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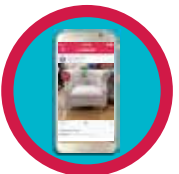
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The Erie Reader is the local voice for news, arts, and culture, and is Erie's only independent, alternative newspaper. Founded in 2010, the Reader has quickly become the region's award-winning source for arts coverage, a strong cultural compass, and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



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"Children all over the world are the same emotionally; the only difference is their lifestyle and resources." - Gyan Ghising



From the Editors

A few real reasons to celebrate

We never run out of excuses to celebrate here in Erie. And though the so-named festival leaves something to be desired in terms of musical headliners, it is nevertheless pretty cool that downtown becomes a pedestrian zone for four days at the end of each August.

More cause for musical celebration arrives in the form of the Night Lights Music Festival, which Ryan Smith calls "an amazing music- and light-driven, socially conscious, cozy gathering of good, groove-minded people."

Meanwhile, the NWPA Pride Alliance kicks off its annual Pridefest with a parade from the Zone Dance Club to Griswold Park. "In a year when outward homophobia and transphobia are on the rise, hate crimes against the LGBT community are becoming a regular occurrence, and other cities ... are canceling their pride events ... Erie hasn't put on any brakes or cut back," Anthony J. Gressley, the NWPA Pride Alliance fundraising committee's entertainment coordinator tells Miriam Lamey.

Our region – like so many in the U.S. – is comprised of immigrants who've been enriching it for generations.

Other festivals featured in this issue include Holy Trinity Parish's Zabawa – Polish for fun. Tracy Geibel tells us that Zabawa "has the same party-like atmosphere you might find at a wedding reception or family reunion."

And if you're one who frequents the many ethnic festivals this city hosts each summer, then you've certainly been celebrating Erie all along.

Our region – like so many in the U.S. – is comprised of immigrants who've been enriching it for generations. Some were our grandparents. And some are our neighbors today, like Gyan Ghising, to whom photographer Ed Bernik introduces us in his popular Erie / Faces / Erie series.

Ghising, who arrived in Erie as a refugee from Nepal, has enhanced our region with his musical talents, through Erie Art Museum's Old Songs New Opportunities program. And soon, he'll open the Himalayan Bar and Grille, which will feature Nepalese food and, eventually, live music on weekends. "The Nepalese people will make it their home bar," says Ghising, "and we hope others will, too."

At a time when excruciatingly loud anti-immigrant – or, more accurately, anti-not-like-me – rhetoric escalates (recently from right downtown), it's particularly critical to recall where we came from. And to not "make America hate again."

And it's imperative to reflect upon what we want this community to look like, and *feel* like, for *all* of our neighbors – regardless of where they're from, how they do or do not worship, what they look like, whom they love, or what their age happens to be.

Our city has the power to *empower*. That is, if we embrace our own heritage and take a forward-thinking cue from what Matt Wiertel, director of sales and marketing for Velocity Network, tells Ben Speggen: "Everything we do will be built for Erie."

Just a Thought

Get lost. (And found.)

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DOUG KERR VIA FLICKR

By: Katie Chriest

“**H**ow do we get to downtown Erie?” asks the man straddling a Heritage Softail, the Harley’s idle providing percussion for his voice. His sun-darkened skin deepens by the minute in the mid-afternoon, midsummer sun. The woman behind him takes a few futile swipes at her wind-wilded hair, barely contained by a bandanna.

The couple they’re riding with settle in at the intersection of Route 98 and Sterrettania Road just behind them. Together, they remind me of the Gemini roller coaster at Cedar Point: a matched set in full Sunday Harley regalia, switching off who leads and who follows. They even have Ohio plates, I notice, smiling to myself.

We match too, I suppose, our two skinny-tired featherlight carbon frames in stark contrast with their decked-out, highway-heavy chrome. And as far as I can tell, none of them are wearing chamois-padded spandex under their Levi’s.

My traveling companion walks his

bike toward the lost man to explain the two right turns, essentially, this gang will need to hit the city.

Whether on two or four wheels, most motorists are plenty courteous to bicyclists; but there’s always that question in the back of our minds: *Is there going to be a confrontation here?*

But the only conflict on this hot day is among the Ohio riders.

“See, I *told* you we shoulda turned back there!” the same man exclaims, and for a moment we three are in collusion: the trio who *knew* where downtown was.

As the group readies themselves for a longer-than-anticipated ride, we say our farewells, tossing back and forth a few clichés about staying cool that our time in this culture have taught us all. Soon, they peel off with the roar we “Shore”-dwellers know well.

We click into our pedals, reawakening our legs. And it occurs to me that we just had an encounter that’s become rarefied in the last decade or so: Someone asked us for directions.

“So, not one of them had a smartphone?” I ask, then catch myself. Just

a year ago, I didn’t have one of those, either. I couldn’t call up an unfamiliar intersection or have Google find a map for me, once it (whoever “it” is) identified my global position.

I had to ask *someone*.

As we made our own way back via two right turns, I wandered – aimlessly – through a mental catalog of times I’ve had to ask directions. Visions of Native American reservations, storybook small towns, and labyrinthine foreign cities flooded my mind; accompanied, in some cases, by the people whom I’d asked.

I recalled one man in Budapest who saw us looking at a map and eagerly offered us help, as though paid by the

There’s no denying that our plastic money and handheld devices have distanced us from one another, limiting those little cordial encounters that keep us connected, even if only for a moment.

Hungarian tourist board to descend upon confused travelers in his complicated city.

Every encounter drew me out of my isolated self. Humbled me. Empowered the one I’d asked. And reminded me how we depend upon each other – we humans – whether we admit it or not.

Though I tend toward melodrama, I know the solution here isn’t to throw out my smartphone (though I reserve the right to go that route, any time). But there’s no denying that our plastic money and handheld devices have distanced us from one another, limiting those little cordial encounters that keep us connected, even if only for a moment.

I’m not saying anything new here. Just affirming a couple of landmarks on the road back to heartier humanity.

If we want to know where we are on a map, Google can help us.

But if we feel lost, we can only help each other.

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



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Erie At Large

In Trump's America



The scene inside the recent Trump rally at Erie Insurance Arena. When a woman held up a subtly anti-Trump sign, folks began to point and shout, "Trump! Trump! Trump!" as they had been instructed to do by the pre-recorded message that served as a prelude to the rally.

t-shirt, a baseball hat, and a fanny pack. We had a chat near the entrance to the alley between the PNC Bank parking garage and the back of the Verizon building while he finished a cigarette.

Like a modern day "Okie" in search of work, he follows the Trump campaign from town to town, peddling election year tchotchkes. How long will he stay on the road, I asked, before he returns home?

Amid the fragmented and ahistorical speeches of the rally, the fearful eyes of a disgruntled populace stared at, listened to, and celebrated a demagogue who will say anything to anyone at anytime, and if he showed up tomorrow and contradicted himself, they would not care.

"November," he said.

Has he just joined the traveling show, I wondered?

"No," he replied. He's been campaigning since last November. A year on the road, side by side with the Trump campaign, relying on Trump for a wage, but each day being paid by someone else.

John and I had talked on my way into the Thunderdome, when the streets were relatively quiet, with the exception of the passing "Trump Train" – a construction tanker painted flat black with the "Trump Train" moniker on its side

the media gallery, and yell. No words, just noise.

A woman seated behind the media gallery silently held up a hand towel with the words "Stop Hate" written in marker upon it. She did not stand. She did not speak. As soon as those around her realized her pennant was not for their team, they moved in around her and began to point and shout, "Trump! Trump! Trump!" as they had been instructed to do by the pre-recorded message that served as a prelude to the rally.

A Pennsylvania State Police officer descended the stairs toward the woman, where he eventually initiated her escort out of the building. But before he arrived, someone had climbed over the seat behind her, snatched the towel from her hand, and thrown it into the empty seats below.

Were those in the audience the victim or are they complicit in the crime?

Only time will tell.

Outside of the arena, vendors lined French Street. I spoke to a man named John from South Carolina who sold "Make America Great Again" hats as well as Trump tees and campaign buttons. John had the appearance of someone most of you would probably steer away from if he approached you at CelebrateErie. He was dressed in a stained green

– and the honking car horns in support of the attendees lined up along French Street waiting for admission to the arena or the occasional sound of "F@k Trump" bending from the open windows of passing cars. The crowd was too intent on entering the rally to worry about purchasing evidence of their commitment to the name-brand candidate.

After the rally, it was a different scene. The exodus of disaffected Pennsylvanians, Ohioans, and New Yorkers fed the shakedown in the same way that concertgoers are compelled to purchase merchandise as a declaration of their love for the performing artist.

I needed a drink to wash out of my mouth the odd taste of all I had consumed. The crowd at the bar was unusually heavy, comprised of those wanting a drink and those wanting to binge drink. A man, who proudly proclaimed he had just come from the rally, offered to buy my tie for a dollar so he could use it to strangle someone – presumably someone who had not attended the rally. I counter-offered my tie for \$20. He declined in disappointment, but was quickly propped up by his special lady friend who assured him that he would be able to find an equally nice tie at the dollar store.

This is capitalism in the age of Trump.

Amid the fragmented and ahistorical speeches of the rally, the fearful eyes of a disgruntled populace stared at, listened to, and celebrated a demagogue who will say anything to anyone at anytime, and if he showed up tomorrow and contradicted himself, they would not care.

In that, I now understand what Thomas Jefferson felt when he wrote, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just."

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

By: Jim Wertz

In Trump's America, the rubes win. Not literally, of course, but they'll believe they have won, and that is much, much worse.

