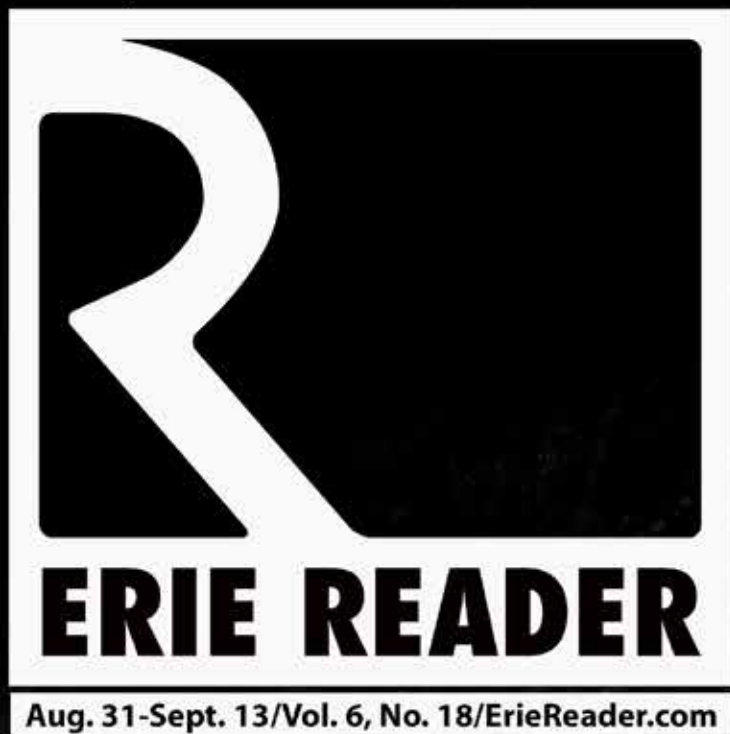


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Aug. 31-Sept. 13/Vol. 6, No. 18/ErieReader.com

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*"I get to do what I love: to fly around the country and shoot photographs of things."
– Art Becker*



From the Editors

Erie at the center of 'today's American Idea'

By now, there's a good chance you've heard that Erie made a national headline recently. And for once, it had nothing to do with a pizza bomber.

James Fallows, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, spent a week here in late August, just after a certain nationally-infamous news-getter spoke at Erie Insurance Arena. Fallows addresses the candidate's speech – and other observances he and his wife, Deb, made while in Erie – in an Aug. 25 post on *The Atlantic's* website.

"[Trump] appeared not to be aware that GE was shifting these jobs not to China or Mexico or some other overseas 'unfair trader' locale but instead, mainly to Fort Worth, Texas," Fallows writes. "He might also not have been aware that Erie has long prided itself on being a resettlement center for refugees like those he was warning about, including groups recently arriving from Syria."

Fallows uses visits by Trump and Sen. Pat Toomey as a starting point, but is quick to clarify that "even if no candidates had been [in Erie], the connection between local and national politics would still have been evident, because almost every issue of large-scale national consequence is playing out in this challenged, medium-sized city."

And just as we've maintained right along, Fallows emphasizes the critical role of citizen perception in shaping a region's future.

"A negative image of a region and its possibilities has been an important background factor, and sometimes a motivator, in many places we have reported from," he writes. "That's true in 'Dreary Erie' and other cities in the Buffalo-Erie-Cleveland-Detroit arc as well, and for some of the people there."

"For other people," he continues, "it looks different: For example, some of the software and tech entrepreneurs we saw at the Radius CoWork space in downtown Erie."

That Fallows chronicles many of the same inspiring folks we've spotlighted does our hearts good, of course. The change-makers in our region deserve all the fanfare they can get, and we're proud to do our part.

In our last issue, we featured Velocity Network's coming move to the Rothrock Building downtown as a benchmark on "The Path to Innovation."

Fallows likewise recognizes the significance of Velocity's move, and quotes CEO Joel Deuterma in his piece: "'When I was younger, I thought that business was a kill-or-be-killed proposition,' Deuterma, who is now in his early 50s, told us. 'I came to realize that if I did things with an awareness of the common good, the benefits would also come back to me, and with a heck of a lot less effort.'"

Fallows concludes his initial assessment by reasserting the importance of perspective, belief, and the courage and willingness to act with that same awareness of the common good that Deuterma describes.

"The real point for now is how stark we found the contrast: on the one hand, the flattened terms – 'angry,' 'resentful,' 'hopeless' – the language of media and politics used to describe America in general; on the other hand, the engaged, changing realities people understand about the places where they actually live," he writes. "The point may sound banal, but it has consequences."

Fallows encouragingly reports that in Erie, he has found people "trying to ... improve their individual and collective futures, and generally to behave as if they are actors in their own dramas, rather than just being acted-upon. Being active, rather than passive, is one working definition of today's American Idea."

An idea whose time has surely come.

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Just a Thought

Fair enough? Not quite.



In a list of the “10 smartest animals,” NBC News called pigs “perhaps the smartest, cleanest domestic animals known - more so than cats and dogs, according to some experts.”

celebrated hipster trend decorating too many t-shirts below Brooklyn beards.

What’s troubling is how distant the rest of the fair feels from the production of food. In the dairy barn, they’re handing out samples of “dairy products”: tiny paper cups with three mini-pretzels poised in ranch dip.

Sure, there’s milk in there. But ignoring the long line of processing it took to get that stuff out of a cow and into a tub of ranch isn’t doing anyone who eats – or farms – any favors.

Nearby stands a table offering “NO FARMERS – NO FOOD” bumper stickers. How long

would those stickers have to be if they told the truth about much of what we consume; if they read, “NO FARMERS, or chemical preservatives, or processing plants, or underpaid factory workers, or feedlot-raised animals, or agribusiness-friendly subsidies, or plastic packaging ...”

No “food” is right.

Things aren’t better throughout the midway. Stand upon stand of fried you-name-it or stuff-on-a-stick, and precious few connections between what the masses are eating and what the farmers are growing.

No wonder we need bumper stickers to remind us.

Despite some inherently troubling aspects (tiny-caged birds, overly-spurred horses, etc.), I love fairs. At least farmers – especially young ones – still have a place to shine.

