursday was about bikers showing off to Erie, Friday is about Erie showing off to bikers. Rides throughout the day will offer tours of local microbreweries, Presque Isle, and the covered bridges of nearby Ashtabula County.**

**Friday, July 15** – If Thursday was about bikers showing off to Erie, Friday is about Erie showing off to bikers. Rides throughout the day will offer tours of local microbreweries, Presque Isle, and the covered bridges of nearby Ashtabu-

la County. This teaser of our region precedes the once-magnificently teased manes of femme fatales Vixen, who perform hard-edged pop rock in the vein of Pat Benatar and Patti Smyth.

**Saturday, July 16** – Banging your head? Metal health driving you mad? Don't Riot, Quiet will descend on Erie anew when the Roar exits Sunday morning. For riders, Saturday presents one last chance to Feel the Noize. Four more rides (Roar to the Vineyards, A Beer for the Deer Legend, Off-Road Express Rocket, and Hometown Taste and Tour), five more bands (Anthems of Apathy, Radio Age, The Riffriders, First to Eleven, and Quiet Riot), and even a boxing tournament – for the first time ever, if that doesn't ring any bells. Or maybe with the tinnitus you've developed, you couldn't tell either way.

*Sunday, July 17 – It's all over – in case you hadn't heard.*

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**DJ Shadow**

The Mountain Will Fall  
Mass Appeal



It's been almost 20 years since *Endtroducing.....* introduced the world to DJ Shadow. Built almost completely from sampled



content, the album has proven to be a seminal soundtrack to the 1990s. How much have things changed since then? The answer is a lot, and a little. The tools have morphed drastically. No longer reliant on stitched together vinyl grabs, Shadow, aka Josh Davis, is forging ahead with Ableton, the popular software used for live sampling. Not the genre-bending limbo that *The Outsider* and *The Less You Know, the Better* were, the down-tempo hip-hop spirit of the album is still captured justly. *The Mountain Will Fall* starts off with its titular opening track blinking with synth tones and low undercurrents. Not one to bury the lead, the highlight of the album unsurprisingly comes from a guest appearance by Midas-touched Run The Jewels. The album also features guest appearances from Nils Fram, Ernie Fresh, Matthew Halsall, G Jones, and Bleep Bloop. Shadow might not be leading the pack as an innovator, but he's keeping up. – Nick Warren

**PAWS**

No Grace  
FatCat Records



Many of today's late-20-somethings share a soft spot for the pop punk of their youth. The shift of *No Grace*, with



its Blink-182 inspired sound might not be much of a surprise. Even after listening to this album a handful of times, one could still be shocked to find out that the producer was none other than Blink-182's Mark Hoppus. With this information, it's easy to mistakenly picture PAWS as little more than a vehicle for the producer's ideas. Hearing the album's eponymous opening track, the listener instantly recalls the inescapable Vans commercial that was "The Rock Show." That being said, some things may be good to spread. This album is highly listenable and insatiably catchy. Track highlights include "Impermanent," "Clarity," and "Gild the Lily." The band's first two albums, 2012's *Cokefloat* and 2014's *Youth Culture Forever*, were fantastic records. This trio from Glasgow, Scotland knows how to make great music. At the end of the day, maybe PAWS have simply made a record that's a little less lo-fi, at a faster and more consistent tempo – and there's some grace in that. – Nick Warren

**Laura Mvula**

The Dreaming Room  
RCA/Sony



Epic and enveloping, Laura Mvula's sophomore album is a triumph. The English neo-soul singer builds her persona as a strong, creative



force. *The Dreaming Room* straddles that precarious line of accessibility and originality. Beginning with the drifting bell tones of "Who I Am," Mvula transitions to the spacey disco-funk of "Overcome," aided by Nile Rodgers (guitarist and founding member of Chic). Mvula is a classically trained vocalist, her alto capable of floating airily or biting articulately. Comparisons abound to Nina Simone, who, despite the lower register, elucidated a similar aura along with her powerful black identity. The album has a mystique of theatricality, a drama unfolding in a conversationally operatic back and forth. "Angel" crossfades each line, forming a dialog between Mvula and herself. The album showcases a spectrum of tones. Tracks like the spectacular "Show Me Love" exude a tenderness and vulnerability, while the album closes with the single "Phenomenal Woman," with its hook-heavy empowerment groove. This well-thought-out album forms an imaginative interior of introspection and layered vocal performance. – Nick Warren

