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TATTOO ISSUE



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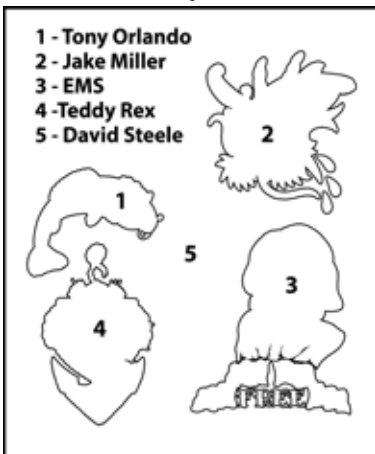
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The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and 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.

Cover illustration by:



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Tyler Smilo

"Right from the start I wanted to be a guy telling stories with a guitar."

From the Editors

Innovative ink abounds in Erie.

Once upon a time, you couldn't get a job if your skin bore visible tattoos. In some places, it's still like that: Tattoos are viewed as undesirable elements unfit for "polite" company or professional spheres.

But many of us actually seek out businesses that employ a diverse workforce, even if that diversity is mostly skin deep. Some of us see tattoos as illustrated proof that we all have stories to tell; and as invitations to share them with each other.

Still, it might seem frivolous to feature tattoo artists in our pages at a time so fraught with global terror and local tension.

But how much of the animosity gripping our present-day world has its roots in resentment – the small seed of which is fertilized every time someone feels shunned? In a culture that encourages individuals to express themselves as they wish, people who might have otherwise felt like they were drowning in rivers of angst instead feel welcomed – or at least not stigmatized.

Today, tattoos have evolved from last-century's symbols of rebellion to become culturally commonplace. And the artistry itself has advanced to rival any of the fine arts, as the artists featured here exemplify.

"Dozens of gifted artists create unique art in Erie every day, and they use their creativity to make a living," writes Nick Warren in this issue. "Erie's tattoo industry is one of the best showcases of entrepreneurial spirit."

Tattoo artist Johnny Matters of Wayward Tattoo tells Warren that "the Erie tattoo community as a whole and the local art community is strong. Erie is a small enough city where we can all work together to become stronger and encourage others."

Jen Minor of Karma Tattoo adds, "I feel like every shop here is pretty essential to the Erie palate, as all the reputable artists I can think of here have such diverse and unique styles, it's really amazing. Just about every tattoo I see, I can look at and identify whose work it is based alone on style and application, and with so many artists in one area, it's really pretty awesome and uncanny to be able to do that."

Is it unfortunate that enormously gifted artists can't all make a living in whatever medium they choose? Of course. But the struggle of artists to survive predates all of our other present-day woes. At least tattooing has emerged as a business model to encourage enterprising and expressive young artists to take a chance on creative careers.

There will always be those who view tattoos with disgust. (And to be fair, some tats are just plain disturbing.) But for most of us who've been inked, our tattoos recount something we've read that changes our perspective for the better; or represent something we've lived through that made us who we most hope to be; or symbolize something we want to remember about ourselves when the world around us clamps down on our uniqueness.

On their skin and from within, these artists inspire originality in Erie.



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NEWS & VIEWS

Just a Thought

Making light of the dark



Though light pollution makes the Milky Way Galaxy harder to see along our shores, certain spots, like Pa.'s Cherry Springs State Park, are still great for inspired galaxy-viewing.

STEVEN VALKENBURG ON FLICKR

By: Katie Chriest

Camp Fitch is located on Lake Erie in North Springfield, just beyond the landmark of Peggy Gray Candies. Though it's operated by the Youngstown, Ohio YMCA, many Erie area folks have ties to the place either as summer campers, outdoor education students, staffers, or volunteers. And to most of them, it's mythic.

On a solo trip to hike in Saguaro National Park over a decade ago, I met a man who lived in Madison, Wisconsin but had attended Camp Fitch as a boy. Sharing memories of the place and its quintessentially northwestern Pennsylvania landscape was a homecoming, never mind that we were surrounded by javelinas meandering through the ocotillo at dusk. I was surprised by how ebulliently I described the place; how schoolgirl giddy I sounded in talking about the cliff overlooking the shoreline, the inland pond, the acres and acres of fairytale woods.

I'd been back in Erie a couple of years and was planning a move, possibly to the southwest I'd come to explore. But that moment of reminiscence made a strong impression, reminding me that our landscape is no less phenomenal than that desert one I'd longed for

from afar.

Despite my history as a reluctant nine-year-old camper, I fell madly in love with Camp Fitch in high school, when I went there as a counselor for the fifth graders from our school dis-

I'd like to believe today's summer campers are still captivated by sparking candy. That smart phones are banned, thus saving everyone from ruined night vision and the urge to Google-answer every why of life, instead of reveling in moments of mystery and wonder.

trict. After my freshman year of college, I became a summer camp counselor. When fall rolled around, nothing about a college classroom could compare to what I was learning under a big starry sky on the lake, so I took a year off from school and stayed on at camp. Winter there was no less wondrous but memories of summer camp pursued me day and night, long after the evening activities that readied campers

Saver vise-gripped between grinning teeth, we'd circle up in the surrounding dark. Then, on a count of three, we'd all bite down, erupting into awe-struck giggles as fireworks exploded in our mouths. We didn't need to explain why Wint-o-Green Life Savers sparked in the dark. It was astonishing enough that they did.

I'd like to believe today's summer campers are still captivated by sparking candy. That smart phones are banned, thus saving everyone from ruined night vision and the urge to Google-answer every why of life, instead of reveling in moments of mystery and wonder.

I'd like to believe that as those girls become lovely young women, "the dark" remains more than just something to fear.

And I'd like to believe that despite 20 years of encroaching light pollution, it's still dark enough at that old camp to see the sparks of Life Savers and the glitter of the Milky Way. And that the mythical majesty of our shoreline inspires countless more to look up, again and again, for the rest of their precious lives.

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

Harrisburg Happenings

Lessons learned on both sides of the aisle

By: Senator Sean Wiley

Words and phrases like “bipartisan” and “across the aisle” are often casually tossed around by those inside the bubble of the state legislature, who give little thought to the level of understanding of those outside the Capitol. “Across the aisle” actually does refer to an age-old aisle down the middle of the chambers where one party sits to the left and the other to the right, requiring one to breach its threshold to engage in bipartisan cooperation. However, even a single vote by the other party satisfies the bipartisan requirement.

Many may not comprehend these concepts, as there have been few recent examples of bipartisan cooperation or working across the aisle in morning print media, nightly news, blogs, or social media venues.

Nevertheless, I am proud to say that the Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget negotiations were a great example of true bipartisan cooperation, where the Pennsylvania Senate moved quickly to pass an agreed-to spending plan by a final tally of 47-3. Those voting in the negative – Sens. Eichelberger, Hutchinson, and Wagner – likely had their reasons and perspectives. Regardless of the three who didn’t share the sentiment, 47 out of

50 came together to say that Pennsylvanians don’t deserve to see a repeat of the prior year; and warranted a plan that walks the long road of investing in the future of this Commonwealth.

The willingness to send the somewhat contentious revenue package to Conference Committee (akin to an arbitration session) to completely finish budget negotiations instead of allowing them to languish is another sign of mutual aid.

I’m no Pollyanna, so I don’t think this newly-minted spirit of cooperation came without numerous significant concessions on both sides of the aisle. We’ve spent countless months chomping at the bit of ending disinvestment, competing on a national and global scale, and balancing our expenditures with our income sources in an effort to tackle the deficit.

I see the Senate as somewhat a “reluctaneer” – a reluctant pioneer – in demonstrating that the aisle doesn’t have barbed wire along its seats, hidden land mines for those who cross, or impediments to returning to one’s usual side. I say this as the Senate has traditionally taken the lead in initiating not only the spirit of cooperation, but also the implementation of agreements. If we look back to December of last year,

it was the Senate that led the negotiations resulting in the five-party agreement to end the budget impasse.

In that vein, we’ve also seen some challenging votes come out of the Senate regarding even tougher issues like pension reform, liquor modernization, and transportation infrastructure funding. These demanding discussions are never straightforward; but they’re essential to prevent stagnation and to move the Commonwealth along.

I have long criticized the General Assembly for looking to the past to find the answers for the future, resulting in “more of the same” or “business as usual” governing. Clearly, the bulk of this budget cycle looked to the past only briefly to remember that an impasse was the wrong direction as the Commonwealth again came upon the crossroads.

Lessons are only learned when the behavior is modified; when the same situation comes again and the outcome is different. Commonwealth budget 2016-17: lesson learned.

Senator Sean D. Wiley can be contacted at SenatorWiley@pasenate.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @SenatorWiley.

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News of the Weird

Free parking? There's an app for that.

By: Chuck Shepherd

Fashion Challenges

Beautician Sarah Bryan, 28, of Wakefield, England, who garnered worldwide notoriety last year when she introduced a wearable dress made of 3,000 Skittles, returned this summer with a wearable skirt and bra made of donated human hair (a substantial amount, she said, pubic hair). She admits having had to work in an eye mask, breathing mask and thick gloves, out of fear of donors' hygiene habits. (More conventionally, designer Van Tran of Brooklyn, New York, won the 12th annual (wearable) Toilet Paper Wedding Dress design contest in New York City in June, with a \$10,000 prize from sponsors Charmin and Ripley's Believe It or Not.) [Metro News (London), 7-5-2016] [Washington Post, 6-20-2016]

Attorney Lee Pearlman finally earned an acquittal in June (after two hung-jury trials) for his client Danielle Goeller one of a seemingly increasing number of drivers who hit pedestrians but claim they were unaware of anybody being hit. Goeller, 28, a trauma-room nurse with no intoxicants in her system, had struck a 60-year-old man on a busy, heavily lighted Tampa street at 11:45 p.m., cracking her windshield but drove on without stopping. "What does she think she hit?" asked the prosecutor. "A deer? A bear?" Responded Pearlman, "She's a scared girl in the middle of the night who doesn't have the life experience other people do." [Tampa Bay Times, 7-1-2016]

Bright Ideas

Picturesque Torrelodones, Spain (pop. 22,000), has 6,000 pet dogs and apparently few conscientious dog owners, which town leaders say accounts for the nearly half-ton of "litter" that accumulates daily. The town's latest bright idea: installing a 7-foot-high, 10-by-10-foot brown, inflated plastic "swirly" in the center of town as a reminder to residents to pick up after their dogs. (Spain's The Local reported in June that other towns have begun to tackle the problem as well, such as with DNA testing of dogs and street-scrubbing punishment for guilty owners.) [The Local (Barcelona), 6-3-2016]

British student Joshua Browder, 19, created an easy-to-use computer app to help drivers fight parking tickets they believe unjust and now reports that users have won 160,000 cases (out of 250,000), all in London and New York City, by following his question-and-answer "chat" interface at DoNotPay.co.uk. Browder said he was motivated to develop the app (which, as of now, is still free of charge) after himself getting about 30 tickets he says he did not deserve. [Metro News (London), 6-28-2016]

The Passing Parade

Abicycle thief was stopped on June 10 when the bike's owner and several other people chased him from the Wal-Mart parking lot in Eagle Point, Oregon, drawing the attention of a passing rider on horseback (Robert Borba), who joined the chase and mo-

ments later (according to a report in Portland's The Oregonian) lassoed the man and restrained him until police arrived. (2) A kite surfer on a Sussex beach south of London got into trouble on June 26 and was unable to float back to land until he was rescued by two Good Samaritans in kayaks. The saviors happened to be dressed as Batman and Robin for participating in the Shoreham Beach Superhero Paddle. [The Oregonian, 6-10-2016] [Bognor Regis Observer, 6-27-2016]

Wait, What?