But now that it’s harvest season, we have the chance to do even better by them, and by the land we love and the animals raised there. As much as possible, we can give our dollars to the farmers themselves, at the markets, stands, and fairs still active for another month or so.

That only seems fair.

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

By: Katie Chriest

The pig named Dog has a corner pen – valuable real estate, as Crawford County Fairgrounds stalls go. Their reputation suggests otherwise, but these critters – and their stalls – are virtually spotless.

Pig coats are bristly and sparse. Each hair glows in fluorescent light beamed from the old barn’s rafters. Though none of the pigs we’ve petted resist, Dog’s gratitude is unmistakable.

“I named him Dog because he just loves to be scratched,” says his owner, a teenaged boy with fresh-faced 4-H charm and a farm work-fortified frame. “Of all of the pigs I’ve had, he loves it the most.”

He pauses to give the pig a few soothing strokes. Dog has gotten up, seemingly to survey who’s loving him up, and the boy reassures him gently.

“Lie back down, Dog,” he says, and the pig flops on his side, tummy exposed like a trusting puppy’s. The boy reaches further over the roughhewn rail and gives Dog the belly rub he longs for.

“What a sweetie,” I say, scratching Dog some more.

“Yeah,” agrees the boy. “That’s gonna make it a lot harder ... but you gotta do what you gotta do.”

Dog, like the other pigs in this row,

are market hogs, raised for slaughter. As if on cue, Dog gets back up and raises his snout toward us, looking us in the eye.

Don’t worry. I’m not going all “How can anyone do this to such a cute animal?” on you. What each of us eats is our own business.

Things aren’t better throughout the midway. Stand upon stand of fried you-name-it or stuff-on-a-stick, and precious few connections between what the masses are eating and what the farmers are growing.

Besides, we had a few cows when I was growing up, whose names ended up on packages of meat in our freezer.

It seemed a little diabolical at the time, but part of me is grateful for the reality check such a practice engendered, just as I’m now grateful to the boy who’s reminding us – and the mom and kids also petting Dog – that *this* is what ends up as dinner. And, in the case of bacon, at least, as a weirdly-cel-

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SSJNN Gardens Deliver Food, Tie Communities Together

In one Erie city food desert, volunteers and residents are creating solutions.



T. SUMNER

By: Ti Sumner

For the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) and the nearly 70 volunteers who plant, maintain, and harvest fruits and vegetables at five community and urban gardens, growing produce within the city limits is about more than just adding water to seeds. The work SSJNN has done reaches beyond the goal of bringing fresh food to one of Erie County's 10 food deserts (four of which exist within the city of Erie). As residents work together to keep the gardens viable throughout the growing season, there is a sense of camaraderie and fellowship.

"I like how many different things the gardens do for the community," says Sister Phyllis Hilbert while walking the short distance from the Neighborhood Network home at 425 West 18th Street to the 17th and Myrtle streets urban garden. "They improve the look of the neighborhood, they give kids and residents

something to participate in, and we get so much fresh produce from them."

The idea for the first garden – the International Flavors Community Garden across from the Neighborhood Network house – arose in 2010 as part of a collaboration with the former Irving School CHAMPS after-school program. After receiving a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and a land donation from Larry Adiutori, the project became a reality. With the help of Sister Phyllis and others at SSJNN, volunteers and residents of the Little Italy neighborhood used the "It takes a Village" approach to build raised garden boxes and begin the process of growing juicy red tomatoes and bright, crispy green peppers in the city.

Since then, this SSJNN program has grown from a single lot to five separate gardens in the Little Italy area. According to Sister Phyllis, it is the "Gift of Gary" that keeps the gardens growing every year.

"I had just moved to town,"

said Gary McEnery, coordinator of the SSJNN community and urban gardens program. "I attended a few neighborhood meetings with the intent of just listening. One day, Sister Phyllis asked for someone to coordinate a new program for community gardens ... and, well, I raised my hand. That was when it was one small garden. Now it's five."

Running five gardens from February until the ground freezes in autumn requires much more planning and effort than most people

realize. In addition to many volunteers, SSJNN employs seven youth workers to encourage community involvement and teach them about gardening and, in some respects, how to run a business.

"After volunteering to help with the garden one summer, [SSJNN] asked me to help with the farmers market the next year," says Eli Luther, a previous youth worker who still volunteers with the gardens. "The employment is for the kids, which is good, because it got me involved and I learned so much from Gary and the others."

Once Luther turned 18 and could no longer hold a youth position at SSJNN, he went to work for the Whole Foods Co-op on West 26th Street.

"Working at the Co-op now is awesome," says Lu-

Above left: The SSJNN farmers market in the lot adjacent to St. Paul's Community Center on 16th Street. Right: One of the five separate gardens this program has grown throughout the Little Italy area.

ther. "The whole idea is to provide good food. Working in the gardens gave me an appreciation of that."

As Maxim Dyachkin, one of this year's youth workers, can attest, helping with the gardens not only teaches kids how to grow good food; it also shows the business side of getting food to the table. Every Monday by noon, Dyachkin and his volunteer mentor, Barbara Kantz, arrive at the 19th and Myrtle streets urban garden to pick, clip, and bundle vegetables for the farmers market in the lot adjacent to St. Paul's Community Center on 16th Street. As Dyachkin sets up a work station of sorts on a picnic table in a shaded corner of the garden, Kantz is already pulling yellow squash from a flowering vine nearly as tall as she is.

"I'm here because of an ad requesting volunteers to help with gardening," Kantz says. "I'm an avid gardener and I'm so hooked on the work the sisters do here. They have the best community of service-oriented volunteers and I just love it."

Kantz then calls out to McEnery, who is always somewhere near a garden, about

how wonderfully the "long, thin peppers" and the "tiny, hot ones" are growing.

On the south side of the garden, Dyachkin cuts beets and bundles four or five at a time with rubber bands before dropping them into a blue plastic laundry-basket-turned-market-basket. By the time he finishes, the basket is heavy with root vegetables and overflowing with late summer's dark leafy greens.