This was the takeaway as I sat, corralled inside the designated media zone – the DMZ, if you will – at Erie Insurance Arena last week, cordoned off for my own safety, alongside members of the local and national media.

Were we there to observe? Or were we the show?

One may never know.

I sat two rows behind CNN and FOX News – the Yin and Yang of the conservative assault on "mainstream media" – as producers for these networks bantered jokingly while Trump maligned the "liberal" CNN and begrudgingly praised the "conservative" Fox News.

The mere mention of the media evoked vitriol from the audience of more than 7,000 people. Only a celebrity death match between Fox's John Roberts and CNN's Jeremy Diamond would have brought them more pleasure. With every Trumpish digression directed at the media, a young man – barely, if at all, old enough to vote – holding a Trump sign and ironically wearing an "Affliction" t-shirt would turn, look into

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NEWS & VIEWS

Harrisburg Happenings

Reasons to raise a glass



FRANCOIS VIA FLICKR

By: Senator Sean Wiley

The hallowed halls of the state Capitol may be missing much of their usual business buzz during these summer months, but the progress put forth by the General Assembly continues to forge ahead as we move through the month of August.

Wine lovers across the commonwealth are rejoicing, now that grocery stores can apply to the Liquor Control Board to stock our favorite vino on their shelves. Plus, Pennsylvania wine producers can apply to ship wine directly to consumers: a huge boon to our state's Lake Erie Wine Country.

Additionally, local producers of all kinds will now be able to sell their products at farmers markets and on each other's premises, providing consumers new opportunities to discover products being produced in their area. And in the greater Erie area – given the wealth of potential in our region – that discovery will ultimately lead to an expanded reach across the Keystone State.

Furthermore, Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores will see longer and more convenient hours, including additional weekend sales. And customers will enjoy flexible pricing options under the new regulations.

All of these points were long sought-after concessions in the com-

monwealth, as the battle between full-on liquor privatization raged against the more judicious modernization movement. Fueled by a misunderstanding at best – and, more likely, a misrepresentation – of the true depth and breadth of the liquor system's fiscal impact, privatization proponents pushed a radical attempt to sell the system to the highest bidders. They promised improved convenience, selection, and prices.

Moderates argued back, successfully, that a self-sustaining entity like the liquor system – driving over \$100 million in revenue into the general fund each year after satisfying all of its own obligations – should be maximized as an asset prior to the debate over vending at face value. At a time when revenue was needed, the battle raged further over long-term gain versus a short-term influx of cash.

Fiscal projections of the modernization plan see a large net gain in revenue for both the general fund as well as the state store fund in the current and future fiscal years. And if social media support for the changes is any indication of a subsequent increase in purchasing, things are looking up.

Shifting gears towards the end of the two-year 2015-2016 legislative session this November, Gov. Tom Wolf has indicated he will implement a special session – a little-utilized constitution-



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NEWS & VIEWS

al provision – for only the 35th time in commonwealth history.

Special sessions are intended to allow members of the General Assembly, both in the Senate and the House, to focus on a singular issue of importance. The last time Pennsylvania saw a special session was in 2009-2010 to address transportation funding that later resulted in Act 89, which made transformational infrastructure improvements.

Wolf revealed that the session will address the heroin and opioid crisis gripping the Keystone State – and the nation, for that matter.

During an early August stop in Erie to congratulate the Esper Treatment Center for their recent award as a Commonwealth Center of Excellence in the battle against heroin and opioid addiction, Gov. Wolf and Department

Gov. Wolf revealed that a special session will address the heroin and opioid crisis gripping the Keystone State – and the nation, for that matter.

of Human Services Secretary Ted Dallas both drove home the message that opioid addiction is an illness. As an illness, much like diabetes or cancer, patients need to be provided treatment in a particular way that is most beneficial, ultimately, to their individual recovery.

Secretary Dallas spoke of prevention, and of working collectively with prescribing physicians and the pain management industry to avert addiction at its source. He also stressed the need for every community to band together in collective efforts aimed at health and strength.

Dallas asked two rhetorical questions: How many more lives have to be lost? And how many families have to suffer?

Our shared response is – and must continue to be – not a single one more.

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

News of the Weird

Bacteria to the rescue once again.

By: Chuck Shepherd

LEAD STORY -- Designer Leather

The late fashion designer Alexander McQueen (who dabbled in macabre collections, himself), might appreciate the work of acolyte Tina Gorjanc: She will grow McQueen's skin (from DNA off his hair) in a lab, add back his tattoos, and from that make leather handbags and jackets. Gorjanc, a recent graduate of McQueen's fashion school alma mater, bills the project mainly as showcasing the meager legal protections for abandoned bits of human DNA -- and fears industrial use of such DNA on a much larger scale. [Quartz, 7-16-2016]

War Is Hell

Jihadists had a rough year militarily and now suffer further from an array of field reports (such as a new book by retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn) that their most sensitive laptop computers captured in battle by U.S. forces seemed always to be loaded with pornography -- including "vile" material involving kids and animals. (Initially, said one analyst, there was so much porn that U.S. intelligence figured its purpose was only to disguise tactical messages within the sex-scene pixels.) (2) On the other hand, jihadists can claim one victory, in that the actor Michael Caine said recently the terrorist-caused airport discomforts had finally convinced him to legally change his name to "Michael Caine" -- after tiring of explaining to screeners why he had Mau-

rice Micklewhite's (his birth name's) passport. [ABC News, 7-14-2016] [The Guardian, 7-22-2016]

Awkward Flirtations

For Some Reason, Ladies Turned Them Down: (1) Patrick Marsh, 59, was charged with indecent exposure in Woodward Township, Pennsylvania, in July after he rang the doorbell of a 30-year-old female neighbor seeking, as he told police, "courtship." He greeted the woman naked, "with his genitals in his hands." (2) In Florida's The Villages senior community, Howard Sparber, 69, faces several charges after having, in June, fired 33 9mm rounds into the home of a woman who had been declining his sexual overtures. (The lady was away.) (3) John Taylor, 57, said he was just lonely and wanted to meet women when a court sentenced him in Shirley, England, in July, for a three-month spree of furtively slipping men's underwear through various women's house letterboxes. [PennLive.com, 7-12-2016] [WKMG-TV (Orlando), 6-21-2016] [Birmingham Mail, 7-26-2016]

Compelling Explanations

In June, Dieter Uchtdorf, a high official in the Mormon Church, said the historic narrative of Mormon founder Joseph Smith's use of a "seer stone" to translate the "golden plates" that gave Smith ultimate worldly knowledge has been authenticated, basically, by the 2007 invention of the iPhone. "I can get the collected knowledge of the world through a few little inputs," said Uchtdorf, and thus it is likelier

than ever that God gave Smith something like a smartphone in 1823. [LDS Daily (Salt Lake City), 6-21-2016]

Geoffrey Fortier, 23, was arrested in Craighead County, Arkansas, in July and charged with video voyeurism of a woman he had allowed to shower in the home occupied by Fortier and his girlfriend. After the woman stepped out of the shower, she noticed a logged-on iPad propped against a wall. Fortier informed deputies that it was all a misunderstanding -- that he had earlier recorded himself urinating in order to sell the video to a urination-fetish website, and he simply forgot to remove the device. [Arkansas Online, 7-28-2016]

Scientific Breakthroughs

Friendly Bacteria: Plastics are well-known to decompose slowly, but the most difficult is the polyethylene used for containers such as the omnipresent water bottles, and despite recycling, tens of millions of metric tons wind up in landfills, where the plastic's strong polymer bonds resist breakdown. Recently, however, two Japanese researchers, after tedious trial-and-error, identified a bacterium that views the polyethylene terephthalate as an efficient, tasty meal. A colleague of the two said further tweaking was necessary before using the bacteria industrially. [Chemical & Engineering News, 3-11-2016]

Room-Sized Bong? Samuel Oliphant, 35, was arrested on various charges in Scottsdale, Arizona, in June after police were called to a

house to investigate a "strong and unusual" odor (which cops suspected to be drugs). Inside, they found a "laboratory," necessitating use of their "hazmat protocols," because Oliphant had allegedly built a "complex and elaborate" system apparently for the purpose of enhancing the smoking of marijuana. [KPHO-TV (Phoenix), 7-1-2016]

Awesome!

Rapper Kasper Knight apparently Rshot himself in the cheek with a revolver on July 17 in Indianapolis -- as part of a staged music video -- according to raw footage of the incident posted on his Facebook page (and then of course seen by almost 2 million people). Knight, seen bleeding afterward, said he tried to recruit a shooter, but when no one volunteered, shot himself, anticipating (as in previous times he had been shot, by other people) "like a 4 out of 10 on the pain scale." [WRTV (Indianapolis), 7-27-2016]

The Passing Parade

The Belton (Texas) Early Childhood (pre-kindergarten) School staged an "Enchanted Evening" prom in May and posted many photos on its Facebook page of little toddlers arrayed in tuxedos, gowns, corsages and of course, for some, limousines. (A Kansas City Star reporter suggested that this was just the beginning of an expensive parental trend.) (2) The village of Trecon was inducted recently into the club of French towns with silly names. "Tres con," translated, is

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - BY B.TOY



NEWS & VIEWS

"very stupid." Mayor Georges Leherle accepted the town's membership, joining 38 incumbent members including "Monteton" ("My Nipple") and "Mariol" ("Dumbass"). [Kansas City Star, 6-27-2016] [The Local (Paris), 7-11-2016]