Not only are almost all federal employees above average, they are nearly all superior workers, according to a June Government Accountability Office review of agencies' personnel-rating results. (Yes, the review included the departments of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.) Most agencies use a 1 ("unacceptable") through 5 ("outstanding") rating system, and GAO found that 99 percent were rated either 5 or 4 ("exceeds 'fully acceptable'"). [Washington Post, 6-13-2016]

Not many DUI stops result in attempts to locate the suspect's chastity belt key, but the May 14 sobriety checkpoint stop of Curtis Eidam, 35, in Clinton, Tennessee, did. Eidam was outfitted in "red mesh see-through hose," according to the police report, with a ribbon tied in his goatee, and also a "little skirt" (perhaps a tutu), when he told officers he needed his key, which happened to be on a necklace worn by his passenger (a "highly intoxicated" 44-year-old woman). Thus, Eidam was able to unlock and remove

the chastity belt, which had been "attached to his penis." (There was also a handgun illegal in Tennessee for an intoxicated person to carry.) [Knoxville News Sentinel, 6-7-2016]

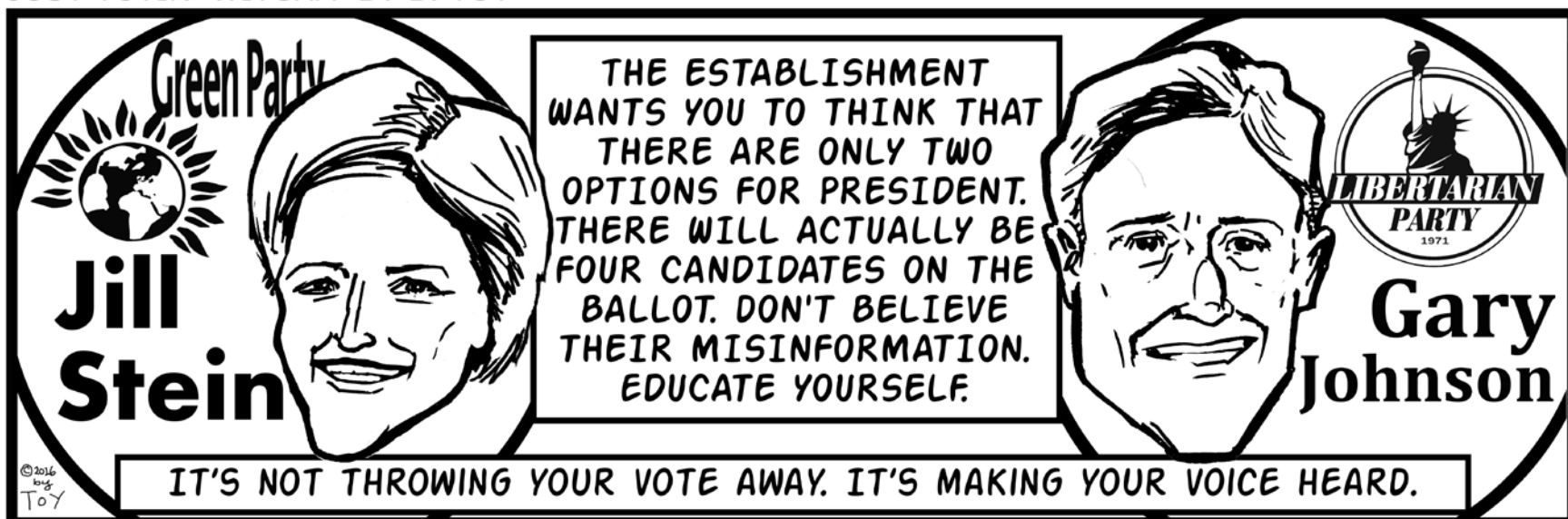
Cognitive Failure

In a May journal article, biologists from the University of Florida and Oklahoma State University found that more than 80 percent of survey respondents want package labels on all foods that have "DNA" content (even though, yes, all meat and vegetables have DNA). The Oklahoma researcher found earlier that about the same number want such labels to be "mandatory." (Law professor Ilya Somin suggests playfully raising the fright level of those respondents by adding this "alarm" to the label they demand: "Warning: Pregnant women are at very high risk of passing on DNA to their children.") [Reason.com, 5-24-2016] [Washington Post, 5-27-2016] [Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 5-18-2016]

Weird Japan

Client Partners is only one of several Japanese agencies that supply rental "friends" to the lonely, for hours or days of companionship tailored to the needs of the socially challenged client (with two rules, however: "no romance," "no lending money"). A writer for AFAR travel magazine interviewed several "friends" in June, one of whom explained: "Japan is all about face. We don't know how to talk from the gut. We can't ask for help." Said the female "friend" (who offered a goodbye handshake to the interviewer):

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NEWS & VIEWS

"There are many people who haven't been touched for years ... who start to cry when we shake hands with them." [AFAR.com via The Week, 6-26-2016]

But It's Our "Policy"!

Good Samaritan Derrick Deanda is facing a \$143 bill from paramedics in Elk Grove, California, after he, passing a car crash, jumped out to pull out a man and his three children (including a 2-year-old), who were trapped in the wreckage. A short time later the paramedics arrived and, noticing that Deanda had a cut on his arm (from breaking the car's window to free the family), bandaged him. Elk Grove has a policy charging "all patients" at a first-responder site \$143 for the "rescue," and Deanda received his bill in June. [KQVR-TV (Sacramento), 6-20-2016]

Least Competent Criminals

Not Ready for Prime Time: In May, a 16-year-old boy in Lakewood, Washington, not only used Facebook to set up a marijuana-dealer robbery (one of many people, lately, to incriminate themselves on social media), but during the robbery itself accidentally

shot himself in the groin and femoral artery, requiring life-saving seven-hour surgery. [News Tribune (Tacoma), 5-2-2016]

A News of the Weird Classic (July 2012)

Slaved Over a Hot Stove: Delivering gourmet meals to customers' doors is a fast-growing business model, but so far, only London's brand-new (as of 2012) Housebites goes the extra step. According to its press release, cited by Huffington Post, Housebites not only home-delivers "restaurant quality" cuisine (at the equivalent of about \$20 per entree), but offers an optional dirty-pans service (about \$8 extra), lending out the containers in which the food was prepared thus allowing clients to trick their dinner guests into believing the client actually prepared the meal. [Huffington Post, 6-14-2012]

Blessings, Guaranteed

More and more churches ("hundreds," according to a June Christianity Today report) offer hesitant parishioners a "money-back guarantee" if they tithe 10 percent (or more) of their income for 90 days -- but then feel

that God blesses them insufficiently in return. The South Carolina megachurch NewSpring instituted such a program in the 1990s and claims that, of 7,000 recent pledgers, "fewer than 20" expressed dissatisfaction with the Lord. Advocates cite the Bible's Book of Malachi, quoting God himself (according to Christianity Today): "Test me in this." "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse" and "see if I will not pour out so much blessing" that "there will not be room enough to store it." [Christianity Today, 6-28-2016]

New World Order

A leading Chinese orthopedic surgeon continues to believe that "full-body" transplants are the next big thing in medicine, despite worldwide skepticism about both the science and the ethics. The plan for Dr. Ren Xiaoping of Harbin Medical University calls for removing both heads (the deceased donor's and the live recipient's), connecting the blood vessels, stabilizing the new neck, and "bath(ing)" spinal-cord nerve endings chemically so they will connect. (Critics say it is impossible to "connect" spinal-cord nerves.) According to a June New York Times dispatch, doctors regularly de-

nounce China's ethical laxities (though Chinese officials term such denunciations "envy" at China's achievements). [New York Times, 6-11-2016]

Suspicious Confirmed

In June, District Attorney Jerry Jones in Monroe, Louisiana, dropped drug and gun charges against college football players Cam Robinson and Hootie Jones (who play for University of Alabama but are from Monroe) -- declaring that the "main reason" for his decision is that "I refuse to ruin the lives of two young men who have spent their adolescence and teenage years working and sweating, while we were all in the air conditioning." (2) A Philadelphia "casting" agency solicited "extras" to show up at polling stations on the April 26 Pennsylvania primary day for candidate Kevin Boyle, who was running against state Sen. John Sabatina -- offering \$120 each (plus lunch and an open bar). Since most polling-site "electioneering" is illegal, the probable job was merely to give voters the impression that Boyle was very popular. (Sabatina narrowly won.) [Times-Picayune (New Orleans), 6-22-2016] [Gawker.com, 4-27-2016]

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NEWS & VIEWS

In January, a Chicago Tribune investigation revealed only 124 of the roughly 12,000 Chicago cops were responsible for the misconduct complaints that resulted in settlements (since 2009)— with one officer, for example, identified in seven. (A June Chicago Reporter study claimed the city paid out \$263 million total on misconduct litigation during 2012-2015.) [Chicago Tribune, 1-29- 2016][Chicago Reporter, 6-22-2016]

Litigious Societies

Insurance agent John Wright filed a lawsuit in Will County, Illinois, in June over teenagers playing “ding dong ditch,” in which kids ring a doorbell but run away before the resident answers. The lawsuit claims that bell-ringer Brennan Papp, 14, caused Wright “severe emotional distress, anxiety, and weight loss,” resulting in at least \$30,000 of lost income. (2) The ex-boyfriend of Nina Zgurskaya filed a lawsuit in Siberia after she broke up with him for his reluctance to “pop the question” after a two-year courtship. The man, not named in a dispatch from Moscow, demanded compensation for his dating expenses. The trial court ruled against him, but he is appealing. [Patch.com (Joliet, Illinois), 6-24-2016] [Daily Telegraph (London), 6-3-2016]

The Job of the Researcher


A team of researchers is following about 30 tabbies, calicos, and others, recording their moves and sounds, to somehow learn whether housecats have dialects in their meows and alter other patterns of stress and intonation when they “speak” to other cats or to humans. In explaining the project, linguist Robert Eklund (of Sweden’s Linköping University) personally sounded out “a pretty wide range of meows to illustrate his points,” wrote a New York magazine interviewer in April. Eklund is already an expert on feline purring (at Purring.org) — although from a distance, as he admits to being allergic to cats. [New York, 4-27-2016]

The Passing Parade

Quixotic Malaysian designer Moto Guo made a splash at Milan’s fashion week in June when he sent model after model to the runway with facial blotches that suggested they had zits or skin conditions. One reporter was apparently convinced, concluding, “Each man and woman on the runway looked miserable.” [Daily Mail (London), 6-20-2016]

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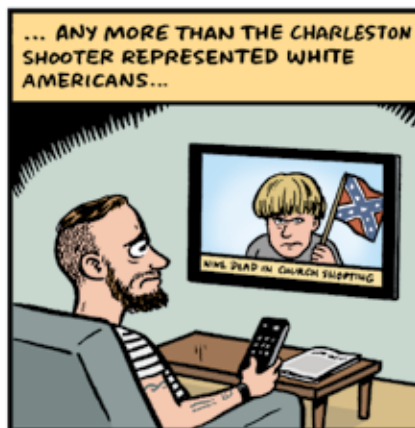
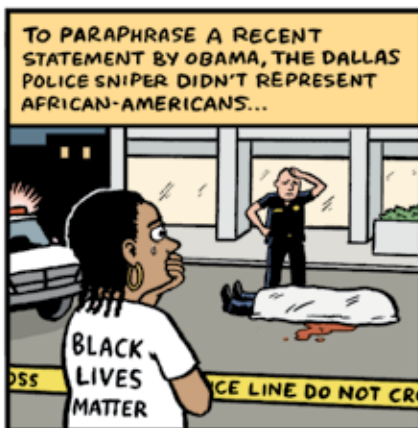
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Erie's Tattoo Revolution

Outlining the vibrant arts industry success story



NICK WARREN

By: Nick Warren

You'll often hear about Erie's burgeoning music or fine arts scenes. But there's another scene that's burning just as brightly, and possibly more so. The tattoo industry here in Erie is world class, and has been growing and evolving for years.

There are over a dozen tattoo shops in Erie. Volumes could be written on each artist, as a majority of them are incredibly hard-working men and women. Tattooing is, essentially, competitive artistry. It's a meritocracy, where talent reigns. The happier and more numerous your clients are, the better you'll do.