**Lisa Prank**

Adult Teen  
Father/Daughter Records



Lisa Prank is another welcome addition to the burgeoning fold of young women perfecting the art of wisecrack-



ing bedroom punk. Bubblegum pop influences collide with quick-paced rock chug-alongs, as if the Ramones were envisioned as an all-girl band. Its saccharine sweetness ultimately works. *Adult Teen* is incredibly charming. Lisa Prank is the brainchild of songwriter Robin Edwards, formerly of the band Lust-Cats of the Gutters. Edwards recently saw herself supporting the fantastic fellow Seattle natives Tacocat on tour. Fans of Colleen Green will hear a kindred spirit, with similar drum machine beats and nasal snarls. The embrace of the woman-child as a rock star is a welcome foil to decades of regrettable macho rock and roll. Edwards and her contemporaries are doing things the way they want to, and getting noticed for it. The tonal simplicity works. Onstage, Edwards plays guitar, joined only by a Roland MC-505 drum machine. Simple melodies are sometimes ones we remember the most, and *Adult Teen* will leave you humming for days. – Nick Warren

**[Cont. from page 20]** great concepts and good ideas. This could very well be a stepping stone for them to use something that is considered industry standard."

If GEAR's clientele is in need of support, Grant Larson Productions is only a few blocks away from Behrend's campus. Entrepreneurs Tim and Mary Grant Larson originally intended the company to produce educational videos to supplement their textbook and software development company, Larson Texts. More recently, they've begun lending their support to a variety of independent films – some of which were filmed in our region.

For example, Tom Fox Davies' 2015 feature *Before the Border* (aka *The Underground Railroad*), in which an African-American law student retraces the historical path of the underground railroad by foot, made use of over 70 locations in Erie and Ashtabula counties,

especially Allegheny College. Tim Larson recently directed a short of his own titled *Age of Kaos*, which just screened at the famous Mann's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood and will travel to the San Diego ComicCon in late July.

His daughter Carly Larson, who works as a production designer and construction coordinator in Los Angeles, is committed to bringing cinematic talent back home whenever possible. "There are so many great places to film in Erie," she says. "That's why I'm such an advocate for it."

**A growing network**

Feeling inspired? When it comes to local innovation, I've barely scratched the surface.

There's also MenajErie, a marketing-focused video production company with a documentary project in the works, and a staff devoted to creative

endeavors. Howard Glover's Three-gloves Production is the go-to source for local bands looking to break out

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with a well-crafted music video. Erie's youngest filmmaker may well be Jack Rys, who finished a feature-length film called *Paper Planes* before he was

through with his freshman year of college. And no discussion of Erie's film scene would be complete without mention of horror maestro Len Kabasinski, who has averaged one action-packed feature per year for the last decade. With titles like *Skull Forest* and *Warriors of the Apocalypse*, he always delivers the goods for the gore hounds.

MenajErie's Leah Taylor, who also worked as a production assistant on *Age of Kaos*, captures the spirit of our film scene nicely: "I think there is a really strong film community in Erie, and the more we can do to unite all the different people who are making music videos, films, and simply making their way, is really positive."

More and more, we have the energy – and the technology – to bring our most talented innovators together.

Dan Schank can be contacted at [dschank@eriereader.com](mailto:dschank@eriereader.com).



# Erie Faces Erie

## Jennifer Dennehy

hoop dancer/  
choreographer/instructor

## Ed Bernik

photographer

*"No matter how much I know, there's so much more to know, to find, and to discover within that small circle."*

**Ed Bernik:** You started life as a psychology major but then you made this leap of faith into full time dance instructor or rather hoop dance instructor. How did that happen?

**Jennifer Dennehy:** I've been dancing since I was three years old and I'm a trained dancer. Dancing has been a part of my whole life. I took classes all the way through high school. We weren't a wealthy family. My family and I cleaned the studio in trade for lessons for me and my sisters, which was really cool. When college came around, my parents decided dance was not a career path I should take, so I got a regular degree. I've always been into helping people; my aunt had Down syndrome so I was drawn to people with special needs and underserved populations. I worked at Sarah Reed Children's Center for two years, then the Barber Center for four years. But then I found hooping on the beach at Presque Isle, Beach 6 actually, on a Sunday at a drum circle. I was in awe of this dance form that I had never seen before and was hooked the moment I saw it.

**EB:** What's so freeing about hoop dancing coming from a classical dance background?

**JD:** I approach it actually as a fusion between the two. In the hoop world, a lot of the dancers are improvisational, creating in the moment to live music. It's fun and I will do that, but I also infuse the unique training that I have and do choreographed pieces.

**EB:** Do you see a relationship between your earlier career as a social service provider and dancing?



**JD:** In my world, there's a huge relationship between those two things. I teach 16 hoop dancing classes a week, mostly to underserved and underprivileged populations. It's a giant part of my world just doing it through the passion I've always had.

**EB:** Where do you teach those classes?

**JD:** At the Inner City Neighborhood Art House, an Erie City after-school program, and Dafmark Dance Academy. Then in the summer, I partner with the Erie YMCA to provide about 90 hoop classes through their parks and recreation program.