Recurring Themes

Things That Have Happened Before:
 (1) An ambulance was called in July when jockey Chris Meehan was kicked in the face by a horse and knocked out cold after he fell during a race in Merano, Italy, but the arriving ambulance accidentally backed over his leg. He is recovering. (2) At England's premier agricultural event (the Great Yorkshire Show), a winning show cow was stripped of her title, suspected of having artificially "enhanced" udders. The runner-up, of course, was promoted. [The Racing Post via Daily Telegraph (London), 7-5-2016] [The Northern Echo (Wycombe, England), 7-14-2016]

A News of the Weird Classic (September 2012)

"Pheromone parties" attract men and women seeking romance, not via often-insincere conversation, but based on the primal-scent signals emitted by each other's slept-in T-shirts. Organizers have staged parties in New

York City and Los Angeles and plan to expand, according to a June (2012) Associated Press report. The organizers' initial conclusion: People prefer lovers with a somewhat-different genetic makeup than their own, but not too different. (Update: "Pheromone parties" were attracting attention as recently as 2014, but not much since then.) [Associated Press via USA Today, 6-23-2012] [The Atlantic, August 2014]

Perspective

Almost half of all produce raised by U.S. farmers is thrown out before it reaches a consumer's plate, and though there are several contributing explanations, the most striking is American eaters' "cult of perfection." "It's about blemish-free produce," said one farmer, e.g., "sunburnt cauliflower" or table grapes not quite "wedge-shaped" enough. America's "unyielding cosmetic standards," according to a July report in The Guardian of London, even means that much of the annual \$160 billion worth of imperfect food is simply left to rot on the vine, or sent directly to a landfill, because farmers anticipate retailers' reluctance to stock it. [The Guardian, 7-13-2016]

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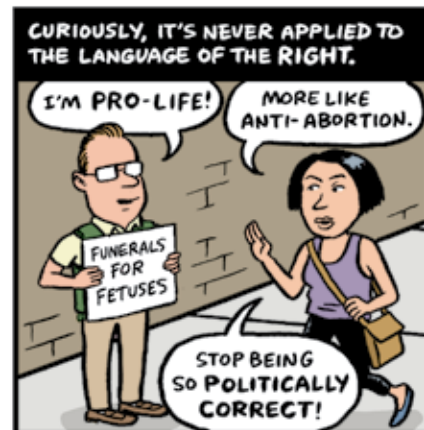
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Sunday, September 11

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The Path of Innovation

Forging ahead with Velocity Network and Behrend's AMIC



Velocity Network's Joel Deuteran in front of the company's newly-acquired Rothrock Building.

NICK WARREN

By: Ben Spegen

There are many paths to prosperity and progress. But today, it's hard – perhaps even foolish – to ignore the path paved by innovation.

"We know the pain of holding onto the past for too long," says Chattanooga, Tennessee Mayor Andy Berke, "because we've done it."

Berke opens his *Big Ideas for Cities* presentation, "How the City of Chattanooga Became a Destination for Innovation," with that lament. He adds, "When we talk about economic resiliency and the way mid-size cities can be a part of the future of our new economy, it has special meaning for Chattanooga."

The Volunteer State's fourth-largest city has become a darling among innovation hounds and urban planning enthusiasts. Chattanooga went from what Walter Cronkite called "the dirtiest city in America" in the late '70s to a place entrepreneurs and millennials gravitate to in 2016.

Coupled with strategic investment in waterfront property, Chattanooga's continuing recovery comes from embracing

its duality: deep roots in a manufacturing past, and a future sprung from innovation.

Addressing the power of cities and regions to rebuild, reimagine, and reemerge, Brookings Institution Centennial Scholar Bruce Katz famously – and often to comedic effect – quotes Dolly Parton: "Find out who you are and do it on purpose." When the laughter subsides, he often adds: "Be the best 21st century version of yourself you can be."

Successful cities and regions like Chattanooga haven't run kicking and screaming from their past. Instead, they've made use of it.

"What we all have in our cities are unique assets that we have to take advantage of," Berke says in his National League of Cities-sponsored talk. "We spend all day trying to get more out of what we already have. There are a lot more cities that look like Chattanooga than look like San Francisco, New York, or Boston, and for America to be great, we all have to be participating in the economic resiliency that comes from the new economy."

Berke is referencing an inno-

vation-first economy, spurred in Chattanooga's case by its innovation district: an area encouraging connection and inviting the clustering of development for start-ups, business incubators, and accelerators. Chattanooga was the first mid-sized city to launch one.

"Everywhere can't be Boston or the Bay Area—and other cities shouldn't try to be," claims Brooks Rainwater, senior executive and director of the Center for City Solutions at the National League of Cities. "Innovation districts need to harness what makes each city tick, be it the culture, the technology, or the policies."

Erie likewise isn't Boston, San Francisco, or New York; nor should it endeavor to become them – or Chattanooga for that matter. But intentionally or not, Erie is taking notes from Chattanooga's playbook. If drawn up smartly and applied aptly, Erie could win big with two key moves from familiar players in its economic ecosystem championing innovation.

One day, we'll look back and declare that the week of July 18, 2016 was good for Erie

and its economic future. Amid stalled negotiations between GE Transportation and local labor unions – the fallout of which remains to be determined but likely signals continued regional job loss – two big local stories broke, delivering refreshing news.

On Wednesday, July 20, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College held a grand opening for its new state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center. The \$16.5 million facility will eliminate – as the media release boldly declared – "barriers between academic and industry partners."

Two days later, news broke that Velocity Network, after a state Commonwealth Court decision choked the information technology-based company's plans to purchase the former Ridgefield Elementary School in Millcreek Township, would still be moving – just not within Millcreek. Rather, the company would be relocating its headquarters to downtown Erie with the purchase of the Rothrock Building at 121 West 10th Street, along with four nearby parking lots and the building currently occupied by the Toni & Guy Hair-dressing Academy.

The differences are evident in both time and space. One development is polished and ready for use; the other awaits a closing date later this fall. One is housed on a burgeoning university campus; the other breathes new life into downtown.

Nonetheless, the approach to innovation is similar. At a time when ideas and creations drive development, the space in which they occur must encourage interaction and connectivity.

"If the idea behind this new center could be summed up in a single word, it would be collaboration," says Scott McCain, chair of Behrend's Council of Fellows, in the atrium of the college's new Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center during the building's grand opening. "We're not talking about a warm and fuzzy concept here. We're talking about an orchestrated effort to bring individuals and organizations from both the academic and business worlds together to engage in research and development as teams."

And it's not the first time Behrend has embraced a collaborative notion.

Ten years prior, Behrend co-located its business and engineering schools under the shared roof of the Jack Burke Research and Economic Development Center – the first such academic co-habitation in the nation. The move was made, according to Chancellor Ralph Ford, to encourage learning across disciplines, and has since led to the creation of cross-disciplinary endeavors.

"Innovation seems to occur at the places where people and ideas intersect," Ford says during the opening. "This center will provide the ideal environment for interconnectivity ... We expect this to be a win-win for the college, for area business and industry, and for our region."

The win comes from a concentration of people: The more people, the more ideas; the more ideas, the more creation – all under one roof.

"This building will allow us to grow in terms of student enrollment, to grow the applied research that we are known for, and to advance our support of innovation," Ford adds later in an interview. "Even more important than that is the philosophical shift that this represents. The



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world has moved toward a far more collaborative approach to product development and R&D. Gone are the days of the large industry research labs that provided so much impact in the last century. My hope is that it further shows the value in what we call the Open Lab strategy, which is a highly collaborative approach to the development of new products and ideas.”

That strategy encourages regular interactions between faculty and students along with industry partners. And Behrend’s position on intellectual property speaks to that collaborative culture and free flow of ideas.

“At Penn State, we made a significant change to our approach to intellectual proper-

Top: Behrend Chancellor Ralph Ford at the grand opening of the college’s Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center. Bottom: An illustration of the college’s Open Lab strategy.

ROBERT FRANK



ty policy several years ago. If industry funds research, they own the intellectual property that results from it,” Ford explains. “That was an intentional shift from a focus on deriving residual revenue from research to one that said we would like to place the emphasis on partnerships with industry and the value those interactions bring to our students and faculty.”

Ten years ago, though, collaboration would’ve simply been internal. Create a silo and fill that silo with ideas, but don’t let the ideas spill over lest a competitor pilfer and subsequently profit from your creation.

Today, however, profit-driven development has been pushed out by collaboration because collaboration accelerates production. The innovation that will take place at Behrend is designed with Erie in mind.

“In terms of the community, we want this to support

the region’s economy, but in a specific way, which is growing new product development and research investment that leads to job growth and business attraction,” Ford says. “As [we] know from a recent Brookings Institution report, the Erie region lags in research investment, and in order to grow as a technology and manufacturing hub, we need to increase this key area of investment.”

According to Brookings, areas strong in advanced industries – those employing and investing in workers with skill-sets high in STEM education – typically grow stronger with a greater regional presence of university-driven R&D. Given that Erie’s advanced manufacturing, a subset of advanced industries, contributes 27 percent to Erie’s GDP, fostering advanced industries is vital to evolving Erie’s current economic ecosystem.

Although ideas come from people and **[Cont. on page 34]**

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Spotlight on Erie

August 17 – 30, 2016

Thursday, Aug. 18

Erie Celebrates in End-of-summer Style



From Thursday Aug. 18 to Sunday Aug. 21, both weekend visitors and Erie natives will fill the downtown Erie streets for four days of summer festivities, known as CelebrateErie.

Split into several zones, CelebrateErie allows attendees to experience Erie in multiple ways. They can view artwork at the Erie Art Museum or admire the spectacular sidewalk murals on the Chalk Walk. As part of the Taste of Erie zone, visitors can try some of Erie's best food samples from local restaurants.

Split into several zones, CelebrateErie allows attendees to experience Erie in multiple ways, from artwork to food to music.