Tattooing is also like punk rock.

Both are birthed out of rebellion and individual expression; and both have their legacies, splinter groups, and subgenres.

It's no coincidence, then, that one of the best shops in town started out as a music store.

In 2000, on the corner of 26th and Peach Streets, Surprise Attack Records opened its doors, as well as a new shop called Ink Assassins. Eric Michael Schaufele (known to his friends as "EMS") told me about the shop's genesis with tattoo artist David Steele. "We had the idea of opening up a tattoo shop/record store, something that appealed more to our punk rock do-it-yourself generation of the time, as Erie didn't have a ton to offer those demo-

graphics," Schaufele explains. "We looked at well over 20 different rental spaces and as soon as they either saw us or heard what we were looking to open, the doors were slamming shut on us. Finally, we lucked out with a generous landlord on the corner of 26th and Peach streets who didn't care what moved in as long as we paid our rent! I still drive by a lot of those buildings that didn't give us a chance 16 years ago, and there are still 'For Rent' signs in their windows. Joke's on them: They could have had 16 years of well-paying tenants!"

Within a few years, music sales phased out, and they became a tattoo shop exclusively. Fast forward to present day, and you

Eric Michael Schaufele and David Steele of Ink Assassins

find co-founder David Steele nearing his 20th year as a professional tattoo artist. Steele is a consummate artisan, a master the "old school" or "traditional" style which he blends with contemporary wisdom. After helping to establish Ink Assassins, Steele relocated, becoming the owner of Philadelphia Eddie's Chinatown Tattoo. He's since returned to Erie, and works alongside EMS. Supervising the business end of the shop, Schaufele began tattooing around six years ago. Like Steele, he shares an affinity for concise imagery. He holds respect for the simple designs originat-



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NICK WARREN

ing in the 1900s that were mostly done on servicemen.

Currently, Ink Assassins employs five tattoo artists. Tony Orlando (also known as “Thorns”) is an accomplished artist in a myriad of styles, with a flair

“I still drive by a lot of those buildings that didn’t give us a chance 16 years ago, and there are still ‘For Rent’ signs in their windows,” says Schaufele. “Joke’s on them: They could have had 16 years of well-paying tenants!”

for detailed script. Jacob Miller is a master of organic, steady linework in the esteemed traditional style (both Orlando and Miller have seen a significant tenure at the shop). Teddy Rex’s designs show an expert evenness,

Corey Thompson and Johnny Matters of Wayward Tattoo

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often successfully blending visual symmetry into his work. Co-owner and entrepreneur Ryan Azert began tattooing around the same time as EMS. He's a disciple of the old school style as well, interjecting his sense of humor into many designs.

Located at the intersection of two of Erie's main thoroughfares, it's no surprise that Ink Assassins sees a fair amount of walk-in traffic. Schaufele elaborates, "I'm proud of our shop and the way we run it. We're a walk-in friendly place where we try to do as much in a day as time allows."

Some artists have chosen to forgo the capriciousness of a walk-in clientele, altogether. This reasoning shaped artist Joshua Makowski's destiny. "Gentle Josh" founded Karma Tattoo in 2006. Beginning his journey alongside David Steele, Makowski spent time managing Ink Assassins before opening up his own shop. Regarding his reasoning, he says, "I felt that the whole thing should be designed around the comfort of the client. I also wanted to emphasize collaboration with the customer in order to create a special and unique tattoo for each one and foster communication based on mutual respect. Ten years later and I still hold these core values as my business model. And I feel like it's really been validated by our clients."

Makowski's style is self-described as "Japanese-American fusion." He blends subtle precision with vivid colors to create a signature all his own. A skilled portrait artist as well, he remains one of most respected artists in the region.

Karma now thrives as an upscale, intimate shop. Joined solely by artist Jen Minor, the atmosphere is relaxed and personal. Minor explains the transition: "This past year, the decision was made to relocate and downsize into a private studio for custom work only, and it's really been an amazing experience. I feel extremely grateful to be a part of its evolution."

Stylistically, Minor's work is remarkably unique. Her painterly technique relies less on outlined shapes and more on richly blended tonal values. A skilled fine artist as well, she shows a proclivity for forms both skeletal and organic.

Minor has worked in several shops around the Erie area. She notes the respect she has for fellow artists,

stating, "I feel like every shop here is pretty essential to the Erie palate, as all the reputable artists I can think of here have such diverse and unique styles, it's really amazing. Just about every tattoo I see, I can look at and identify whose work it is based alone on style and application, and with so many artists in one area, it's really pretty awesome and uncanny to be able to do that."

Many people have been guided by Makowski's "Gentle" hand. In fact, his apprentices have gone on to open shops and have their own progeny. In the studio, Minor laughs, joking that Makowski's nickname ought to be "Grandpa."

One of those apprentices was Corey Thompson. Together with fellow artist Johnny Matters, Thompson

Many people have been guided by Joshua Makowski's "Gentle" hand. In fact, his apprentices have gone on to open shops and have their own progeny. In the Karma studio, Jen Minor laughs, joking that Makowski's nickname ought to be "Grandpa."

founded Wayward Tattoo in 2013. Matters recounts their impetus for starting the storefront on West 12th Street, saying "Corey and I have been working together in various shops for a good part of our career and we're also close friends. That made it easy to make Wayward happen together. We've both worked in several other shops in the Erie area. Including Karma Tattoo, Mid-town, and Bay City." The shop's impressive stable of artists also includes Mark Piper, Will Petroff and "Eerie" Eric Fargiorgio.

Thompson quickly garnered attention as a virtuoso artist, capable of intricate, form-busting custom designs. Matters' designs are equally impressive, mixing tightly controlled line-work with impressive tonal blending.

Both Matters and Thompson regularly pursue fine arts, focusing on watercolors and oil painting. In fact, many of Wayward's artists share the similar propensity for printmaking, drawing, or sculpture. It's common to find their work showcased in lo-

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cal galleries and exhibits. When Karma decided to relocate, Thompson and Matters decided it was time for a second location. Managing the new albeit familiar location at 4428 Peach Street, is Andrew Sontheimer, a gifted printmaker and fellow Karma alum. Rounding out their stable of highly skilled artists are Luke Powers and Leslie Fiolek-Hess.

Describing their part of the region's scene, Matters explained that "the Erie tattoo community as a whole and the local art community is strong. Erie is a small enough city where we can all work together to become stronger and encourage others. Wayward Tattoo tries to play a big part in the Erie tattoo culture and in the local community in general. We try to support local businesses like we are as much as possible. Our artists frequently participate in local

art events, shows, and gallery exhibits alongside other local tattoo artists. The city does have a lot of questionable 'tattoo parlors.' But there are also some really good shops with a lot of talented artists."

Speaking of more good shops with talented artists, Mid-Town Tattoo continues to flourish, sparking new inspiration daily. The shop opened in 2008, founded by police officer Donny Sornberger. Artist Erik Mueller describes the atmosphere: "We are a largely walk-in friendly shop, but also offer custom work for all tastes, in all styles. I would say this puts us in the realm of being one of the top contenders for popularity and flow of business. Ultimately **[Cont. on page 35]**

Opposite Page, from left: Brandy Artz, Sarah Mascaro, Rich Velez, Jorge Betancourt, and Erik Mueller of Mid-town Tattoo Right: Jen Minor and Joshua Makowski of Karma Tattoo



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Spotlight on Erie

July 20 – August 2, 2016

Wednesday, July 20

Jim Gaffigan Isn't Too Big to Self-belittle



It's taken a while to get to this level, but Jim Gaffigan is "Fully Dressed" now.

That may not sound like a major accomplishment until you realize that audiences in excess of 10,000 have shown up to see him put on his show (yes, fully garbed in shirt, pants, socks, and shoes) as he wends his way across America. To hear him tell it, however, "Fully Dressed" is not so much self-congratulatory as it is self-deprecating – a solid mass of his material centers on

Gaffigan's insecurities, pet peeves, and observations echo many of our own – it really is a small world after all in that regard.

body image, the temptation of food and drink, and the rigors of parenting (he has five children – "imagine you're drowning – and someone hands you a baby."). He fills arenas (including Madison Square Garden, capacity 18,200) because he strikes arena-sized power chords that resonate with arena-sized audiences.

Erie Insurance Arena stands to be the next in line – and a lot less painful than Disneyland ("imagine standing in line at the DMV – and nothing else."). His insecurities, pet peeves, and observations echo many of our own – it really is a small world after all in that regard. It's the gift of a great comedian to transform those into words succinctly and confidently – even at one's own expense. Chicken isn't the only

thing Gaffigan does right (he is among the latest in a revolving door of Colonel Sanders with KFC) – he gives voice to every one of us who don't have the nuggets to disclose our shortcomings before thousands of strangers demanding to be entertained.

"I hope I don't suck," Gaffigan says as the applause ebbs at the introduction of a recent TV special. He definitely doesn't (he's at the top of his profession); but even if he does fumble life's finer details on occasion, that's okay – because we all get to laugh about it. – Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. // 809 French St. // \$37.75-\$47.75 // erieevents.com/events/jim-gaffigan-or-452.4857

Friday, July 22

Stoney Point High Tour Stops in Erie



DJ HOPPA

This joint will be lit. The Stoney Point High Tour is coming to Basement Transmissions. Featuring DJ Hoppa and Demrick, the show will bring unique hip hop to the Erie music scene.

Through his musical talent and his label Broken Complex, Gresh has left his mark on hip hop music everywhere.

DJ Hoppa, also known as Lee Gresh, promises to entertain crowds with his "sick beats" that "blend genres seamlessly while maintaining a high energy and good vibe."

"Whether sampling other artists or composing his own beats, DJ Hoppa

has an innate sense of groove that never comes across as manufactured or mechanical," Jamey Bresden of *The Deli Magazine* said. "He borrows sparingly and delivers tastefully – never running classic tracks into the ground, but presenting them as gentle reminders of the better days, back in the day."

Gresh grew up surrounded by music. His mother played the cello, his father played the trumpet, and young Gresh played an array of musical instruments from the piano and the drums to the bass and guitar. He then turned to Technics turntables and samplers. Through his musical talent and his label Broken Complex, Gresh has left his mark on hip hop music everywhere, but especially on San Fernando Valley, California, where he grew up.

Like DJ Hoppa, Demrick, also known as Young De, is visiting Erie from California. But he only moved across America after encouragement from Kurupt. In 2007, he released the album *Philly 2 Cali* with Kurupt. He has also collaborated with Xzibit, B-Real, Snoop Dogg, and others.

For Demrick, his music is real and relatable.

"The songs I write are about my life, friends, family, and people I've met along the way," he said. "Most of my inspiration comes from my everyday experiences." – Tracy Geibel

6 p.m. // 145 W 11th St. // ticketfly.com/event/1219935

Friday, July 22

The Gathering at Chaffee's Brings a Multitude of Music to Girard



Reminiscing about good times at the Gathering at Chaffee's, I recalled a conversation with an old friend who was dancing away in a truly into-it, be-

yond-thinking groove.

"I'm losing myself in my space," he kept repeating. "The music – I keep losing myself in it, losing myself in my space."

"Well," I said, "that is never a bad space to be in, my friend."

He smiled wide. So did I.

And everyone danced some more.

The Gathering at Chaffee's is one of those small festivals that gets close to your heart once you've gone. It's really easy to love, and really hard to leave.

And with an always-stellar musical lineup, it's one that lots of folks from

The Gathering at Chaffee's is one of those small festivals that gets close to your heart once you've gone.

around here and elsewhere anticipate all year long (and with good reason).

This year's 36th annual Gathering – on Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23 – is no exception, with headliners including jam scene staples like Kung Fu, Jimkata, Tropicidelic, Mister F, After Funk, and Vibe & Direct.