With every business comes trials and challenges, and these lush green gardens do not reveal the difficulties of gardening organically in a dry summer. To prevent hardship during droughts, volunteer Dave Durney built a 300-gallon, six-barrel rain catch system connected to seep-hoses – garden hoses with holes poked along their lengths – throughout the rows of vegetables.

"But we still ran out of water," McEnery says. "A neighbor let us run a hose from her house across the street and water the garden for weeks."

As the gardens grew, water was not the only challenge McEnery and the network had to overcome. While planting Namaste Garden near 18th Street on Sassafras Street, lan-



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NEWS & VIEWS

guage presented a barrier to communication.

“The boxes are adopted by Bhutanese refugees,” McEnery explains. “I had gathered seeds for all kinds of vegetables and herbs, but the residents adopting the garden boxes couldn’t read the English words on the packets. So I pasted pictures of each seed’s plant on an envelope with the seeds,” he laughed. “As it turned out, they didn’t need the pictures, anyway, because they use a unique planting method of scattering all the seeds together.”

At first sight, scattering seeds seems to function in contrast to Sister Phyllis’ vision for neatly-rowed cabbage plants and apple trees; but the method works, nonetheless. In one box, dill and parsley share space; in another, a lone corn stalk shoots straight up through the leaves of a squash vine. Each plant in each box grows beautifully where it’s planted; in a way, the Namaste Garden represents

Each plant in each box grows beautifully where it’s planted; in a way, the Namaste Garden represents the same eclectic nature that Little Italy now does.

the same eclectic nature that Little Italy now does. And as it turns out, both diversity and aesthetics are good for a community.

In a “Soul of the Community” study conducted by the Knight Foundation in 2010, researchers found that aesthetics and openness (a community’s welcoming nature toward new and different people) are two components that help community members connect emotionally to their surroundings. The study interviewed 43,000 people in 26 communities across the U.S. over a three-year period.

Is it coincidence that the study was published during the same year that SSJNN developed the first garden? Those familiar with the Neighborhood Network and the community work they do would probably say it’s a simple matter of looking around the community and identifying needs. McEnery is one example of someone who always seems to know when the gardens or the neighborhood needs a little something extra.

“We were growing all these beauti-

ful vegetables and I realized there was sometimes a disconnect between the garden and the table,” McEnery says. “So I had some neighbors over for spaghetti one night. I didn’t just want them to try it – I wanted them to recreate the meal. I made packets with all the necessary ingredients and provided everyone with the recipe.” As he tells the story, McEnery pulls a handful of black cherry tomatoes from a staked plant nearly six feet tall and pops an almost black tomato into his mouth.

“Everyone should get to experience the juicy explosion of a tomato fresh from the garden,” he says, smiling.

Around 2:30 p.m., Kantz and Dyachkin load their heaping baskets into a truck to transport the produce to the market, mere blocks away. As they set up the table, Dyachkin, referred to by Kantz as an “entrepreneur in the making,” makes several trips around the table to make sure every vegetable is clean and looking good.

“Appearance affects sales,” he explains.

Laurel Honey, a regular shopper at the Little Italy Monday afternoon farmers market, stops by the SSJNN table to browse the latest urban garden crop. She travels here from Waterford not only for the freshness, but also to support SSJNN’s efforts to provide fresh produce to a food desert area of town.

“The market gets food into the city where it is so needed,” Honey said. “There’s really only the corner store here with white bread and milk. The fact that residents can double their money with the vouchers is just so nice.”

Those vouchers are handed out to low-income senior citizens and single parents with children. After using the vouchers at one of the farm stands at the market, recipients then receive tokens of equal value to cash in for more produce.

Perhaps Luther put it best when he explained why working with the SSJNN gardens means so much to him.

“Gardening is a good time, but most importantly, it’s cool for everyone in the neighborhood. It’s just a positive thing the whole way around.”

For more information about SSJNN and their projects or to volunteer, visit ssjnn.org.

Ti Sumner can be reached at TSumner@ErieReader.com

Erie's New Deal

Harnessing the power of neighbors and young people to move Erie forward, collectively



BRIAN FUJAL

By: Jay Breneman, County Councilman, District 4

According to the city of Erie's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, our primary hurdle is in making Erie a "community of choice" by tackling blight and restoring a sense of belonging in our neighborhoods.

With 9,500 residential properties showing signs of moderate to severe distress, we have to identify and implement an array of strategies to arrest the downward spiral of disinvestment and decay, effectively stabilize property values, and strengthen the physical and social fabric of neighborhoods citywide.

For years, many have advocated for a land bank and enhanced ticketing options for code violations, though these tools can only get us so far.

Erie has always been a community of makers, doers, and innovators. Therefore, a more complete response requires that our local government embody and enable those characteristics to overcome the challenges addressed by the Comprehensive Plan.

Connecting youth and employment

A few years ago, Mayor Sinnott rankled at the prospect of joining forces with Erie County on the Summer Jobs and More (JAM) program, aimed at providing Erie's youth with soft skills and direct work experience necessary for hope and future employment.

Sinnott argued that the city already spends hundreds-of-thousands of dollars each year to engage kids in parks and summer

programs, though the refusal probably had more to do with municipal isolationism.

Although that opportunity was temporarily lost, we should revisit such a partnership – with regional cross-sector financial support – as a chance to tackle our city and region's blight and community disconnect.

If we want a true leap forward, we need to equip young Erieites with the mission, tools, and support to tackle blight in our community, thus assuring their place in the history of Erie's renewal and encouraging them to continue making Erie a great place to live.

Examples of neighborhood-focused citizen action

In 2012, as a capstone project for my fellowship with the veteran organization The Mission Continues, I worked with the Bayfront Eastside Taskforce (BEST) and dozens of veterans and community members to clean up both occupied and unoccupied properties on Erie's east side.

The story of the grandmother we helped – whose house had fallen into disrepair – is an all too common one: Because

of her health conditions and restricted income, she could not keep up with basic maintenance, which negatively impacted her property and the property values of her neighborhood. Together, not only did we make significant improvements to the appearance of her home; we also connected her to neighborhood resources and built a level of civic ownership toward one person's struggles.