And no Erie event would be complete without live music to keep the party going. Rising from their graves just for this special occasion, Here Come the Mummies is a funk-rock band claiming to be from ancient Egypt. These mummified musicians promise "unrelenting live shows" that will "bend your brain and melt your face." The band has opened for P-Funk and Al Green, and it's been invited to multiple music festivals in recent years. If you aren't afraid, you can see one of their chilling performances on Thursday night at 8:30 p.m.

The funk continues on Friday night, when Thomas McClary, co-founder of The Commodores, takes the stage at 8 p.m., following performances by Familiar Spirit Band and The Groove. The Commodores have earned several number one hits, and are well known for songs like "Just to Be Close to You" and "Brick House," among others.

On Saturday at 8 p.m., legendary rock

and roll artist Randy Bachman will perform after a line-up of four other bands, which begins at 2 p.m. This talented Canadian musician has collected more than 120 gold and platinum albums in his career.

Frankie Ballard will finish out the festivities on Sunday night at 8 p.m. with the final headlining performance. This country artist writes for his audience, hoping that his lyrics create a true connection with fans. His most recent album, *El Rio* was named in the top 25 country albums of the year by *Rolling Stone*. Released in June, *El Rio* includes songs like "It All Started with a Beer" and "Cigarette." Ballard is also well-known for recent hits like "Sunshine and Whiskey" and "Helluva Life."

But Celebrate Erie isn't just for adults. The kids can't get bored when there are two city blocks devoted entirely to them. The Kids Zone stretches from Eighth to 10th streets, providing a variety of kid-friendly activities and a stage that features performers from Lake Erie Ballet, Erie Dance Theater, Erie Playhouse Youtheatre Showstoppers, and more. It's perfect for parents, too.

For a map and a complete list of all performances, events, and other activities, visit celebrateerie.com. – Tracy Geibel

Thursday, Aug. 18 to Sunday, Aug. 21 // Times vary // Throughout downtown Erie // celebrateerie.com

Friday, Aug. 19

All My Sons to be Staged by All An Act Theatre

Sins of the fathers, money over human lives, and forbidden love are classic themes explored in Arthur Miller's play *All My Sons* (1947).

"*All My Sons* is an extremely powerful story about post-WWII family and betrayal," explained *Sons* director Larry Lewis, who also performs in the show, via email. "In much the same vein as *Death of a Salesman* (which we did in 2011), there is a family secret that ultimately results in tragedy."

Lewis plays the role of Joe Keller, "a man who was convicted of selling faulty cylinder heads to the Army Air Corps during WWII, which resulted in the deaths of 21 pilots. On appeal he gets exonerated, but his partner remains in prison. Joe goes on to great success."

I asked Lewis if directing and performing presents some complicated situations.

"Directing a show and performing in it does create some problems," Lewis confided. "Not only do you have to make sure you're prepared as an actor, you also have to be attentive to the rest of the cast and make sure blocking and

"All My Sons is an extremely powerful story about post-WWII family and betrayal," explained director Larry Lewis, who also performs in the show.

character interpretation is what you want."

He continued, "Since I can't physically write notes for the cast while on stage, I have to try and remember what I wanted to tell them after rehearsals. If it's something I consider major, we'll stop and do it over. Other times, I'll send them an email that night or go over it the next day before we start."

Joshua Mizikowski, who plays Chris, commented via email: "I think that Erie can expect to see one of the best written plays of the last century whose themes on life, and what happens to those families that suffer loss during a war, are just as impactful today as they were in 1947." – Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays // Aug. 19 to Sept. 11 // 652 W. 17th St. // allanact.net or 450.8553

Sunday, Aug. 21

Schickalay's Hosts Legendary Reggae Act, The Wailers



With its members having helped to set the standard-bearing bar of reggae music (along with legends like

Bob Marley and Peter Tosh), it's safe to say The Wailers are even more than the real deal when it comes to this genre.

They've toured the world over, and on Sunday, Aug. 21, they're bringing their signature, summery sound to Schickalay's on the Bay as the venue continues the 2016 season of its annual outdoor concert series.

The Wailers will be joined by long-time local world-jam favorites One World Tribe, which brings funky, earthy grooves that are the product of a truly multicultural, multi-musical collective of artists with real – and really diverse – chops.

Sounds like they'll play well together. So, as with this summer's other shows at Schickalay's, head on down near the bay, get barefoot, and dance the Sunday away.

And don't worry 'bout a thing. Every little thing is gonna be alright. – Ryan Smith

4 to 7 p.m. // 2860 W. 6th St. // facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay

Tuesday, Aug. 23

Philly's Think Pink Floyd Brings a Prog Rock Finale to 8 Great Tuesdays



Here's a sweet vision: You're all kicked back, catching a sunset next to Lake Erie.

Then a laser show proceeds to blow your mind.

Add to that some expert-level live renditions from psych-prog gods Pink Floyd's glorious catalog, and you've got a trip worth taking (er, making), even on a Tuesday night.

Eight Great Tuesdays is ending its 2016 run just right on Aug. 23 with a performance by Think Pink Floyd, a Philly-based tribute band. The ensemble really has its act together, impres-

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sively playing Floyd selections from the early, out-there years of *Meddle* (and before) all the way up through *The Wall* (and beyond).

This is going to be good. It's an awesome way to complete this year's 8 Great circle, and to celebrate – like Floyd says – all that is now.

And all that is gone.

And all that is to come.

And, indeed, all that is under the sun will be in tune – until, of course, the sun is eclipsed by the moon. – Ryan Smith

6:30 p.m. // Liberty Park Amphitheater, Lawrence Pier // porterie.org

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Get Your Phil at Noon with the Erie Philharmonic Wind Quintet



Huffing and puffing feebly to get over the hump? Blow off some of that tension with the Erie Philharmonic

ic Woodwind Quintet in the penultimate installment of the Erie Art Museum's Mid-day Art Break music series. You may not be a nobleman standing in a Viennese courtyard, but you can still feel like a Wiener as these accomplished players draw from a rich tradition of Western music.

The wind quintet first came in vogue in the early 19th century through the efforts of seminal composers Anton Reicha and Franz Danzi. The instruments of a typical wind quintet include (from low to high) bassoon, oboe, French horn, clarinet, and flute. Once a

Far from pandering to the powdered-wig-and-petticoat demographic, contemporary woodwind quintets take on a great breadth of material.

novelty, it has since become a standard chamber ensemble. Far from pandering to the powdered-wig-and-petticoat demographic, contemporary woodwind quintets take on a great breadth of material – not only classical, but also popular music from the charts, TV, and film. You may have never been aware there was a demand for it, but

woodwind interpretations exist of everything from Gershwin to Lady Gaga. Oboe they didn't? You bet your bassoon they did.

As always, free gallery tours will be available, as well as refreshments from the Wave Café. Do not let yourself pass this up – because this group truly puffs with pizzazz. – Matt Swanseger

Noon to 1 p.m. // 411 State St. // erieartmuseum.org/events-mid-day-art-break // Free

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Mercyhurst's Dracula Promises to be a Bloody Good Show



Count Dracula holds the distinction of the second-most frequently portrayed character in all of literature, behind Sherlock Holmes. On both the stage and the silver screen, there aren't too many veins left to tap into where Bram Stoker's 1897 novel is concerned.

But the young and talented thespians of Mercyhurst University promise to infuse some fresh blood into the time-honored classic just the same.

Of the myriad theatrical adaptations over the past century, Steven Dietz's has been lauded as one of the truest

On both the stage and the silver screen, there aren't too many veins left to tap into where Bram Stoker's 1897 novel is concerned.

to the source material. As in the novel, much of the story is presented through a series of bites – letters, journal entries, and newspaper clippings – as the protagonists track London's most troublesome undocumented immigrant. (Should have built a wall?) Mr. Dracula's genteel mannerisms and dignified fashion sense (capas add a measure of gravitas to any ensemble) belie a rather inconvenient (and very literal) lust for life. In an era straddling Victorian principles and journalistic sensationalism, Drac's hickies were not the kind so easily covered up.

Watch as Dr. Abraham Van Hels-

MUSIC

Mid-day Art Break: Jess Royer with Nick Warren

Aug. 17 — noon to 1 p.m.

Erie Art Museum's Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Pleasures

Aug. 17 — 5 p.m.

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

Rankin & Schell

Aug. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Songwriter Sunset

Aug. 18, 25 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Selah Praise Band

Aug. 18 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Jackson Station

Aug. 19 — 6 p.m.

Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Rick Hornyak

Aug. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Blarney Rubble Band

Aug. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Aaron Work

Aug. 19 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Flock of Walri

Aug. 19 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. basementtransmissions.com.

Tabla for Two

Aug. 19 — 7:30 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Girard, 107 Myrtle St. tablafortwo.com.

Whiskey Road

Aug. 19 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Dreamscendence

Aug. 19 — 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

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

The Goats

Aug. 20 — 5 to 9 p.m.

Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, 10225 E. Lake Rd. pennshore.com.

Geek Army

Aug. 20 — 6 p.m.

Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

The Highlife

Aug. 20 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Fred Oakman

Aug. 20 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Division Street Machine

Aug. 20 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Sean Patrick & The Newgrass Revolution

Aug. 20 — 10 p.m. to midnight

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

First to Eleven

Aug. 21 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

SaS Acoustics

Aug. 21 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

The Wailers and One World Tribe

Aug. 21 — 3 to 9 p.m.

Shickalay's On The Bay, 2860 W. 6th St. facebook.com/SchickalaysOnTheBay.

Tommy Link

Aug. 21 — 5 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Erie Battle League

Aug. 21 — 7 to 11 p.m.

Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/events/1044585502297332.

Think Pink Floyd

Aug. 23 — 6:30 p.m.

Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier porterie.org.

Mid-day Art Break: Erie Philharmonic

Aug. 24 — noon to 1 p.m.

Erie Art Museum's Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Big Dog Acoustics

Aug. 25 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Erie Playhouse

Season Preview

Aug. 26 — noon to 1 p.m.

Studio Q, 8425 Peach St. wqln.org.

Whiskey Road Rock Show

Aug. 26 — 6 p.m.

Coconut Joe's, 28 North Park Row cjoes.com.

Abbey Road

Aug. 26 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Junction PA

Aug. 26 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Claire Stuczynski

Aug. 26 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Derek Davis

Aug. 26 — 7 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. facebook.com/TheCork1794.

Tiger Maple String Band

Aug. 26 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

Cruisin'

Aug. 26 — 9 p.m.

The LECOM Wellness
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ART OF HEALING ART SHOW

Opening reception
August 20th, 6-8pm



Join us for a night of music, art and refreshments at the opening reception of the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center “Art of Healing” Art Show on August 20th from 6pm to 8pm.

The art show will be open to the public at the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center on Sunday, August 21st from 12pm to 6pm and Monday the 22nd to Friday, August 26th during normal business hours.

Join the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center during the Art Show and receive 50% off the enrollment fee!

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CALENDAR

ing and his intrepid crew of vampire hunters piece together the clues in an attempt to staunch the bleeding – not only of London, but also of the reputation of all ethnic Transylvanians. There will be five opportunities to sink your fangs into this harrowing tale, including a special midnight showing on Friday night. Plenty of time to visit your favorite Italian restaurant beforehand – just as a precaution. – Matt Swanseger

7:30 p.m. Aug. 24, 25, and 27; 11:55 p.m. Aug. 26; 2 p.m. Aug. 28 // Taylor Little Theatre // 501 E 38th St. // mercyhurst.edu/events/mercyhurst-theatre-program-dracula // Adults \$15, Seniors/students \$10, Youth/Mercyhurst students \$5

Thursday, Aug. 25

Night Lights Music Festival Brightly Rounds Out the Summer Season

Stunning sonic shapeshifters, Beats Antique.

Jam world royalty, Eric Krasno. Ever-expanding prog-jam wizards, Aqueous.

“Cave Music” masters, Moon Hooch; synth-washed rocketeers, Jimkata; and new-old-school rockers, The London Souls.

To put it simply, the good people be-



BEATS ANTIQUE

hind the Night Lights Music Festival have damn good taste in music – and they know how to put on a spectacular get-down.

All those out-of-this-world musicians are just a small bit of the sweet line-

Night Lights has grown over the last six years into a completely unique, not-to-be-missed annual addition to the region’s festival scene.

up at this year’s Night Lights, which has grown over the last six years into a completely unique, not-to-be-missed annual addition to the region’s already very cool live music festival scene.

Night Lights also calls Sherman, New York’s beautiful Great Blue Heron festival grounds its home, bringing a new

Punk Show

Aug. 27 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

Tony Kellogg

Aug. 27 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Kiss

Aug. 27 — 7:30 p.m.

Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Radio Age

Aug. 27 — 9 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

The Division Street Machine

Aug. 27 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

Jeffrey Paris

Aug. 28 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Seann P. Clark and Collette Bone

Aug. 28 — 5 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Gem City Jazz Ensemble

Aug. 30 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

St. John’s Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. jazzerie.com.

Mid-day Art Break: Erie Chamber Orchestra

Aug. 31 — noon to 1 p.m.

Erie Art Museum’s Wave Cafe, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

DANCE

Master Ballet Class with Robert Gosnell

Aug. 22 — 9 to 10:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre, 8335 Edinboro Rd. facebook.com/Erie-Contemporary-Ballet-Theatre-1548281548753373.

FOOD & DRINK

Erie Food Tours

Aug. 19, 20, 26, 27 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Like My Thai, 827 State St. eriefoodtours.com.

Farm to Table Wine Dinner with Peace by Piece Farm

Aug. 25 — 6:30 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. facebook.com/TheCork1794.

Mind, Body, Beer

Aug. 30 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

FILM

Robots Movie

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

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

D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — noon & 4 p.m.

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

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 1 p.m.

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

Journey to Space

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 2 & 5 p.m.

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

Brainiac (1962)

Aug. 18 — 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com.

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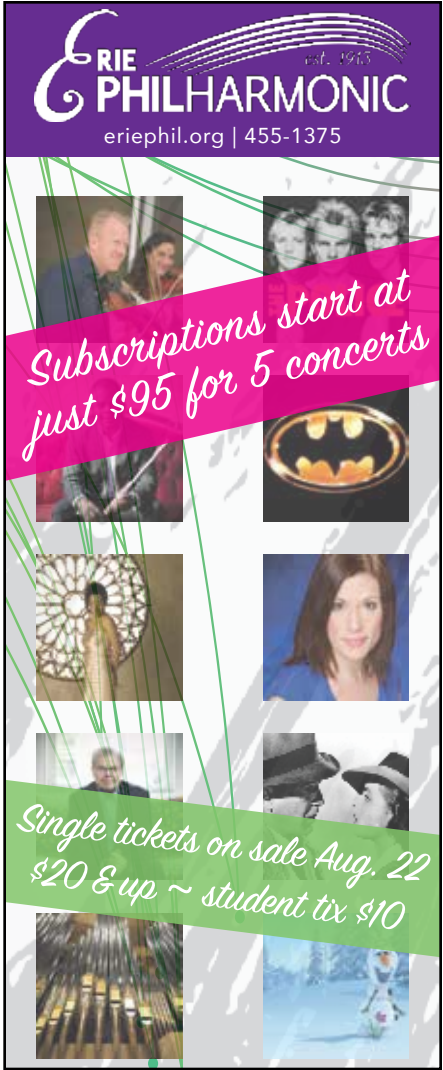
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CALENDAR

(and entirely complementary) vibe into that hallowed space for three days and nights between Thursday, Aug. 25 and Saturday, Aug. 27.

An amazing music- and light-driven, socially conscious, cozy gathering of good, groove-minded people: Where else would any festy fan want to find themselves kissing summer goodbye? — Ryan Smith

Aug. 25 to Aug. 27 // 2361 Wait Corners Road, Panama, NY // nighlightsfest.com

Friday, Aug. 26

Holy Trinity Parish Honors Polish Heritage with Zabawa



Holy Trinity Parish of Erie will celebrate Polish heritage with a three-day festival held from Aug. 26 to 28. The 23rd annual Zabawa – Polish for fun –

will be complete with games, food, and live entertainment, in the form of traditional Polish Polka music, of course.

“It’s like a big Polish wedding reception,” explained Theresa Ignaczak, promotions chairperson.

While you won’t likely come across anyone in a wedding gown, Zabawa has the same party-like atmosphere you

Zabawa is “like a big Polish wedding reception,” explained Theresa Ignaczak, promotions chairperson.

might find at a wedding reception or family reunion. Many attendees know one another, so as they enjoy the festivities, they spend time socializing and exchanging stories.

Entertainment will include Polka bands like The Knewz from Buffalo, New York, The Boys from Baltimore, Maryland, Henry and the Versa J’s from Pittsburgh, and the Mar-Vels from Erie. When the bands need a break, Ken Olowin, a local DJ, will keep the music coming. Sunday’s agenda will also include a performance by Erie’s own Wiaty Folk Dancers.

Visitors can try a wide variety of Pol-

com/ErieMovieHouse.

How to Train Your Dragon

Aug. 22 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

Star Wars Movie Night at the Ballpark

Aug. 26 — 8 p.m.

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

The Fault in Our Stars

Aug. 28 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.

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

Cold Sweat (1970)

Aug. 26 — 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Guardians of the Galaxy

Aug. 26 — 9 p.m.

Frontier Park, 1501 W. 8th St. leaferie.org.

Dante’s Inferno (1911)

Aug. 27 — 8 p.m.

Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Sing Street

Aug. 31 — 6 p.m.

Erie Art Museum, 411 State

St.erieartmuseum.org.

VISUAL ARTS

Our City on the Bay and Beyond by Sam Ward and Greg Zbach

Ongoing through Sept. 9

Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

Nocturnal Emissions by Alison Stinely

Ongoing through Sep. 17

Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Art Faculty Show

Ongoing through Sept. 25 (Reception Sept. 1 — 5 to 7 p.m.)

Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

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.

I Think I Found It Upside Down by Dietrich Wegner

Ongoing through Nov. 20

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.

Art on the Hill

Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cummings Art Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

THEATRE

Sister Act

Aug. 17, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27 — 7:30 p.m. & Aug. 21, 28 — 2 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Last Five Years

Aug. 18, 19, 20 — 8 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. pacal505.com.

Unnecessary Farce

Aug. 19 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 20, 27 — 5:30 p.m. & Aug. 23, 24 — noon & Aug. 28 — 2:30 p.m.

Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

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CALENDAR

ish food, enter drawings, or play games of chance. Children's games will also be available.

In addition to the festivities, two polka masses will be held over the weekend: one Saturday at 5 p.m. with Erie Catholic Bishop Lawrence Persico, and the other Sunday at 11 a.m. These unique masses include traditional hymns set to a polka tune. They are meant to be upbeat and jubilant, while remaining reverent.