Rounding out a bill that's top-to-bottom impressive are lots of other regional favorites and not-to-be-missed local acts: Eric Brewer & Friends, Blue Sky, Falling Hollywood, Qwister, Gnosis, Daybreak Radio, The LEC, Six Year Stretch, VWLS, Decaffeinated Grapefruit, The Remnants, Special Guest, Matt "Broke" Boland, Dionisio, Haewa, Jess Royer & Nick Warren, Claire Stuczynski & Friends, Adam McKillip, Tyler Smilo, Zack Chylinski, The Mighty Sea, and Freddy Greco.

That's a multitude of music alright. – Ryan Smith

Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23 // 8296 Mill St., Girard // thegatheringatchaffees.com.

Saturday, June 23

Park Yourself At Perrypalooza

Oliver's park has gotten a twist – and the time has arrived to start enjoying the Dickens out of it.

Perrypalooza is a celebration of the new and improved Perry Square, the consummation of a decade's worth of planning and upgrades. You needn't



even hazard a guess – Perry Square is and was always intended to be the centerpiece of our urban landscape, dating all the way back to famed surveyor-planner Andrew Ellicott's blueprint for the City of Erie in 1795. Throughout the 19th century, what was a pocket of untamed wilderness gradually became a well-manicured refuge from the bustle of downtown life. Disorderly trees were cleared for orderly trees (arbor-tration), the ravine and creek on the east side were filled in (because nobody likes asymmetry), fountains were installed, walkways were paved, and landscaping was implemented.

However, after the last set of major renovations (in the waning years of the Tullio administration), little had been done to help our beloved bi-cen-

tenarian keep looking its best. Cracks showed; edges wore; imperfections began to announce themselves loudly. That is when the Perry Square Alliance intervened, rerouting Perry Square from the Hot Mess Express to the path of progress.

Perry Square is and was always intended to be the centerpiece of our urban landscape, dating all the way back to famed surveyor-planner Andrew Ellicott's blueprint for the City of Erie in 1795.

Four downtown organizations – PNC Financial Group, Gannon University, Stairways Behavioral Health, and Erie Kiwanis – “adopted” the four corners of the park, where flower beds were planted. Thus the reinvention began in earnest, with funds from other local businesses (e.g., Erie Insurance) and state grants bringing the project to fruition. A modern lighting system now illuminates newly detailed paths, the west side of the park has opened up (good-bye gazebo) for performances (hello stage), benches and waste receptacles have been standardized (oh

c'mon – don't even ACT like you've SAT on benches *this* consistent before), and the wonder of one of just two working Edison Fountains has been restored (with a few contemporary flourishes sprinkled in).

A host of entertainers will brighten up the Perrypalooza proceedings, including magicians, jugglers, stilt walkers, hula hoopers, mascots, zoo animals, and yes – Miss Kitty herself, reading the books of Erie children's author Marc Brown. If that doesn't stroke your whiskers, surely you wouldn't turn your nose up at local food offerings, live music, or potential prizes.

There's nothing to be on the fence about – in fact, there haven't been fences in the park since 1881. After all, Perry Square is supposed to be the place the community goes to keep it together. – Matt Swanseger

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. // Perry Square // facebook.com/events/632492786903102 // Free (vendor fees may apply)

Saturday, July 23

Great Brews and Views Define Beer on the Bay

If you are a craft beer connoisseur, there's an event coming for you. The eighth annual Beer on the Bay will take



place on Lawrence Pier, better known to Erieites as the lawn of the Amphitheater at Liberty Park.

Beer on the Bay is the region's largest and most popular craft beer festival, featuring over 50 brewers. Among these is a wealth of locally-based breweries, plus others popular throughout the Erie region.

Whether you're a craft beer fanatic or not, Beer on the Bay gives everyone the opportunity to try something new. A few of the participating brewers this year include Erie Ale Works, Lavery Brewing Company, Ommegang Brewery, Rogue Ales, Southern Tier Brewing Company, Timbercreek Tap and Table, and Voodoo Brewery. Among vendors is one of Erie's favorite food trucks, The Que Abides. A portion of this year's proceeds will be donated to the

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July 20, 27 — 11 to 11:50 a.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Mid-day Art Break: Erie Philharmonic

July 20 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum's Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Big Dog Acoustics

July 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Fred Oakman and Matt Boland

July 21 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Linda Lewis & Friends

July 21 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Bangerzz

July 21 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Frontier Park Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Jackson Station

July 22 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

The Highlife

July 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Ruby Port

July 22 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

DJ Hoppa

July 22 — 6 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/events/1652990974923438.

The Vigils Trio

July 22 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd.

edinborolakeresort.com.

Salmon Frank

July 22 — 7 p.m.
WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

The Gathering at Chaffee's Music Festival

July 22, 23 — 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Chaffee Campground, 8296 Mill St. thegatheringatchaffees.com.

Whiskey Road

July 22 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

My Father's Garage, Maniacal Device, Mala Sangre, Crooked Cobras and Detroit Red

July 22 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/events/1723692451175854.

Jake's Blues

Birthday Bash

July 22 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

First to Eleven

July 23 — 1 p.m.
Perry Square, 568 State St. firsttoeleven.com.

Dine Hip Hop

July 23 — 4 to 5 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Shabooms

July 23 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. pennshore.com.

The Groove

July 23 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Don Braden Group ft. Vanessa Rubin

July 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Romolo Chocolates, 1525 W. 8th. facebook.com/

romolochocolates.com.

House of Rhythm

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

Shameless Hex

July 23 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Geek Army

July 23 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Live Wire

July 23 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace.

Meredith Holliday

July 24 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Adam McKillip

July 24 — 5 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

So Last Year

July 24 — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

M4

July 24 — 7p.m.
WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

The Record Company and Ron Yarosz & the Vehicle

July 26 — 6:30 p.m.
Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier porterierie.org.

Lindsey Stirling

July 26 — 8 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Mid-day Art Break: Mountain Thyme Ramblers

July 27 — noon to 1 p.m.
Erie Art Museum's

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Wednesday, July 27 6:00 PM
Warner Theatre

Tickets available at www.npaaonline.org
Glass Growers Gallery, PACA or at the door the night of the event.

TWO TICKET PRICE LEVELS

The \$110 ticket entitles two to a grand buffet dinner, an evening of art, music, conversation and this year a limited edition uniquely sculpted spider by NPAA artist Evan Everhart, along with two chances in the lottery to select from the NPAA art exhibit (over 80 works) an original piece of art of his or her choice.

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CALENDAR

A.N.N.A. Shelter.

The event is split into two sessions, the first lasting from noon until 3 p.m. and the second from 4 until 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Meadville's The Grayhounds during both sessions. Tickets are still available and cost \$35 in advance and \$40 the day of the festival. For an additional \$15 you can buy a VIP pass which gives you access to special brewer tents and food vendors that will not be available to

sponsors can be found at the website below. – Bridget Fessler

12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. // Lawrence Pier // General admission \$35 in advance, \$40 day of event // eriepa.com/beer-on-the-bay

Tuesday, July 26

Halfway Through Summer, The Record Company Cuts the Heat



THE RECORD COMPANY

Beer on the Bay is the region's largest and most popular craft beer festival, featuring over 50 local and regional brewers.

general admission guests. There will also be accommodations for your designated driver: The \$20 DD ticket includes access to the designated driver tent which provides non-alcoholic beverages and snacks.

After volunteering at last year's festival, I can tell you firsthand that it was a wonderful time! If you're 21 or older and want to enjoy a day near the water, you won't want to miss Beer on the Bay. A full list of brewers, vendors, and

Heavy, heady summer evenings call for just a little more than cool Lake Erie breezes. And so the midpoint of

Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Jim Tobin

July 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Songwriter Sunset

July 28 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Ruby Port Band

July 28 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Frontier Park Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Refuge

July 29 — 6 p.m.
Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

First to Eleven

July 29 — 6 p.m.
Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. firsttoeleven.com.

Adam Cook

July 29 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Basement Transmissions,

145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Jake Banta

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

Sam Hyman

July 29 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Fred Oakman and Josh Travis

July 29 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Jon Sedelmyer

July 29 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Erie Playhouse

July 29 — 7 p.m.
WQLN Performance Pavilion, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Patchouli and

Terra Guitarra

July 29 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

The Riffriders

July 29 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Brooke Surgener & Friends and Lauren Joyce

July 29 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Metal Show

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

Abbey Road

July 30 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. pennshore.com.

Geek Army

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song

July 29 through 31 // Avalon Hotel, 16 W. 10th St.; BEST, 231 Parade St. // various times // See Erie County Poet Laureate Facebook page for details

Friday, July 29

Find Weekend Fun When



You Discover Presque Isle

People discovered Presque Isle's loveliness long before the 1990s, but it was only 25 years ago that Erie's natural beauty was first celebrated with Discover Presque Isle (DPI). Since then, it's become a beloved three-day celebration that attracts more than 100,000 park visitors.

The annual weekend festivities wouldn't be complete without the sand sculpting, kite flying, and canoe build-

ing; but the primary purpose is to create awareness about the park's ecosystem and recreational opportunities and to teach the importance of preserving the environment. More than 130 vendors also partake in the celebration.

"It's a great family-g geared event," Presque Isle Partnership Executive Director Jon DeMarco said. "There's definitely something for everyone."

For the first time, this year's DPI weekend will absorb the annual Hidden Treasures of Presque Isle. While this was previously a separate weekend celebration, DeMarco expressed his excitement about the change, saying that visitors can "discover" even more about the park through additional events.

These include a hands-on demonstration of the iNaturalist app at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC), a presentation about Pennsylvania bats at the Stull Interpretive Center, a les-



son about objects in the summer sky at Beach 6, and more. For a complete list of events, visitors can look for the circular "Hidden Treasures of Presque Isle" logo on the schedule.

This is also the first year that electricity will be provided by solar power. A sponsor covered the cost of hiring Zero Fossil, a Pittsburgh-based company that provides clean energy. DeMarco says this educational initiative will

Discover Presque Isle has become a beloved three-day celebration that attracts more than 100,000 park visitors.

show people that there are alternative sources to fossil fuels.

While most of the attractions are free, this is the Presque Isle Partnership's largest annual fundraiser. At every event and throughout the park, visitors can find volunteers selling frog buttons. Visitors can purchase one for \$3 or two for \$5. Every button purchased will support the park, and as a thank you, the purchaser's name is entered in a drawing. In honor of its 25th anniversary, the Presque Isle Partnership is

giving away 25 recreational prizes, such as kayaks, bikes, and fishing gear.

Like 25 years ago, DPI still relies heavily on volunteers. DeMarco said that the volunteers make the event a success, as they "come together to support the park."

DeMarco encourages people to attend Discover Presque Isle for the entire weekend, but he also asks that visitors help to preserve the park by packing out whatever trash that they bring in. — Tracy Geibel

Friday, July 29 through Sunday, July 31 // Presque Isle State Park // discoverpi.com

Friday, July 29

Brooke Surgener and Friends with Lauren Joyce Play Kings Rook Club

If you've been keeping up with the local music scene in Erie for the past several years, you've undoubtedly heard Brooke Surgener's name. Surgener is a folk/pop artist with a beautifully expansive vocal range, and a wide range of instrumental expertise, as well. She plays guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, violin, and piano. Surgener has recently teamed up with a group of talented local musicians that will accompany her on stage: Josh-

St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Hercules and the Captive Woman (1961)

July 29 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Jaws (1975)

July 30 — 8 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Life of Pi

July 31 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Teacher Week

Ongoing through July 22
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. 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.

Art on the Hill

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

Nocturnal Emissions by Alison Stinely

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

InnovationErie Competition 2016

Ongoing through Sept. 25
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Henry Katzwinkel

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

Dark Garden

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

Jose Picayo

Polaroids: A Retrospective

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

I Think I Found It Upside Down by Dietrich Wegner

July 27 through Nov. 20
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Francis T. Schanz 17th Annual Scholarship Exhibition

July 27 — 6 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. npaaonline.org.