On Saturday, July 16, I woke up early, put on an old pair of combat boots, filled my Army rucksack with tools that I had laying around, and drove to the hard-hit Homewood neighborhood in Pittsburgh. There, I joined area post-9/11 veterans from The Mission Continues Pittsburgh Service Platoon on a new initiative called a "LLFT Patrol," which stands for listen, learn, fix, and train (pronounced "lift").

We walked through the neighborhood, spoke with and listened to the area residents about their community, learned about the problems and strengths that mattered to them, made minor fixes around their homes, and provided them with information on resources for further assistance that they might need. This day of action tackled the problems of social disconnect and blight head on, by seeing everyday people as both the focal point and the solution.

Meanwhile, Erie's area universities, and neighborhood organizations like BEST, Academy Neighborhood Association, SNOOPS, SSJNN, and Our West Bayfront – along with groups like ServErie, PRI Community, the Youth Leadership Institute of Erie, Ramps of Hope, and Habitat for Humanity – continue to be leaders of citizen-driven improvements to homes and communities.

Merging blight reduction with citizen action

If Erie wants to develop an intervention that directly con-

fronts the imbalance of livable neighborhoods, to restore confidence in the city and the housing market, and to rebuild a sense of community and trust, this can be done through a mutual reinvestment where it is needed, in partnership with neighborhood organizations, the county, and our young men and women.

We need to adapt the county's summer jobs program to enlist teenagers and place them with neighborhood organizations, paying them for their time to go door-to-door, speaking with homeowners and assisting them with minor assistance around their homes, connecting them to other community resources that can help with the more long-term or big-ticket issues, and doing so in a big way.

This would be a significant improvement to the Summer JAM program as well, as it expands the focus beyond just the business environment and incorporates a civic-building approach. Further, it would help develop interpersonal skills, teamwork, and even entry-level experiences to other fields of work.

Additionally, we need to regularly mobilize municipal services as part of the community rebuilding by sending city officials, police, public works, and code enforcement officers – along with social workers from area agencies – as an integrated support team.

What stands to be our city's greatest challenge can also be the greatest opportunity in building up our next generation, and a chance to redefine Erie as a community of choice because of our people and our unwavering commitment to revitalization that puts them front and center.

Jay Breneman can be contacted at jbreneman@eriecountygov.org.

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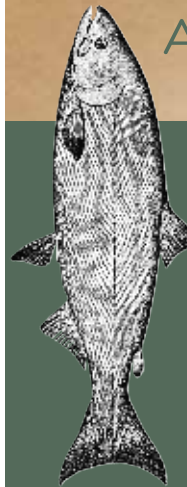


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News of the Weird

Hemp-based hypocrisy, and then some.

By: **Chuck Shepherd**

Virtual Fandom

The phenomenal Japanese singer Hatsune Miku (100 million YouTube hits) is coming off of a sold-out, 10-city North American concert tour with high-energy audiences (blocks-long lines to get in; raucous crowd participation; hefty souvenir sales), except that "she" isn't real. Hatsune Miku is a projected hologram on stage singing and dancing (but her band is human), and her May show in Dallas, according to a Dallas Observer review, typically ignited frenzied fans who know the show's "every beat, outfit ... and glow stick color-change." Her voice, a synthesized "vocaloid," is crafted in pitch, timbre and timing to sound human. (The latest PlayStation brings Hatsune Miku into the home by virtual reality.) [Dallas Observer, 5-16-2016]

The Finer Points of Law

Make Up Your Mind, Feds: On Aug. 11, the federal government's Drug Enforcement Agency famously refused to soften the regulation of marijuana, leaving it (with heroin) as a harsh "Schedule I" drug because, citing Food and Drug Administration findings, it has "no medical use." However, as the Daily Caller pointed out, another federal agency Department of Health and Human Services obtained a U.S. patent in 2003 for marijuana-derived cannabinoids, which HHS pointed out have several medical uses (as an antioxidant and for limiting neurological damage following strokes). [Daily Caller, 8-17-2016]

Priorities: (1) "A dog has better protection than our kids," lamented an Oregon prosecutor in May because, unlike the pet law, the "child abuse" law requires proof the victim experienced "substantial" pain which a young child often lacks vocabulary to describe. (Simply showing welts and bruises is insufficient, the Court of Appeals has ruled.) (2) That same Oregon Court of Appeals ruled in June that Thomas Wade, 44, was not guilty of a crime when in 2013 he unzipped his pants, reached inside, and at that point cursed the woman he had confronted in a public park. "Distasteful," wrote the Court, but it was an exercise of Wade's free speech right. [The Oregonian, 5-21-2016] [The Oregonian, 6-10-2016]

Texas! In August, Houston defense lawyer Jerry Guerinot announced his retirement from death-penalty cases, leaving him with a perfect record (for that area of his practice): He lost every single time. Twenty-one clients received the death penalty, and 10 have been executed (so far). He made no excuses, pointing out that "gang members, serial killers and sociopaths" were entitled to representation, too, and that he has taken more than 500 noncapital cases to trial (with, presumably, more success). [Associated Press via Fox News, 8-13-2016]

Tourists Gone Wild

Tourism officials in Iceland recently posted "hundreds" of signs at visitor attractions showing a squatting person in silhouette, with a small pile on the ground underneath and the familiar diagonal line (indicating "don't"). Critics of the signs reluctantly admit Iceland's

chronic shortage of public restrooms. (2) In a YouTube clip released in July, a Disney fan posted shot after shot of "rude" Chinese tourists at Shanghai Disneyland, coaxing their small children to urinate in public rather than in restrooms. (3) The Tourism Bureau of Japan's Hokkaido island recently rewrote its etiquette guide for visitors to underscore the inappropriateness of "belching or flatulence" in public. [Daily Mail (London), 7-20-2016] [Daily Mail (London), 7-19-2016] [Agence France-Presse via Yahoo News, 4-28-2016]

Leading Economic Indicators

Suspicious Confirmed: (1) A New York Times reporter, describing in June the rising prices of prescription pharmaceuticals, noted that a popular pain reliever (probably describing oxycodone) was available on the Paterson, New Jersey, black market for \$25 a pill, while heroin was going for \$2 a baggie. (2) The economic growth rate in Ireland for 2015 was revised upward in July. Growth of its gross domestic product was originally estimated at 7.8 percent, but subsequently adding the paper value of several "inversions" (U.S. companies "moving" to Ireland to reduce U.S. taxes) Ireland found that it was actually growing at 26.7 percent. [New York Times, 6-14-2016] [New York Times, 7-13-2016]

Awesome!