Admission and parking are free on Sunday. Additional parking and a free shuttle service are available at East 34th and Ash streets. – Tracy Geibel

Friday, Aug. 26 to Sunday, Aug. 28 // 5 to 10 p.m. Friday; noon to 10 p.m. Saturday; noon to 6 p.m. Sunday // East 23rd and Reed streets // 456.0671 // Holytrinity.org

Friday, Aug. 26

Traditional Folk Way Out in the Garden

Goodell Gardens & Homestead's Summer Music Series continues on Aug. 26 with Tiger Maple String Band: Edinboro natives who have been playing together since 1999. Presenting Lori Burke on vocals and guitar, Justine and Alison Parker on fiddle, Barry Smith on banjo and vocals, and Fred Parker on



guitar and vocals, this neat little outfit has more than a catchy, down-home ditty to share, which will certainly prompt listeners to leap up from their lawn chairs, kick up their heels, and dance under the stars.

The band describe their sound as possessing "a full-body richness that only acoustic instruments and clear vocals can bring," and cite Appalachian music as their influence. And this traditional folk vein is prominent in the band's tunes. An excellent example is "Oh My Little Darling," which starts with some mournful fiddling over steady plucky banjo. It still has that hand-clapping quality, leaving listeners itching to get up and dance. The tight harmonies weaving over the instruments might bring a tear to your eye, but the band

Aug. 19, 20, 26, 27 & Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4, 11 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

All an Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

Dracula

Aug. 24, 25, 27 — 7:30 & Aug. 26 — 11:55 p.m. & Aug. 28 — 2 p.m.

Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Driving Miss Daisy

Aug. 26, 27 & Sept. 3, 10, 16, 17 — 7 p.m. & Aug. 28 & Sept. 4, 11, 18 — 2:30 p.m. & Aug. 30, 31 & Sept. 7 — noon

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

COMMUNITY/VARIETY

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.

Subscriber Pick Up Day

Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. & 4 to 7 p.m.

Various Locations, eriephil.org.

Farmers Market

Aug. 17, 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Purple Martin Palooza

Pontoon Ride Aug. 17, 19 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

The Art of Inner Transformation

Aug. 17 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

Aug. 17, 24, 31 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Pontoon Boat Station, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Celebrate Erie

Aug. 18, 19, 20, 21

Downtown Erie, celebrateerie.com.

Metalworking Art Class

Aug. 18 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Erie County Public Library Locations, erielibrary.org.

Garden Sprouts

Aug. 18 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Medicinal Herb Walk

Aug. 18 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Thursday Teen Time

Aug. 18 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.

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

Vision Board Workshop

Aug. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Something Wonderful Gifts, 3709 West Lake Rd. facebook.com/events/108002846304423.

Files and Folders

Aug. 19 & Oct. 11 & Nov. 29 & Dec. 3 — 9 a.m. to noon & Sept. 22 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Nordic Walking

Aug. 19, 26 & Sept. 2, 9 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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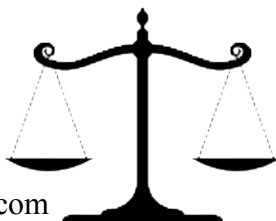
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also has plenty of upbeat tunes to share, like "Silver Lake": a foot-stomping, high energy folk song with brilliantly layered banjo, fiddle, and guitar. The instruments almost seem to chase each other around the song, adding to the quick pace and joyfulness.

If all this music works up an appetite, audience members can take a break from the tunes and stop by Big Horn Ranch's farm-to-table food truck, which will have plenty of delicious eats for sale. – Miriam Lamey

7 p.m. // Goodell Gardens & Homestead // 221 Waterford St, Edinboro // 734.6699

Saturday, Aug. 27

Unite and Celebrate at the 24th Annual Erie Pride



Parade and Festival

The NWPA Pride Alliance will bring the community together for the 24th annual Erie Pridefest on Aug. 27 with a parade and march followed by the festival itself. Participants will assemble at the Zone Dance Club at noon, and the parade will start at 1 p.m. and move down to the festival at Griswold Park.

"In a year when outward homophobia and transphobia are on the rise, hate crimes against the LGBT community are becoming a regular occurrence, and other cities (such as our neighbors in Cleveland) are canceling their pride

events, we've heard from members of the community that they are excited that Erie hasn't put on any brakes or cut back," explains Anthony J. Gressley, the NWPA Pride Alliance fundraising committee's entertainment coordinator.

The community's strength and perseverance will be overarching sentiments at this year's Pride events, especially considering recent struggles and tragedy.

In fact, the festival has expanded, Gressley explains, to include new performers and a couple of live music acts. Last year's attendees will be pleased to note that Billy Wynn will again be headlining. This event will undoubtedly continue to grow, and the community's strength and perseverance will be overarching sentiments at this year's Pride events, especially considering the struggles and utter tragedy all have recently witnessed.

"Over the past year, this community has regrouped and banded together once again," Gressley adds. "Ever since Orlando, there has been an outpouring of support from within the community as a whole (straight and LGBT). It's really something to see how much we've grown as a community."

Pride celebrations will pick up at Waldameer on the following day – Aug. 28 – where everyone is welcome to celebrate Pride Day at the amusement park. – Miriam Lamey

Saturday, Aug. 27: Parade at 1 p.m.; Pridefest to follow // Zone Dance Club, 133 W. 18th St. and Griswold Park, 150 W. 14th St. // Sunday, Aug. 28: Pride Day at Waldameer Park & Water World, 3100 West Lake Rd. // nwpa-pride.org



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North East

Aug. 19 — 10 a.m. to noon
Northeast Historical Society,
25 Vine St. lifeworkserie.org.

Benefit for House of Hope

Aug. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Voodoo Brewery, 215 Arch
St. facebook.com/Voodoo-Brewery-305706522795288.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Reading Fightin' Phils

Aug. 19, 20 — 7 p.m.
& Aug. 21 — 1:30
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th
St. erieevents.com.

Presque Isle Triathlon

Aug. 20 — 6:30 to 11 a.m.

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

Insane Inflatable 5K

Aug. 20 — 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Lake Erie Speedway,
10700 Delmas Dr.
lakeerispeedway.com.

Admiral Perry Obedience

Aug. 20, 21 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1
Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Life Enrichment Event

Aug. 20 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W.
26th St. bhaktaschool.org.

Cardboard Boat Regatta

Aug. 20 — 11 a.m.
Bayfront Maritime Center, 40
Holland St. bayfrontcenter.org.

Storytime Saturdays

Aug. 20 & Sept. 10, 24
— 11 a.m. to noon
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St.
stores.barnesandnoble.com.

Lego Build

Aug. 20 — 4 p.m.
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St.
stores.barnesandnoble.com.

Yogilates with Michelle Curtze

Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4
— 11 a.m. to noon

7th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta Set to Sail Saturday, August 20

The only decision is whether to build or spectate



By: Ti Sumner

Ever look at your Amazon delivery box and think, "I should make a boat out of that?"

If so, you're in luck. Richard Eisenberg, executive director of the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC), had the same idea just over seven years ago after attending a cardboard boat regatta at Watkins Glen in New York.

"We held our first regatta in 2010," said Amy Eisenberg, BMC executive assistant, via email. "Since then, the boats have become more elaborate and sea-worthy ... but it's still hard to waterproof cardboard."

Over the years, Lake Erie has battled and defeated some of the best-constructed, Duct-tape-layered, original boats to enter the regatta. This boat "melting," as Amy calls it, is not a deterrent for race entrants. Many participants claim that the challenge to design a paper-based vessel with water transportation capabilities is one of the best parts of the event.

"It's the reason we created the 'Most

Dramatic Sinking' award," Amy explained. At the Cardboard Boat Regatta, there is fun in both sinking and stroking.

In the inaugural regatta, the AmeriCorp VISTA group exemplified the spirit of the competition when their refrigerator box boat, "The Lake Erie Piranha," took the sink in dramatic fashion.

"The captain went down with the ship ... hat still on and in full salute," Amy said.

There is a \$35 entry fee per boat, with all proceeds benefitting hands-on maritime programming at BMC.

Spectatorship is free and open to the public. Do, however, bring a few bills (all denominations welcome). The boat that raises the most money by the end of the race (via its assigned donation can) receives the "Crowd Favorite" award, which is especially exciting for the kids who build their own boats.

"Their faces light up every time someone pops money into their can," Amy said. "It's fun to watch."

Erie's 7th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta is scheduled to sail at noon on Saturday, Aug. 20. Registration is at 10 a.m., followed by a Parade of Boats at 11 a.m. at the East Canal Basin by the BMC campus. For more information on registration and boat-building rules, visit bayfrontcenter.org/events/cardboard-boat-regatta/.

Ti Sumner can be reached at TSumner@ErieReader.com

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

Car Cruise

Aug. 21 — noon to 4 p.m.
Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd. ymcaerie.org.

Sunset Tai Chi Classes and Worship

Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4 — 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park Beach 6, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Intelligence and Game Based Learning

Aug. 22 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Playhouse Auditions

Aug. 22, 23 — 4 to 6 p.m.
Erie Playhouse Rehearsal Hall, 1158 E. 12th St. erieplayhouse.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Richmond Flying Squirrels

Aug. 22, 23, 24 — 7 p.m.
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. milb.com.

Alzheimer's: Facing an Unbeatable Opponent

Aug. 23 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

County Council Meeting

Aug. 23 — 7 p.m.
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriecountypa.gov.

Petal Pressing and Perfection Workshop

Aug. 24 — 10 a.m. to noon
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

5 Plant Allies for herbal First Aid with Leah Wolfe

Aug. 25 — 6 to 7:30 p.m.
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Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org.

Erie Downtown Block Party
 Aug 25 — 6 to 10:30 p.m.
 Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St. & 814 Pub and Grille, 1325 State St. eriedowntown.com.