THEATRE

One Slight Hitch

July 20, 21, 22, 23 — 7:30 p.m. & July 24 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Fortinbras

July 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Frontier Park

Amphitheater, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Dick Clarkson's Jukebox Hop

July 23 — 5:30 p.m. & July 26, 27 — noon
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Motherhood Out Loud

July 26 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Bride of the Son

July 28, 29, 30 — 8 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Youtheatre Play Series

July 29 — 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. & July 30 — 2 & 7 p.m. & July 31 — 2 p.m.
Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. erieplayhouse.org.

The Witch in 204

July 29, 30 & Aug. 5, 6, 12, 13 — 7 p.m. & July 31 &

Aug. 7, 14 — 2:30 p.m. & Aug. 2, 3, 9, 10 — noon

Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

COMMUNITY/VARIETY

Branching Out

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

Thursday Teen Time

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

Wednesday Walks in the Woods

Ongoing through Oct. 5 — 11 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature

Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Lake Erie Fishing History

Ongoing through Oct. 30 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Hatha Yoga 1 and Beyond

July 20, 27 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St. E. erielibrary.org.

Children's Art Classes

July 20, 21, 27, 28 — 10:30 a.m. to noon
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Garden Seedlings

July 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 10 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Carrie's Cabin at Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs.



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BROOKE SURGENER

ua Travis, Mckenzie Sprague, and Jess Scutella. Travis and Sprague are both solo indie/folk acoustic artists who have been making waves in Erie. You might know Sprague as Optimistic

Brooke Surgener and Friends recently opened for Hayley Reinhart, pop star and former American Idol finalist at Stage AE in Pittsburgh.

Apocalypse. Scutella, who will be on drums, may be familiar as an extremely talented tattoo artist or as the drummer for the former punk band In The Day.

"Mckenzie has her own songs that I will accompany, as does Josh, and they all will perform with me on my songs so we all have more of a band to play

with," said Surgener. "It's fun because we each have our own individual style, but the genres are similar."

The quartet recently opened for Hayley Reinhart, pop star and former American Idol finalist at Stage AE in Pittsburgh. They'll once again grace the Kings Rook Club with their harmonies and guitars. Singer/songwriter Lauren Joyce will kick off the evening at 10 p.m. and Brooke Surgener and Friends will follow.

Surgener is currently in the process of finishing up her second EP. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for her new music video for the song "Be Your Babe." (If you're into cosplay, you'll definitely enjoy the video).

The show will be held in the Rook's upstairs venue. It's 21+ and free to all members and guests. It'll be a night of folky, acoustic melodies and beautiful harmonies. – Bridget Fessler

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

Sunday, July 31

Roots are Showing at Schickalay's on the Bay

Where else in Erie can you find real-deal Greek gyros and tasty



DONNA THE BUFFALO

live tunes with an authentic summer festival vibe?

Schickalay's has presented a well-received concert series for the past couple of years, and is keeping it hot with

Where else in Erie can you find real-deal Greek gyros and tasty live tunes with an authentic summer festival vibe?

this season's summer sounds.

And soon, they're serving up an American roots-music jamboree with long-revered jam masters Donna the Buffalo and Eric Brewer & Friends – presenting a tribute to festie gods Phish, no less – in what's sure to be one

happy-footed get-down.

If you've been there before, you'll probably be marking this one down on your calendar. And if you haven't, you probably should be.

Take your friends and family. Get barefoot in the grass. Dance the day away. Seems to me like one hell of a fine way to say bye to July. – Ryan Smith

4 to 8 p.m. // 2860 W. 6th St. // facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay

Monday, August 1

Erie Native Dan Briggs Plays Basement Transmissions with ORBS

ORBS is a band formed not out of the ashes of other bands, but from the creative overflow of musicians whose muses could not be contained into one project. The supergroup is made up of members of Between The Buried and Me, Fear Before The March Of Flames, Trioscapes, and Cradle Of Filth. This lineup also consists of BTBAM bassist and Erie native, Dan Briggs.

"I'm excited to play Basement Transmissions, it's so important for there to be a good all-ages venue in town," Briggs said about returning to his hometown. "When I was growing up in Erie, everything I learned that helped me have

Harrisburg Senators

July 20 — noon
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Kitten Shower

July 20 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Humane Society of NWPA, 2407 Zimmerly Rd. facebook.com/events/1619775321666040.

Farmers Market

July 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 — 3 to 6 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Erie's Tall Ship

July 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Cherry Fest

July 20, 21, 22, 23 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Heard Park, North East necherryfestival.com.

The Art of Inner Transformation

July 20, 27 & Aug. 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. abodeoftheheart.org.

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

July 20, 22, 27, 29 & Aug. 3 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Jim Gaffigan

July 20 — 8 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Wise Words for Wellness

July 21 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Bubble and Splash

July 21 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Garden Sprouts

July 21, 28 — 11 a.m. to noon

Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Sumthin Different Flea Market

July 21 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Erie Downtown Block Party

July 21 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
Sluggers Sports Bar and Grill, 14 E. 10th St. eriedowntown.com.

The Evolution of Downtown Erie: A Story Told Through Pictures

July 21 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

RNC Convention Watch Party

July 21 — 8 to 11 p.m.
Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd. facebook.com/TrumpErie.

7th Annual Asbury Woods Ridge Run/Walk

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

Presque Isle Bicycle Tour

July 23 — 9 a.m. to noon
Cookhouse Pavilion, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

YMCA Camp Sherwin Annual Fishing Derby and Community Day

July 23 — 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd. ymcaerie.org.

Perry Palooza

July 23 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Perry Square, 568 State St. facebook.com/PerrySquareAllianceErie.

Drift Cleveland

July 23 — noon to 8 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway,

10700 Delmas Dr. lakeeriespeedway.com.

Back-to-School Celebrity Tour

July 23, 24 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. millcreekmall.net.

Yogilates with Michelle Curtze

July 24, 31 — 11 a.m. to noon
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Erie Cemetery Walks: Medical Professions

July 24 — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Erie Cemetery, 2116 Chestnut St. erieyesterday.org.

Sunset Tai Chi Classes and Worship

July 24, 31 — 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park Beach 6, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Remarkable Women: Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

July 25 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Things with Wings

July 26, 28 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

County Council Meeting

July 26 — 7 p.m.
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriecountypa.gov.

Is Baseball Still America's Pastime?

July 27 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Great Lakes Super Select Tournament

July 28, 29, 30, 31
Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. pastimetournaments.com.

Erie Downtown Block Party

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a career in music was from having an outlet at all-ages shows in the 90s and early 2000s. I'm always excited to come back and play in Erie. There are always some butterflies and a lot of memories."

ORBS' second studio album *Past Life Regression* was recently released on Equal Vision Records on July 15. The members are no strangers to taking experimental liberties with their music in their primary bands, and continue to do so with their collaborative efforts in ORBS. The band's music is very dynamic, making it hard to place them in any one genre. Songs like "Lost at Sea" stick to harsh vocals and relatively heavy guitar riffs, while songs like "These People Are Animals" favor more synth than guitar, clean vocals, and a more avant garde song structure.

The level of complexity in ORBS' songwriting is difficult to understand from just reading words. The best way is to come to a show and hear them for yourself. – Tommy Shannon

Doors at 5:30 p.m., show at 6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // \$12 pre-sale tickets, \$15 day of show // facebook.com/events/1044477785621415

Tuesday, August 2

Sounds with Soul to Fill Liberty Park

Ah, the freedom of summer. It's easy to get lost in the long evenings and sunshine, and even easier to slide into rambling, creative, and soulful sounds, letting percussion and melody accompany the ease of the season. John Nemeth and Samantha Fish take the first August slot of the 8 Great Tuesdays concert series at the Amphitheater at Liberty Park, with their easy-on-the-ears funky and bluesy sounds. The duo's backgrounds and sonic vibe complement each other and lend a unique twist to their genre.

Nemeth hails from Boise, Idaho, but has toured extensively overseas, lived on the west coast, and settled in Memphis, where, naturally, some of the na-

tive music would seep into his. And he's managed to pick up a tune, a genre, or a way of life from each of his residences,



JOE NEMETH

citing "Oakland Grease" – California's soul-blues scene – as an influence, and introducing the talents of his Memphis backing group, The Bo-Keys, who worked with Al Green, O.V. Wright, Rufus Thomas, and the Bar-Kays.

Fish has a deep love for the hill country blues genre and describes herself as a blues-rock guitarist. Her third studio album, *Wild Hearts*, was produced by Luther Dickinson (North Mississippi

John Nemeth and Samantha Fish bring easy-on-the-ears funky and bluesy sounds to the Liberty Park stage.

Allstars, The Black Crowes). But on this project, her vocals and guitar sing with an obviously deep connection to her music and her soul.

The sonic team of Fish and Nemeth will surely provide a funky, vibrant show that avoids being overly passionate or confusing. Instead, their songs will sing into the sunset, with eyes closed and hearts open. – Miriam Lamey

6:00 p.m. // Lawrence Pier // porterie.org

July 28 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Sherlocks, 508 State St. & 28 North Gastropub, 28 N. Park Row eriedowntown.com.

Make your own Waterfowl/Duck Nesting Tube

July 28 — 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.

Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Rd. asburywoods.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Reading Fightin Phils

July 28, 29, 30 — 7 p.m.

& July 31 — 1:30 p.m. Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Opportunity Lost: The Story of Charles Williamson, Erie's Last Republican Mayor

July 28 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Discover Presque

Isle 2016

July 29, 30, 31

Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. discoverpi.com.

Metalworking Art Class

July 29 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Erie County Public Library Locations, erielibrary.org.

Party on the Promenade Car Cruisin'

July 29 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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A Review of Linda Huey's *Dark Garden*

This reimagined landscape has been installed at the Erie Art Museum.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

Dark Garden, an installation currently at the Erie Art Museum, attempts to educate patrons about pollution, the benefits of recycling, and saving Mother Earth's precious bounty. It presents imagery of the ills occurring when warnings aren't heeded.

Created by clay artist Linda Huey, *Garden* is an "installation that addresses environmental issues. It reflects our culture's ambiguous relationship toward nature and questions what we want to see versus what we don't want to see," reads Huey's artist statement.

"My strategy juxtaposes natural with man-made, life with decay, beautiful with ugly, desirable with undesirable, and plays with our acceptance or

avoidance of environmental issues," she continues.

Entering *Garden*, one immediately notices the subdued, even ominous lighting. At the entranceway, so as not to be dismissed, is a large white orb the size of a beach ball. As you approach the gallery's portal, it's evenly framed within the doorway. Once inside, it's an equal distance between the walls of the rectangular room. Bathed in blue light, it hangs as the center of the exhibit.

Huey claims it can be "read as a planet, a moon, or the Earth." Examining the sphere, however, one sees its surface littered with varied detritus (a water bottle, a remote control, a toy car, etc.), that's yet to be discovered on Mars or Io, so one assumes it's Earth. Serving as a satellite view of the world, this

spectral globe portrays Earth as a pallid wasteland.

To the sphere's left and right in the rectangular gallery are four planter boxes. Contained within the boxes are disparate 4- to 9-foot tall sprouted sculptures representing the sculptor's "dark garden": nonsensical, ill-formed flora; almost interplanetary plant life which could be set decorations for a sci-fi B-movie. Shrubs and trees within this *Garden* are malformed: biological emanations that bare ill fruit verboten to touch, let alone to consume; a permutation of nature's bounty – as if raised in Satan's greenhouse. Gaiā's revenge!

One plant features a sequence of two tiny skulls, atop one another, totem-pole style, separated by brown tropical palm fronds. It resembles Pre-Columbian art. A tall, brown, barren tree with branches that look like deer antlers, some of which are broken off, reveals a dried, sickly Pepto-Bismol-colored goo inside. A grey-greenish sunflower of sorts has petals shriveled and limp to better expose its diseased seeds. In another, a tiny angel rests in the center of a decaying "flower": a potential Venus flytrap for the tactilely inquisitive.