Investigators revealed in July that an off-duty Aurora, Colorado, sheriff's deputy had justifiably fired his gun to resist a parking lot mugging and that, furthermore, one of the bullets from Deputy Jose Marquez's gun had gone straight into the barrel of one of the

handguns pointed at him. The investigators called the shot "one in a billion." (2) Matthew Lavin, 39, drew internet acclaim in July after he was gored through his left thigh while "running with the bulls" in the annual spectacle in Pamplona, Spain. Interviewed in his hospital bed by Madrid's The Local, he called it "the best time ever" and said he looked forward to another run next year. [Denver Post, 7-13-2016] [The Local (Madrid), 7-13-2016]

Ironies

Gary Durham, 40, was shot to death during a heated road-rage incident in Plant City, Florida, on Aug. 10. Durham had served 10 years in prison after an aggressive road-rage episode in 2001 in which he pursued another driver and knocked him to the ground, causing the man to hit his head, fatally, on the pavement. (Included in Durham's 2002 sentence was an order to take anger management classes.) [Tampa Bay Times, 8-11-2016]

Wait, What?

The Borough Council of Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, was surprised to learn in June that, because of an existing local ordinance, dogs were not permitted in its brand-new Pompton Lakes dog park, created with great fanfare in an area of Hershfield Park. The council vowed to fix the problem. (2) In June, a police watchdog agency in Dublin, Ireland, asked officers ("gardai") across the country to try to carry out house raids at "reasonable hours" so that they do not disturb the occupants. (In one complaint, gardai staged a 3:15 a.m. raid to search for evidence of stolen vehicle

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - By B. Toy

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NEWS & VIEWS

accessories.) [The Record (Hackensack), 6-13-2016] [Irish Independent, 6-12-2016]

A 9-year-old girl named Irina won a contest in Berezniki, Russia, in August for letting mosquitos bite her more often than they bit other contestants. It is the signature event of the annual Russian Mosquito Festival, and her 43 hits were enough to earn her the title of "tastiest girl." The annual Great Texas Mosquito Festival in Clute, Texas (south of Houston), apparently has nothing comparable. [Washington Post, 8-15-2016]

The Passing Parade

The Elanora Heights Public School (a primary school in Sydney, Australia) recently banned clapping during student assemblies in an effort to help pupils with noise anxieties. To show audience approval, students are asked to "punch the air," "pull (on their) faces" or "wriggle about." (2) In July, The Nairobi newspaper reported the remarkable career of "Rosemary," reputed to be the Kenyan capital's oldest prostitute still going strong at 64 after more than 5,000 clients. She said she could make it through 40 on a good day, but never missed church on Sunday. [Sky News (London), 7-20-2016] [The Nairobi, 7-16-2016]

Least Competent Criminals

Didn't Think Ahead: (1) In July, Joshua Jacobs, 30, accidentally knocked down a traffic sign at 12:45 a.m. in Vero

Beach, Florida, and, spotting a sheriff's deputy, sped away. The deputy gave chase especially, he said, given the fully-grown marijuana plant resting in the bed of the pickup. Jacobs was arrested. (2) Jeremy Watts, 30, and Jessica Heady, 24, were charged with aggravated burglary (a PlayStation and other electronics from a man's home) in Clarksville, Tennessee, in August. The pair had offered the haul to a Cash America Pawnshop, but did not realize that the home they had burglarized was the pawnshop manager's. [TCPalm.com (Stuart, Fla.), 8-2-2016] [Leaf Chronicle (Clarksville), 8-3-2016]

A News of the Weird Classic (October 2012)

Researchers writing in the journal *Animal Behaviour* in July (2012) hypothesized why male pandas have sometimes been seen performing handstands near trees. They are urinating, the scientists observed, and doing handstands streams the urine higher on the tree, presumably signaling their mating superiority. A San Diego Zoo researcher involved in the study added that an accompanying gland secretion gives off even more "personal" information to other pandas than the urine alone. [Live Science, 8-28-2012]

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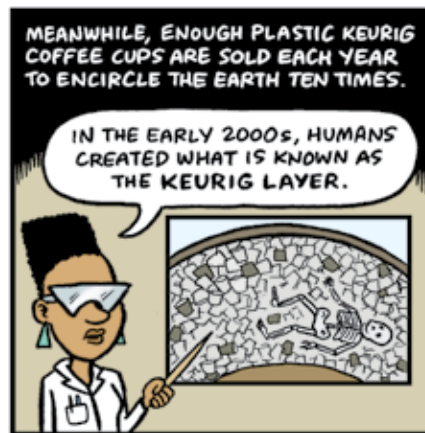
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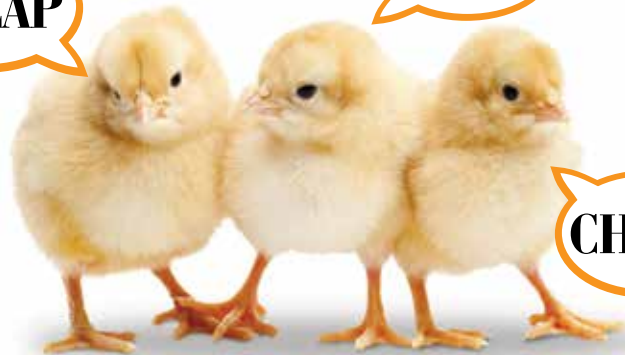