Where do I Start? Genealogy Class
 Aug. 26 — 10 a.m. to noon
 LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

23rd Zabawa Polish Festival
 Aug. 26 — 5 to 10 p.m. & Aug. 27 — noon to 10 p.m. & Aug. 28 — noon to 6 p.m.
 Holy Trinity Parish, 2220 Reed St. holytrinityrc.org.

5th Annual Family Camping Event
 Aug. 26 — 6 p.m.
 Presque Isle State Park Beach 11, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Silent World of Reptiles
 Aug. 26 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
 Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

10K Open Buddy Tournament
 Aug. 27 — 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Presque Isle State Park Marina

Bay Launch, 301 Peninsula Dr. pabassnation.com.

Magic of Monarchs
 Aug. 27 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
 Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Summer Reading Triathlon Closing Ceremony
 Aug. 27 — 11 a.m. to noon
 Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. stores.barnesandnoble.com.

Erie Pridefest
 Aug. 27 — noon to 4 p.m.
 Starts at Zone Dance Club, 133 W. 18th St. facebook.com/NWPAPride.

Cruise Town Erie Car Show
 Aug. 27 — 2 to 9 p.m.
 Downtown Erie, State St. from 4th to 12th st. eriedowntown.com.

The Lantern Fest
 Aug. 27 — 4 p.m.
 Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. thelanternfest.com.

ArborEAT'em
 Aug. 27 — 6:30 p.m.
 Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Electric Tutu 5k Run
 Aug. 27 — 8:30 p.m.

Amphitheater at Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier sovereignballet.com.

Erie County Fair
 Aug. 28 through Sept. 3
 Erie County Fairgrounds, 13993 Route 8 & 89 wattsburgfair.com.

Erie Cemetery Walks: War of 1812 shipbuilders and service members
 Aug. 28 — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
 Erie Cemetery, 2116 Chestnut St. erieyesterday.org.

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks
 Aug. 29, 30, 31 & Sept. 1 — 7 p.m.
 Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

Erie Times News Career Fair
 Aug. 31 — 10 a.m.
 Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

A Herbal Medicine Chest Workshop
 Aug. 31 — 1 to 3 p.m.
 Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Member Appreciation Social
 Aug. 31 — 2 to 4 p.m.
 LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

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From now through the end of October, Tom and the other *Real Men Wear Pink* Candidates will encourage the Erie community to take action in the fight against breast cancer. The campaign has already kicked off and you can help now.

With your donation, you can help Tom become the *Real Man of Erie* and be the top fundraiser. Stop into one of the participating businesses at Renaissance Centre: Picturesque Salon & Franco's on the first floor, Altair Realty (Suite 307) or Palace Business Centres (Suite 1400) or donate on-line <http://main.acevents.org/goto/tomkennedy>



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Descendents

Hypercaffium Spazzinate
Epitaph

★★★★★

Returnage. From the opening chords of "Feel This" you'll be refreshed and reenergized. The iconographic punk rock band might have taken its time, but some things are worth the wait. Led by frontman Milo Aukerman, they return with their third full-length in 20 years. If you enjoyed the tight pop punk of 1996's *Everything Sux* and 2004's *Cool to Be You*, you won't be disappointed one iota. The 16 tracks of *Hypercaffium Spazzinate* fit together perfectly, nearly indistinguishable from their established latter-day sound. The deluxe version of the album adds on this year's *SpazzHazard* EP, upping the total to 21. The instrumental force behind ALL, Bill Stevenson, Karl Alvarez, and Stephen Egerton remain at the top of their game. Lyrically, Aukerman continues to shape his personal, open-book emotional vulnerability. Along with beautiful, self-reflective sing-alongs like "Smile," the band never takes itself too seriously. There're still songs like "No Fat Burger," a health-conscious punk's follow-up to the 1981 track "I Like Food." It's hard to believe the band isn't being self-referential during the catchy chorus of "Comeback Kid." – Nick Warren



Dinosaur Jr.

Give a Glimpse of What Yer Not
JagJaguwar

★★★★★

Yep, this is another Dino Jr. record. That's a good thing, kids. J Mascis, Lou Barlow, and Murph are back again, right where they ought to be. Mascis' guitar tone is a thing to behold. Taking the "wall of sound" approach quite literally, Mascis is buttressed onstage by three Marshall full stacks. Listen to the doomy intro to "I Walk for Miles" to hear it in full effect. His signature Fender Jazzmaster doesn't rely on thundering rock alone, though. As always, there are the tender alternative tones balancing things out, as per the delicate riffs of "Lost All Day." It's Mascis' sympathetic, slacker-jawed drawl that brings it all together. His iconic, unaffected crumble can sell every last mumbled line. The two Lou Barlow tracks ("Love Is..." and "Left/Right") wind up surprisingly skippable. The Sebadoh and Folk Implosion frontman is clearly capable of greatness, but ends up breaking up the album's flow. *Give a Glimpse of What Yer Not* follows up on 2012's *I Bet On Sky*. It's the band's 11th studio album in their over 30-year history, continuing to influence a new generation. – Nick Warren



NAO

For All We Know
RCA

★★★★★

Like a mission statement, NAO softly coos that it "feels just like velvet." The British singer (whose real name is Neo Jessica Joshua) has weaved together a silky smooth debut album. NAO described the album to Billboard as a "definite nod" to the pop music of the 1990s. From the first few notes of "Get to Know Ya," you understand what she means. Leading off the album is one of many ready-made dance singles, tracing its roots through the ranks of Toni Braxton or Janet Jackson. The stakes are higher. The bass is lower, the beats have all the modern accoutrements you'd expect from electronic synthpop record like this. Tunes like "DYWM" and "Give Me a Little" up the funk game with successful results. The heavy mid-tempo grooves of "Adore You" and "Fool to Love" elaborate on her signature sound perfectly. Her soprano voice is tender and emotive, with an airy nasal personality all its own. The first single, "Bad Blood," shuffles along with synth sections that take you back in late-century dance nostalgia. – Nick Warren



Two Steps on the Water

God Forbid Anyone Look Me in the Eye
Self-released

★★★★★

Sometimes you accidentally wander onto something that you never forget. This is the case with Two Steps on the Water. Taking their band name from a Kate Bush lyric, Two Steps are a trio from Melbourne, Australia consisting of drums, guitar, and violin. Raw emotion hits you immediately. The opening track, "A Little Bit Scared," simply hints at the sentiment to come. It's a slow crescendo upwards to an emotional catharsis. Sierra Thorton's violin is shakily dynamic and commanding, sometimes accompanied with a tinge of trumpet. Singer June Jones' passionate delivery of her intensely personal lyrics forges a communion with the listener on par with Jeff Mangum. Using the language of folk, the sound exists between the spectrum of Andrew Bird and Ani DiFranco, with the punk sensibilities of Defiance, Ohio. Jones is a queer trans woman, who details her point of view throughout the record, most explicitly in "My Medusa," and the epic "Words in My Mouth." It's pure honesty, transcendent in its realness. *God Forbid Anyone Look Me in the Eye* is one of the strongest debuts in years. – Nick Warren



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[Cont. from page 17]

not physical structures, what people have access to is vital to the creative process. The list of features for the AMIC building is impressive, to say the least.

The west wing will house the school's mechanical engineering program – the college's largest major in terms of enrollment – along with its industrial engineering program. Amongst the 27 faculty offices, five classrooms, and two specialty work areas – a design lab for first-year students, and a collaborative projects room for senior design teams – there's a servo-hydraulic test system, a Stratasys 3D printer, an industrial oven capable of heating materials to 2,000 degrees, and a Tinius system that can apply up to 120,000 pounds of tensile strength (the weight equivalent to 20 SUVs).

But perhaps most emblematic of the building's purpose is the region's most powerful environmental scanning electron microscope – valued at more than \$900,000 and secured through a National Science Foundation grant. The microscope, which can magnify both hard and soft-surfaced materials, will be available to researchers throughout the region – not just those at Behrend.

"To be competitive, we need to be at the forefront of technologies such as 3D printing, the industrial internet of things, and cybersecurity," Ford says. "This building supports the spectrum of innovation from start-up companies to larger, more established organizations."

The 60,000-square-foot building also features nearly 19,000 square feet of manufacturing space for industry partners. To date, SKF Aerospace North America, a leading global manufacturer of bearings, seals, and structural components for aviation engines and frames, has laid claim to 2,700 square feet, doubling its previous footprint in Knowledge Park.

"This is at the forefront of approaches to innovation and

what needs to be done for regions and their institutions to be competitive," Ford says. "It is a great experiment, and it will be most exciting to see what happens over the next five years."

"Our tagline is: Built for Erie," says Matt Wiertel, director of sales and marketing for Velocity Network. "Fiber network built for Erie. Our new building built for Erie. Everything we do," he summarizes, "will be built for Erie."

Velocity Network's Erie-first philosophy is slated to head into the city with the recent acquisition of the Rothrock Building and several other surrounding properties, thanks largely in part to Velocity's CEO Joel Deuterma opting for what he calls his "fall-back plan."

After nearly two years of back-and-forth over the former Ridgefield Elementary property, Deuterma says he couldn't afford to wait any longer. A Commonwealth Court ruling in favor of Montessori's appeal over the sale of the property to Velocity stalled any potential development, so Deuterma moved on – and chose to move downtown.

"When the city location presented itself and everything began to flow more easily, I put my effort into the downtown," he says. "Meetings with the city have been good; they're welcoming me with open arms and are doing everything in their ability to help."

Although Deuterma's not giving up on the Ridgefield property – he's still pursuing it as a potential call center – he's made the move to relocate his headquarters more quickly because, he says frankly, "We're out of space."