Above and at left: Scenes from *Dark Garden*, an installation that artist Linda Huey says "reflects our culture's ambiguous relationship toward nature and questions what we want to see versus what we don't want to see."

The gallery's shape doesn't afford the luxury, however, of viewing the garden in all its morbid splendor. The curious will find themselves "box-blocked" by planters that will not allow closer inspection of Huey's dystopian Eden, going tippy-toe in an attempt to view all artworks.

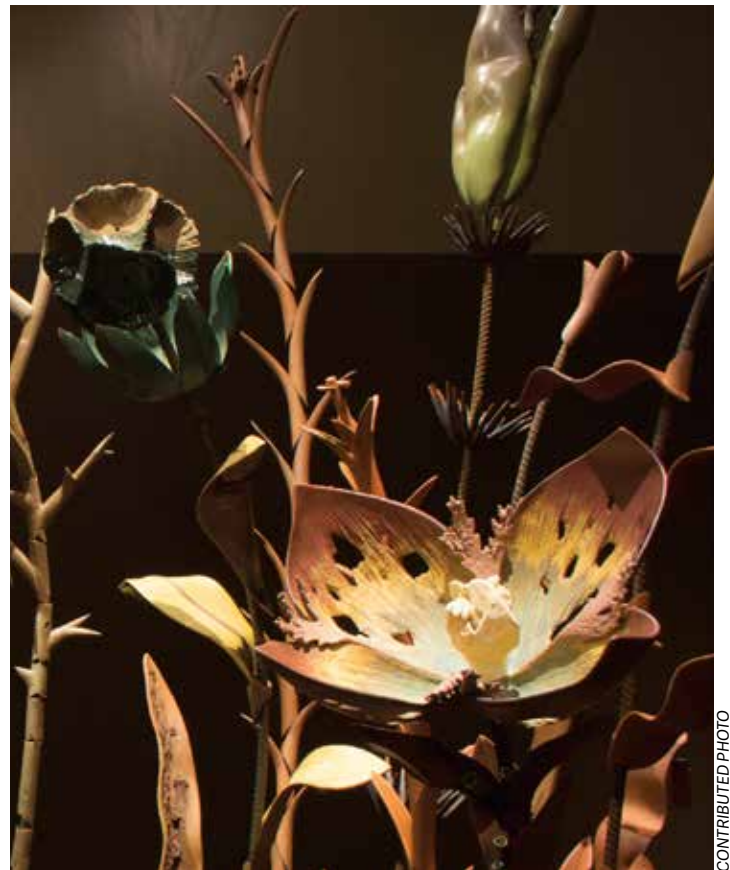
In harvesting *Garden*, one must separate the wheat from the chaff: beautifully-ugly creations with – dare I say? – a "recycled" theme.

Indeed, *Garden* may serve as a visual thorn-in-the-eye remind-

er that Nature = good, Mankind = bad, but since the first Earth Day in 1970, haven't we horrid humans (for once) evolved for the better, at least in terms of separating paper from plastic from glass, etc.?

No worries about me, Mother Nature and Huey: After I'm done with the show's brochure, I promise to recycle it.

Dark Garden runs through January 8, 2017. For more information visit erieartmuseum.org or call 459.5477.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. millcreekmall.net.

Wordstock

July 29 — 7:30 p.m. & July 30, 31 — 2:30 p.m.
Poets' Hall, 16 W. 10th St. [facebook.com/events/620315184785763](https://www.facebook.com/events/620315184785763).

EVP Tour

July 30, 31

Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. evptour.com.

Creek Stomp

July 30 — 10 a.m. to noon
Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Rd. asburywoods.org.

6th Annual Poker Run

July 30 — 10:30

a.m. to 5 p.m.
Voices for Independence Office, 1107 Payne Ave. vficil.org.

Harry Potter Countdown to Midnight Party

July 30 — 8 p.m.
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2572.

Sunday in the Park

July 31 — 11 to 5:30 p.m.
Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier sundayinthepark.info.

Wild Moves

Aug 2, 4 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

America's Distorted Mission: Ideals and Betrayals

Aug. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Life Enrichment Event

Aug. 3 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century

Aug. 3 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.



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DATE / TIME	TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	PROGRAM TYPE
July 20 / 7-8:30	Erie's Tall Ships: A Brief History of the Ships, the Event, and Niagara's Journey	Shawn Waskiewicz, M.S.	Free Lecture
July 21 / 7-8:30	The Evolution of Downtown Erie – A Story Told Through Pictures	Jerry Skrypzak, Ret. Lt.	Free Lecture
July 25 / 4-5:30	Remarkable Women: Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis	Corrine Egan, B.A.	Lecture
July 27 / 7-8:30	Is Baseball Still America's Pastime?	Frank Garland, M.S.	Lecture
July 28 / 7-8:30	Opportunity Lost? The Story of Charles Williamson, Erie's Last Republican Mayor	William P. Garvey, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Aug. 2 / 7-8:30	America's Distorted Mission – Ideals and Betrayals	Charles Brock, M.Litt.	Brock Institute for Mega Issues Education Lecture
Aug. 3 / 7-8:30	Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century	Michael Victor, J.D., LL.D.	Free Lecture
Aug. 7 / 7-8:30	An Evening of Political Satire with Mark Russell	Mark Russell	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Performance

WQLN's 'Tour de North Shore' Pedals Off with Kathy Dahlkemper's Annual County Bike Tour

Agriculture is this year's theme and North East is the destination.



WASAKI GREDPREE

By: Ti Sumner

Ask County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper what one of her favorite aspects is of overseeing 38 municipalities with nearly 300,000 residents and 1,200 employees throughout 18 departments, and she will answer: Meeting the people of the county and experiencing all the wonderful things we have to do and see in this region. Her preferred method of transportation? The bicycle.

Every year since 2013, Dahlkemper has toured a por-

tion of Erie County by bike. This year for the first time, her annual bike tour will take place in July as part of WQLN's Tour de North Shore cycling weekend – a three-day event designed to promote cycling Erie and the surrounding areas.

"When I first decided to run for office, I thought, 'This is a big county – how can I get out there and meet the people?'" Dahlkemper said. "I didn't just want to take a destination-focused trip. I really wanted to see and get a better feel for the county. So I thought, 'Why not

just ride my bike?'"

That first year, Dahlkemper rode 110 miles over three days, traveling from Erie to North East to Corry to Edinboro (through pelting rain) to Albion (including the Albion parade), and back to Erie via Lake City and the Pleasant Ridge Manor, finally parking at the Erie Irish Festival. Since Dahlkemper took office in 2014, each bike tour has carried a theme, been completed within a single 8-hour day, and traveled at a rate of 9-10 mph. These adjustments, in addition to rider support from Dave Dennison at

Lake Country Bikes, enable riders to join the touring fun for at least part of the route.

"As a dedicated cyclist and advocate of community health, I do this tour to promote cycling as an activity, cycling safety, and some of the great economic aspects of our region," Dahlkemper said. "This bike tour does all of that."

With a 2016 agriculture theme, this year's group of riders will make 11 stops, including Teker Park (in Lawrence Park, which received an Erie County Greenways Grant for restoration), lunch at South Shore Wine Company, and two places that Dahlkemper is particularly excited about this year: Trolley Line Vineyards (part of the Agriculture Preservation Program) and the Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) bicycle cooperative, called Pedal Mettle.

Together with Bike Erie, SSJNN provides five-week sessions for youth ages 11 to 17 on how to build and repair bicycles. After five weeks, anyone who completes the program receives a bicycle.

"It's unbelievable how many kids don't have bicycles," Dahlkemper said. "This program is a great way for kids to learn a skill while also earning something that will keep them more active."

Tour de North Shore events

begin Friday, July 22 at 8 a.m. at the Erie County courthouse with Dahlkemper's annual county bicycle tour. They continue throughout the weekend with a 6 a.m. Good Morning Erie sunrise ride with Tracy Teudhope, a 9 a.m. bicycle tour of Presque Isle, and a noon SSJNN and Bike Erie bike repair session. On Sunday, New Belgium Brewing Company's Fat Tire Beer is sponsoring an 11 a.m. costume fun ride around Frontier Park. All are encouraged to

It's unbelievable how many kids don't have bicycles," Dahlkemper said. "[Pedal Mettle] is a great way for kids to learn a skill while also earning something that will keep them more active."

dust off their bikes, pump those flat tires, and join one of the events promising to suit most any fitness level.

For more information about County Executive Dahlkemper's annual bike tour, contact Holly Waychoff at hwaychoff@erie-countypa.gov or 451.6333.

More information about *Tour de North Shore* can be found at wqln.org/Auctions-Events/Tour-de-North-Shore.

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The Julie Ruin

Hit Reset
Hardly Art Records

★★★★★

For some people, Kathleen Hanna can do no wrong. The Julie Ruin's second proper album, *Hit Reset*, proves



them right. The former Bikini Kill and Le Tigre frontwoman once again finds a balance between punk rock chaos and electro dance anthems. It's fun and it's fury. Hanna's iconic synthesis of radical feminist genius paired with valley girl partier is honed as distinctively as ever. Joined by Bikini Kill bassist Kathi Wilcox, the band's song structures are poppier than 2013's *Run Fast*, which often echoed Le Tigres' repetitious electronic looping. The stream-of-consciousness songwriting style is less prevalent as well, aside from tracks like the frantic "Be Nice" and scathing spoken words of "Mr. So and So." Never has Hanna been more rock and roll than "Hello Trust No One," a song whose thundering chords harken back to the first time you ever heard "Deceptacon." Tones vary radically, venturing to the sentimental extremes of the album's closing track, "Calverton." There's a reason Hanna has such an adoring mythology surrounding her, and this album might help to show a new generation why. – Nick Warren

Martha

Blisters in the Pit of My Heart
Dirtnap Records

★★★★★

Martha's follow-up to 2014's *Courting Strong* finds the band true to their original sound, with a few boosts.



It's fast, trebly, and catchy as hell. The production has a crystal clear, crunchy saturation that shows off their full breadth despite a prevalence of high and middle frequencies. The jangle is well represented here. Sing-alongs abound in nearly every song assisted by the band's charming accents and shared vocal duties. The four-piece hails from the remarkably-named town of Pity Me, England. Hyperactive and endearing, their sound is a perfect prescription for fans of Ted Leo. Pop punk and twee combine into an addicting and potent offering. Martha is known for their anarchist, straight-edge, vegan stance, although it's not apparent even after multiple listens. Some lyrics are full of identifiable cliches, stitched together in "Chekov's Hangnail." The track closer, "St. Paul's [Westerberg Comprehensive]" pays homage to the Replacements. The titular line comes in the summer emo anthem "Ice Cream and Sunscreen." Naomi Griffin's chorus on "11:45, Legless in Brandon" is another touching admission amidst this record's sea of memorable moments. – Nick Warren

Blink 182

California
BMG

★★★

Some things aren't for us, and that's alright. The "us" here happens to be anyone over the age of – what's



it again? – 23. To the right person, *California* might be an important record. Some of us are old enough to remember when an album called *Enema of the State* went quinquuple platinum, back in an age when someone could sell 15 million CDs. Since then, guitarist Tom DeLonge has exited the band. The identifiable nasal sneer that made "All the Small Things" famous has been traded in for the morose, idiosyncratic baritone of Alkaline Trio's Matt Skiba. Mark Hoppus and Travis Barker form the familiar remainder of the group. Skiba's presence is felt in tracks like "San Diego" and "No Future." Hoppus' adolescent sense of humor is in full force for the mini-tracks "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Built This Pool." The band does one thing well though, and it's hard to deny. They make catchy pop punk. Even as cringeworthy as some of the lyrics get (just try listening to "She's Out of Her Mind," I dare you), the songs get stuck like darts in your brain. – Nick Warren

Hannah Georgas

For Evelyn
Dine Alone Music

★★★★★

Hannah Georgas' third full-length album casts a dark, indie-pop shadow. *For Evelyn* is named after



Georgas' grandmother. The record is a tonal departure from her previous pop work. It opens with the low harmonic rumble of two saxophones, provided by Joseph Shabason (The War on Drugs/Destroyer). Georgas asks "what if the best times are all up?" Virtually every lyric is penned under a pall of self-doubt and examination. Two songs on the album retain a lighter air – "Naked Beaches" and "Crazy S****" – echoing the apathetic cutesiness of her hit debut EP. The folksy acoustic guitar chimes of her earlier work are absent, in their place lie sweeping soundscapes and processed synth pads. Syncopated horn beats as in "Waste" start to craft something incredibly promising. You would never guess that this is the same singer who wrote a song for Wal-Mart in 2009 ("You've Got a Place Called Home," which paired with the megacorporation's back to school campaign). Like Feist's Apple spot and Ingrid Michaelson's Old Navy jingle, so go some artists. Regardless, the ethereal, emotionally tender moments of this album are the ones to remember most. – Nick Warren

[Cont. from page 15]

we're a larger shop with a solid crew of very talented artists, some of the best in the city."