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Sept. 14/ 6-8:30	Sister Cities – An Economic Development Comparison between Erie, PA & Lublin, Poland	Bruce Kibler, Ph.D. and Pawel Pasierbiak, Ph.D.*	Free Term kick-off reception (6 p.m.) Lecture (7 p.m. ft. Visiting Lecturer)
Sept. 15/ 7-8:30	NatureHoods: Converting Urban Parks to Outdoor Classrooms	Larry Berrin, B.S.	Lecture
Sept. 19/ 7-8:30	After the Sanctions – the Resultant Russian Psyche vis a vis the West	Fr. Steven Pimen Simon, J.D.	Lecture
Sept. 20/ 7-8:30	Harry T. Burleigh: From the Spiritual to the Harlem Renaissance	Jean Snyder, Ph.D. *	Free Visiting Speaker Lecture
Sept. 21/ 4-5:30	Remarkable Women: Abigail Adams	Corrine Egan, B.A.	Lecture
Sept. 22/ 7-8:30	Readings and Conversations from Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood	Paul Hertneky, M.F.A. *	Free Visiting Speaker Lecture with book signing
Sept. 27/ 7-8:30	Building an Innovation Ecosystem in Northwestern Pennsylvania	Ralph Ford, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Sept. 28/ 4-5:30	Great Britain Alone – June 1940 to June 1941	Mark Squeglia, B.A.	Lecture
Sept. 30/ 7-8:30	Erie Canal Genealogy: The Peopling of Upstate New York and the Midwest	John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. *	Distinguished Visiting Speaker Lecture
Oct. 3/ 7-8:30	Six Works of Western Art Every Educated Person Should Know Today	Michael DeSanctis, Ph.D.	Lecture
Oct. 4/ 4-5:30	Examining the Implications of Online Voting in the U.S. – Is it the Way of the Future?	Daniel Nick, M.A.	Lecture
Oct. 6/ 7-8:30	Bats: Myths and Legends	Steve Ropski, Ph.D.	Free Lecture
Oct. 10/ 7-8:30	Fascism, Populism and the Rise of the 'Us-first' Movement	Charles Brock, M.Litt. and Amy Carney, Ph.D.	Free Brock Institute Lecture
Oct. 12/ 7-8:30	Implementing Erie's New Plan – How Progressive Cities Address Their Challenges	CZB Planning Firm	Free Lecture
Oct. 13/ 7-8:30	General Sherman – The Man, the Warrior, the Myth about his "March to the Sea"	William P. Garvey, Ph.D.	Lecture
Oct. 17/ 7-8:30	The Future of Public Education in Erie: A Discussion of the Fourth Jefferson Essay	Jim Wertz, Ph.D.	Free Lecture

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Crime and Punishment

Standing up to injustice



Bishop Dwane Brock leads Victory Christian Center and founded Word of Faith Development Corporation, and also created The Eagle's Nest Employability Initiative.

RICH GENSHEIMER

By: Lisa Gensheimer

Synchronicity, also known as “a meaningful coincidence,” brought a diverse mix of people to the Poplar Street home of Sue Moyer and Mark Alexa a few weeks ago, to hear Lisa Austin’s ideas for Erie’s future should she decide to run for mayor. While Austin greeted latecomers, we turned our conversation to at-risk youth, poverty, and the almost daily shootings on Erie’s streets.

The ink was still fresh on the plea deal accepted by 15-year-old Derrys Sanders, one of the youngest homicide defendants in Erie history. A couple of days before he was to go on trial as an adult for shooting 18-year-old Jacob Pushinsky while trying to steal his bicycle, Sanders pleaded guilty to first-degree murder. He faces a minimum sentence of 25 years in state prison and a maximum of life, with an opportunity for parole once he serves his minimum sentence. A 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision ruled automatic life sentences unconstitutional for children

17 and under. Sanders was 14 when he committed the crime. He awaits sentencing on Oct. 14.

Why was Sanders to be tried as an adult? we asked. At such a young age, did he have the mental capacity to comprehend what he was doing? Did he understand the consequences if convicted? Should he have to spend the rest of his life in an adult prison? Sure, this wasn’t his first brush with the law, but what kind of family or role models did he have? Did the justice system treat him differently because he’s black? What efforts are underway to prevent kids like Sanders from getting into trouble?

I pulled out a flyer announcing that Bryan Stevenson, a public interest lawyer and social justice activist, is coming to town on Sept. 13. I read his book. Maybe we should all go and hear what he has to say.

Leaning in around the coffee table were Ron Oliver, vice president of the United Way’s labor division and AFL-CIO community service liaison, who personally mentors black youth and is involved in sev-

eral promising projects that are making a difference; Mark Alexa, who runs Community Shelter Services, which provides housing and services to homeless men, women, and children; Paige Bosnyak, a project director at the Bayfront Eastside Task Force, which covers the neighborhood where Pushinsky and his family lived; and Carol Pruzinsky-Rodgers, a retiree from GECAC, where she ran a program to help senior citizens get home health care. Most of us had never met before.

A victim’s view

Rodgers stopped our conversation cold when she announced she had no sympathy for Sanders. Lock him up and throw away the key. Rodgers’ aunt, 86-year-old Annie Ropelewski, was brutally murdered eight years ago – stabbed 22 times, beaten with a claw hammer and strangled before being thrown down the cellar steps by a young black man.

I confirmed the gruesome news accounts later. The victim’s family and the district attorney argued for the death

penalty, but Willie Baker, 21, did not meet the criteria for execution. He had a low IQ and was developmentally disabled, a report said. Baker then pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and is currently serving a life sentence with no chance of parole.

Rodgers’ personal story was a jarring reminder that all of us are forever altered by violent crime – victims’ families, neighbors, friends, families of those who commit crimes and their loved ones, and the community at large. Maybe that means we all have a vested interest in doing something about it.

I spoke with Rodgers privately to better understand her horrific experience. Her mom was in the hospital with a serious illness when word came that Ropelewski had been murdered. She died the next day. Now, whenever Rodgers visits the cemetery where their gravestones sit side-by-side, the pain comes flooding back.

“Like the Pushinskys, we’re never going to have our family members back again. Never hear them laugh, never have them at family events, never hear them tell stories. My aunt was a wonderful Polish cook ...” she said, her voice trailing off. “Our family was broken. I’m sure the Pushinsky family feels the same way.”

Rodgers’ educator friends have talked with her about young people who are developmentally disabled or too young to know what they are doing when they commit a crime. She said that while she understands on an intellectual level, “Unless you have seen

this evil face-to-face, unless you have walked in my shoes, you can’t tell me how I should feel.”