Velocity's currently situat-

Above: a view of what's to come, courtesy Kidder Wachter Architecture & Design, once Velocity Network moves into the Rothrock Building. Right: The new Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center at Behrend.



KIDDER WACHTER

ed in the Yorktown Plaza in Millcreek Township, off of West 12th Street. While they'll secure more room once their neighbor, Claytopia, relocates out of Yorktown, Deuterma's ultimate vision simply requires more real estate.

The move downtown, he says, will quickly add at least 10 new members to his 55-strong workforce, but he envisions reaching 100 once renovation of the Rothrock Building is complete – which he anticipates will begin in January 2017, led by Kidder Wachter Architecture and Design, who purchased the building in 2013. The Rothrock Building will offer Velocity 40,000 square feet for expansion, plus another

12,000 in the building currently housing Toni & Guy, now looking to relocate.

"This time in 2018, we'll be fully occupied," he says. "It'll happen in stages. It isn't just moving people for us – it's moving systems. We have to swing fiber over. It takes months and months of planning and engineering."

First delivered in cities like Austin, Texas, Kansas City, Missouri, and Provo, Utah, Google's gigafiber – with the same fiber capacity as Velocity's: 1 gigabit, or 1,000 megabits, per second (much faster than the typical five to 30 megabits per second of standard high-speed cable) – transforms regions by making them attractive to both busi-

nesses and personal consumers. Beyond the cool factor of being on the bleeding edge of technology, gigabit fiber allows a city and region to work more efficiently and productively. It also creates options for customers – especially attractive for those looking to shop locally.

Velocity's no stranger to the internet business. They've already deployed fiber in the region, and two decades ago when dial-up from AOL was at a premium of \$25 per month, Velocity offered the same quality services for \$15 less per month.

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FEATURE

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tion and growth, and Chattanooga is a prime example of that. Although that city owns and operates its internet, parallels can still be seen: The gig grew the entrepreneurial market since entrepreneurs want to be close to the best tech in a region – and thus, an innovation district (albeit through a coordinated public-private effort) was born.

Chattanooga also took stock of its regional assets and built on them. Erie, like Chattanooga, doesn't lack attractive assets, and Deuterma knows this.

"Look at our assets. Just one: We sit on the water in this great area with the peninsula between Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh," he says. "Great assets – literally at our fingertips."

Assets attract people. But once they're attracted, they need reasons to plug into a region. For Erie – so known for manufacturing that 68 percent of its total job loss during the Great Recession came from that sector alone – that means creating jobs that create.

Aside from expanding their current offerings, which immediately creates new jobs, Velocity's downtown development involves a feeder system for both the company and the region. For that, Deuterma envisions a niche, tech-based, co-working space in the Toni & Guy property.

Deuterma hopes to give displaced workers "a soft place to land to embark on whatever it is they may desire to do, but never tried because they were gainfully employed elsewhere." He's quick to acknowledge that such a development in the Erie market wouldn't aim to compete with other companies like Radius CoWork, currently offering space in the Renaissance Centre at 10th and State streets. Rather, his co-working space would focus on tech-based start-ups; plus training, to not only create or sustain a workforce but to educate it.

In addition to what'll be happening inside the property – the embracing of the internet of things, where vendors can display technology that employees use and customers interact with – Deuterma is looking to make aesthetic improvements to the area, including streetscaping, lightscaping, and championing for bike lanes. The corporate culture of Velocity will evolve, too, as he wants to build a gym and recreation area on site.

"We want to make sure our employees enjoy their work and enjoy where

they work," he says.

Beyond recruiting talent for Velocity, Deuterma believes that they can become recruiters for Erie in general. "Someone will hear that there's this company that they may have never heard of before that has all of this to offer and if they're displaced workers, maybe they'll consider Erie," he says.

"We want people to say: 'Wow, this is possible, and it's right down the street' – that they won't have to travel to Pittsburgh, Buffalo, or Cleveland, and that we're using [the technology] ourselves," Wiertel says. "We are practicing what we preach."

"We've been in this market for 25 years, so we know the pains and the pressure points," Wiertel adds. "We have to ask: How can we build services for Erie and also build jobs and opportunities for people who come out of school and will stay here, because they see a company that has continued to innovate for the last 25 years, and to make changes and investments in the community – even though the technology has flipped over 10 times if not more in the last decade?"

Erie must now take a page out of the Chattanooga playbook in strong community collaboration, championing, and support.

"Chattanooga faced certain challenges that confront many mid-sized cities," writes Rainwater. "One way in which the city met those challenges was by building upon its history of collaboration."

Further, he notes: "Any city may dream about becoming a magnet for innovation, but it is incumbent upon city leaders and stakeholders to be realistic. Chattanooga knew it had to stem the brain drain of talented young people to other cities. To do that, the city identified and highlighted its critical assets."

Erie has its assets: Presque Isle and Lake Erie. And it has its legacy in manufacturing. It also has assets in Behrend's Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center and Velocity Network's downtown relocation and expansion: two strong examples of how we can potentially evolve our legacy in the 21st century by becoming better versions of ourselves.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bSpeggen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen

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Erie Faces Erie

Gyan Ghising

teacher, musician,
entrepreneur

Ed Bernik

photographer

"Children all over the world are the same emotionally; the only difference is their lifestyle and resources."

Ed Bernik: Why did you leave Bhutan and come to the U.S.?

Gyan Ghising: The United Nations realizes that [the Nepalese Lhotshampa] are the victims of abuse from Bhutan. They kept coming to Nepal; there were 90,000. The UN had a refugee program, giving them shelter, clothing, and food. But that was not the final resolution for the situation. They had been living for 21 years as victims in these refugee camps, thinking that one day the Bhutanese government would take them back home. Senior intellectuals met 15, 16, or 17 times at summit meetings with India, Nepal, and Bhutan, talking about Bhutanese refugees; but none had any final solutions. So after more than 20 years, a decision was made to divide the refugees between nine countries. Canada took five percent. Australia took 10 percent, the UK said they could only take one percent. The U.S. said they would take 60 percent. I like these people!

After I graduated from college, I started running my own private boarding school in our refugee camp. I accepted students from nursery school to seventh grade.

Nancy J. Powell, U.S. Ambassador to India and Nepal, visited the refugee camp in Nepal in 2007 and 2008. She talked about a durable solution, telling us that we needed to choose between staying or going to countries that would accept us. My uncle, who came to the U.S. before me, thought it would be better for me to come to Erie.

For three months the government helps with your needs, utility bills, etc.

You get food stamps for six months. Then, you must start working, and have to be on your own, as I am.

Refugees are given a loan for the flight to Erie. We had to pay it back: \$1,500. I paid \$4,500 back for the cost of my family. Some cannot pay it back either because of medical issues, or they can't find a job, or another problem. Some people only earn \$100 or \$200 a month.

That is why depression starts after six months. So there are many suicides. Some lay on the railroad tracks, some drink themselves to death.

I know of one who, a couple of days ago, put gas all over his body, lit himself and burned to death.

People get depression because they are obligated to pay money back first. They sign, "I will pay within three years." Six months after landing they get their first letter saying they have to make their first installment payment on the \$1,500. They haven't even started to work yet. And then they also get their electric bill, water bill, and rent bill. Then they get depressed.

They have no car to go to a job. Sometimes the bus doesn't go to where they work; local transportation doesn't go to hotels or plastics companies.

And some of them have little children, who go to school. Children 12 or 13 years old can take care of themselves, but younger children still have to be taken care of by their parents [who need to be at work]. If children have no care, the CIS is taking them.

One depression is the job and the second depression is citizenship. Thirty percent of the Bhutanese refugee population is illiterate. They have no idea what the letters or numbers are but they can speak the language. Twenty percent go to school to try to learn and they can't do it.

If you can't get a job, you have to leave. Some have children here; their whole lives.

So people die from depression. This is the situation.

Some get temporary disability, but you can only get up to two years. After that, they have to have citizenship to be eligible. To earn citizenship, they have to be able to read, write, and speak. So with no citizenship they die.

This is the kind of issue that our country has to think about: If the U.S. takes these refugees, they have to commit to caring for them. Seventy percent are able to work. But other people, like those with autism, cannot. A learning disability is the number one problem for the 20 percent who can't work or get citizenship. This is what the Bhutanese people are facing right now.



EB: How did you start your life in Erie?

GG: As a janitor, first shift, and at a plastics company second shift. I also worked Monday through Wednesday as an interpreter for medical, legal – or whatever Nepali speakers needed. So I had three jobs. Then I worked as a cashier.

I quit the janitor and plastic shop jobs and started working at the Multicultural Community Resource Center as a refugee teacher and interpreter, and taught English as a second language. I have a degree in English in Nepal. After two years, I got another opportunity to work at Presque Isle Downs and Casino as a blackjack dealer. I got a full time job as a dealer, and I quit all the jobs but this one in 2013.

EB: I understand you are also a musician.

GG: I am a singer/songwriter. Kelly Armor from the Erie Art Museum put me in Old Songs, New Opportunities (OSNO), where I had the opportunity to be re-

corded. Refugees are trained to teach and share music in childcare centers, and within three months, I got a job.

EB: So you work at the casino, you teach, and you're also opening a bar and grille.

GG: Yes, on Route 5 by GE. We plan to have the closing later this month, calling it the Himalayan Bar and Grille. We are now just waiting on the PLCB. I would like to have some Nepalese food – about 62 items. My plan is to invite different bands to play on Fridays and Saturdays. We are fixing it up on the inside and outside with painting and gardening. It is a nice area and we hope to give people an enjoyable place to go. The Nepalese people will make it their home bar and we hope others will, too.

Gyan Ghising may be contacted via Facebook.

Ed Bernik: bernikphotography.com

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