Mid-Town currently hosts artists Rich Velez, Christoff Wilson, Bill Anysz, Erik Mueller, Kevin Burfield, Brandy Artz, and the two apprentices – Troy Koch and Charles "Mooch" Tangle. The prevalence of photorealistic talent at Mid-Town is staggering, not to mention innovative custom designs. Portraiture and likenesses are certainly difficult tasks, but many of the shops artists are up for the job.

Reflecting on the evolution of the region's tattoo scene,

Mueller feels that "the tattoo community in general is stronger and less divided than it may have been in past years, as there are more tattoo shops and artists in this area than ever before. Like in any large group of people, there are bound to be personal differences, small squabbles and the like. But for the most part, I feel that a large amount of the animosity that had been generally associated with tattoo culture and rival shops has diminished as of late, and I personally hope this trend continues."

For the final word on Erie's tattoo culture, I talked to

Rob Ferguson, the artist and CEO of Buddha's Body Art. Substantially predating ev-

For the final word on Erie's tattoo culture, I talked to Rob Ferguson, the artist and CEO of Buddha's Body Art. Substantially predating every other shop mentioned, Buddha's is one of the oldest tattoo studios in the country, not only in Erie.

every other shop mentioned, Buddha's is one of the oldest

tattoo studios in the country, not only in Erie. Another spoke on the dharma wheel, the shop is no stranger to positive press and technical innovation. Ferguson confirmed that both current owners, he and his mother Joan Ferguson, "are licensed and certified medical staff, and are credited with writing the current regulations for body art establishments. [We] are also credited with teaching a team of doctors the art of tattooing at Cleveland Clinic which is part of the current cosmetic tattooing industry. Both Joan and I have owned a business in Sturgis, South Dakota

during the Sturgis Bike rally for 20 years. We've inspired and encouraged other artists in the art of tattooing."

Dozens of gifted artists create unique art in Erie every day, and use their creativity to make a living. Erie's tattoo industry is one of the best showcases of entrepreneurial spirit. Summing up his report of the scene, Schaufele celebrates, saying "Erie loves tattoos and piercings! Which is awesome for all of us involved in the industry. There's plenty of work to go around."

Nick Warren can be contacted at nWarren@ErieReader.com.

He Hated 'Sitting and Doing Nothing'

Tom Taylor took life's knocks and turned nothing into something.



Tom Taylor has perfected the art of looking life directly in the eye. He's overcome obstacles such as a challenged childhood and Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) to earn an Edinboro University Bachelor of Arts, and to win the title of World Arm Wrestling Champion in 2010.

my behavior. Basically, she told me if I was nicer to people, I could earn that bike I wanted, and that worked for me. I still wanted to tell people what I thought about them, but I wanted the bike more."

Through the guidance of Alexa and other staff at the Sarah Reed group home, Tom developed a goal-oriented system that he still uses today.

"Every day I sit in my truck at 4:30 a.m. before work and I write a plan of my daily goals," Tom says. "My reward at the end of the day is that I get to exercise."

And if he doesn't achieve his goals?

"Then I take something away," Tom continues. "I was raised that I have to earn everything and even now, if I don't meet my goals, I take away the

"Everyone always felt sorry for me when they found out I lived at Sarah Reed," Tom Taylor says. "But I loved it. When I walked in that first day and they showed me my bed and then they fed me – that was the best day of my life."

gym. I hate sitting and doing nothing."

Unbeknownst to them at the time, Alexa, Tom, and others at the Sarah Reed Children's Home were using a system on which Dr. William Pelham would one day base more than 30 years of research. Today, the Achievement Center in Erie runs eight-week ADHD summer camps for children ages six to 16 that closely follow Pelham's cognitive-behavioral model. The camps teach skills to children with ADHD intended to improve self-regulation and social behavior.

"It's a reward system based on behavior," says Cassie Dundon, director of strategic initiatives at the Achievement Center. "Everything the kids do

By: **Ti Sumner**

Tom Taylor spent most of the first seven years of his life sleeping in the back of a Pittsburgh furniture store by night and asking strangers for handouts by day. He never had a bed; he never sat down for a family meal. When authorities picked up Tom's family after a trip to Erie and divided the kids among county-run agencies, things could have gone very wrong for Tom. But he looked at the transition to Sarah Reed Children's Home as an opportunity to live a normal life.

Eventually, Tom took his life well beyond normal, overcoming obstacles such as Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), earning an Edinboro University Bachelor of Arts, and winning the title of World Arm Wrestling Champion in 2010.

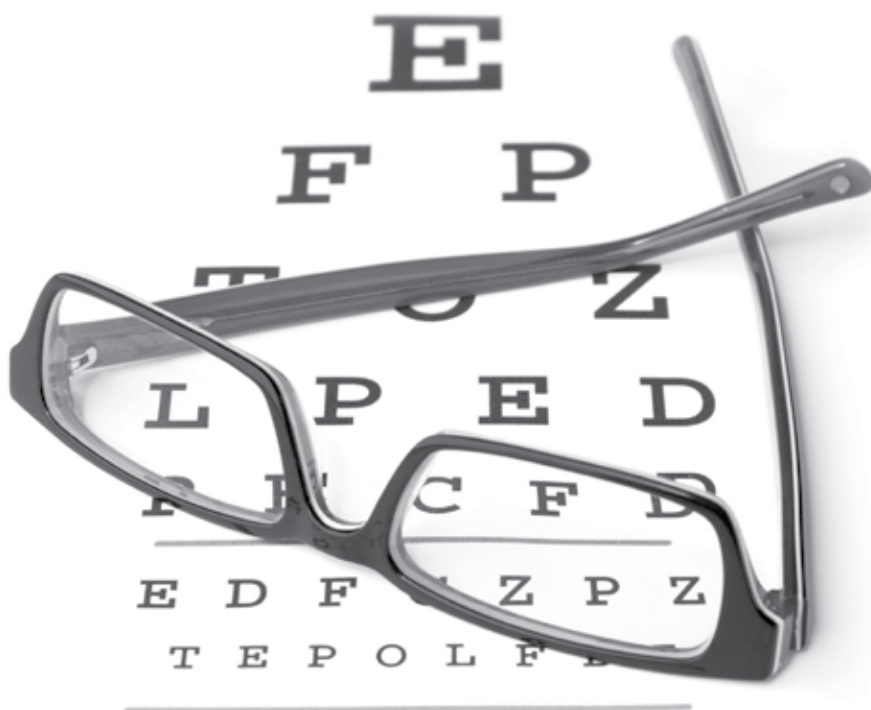
"Everyone always felt sorry for me when they found out I lived at Sarah Reed," Tom says. "But I loved it. When I walked in that first day and they showed me my bed and then they fed me – that was the best day of my life."

As much as Tom loved those first days at Sarah Reed, things did not always run smoothly for him. Diagnosed

with ADHD soon after his arrival, Tom struggled with impulse control, hyperactivity, and inattentiveness.

"I just said whatever popped in my head," Tom says, his 6-foot-five, 280-pound frame more than filling the chair in his wife, Carol Taylor's office at Fitness U. "When I told another kid he was ugly, I thought I was just being honest. I spent a lot of time in the time-out room my first couple years. Then Betty [Alexa, Sarah Reed counselor and art teacher] came along when I was about nine and explained to me that I have to think before I act. She set up a system of goals based on

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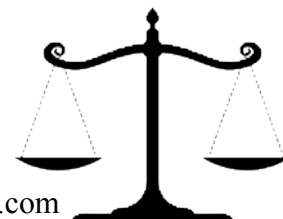
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FEATURE



WORLD ARMWRESTLING LEAGUE

throughout the day is worth points and once they understand the system, they really buy into it. When they demonstrate a particular skill, they receive points. They also lose points for inappropriate behavior, like interrupting a counselor who is talking. The points accumulate and at the end of the week or the end of the program, they get to cash in points at the camp store for candy or games or posters.”

Last year for the first time, the Achievement Center’s summer camp itineraries included daily yoga and mindfulness sessions.

Multiple studies have proven the all-around wellness benefits of incorporating mindfulness into one’s life.

“Evidence-based research shows that when we work on both the mind and the body together, we are going to see the most positive outcomes,” Dundon continues. “As a new element to the program, we didn’t know how the kids would respond to learning yoga, or learning control of their present thoughts with mindfulness sessions.

But they loved it. On their camp assessments, many of them listed the yoga and mindfulness sessions as their favorite parts of camp.”

Tom didn’t have access to this type of research when he was young. He did, however, have access to positive influences in his life and the instincts to know to follow them. He credits his consistent goal-setting and commitment to wellness not only as his tools for dealing with ADHD, but also as his means for dealing with difficult times.

A new study published in the *Journal of Attention Disorders* shows that children with ADHD are less likely than children without ADHD symptoms to adhere to healthy lifestyle habits, making influence from parents and mentors (like Alexa) on healthy life choices that much more imperative for youth with ADHD.

“I’m the type of person that if I do something once, I’m going to do it every day,” Tom says. “But Betty [Alexa] made sports and exercise something positive in my brain and instead of

FEATURE

doing something bad every day, I did something good. No matter what happened – painful or bad times in my life – I used exercise to get through it. I used a no-excuses mentality. I would say to myself, 'Find a way to get through it with exercise.' And I did."

"Now Betty looks at me and says, 'I can't believe you based your whole life on that riding-your-bike thing.'" Tom continues. "But it worked for me. I learned that if I want something, I have to go get it. No excuses. Maybe I can't sit down and read a 300-page book [like other people], but I still earned a college degree."

For Tom, the degree and the bike both represent something he always knew he would attain. A world arm wrestling championship, on the other hand, came to him initially by chance – and later by determination.

"My wife and I went into a bar one night that was holding arm wrestling matches," Tom says. "I signed up for three matches and lost them all. I kept trying and kept losing. Then one time a 185-pound guy beat me and my wife said, 'How'd that guy beat you?' Her question hurt me worse than losing to that guy and I thought, 'I'm going to train like crazy now.' And I did. Every day I thought about that next guy who thought he was going to beat me. I set daily, weekly, and yearly goals and in my head, I was already beating this guy who thought he was going to beat me."

In 2010 in Mesquite, Arizona, Tom did beat the "next guy" when he won the world championship titles, left and right arms, in the Master Men's 100+ Kg weight class as an unknown competitor.

Tom was 47 years old when he won the 2010 World Arm Wrestling Championship. His sudden success in a new sport did not surprise those who know him well.

Tom's wife, Carol, and mentor, Betty Alexa, both said that much of Tom's success has been due to the passion and focus that he invests in life.

"He was dealt a tough hand but has always utilized his strengths [to help him succeed]," Carol says.

"Tom always had the tools he needed to make it," Alexa explains. "The other boys would come home from school and go play, but Tom would go out back and jump rope and run. I like to say that I helped him to build the bridge, but crossing it was up to him."