Synchronicity strikes again

Turns out Bryan Stevenson, the speaker who is coming to Erie, *has* walked in those shoes. His 86-year-old grandfather was murdered by four kids in a low-income housing project in south Philly when Stevenson was 16. They broke into his grandfather’s apartment to steal his television set. When he resisted, they stabbed him to death.

His grandfather’s murder devastated his family, but that hasn’t kept Stevenson, now a Harvard educated death-row lawyer, from representing juvenile offenders, many of whom are behind bars in adult prisons for what amounts to death-in-prison sentences. Instead, it has strengthened his resolve to fight for the rights of the most vulnerable in our society – all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Stevenson, 56, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) and author of the No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, will be in Erie Tuesday, Sept. 13 for the Charlene M. Tanner Lecture Series at Mercyhurst University. His presentation, at 7 p.m. in the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, is free and open to the public.

The EJI began its work in Montgomery, Alabama in 1989 and now has a staff of 47 people. Their focus is on race and poverty, children in prison, mass incarceration, and the death penalty. No wonder the civil rights icon Rosa Parks, on hearing what Stevenson planned to do with his life, told the young, idealistic lawyer he was going to be “really, really tired.”

It was Stevenson and EJI

lawyers who won the landmark 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. Alabama* and its companion case, *Jackson v. Hobbs*, which held that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger convicted of homicide are unconstitutional because they violate the Eighth Amendment. The Court didn't ban all juvenile life-without-parole sentences, but wrote that because sentencers must now consider "children's diminished culpability, and heightened capacity for change," such sentences will be "uncommon" from then on.

I asked Stevenson why children who commit murder should not be subject to death-in-prison sentences.

"All children are children," he replied via email. "We cannot turn them into adults just because we're mad at them for acting violent and foolish. We need to work harder at making sure our children don't think that shooting other kids is ever acceptable or something they should do."

Stevenson further explained, "We can do that by dealing with the epidemic of trauma and abuse that plagues many poor children and most of the kids I represent who end up in adult jails or prisons. We can't prevent the kind of tragedy you describe [the murder of Pushinsky] by just throwing away children after they make tragic results. We seem uninterested in why children engage in violence and that means we don't solve problems, we just punish them. I think we can and should do better. No family should see their child senselessly murdered by another child. To create a world where that doesn't happen we have to care more about all children, including the ones who are abused, neglected, angry, and traumatized by their violent circumstances."

Stevenson repeated a statement that has stayed with me ever since I read his book: "We are all more than the worst

thing we've ever done," he wrote. "No one is just a crime. If someone tells a lie, they are more than a liar. Someone who steals is more than just a thief. Even someone who has killed another person is more than just a killer. Hope resides in redemption, recovery, restoration, and rehabilitation. All of us need some measure of grace and mercy."

Nothing stops a bullet like a job

If anyone in Erie understands the urgency of Stevenson's message, it's Bishop Dwane Brock, who has been working on the front lines in our community for 37 years.

"I've dealt with these young men who've been killing each other. After a shooting, nine times out of 10 I have to end up burying that young man," said Brock, a former history teacher who leads Victory Christian Center and founded Word of Faith Development Corporation, a nondenominational neighborhood revitalization

"No family should see their child senselessly murdered by another child," says Stevenson. "To create a world where that doesn't happen we have to care more about all children, including the ones who are abused, neglected, angry, and traumatized by their violent circumstances."

effort that has reclaimed and refurbished nearly a city block on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"The community as a whole is going to have to address this issue," Brock added. "But we have to address it not from an emotional standpoint, we have to address it from an intelligence standpoint."

That means getting kids off

Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, will speak at Mercyhurst University on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

the streets and into jobs, Brock said. "Nothing stops a bullet like a job."

The Eagle's Nest Employability Initiative Brock created two years ago in partnership with UMPC Hamot now has 70 young people working full-time at Hamot, with benefits. A month-long job-skills training program followed by a paid internship at Hamot in areas such as patient transport, physical therapy, patient care, and other jobs has introduced at-risk kids to careers they never dreamed of. On Sept. 10, Brock will dedicate the new Eagle's Nest Technology Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in what was once a service station for Erie's trolley cars. It will be equipped with 25 computers, smartboards, and a game room.

"I pay the kids to come to class but you cannot come to my class late. You cannot come to class with your pants halfway down your behind. You don't want to follow rules, get out of my program," said Brock. "We're investing in these kids, and we expect a return."

So far, the program is a phenomenal success. "The best part is that now they understand the dignity of work. They get a paycheck, learn how to manage their finances, and develop a sense of independence," said Brock, who is negotiating with other employers so he can expand the program.

"I have another 90 applications on my desk as we speak for the next training session, which starts Oct. 3," he added. "I have to make a decision and take only 20 out of the 90, but I'm going to make a commitment that whoever of that 90 is serious about getting a job, I will work diligently to make sure they get a decent job."

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MICHAEL COLLOPY

President Judge John Trucilla and Judges William Cunningham and Robert Sambroak is investing in Brock's Eagle's Nest along with another program, called Energize E.R.I.E., or Empowerment that Results in Integrity and Excellence, a 10-week life skills academy in collaboration with Rev. James Keeton, Jr. of St. James A.M.E. Church and Erie County Councilman Andre Horton. Court supervision fees paid by criminal defendants go into this Judicial Reinvestment Fund, which already has \$50,000 in its coffers.

Trucilla also credited County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and County Director of Administration Gary Lee for spearheading the successful Summer Jobs and More (JAMS) program for at-risk youth, which this year was run by GECAC and funded by the county, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, and the Erie Community Foundation.

"We're on it," said Trucilla, who had one foot out the door on his way to Bethesda

Children's Home in Meadville, when he returned my call. "This is not a big city like Cleveland. This is Erie. We can do this."

Trucilla said he counseled a 14-year-old boy who recently came before him for robbing a convenience store. "This boy lives in the neighborhood where a lot of the shootings are occurring. So I told him, 'Stay out of trouble. I don't want to see you get hurt. Aren't you afraid?' He stared up at me without blinking and said he had already been shot once when he was 12. Some kids in a car came around the corner and shot at him while he was sitting on his porch with a friend. The bullet came pretty close to hitting his spine."