**EB:** Can you buy hoops, or make your own? Do they come in different sizes?

**JD:** If you want to be a hoop dancer, store bought hoops are not the way to go. The hoops used by most dancers are made of PVC, so you can go to Lowe's or Home Depot, get the stuff, and cut it to different sizes: a big factor for adults versus kids. A lot of adults think they can't hoop, but it's really that they're trying to use light, small hoops. A bigger hoop is easier to use.

**EB:** Maybe that's why I could never hula hoop.

**JD:** My first hoop was 45 inches tall and I was not very good at it.

**EB:** So you really don't need anything

special to do this?

**JD:** No, and it's equally easy for boys, girls, and adults. In my after-school programs, I have a lot of boys because they love to move as much as the girls. The moment I show them they can balance it on your nose or fingertips, it's done.

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I found hooping on the beach at Presque Isle, Beach 6 actually, on a Sunday at a drum circle. I was in awe of this dance form that I had never seen before and was hooked the moment I saw it.

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**EB:** Do you think hooping is growing in Erie?

**JD:** Definitely. When I started, a hoop class didn't exist. There weren't performances at local events. So I've created a little bit of a niche at home and more dancers are able to do it now, seeking out events on their own to perform at.

**EB:** Do you take it outside the region?

**JD:** I've done college tours in Connecticut and Massachusetts. I teach in California every year. I've performed in North Carolina and Florida. So yes, I've gotten to travel throughout the nation perform-

ing and teaching.

**EB:** I always get excited when people take their talent outside the region and become ambassadors for Erie.

**JD:** One of the cool things is shortly I'll be able to take it out of the country. That's been a goal of mine. It will be with the United Service Corps. We started talking about this two years ago, and we'll be going July 10th to Peru, where I'll be teaching kids to hoop.

**EB:** You received the Bruce Morton Wright Artist of the Year Award last year. What's that about?

**JD:** The award recognizes a local artist who gives back to the community, mentors other artists. I didn't realize until after the award was given that I was the first woman to receive it and also the first dancer.

**EB:** Tell me on a very esoteric level what hoop dancing does for you.

**JD:** Wow, that's a question. I think originally, it was freeing. It's super-freeing to be inside of [the hoop] and it's endless. No matter how much I know, there's so much more to know, to find, and to discover within that small circle.

*Jennifer Dennehy: [jenniferdennehy.com](http://jenniferdennehy.com)*

*Ed Bernik: [bernikphotography.com](http://bernikphotography.com)*



# CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center and the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine will be accepting submissions for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Art of Healing” Art Show.

All artwork will be on public display from August 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> at the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center. If you would like to submit your art, contact Tyler Travis at [ttravis@lecom.edu](mailto:ttravis@lecom.edu) or visit the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center to pick up an application.

**Deadline for submissions is Monday, July 14, 2016**

Include your name, address and phone number with the photos. Artists accepted for the show will be notified by Friday, July 18, 2016.

Forty percent of all sales from the show will benefit the LECOM Student Scholarship Fund.

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## JEEP GIVEAWAY

FRIDAY, JULY 8 & 15  
4pm-9pm



- 5 winners every hour for cash prizes up to **\$250**
- 10pm a chance to win **Jeep** or **\$1,000 Cash**
- Earn **10x** Entries for every 200 points earned on Wednesday, July 6 & 13, 6am - 12am

See Promotions Area for the Official Rules.  
Picture does not represent exact model given away.

## \$20,000 SUNDAY FUNDAY Cash Giveaway

SUNDAY, JULY 24  
2pm - 8pm

10 winners every hour • Cash prizes up to **\$5,000!**

Earn Bonus Entries

- Sunday, July 10 & 17, 6am - 12am  
**10x entries** for every 200 points earned
- Wednesday, July 20 & Thursday, July 21, 6am - 12am  
**15x entries** for every 200 points earned



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<b>MONDAY</b> Mish Mosh Mondays 8:30pm - 11pm	9pm - 11pm \$3 Domestic Drafts and \$3 Off Burgers
<b>TUESDAY</b> SIN Night (Service Industry Night) 8:30pm - 11pm DJ by Dynamic Sounds	9pm - 11pm \$1 - Well Drinks, \$2 - 10oz Domestic Draft, \$3 - Fried Pickles, \$4 - Loaded Fries, \$5 - Pulled Pork Sliders with Fries
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Live Band Karaoke with T. Wood & Friends 8:30pm - 11pm	9pm - 11pm \$2 Off Specialty Drinks and Ferrari Carano Wine
<b>THURSDAY</b> Horsemen's Special TGIMF 8:30pm - 11pm Live Entertainment	9pm - 11pm \$5 Margaritas and 50% Off Appetizers
<b>FRIDAY</b> Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm Live Entertainment 9pm	5pm - 7pm 50% Off Drinks and \$5 Appetizers
<b>SATURDAY</b> Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm Live Entertainment 9pm	5pm - 7pm 50% Off Drinks



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