For Tom, the arm wrestling bridge is the latest of many before it; his most

recent goal on a long list of life achievements.

"I love arm wrestling because I'm six inches away from somebody. I can smell him, I can feel his sweat – it's intense. The match can be over in only seconds and I'm drenched – I'm as sore and tired as if I had trained all day," Tom says, leaning forward and holding his hands in front of himself as he talks. "See? I start sweating just thinking about it, I get so excited about this stuff. The day after the match I get to ice all day and it's great because I earned that right to ice. It means I did something. I have scars all over my body that mean I did something. Scars and bruises mean that I lived my life."

On May 21 in Chicago, Tom placed

"Everybody has stuff to deal with," Tom continues. "Scars come from different things. We can sit and obsess about it all day or we can do something about it. Every morning when I make my goals, I think, 'Be what you respect.' I just keep saying that to myself, 'Be the person you respect.'"

seventh in the left-handed regional arm-wrestling championship, qualifying him for the national championship in Las Vegas. Choosing not to attend the national competition this year, Tom focused instead on daily workouts and family.

"Everybody has stuff to deal with," Tom continues. "Scars come from different things. We can sit and obsess about it all day or we can do something about it. Every morning when I make my goals, I think, 'Be what you respect.' I just keep saying that to myself, 'Be the person you respect.' And I take it all to the gym."

WAL championship results are scheduled to air by weight class Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on ESPN2 from July 19 – Aug. 23.

For more information about the Achievement Center and its services, visit achievementctr.org. For more information about the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center, visit sarahreed.org.

Ti Sumner can be reached at tsumner@ErieReader.com

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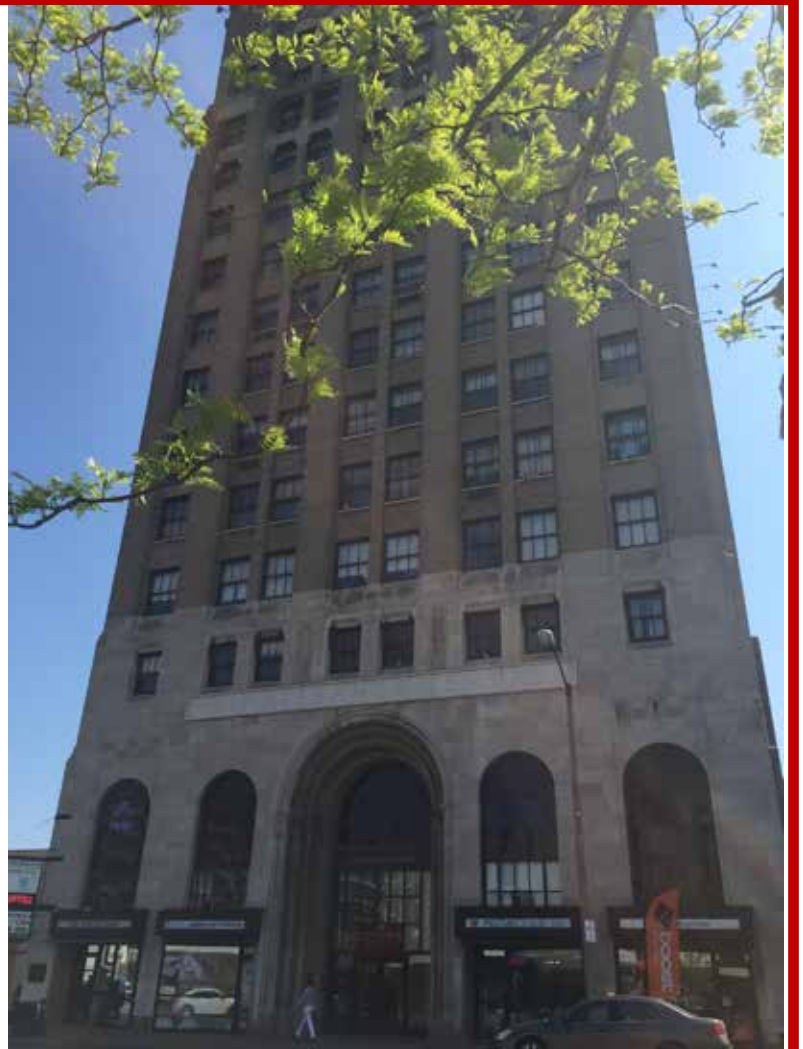
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Erie Faces Erie

Tyler Smilo

troubadour

Ed Bernik

photographer

"Right from the start I wanted to be a guy telling stories with a guitar."

Ed Bernik: On your website, I saw you were born in Texas, and immediately thought of troubadours like Townes Van Zandt. Did you always want to do your own music?

Tyler Smilo: I must have listened to Dylan's *The Times They Are a-Changin'* a thousand times. I wanted to do what he was doing. I took the album to my guitar teacher and he said, "Why would you want to play that? He's a crappy player!" So I quit guitar lessons. Right from the start I wanted to be a guy telling stories with a guitar.

EB: When you write, do you do it for yourself or are you thinking, *I have to write a hit for a producer or A&R guy?*

TS: Not at all. I usually come up with a melody first. Then I'll come up with a line or two. Sometimes in writing you exaggerate a feeling you had or are currently having. For "Super Honest" I came up with a couple lines for the melody and then spun the song from that.

EB: How long does it take you to craft a song?

TS: I'll write the bones of a song in 20-25 minutes. Melodies and words come very quickly for me. I have to jot them down immediately or there are thousands of songs that I forget. As I progress with the songs, they evolve. But I'll take a song to the

stage or studio even if it's not finished.

EB: One of the things that impressed me most when I saw you play live was that you weren't going through the motions; you were going through the emotions. You sing from the heart. Whom do your stories address?

TS: I come from a history of drug abuse. I was a heroin addict. I've been clean for six years. I write a lot for myself. Some of the lyrics, I'll admit, are wrapped around me and pretty selfish, but I went through a dark time and the music has been like medicine to me. When I first started it was so honest for me that it was almost embarrassing to play. Over time, people began to like it and I lost the shyness of playing. The more honest I am, the more they like it. Whether they buy [my music] or see me live, that's a blessing. Writing is like therapy. I've had people say, "Write a song about _____," but it doesn't work that way for me. It has to be something that's eating away at me.

I have a set sound in my head but I'm very bad at explaining it, so it can be a confusing and irritating process for everybody. But I'm getting better at getting out of somebody else what a song calls for. It's a hard thing to do: asking somebody to play something a little more like a river.

EB: That's pretty heavy stuff. We can end the interview right now! [laughs] Everybody loves to put a label on things; where do you see yourself in contemporary American music?

TS: I think I'm American folk, a songwriter tradition with lots of influences: bluegrass to indie to pop. I think my music's best experienced in a sit-down environment, focused on talking about the songs. I play a lot of bars, dinner hours. I love them but I always feel just a little



out of place. If I was doing Cat Stevens, it would be okay; but when you're doing your own music, you want to have the audience be able to wrap their heads around it. I'd love to do venues like the Warner Theatre.

EB: Talk to me a little bit about your new band, Smilo & the Ghost. How do you direct others to play your music?

TS: I have a set sound in my head but I'm very bad at explaining it, so it can be a confusing and irritating process for everybody. But I'm getting better at getting out of somebody else what a song calls for. It's a hard thing to do: asking somebody to play something a little more like

a river. Solo has always been a go-to for me, much easier. Bands have to be much more organized and thought out. For my stuff, I want a much more solid design; foundation if you will. I want the same song every time. It takes a little work.

EB: What do you think is going to happen to you 10 years down the road?

TS: I've actually just signed with a record label called Lavery Road Records, out of Wilmington, North Carolina. It's not a big label like Columbia, but they're very smart guys who believe in what I'm doing, and I believe in what they're doing. I'm interested in seeing where

they help me go. In 10 years, I'd like to be on the road, selling records and able to live off of it. I feel with the right time, focus, and people behind me I could do this. I'm dedicating myself to it. So in 10 years, I'm going to either be broke and singing songs or have a little bit of money and singing songs.

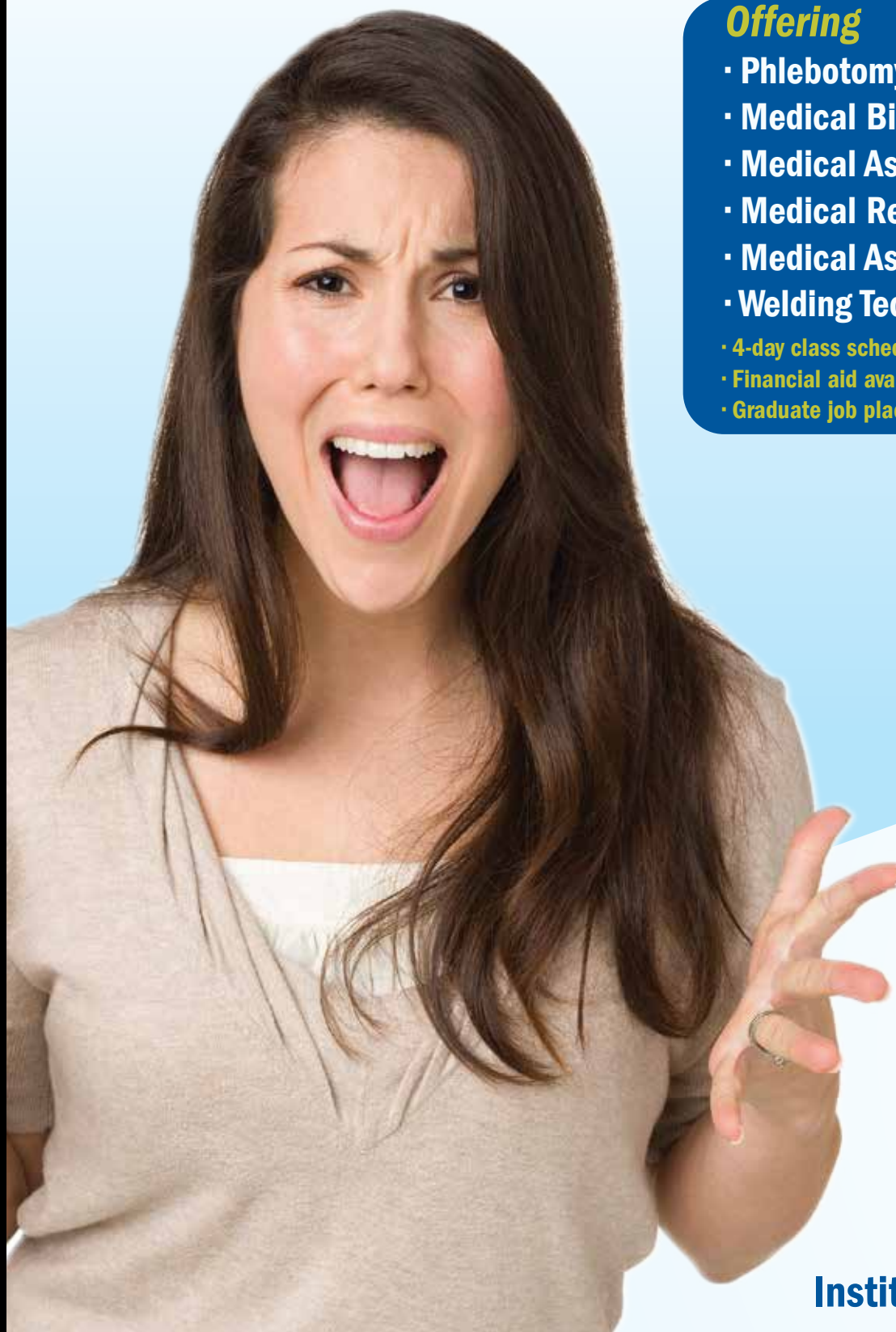
EB: Any time you're involved in the arts as a career, it's a crapshoot. I tell people, every nail in my house is a photo I took for someone.

Tyler Smilo: tylersmilo.com

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