For prevention programs like these to be successful, the parents must be involved, Trucilla said. Both parents. "At Energize E.R.I.E.'s first graduation this month, only one father showed up. Mothers are doing their best, some of them working two jobs," Trucilla said, "But we [Cont. on page 34]"



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Erie Art Museum

9/10 SING STREET (2016)
Drama | Romance

9/11 RAIDERS! THE STORY OF THE GREATSTAN FILM EVER MADE (2016)
Filmmaking Documentary
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK: THE ADAPTATION (2016-2018)
Filmmaker ERIC ZALA in attendance!

9/14 LOVE & FRIENDSHIP (2016)
Drama | Romance

9/21 MIDNIGHT SPECIAL (2016)
Sci-Fi | Drama

9/28 DE PALMA (2016)
Filmmaking Documentary

10/5 BLOW OUT (1970)
Mystery | Thriller

10/12 TIME TO CHOOSE (2016)
Environmental Documentary
with Panel Discussion

10/17 (Almost) Deconstruction: LO AND BEHOLD: RIVERS OF THE CONNECTICUT WORLD (2016) ZERO DAYS (2016)
Documentary

10/26 INTO THE FOREST (2015)
Drama | Sci-Fi

11/7 SALAM NEIGHBOR (2015)
Belgian Documentary
with Panel Discussion

11/9 CHRISTINE (2016)
Biography | Drama
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11/16 (Short) Filmmaking Competition Feature followed by: PAN'S LABYRINTH (2006)
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Spotlight on Erie

August 31 – September 13, 2016

Wednesday, Aug. 31

Fall in Love and Start a Band on *Sing Street*



Boy meets girl. Boy wants to ask girl out. Boy chickens out.

Instead, boy asks girl to star in a music video for his imaginary rock band. Boy then scrambles to assemble said rock band.

Rock and roll and romance ensue.

That's pretty much the premise of John Carney's 2016 crowd-pleaser *Sing Street*. It's also set in Dublin in 1985, so you can expect a vintage-cool array of silly wardrobes and accessories. As the object of affection, actress Lucy Boynton looks like a teenage Kate Bush – complete with huge hair and goth eyeliner. In keeping with the nostalgic spirit, the soundtrack fluctuates between underground chic (The Jam, The Cure) and lovable cheese (a-ha, Spandau Ballet).

Sing Street's mix of drama and comedy will appeal to fans of musical spirit-lifters like *Pitch Perfect*, albeit with a slightly punk rock edge.

Along the way, our young hero must also deal with the demise of his parents' marriage and bullying at school: themes that will resonate for anyone who was awkward at that age. *Sing Street's* mix of drama and comedy will appeal to fans of musical spirit-lifters like *Pitch Perfect*, albeit with a slightly punk rock edge.

Director John Carney is becoming an old pro at the rock-and-roll romantic comedy. His cult classic *Once* (2007) told the story of two buskers falling in love with earnest, lo-fi charm. He returned to similar themes with the star-stud-

ded *Begin Again*, this time with Keira Knightley as a singer-songwriter recovering from a rough break-up. *Sing Street* brings him back to Ireland (and the era of his youth) to tell an endearing story about love and music.

Expect plenty of emotion – from the music, the characters, and especially the hairdos. – Dan Schank

Kick-off party at 6 p.m., screening follows fall preview at 7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html

Thursday, Sept. 1

The Sailcloth Art Project Opens at the Bayfront Maritime Center



“One day, while out sailing, I looked up and thought ‘that sail is so beautiful, I want to paint on it.’”

So began Heather Hertel's idea for the Sailcloth Art Project, which knots together a local nonprofit sailing organization, student painters, and even a dance troupe – all at the suggestion of a former Erie indigene.

“We were approached by Heather, an art professor at Slippery Rock University,” explained Richard Eisenberg, executive director of the Bayfront Maritime Center, which will host the

The Sailcloth Art Project knots together a local nonprofit sailing organization, student painters, and even a dance troupe.

project. “She thought it might be a good thing to do while Tall Ships was up here in Erie,” he added, referring to the event that features sailing ships of bygone eras.

“They’ll be hung inside and outside on display,” he explained. “It’s kinetic. There will be some motion and fluidity, and that’s the fine art part of it.”

Hertel said via email that three installations are proposed: an outdoor sculpture, a large hanging sail “banner,” and an indoor installation composed of five sails; each of the pieces have been in process throughout the summer.

“One figure is flying on a crane,” she described. “The students associated it with the albatross, so then ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,’ a poem by Coleridge, was also folded into the project. We created a scroll out of sailcloth that the figure is holding while flying on the crane over the ocean.”

Hertel added that “The project has been very experimental as the sails are 40 feet in length.”

But a dance troupe?

“I associate the free feeling of dance movement and the motion of painting with sailing and the fluidity of the wind,” she explained. “And [the dancers] will improvise to the art installation.”

“The Sailcloth Art Project is a new one for us,” said Eisenberg. “It’s our first collaboration with the SRU art and dance department, and we’re really happy about that: to develop partnerships and cooperative events like this.” – Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

6 to 9 p.m. // Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. // Additional events scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 3 and Sunday, Sept. 4. // For more information, visiteriepa.com

Friday, Sept. 2

Penny's Pin-Up Party Celebrates Grown-up Glamour for a Cause

Vintage vehicles, oldies vibes, local bands, pin-up girls, burlesque: good, clean (well, you know) fun.

And when it's all for a worthy cause – in this case, to raise funds for Boro Women & Family Services (BWFS) – you can feel just fine about getting a little bit adult fun-minded.

This year's Pin-Up Erie-hosted Penny's Pin-Up Party – the second event of its kind in as many years – is happening at Cambridge Springs' historic and beautiful Riverside Inn.

All proceeds from the party will directly benefit BWFS, which provides resources and support to local individuals and families in crisis.



DHALIA D'LUXE

The event features all of the above-mentioned fun, games, and more, including local crafters, vendors, live rockabilly performances by Erie-area favorites The Remnants and Matty B and the Dirty Pickles, and live burlesque shows featuring performers from Cleveland.

Like last year, some of the events – the daytime vintage carnival, for one – are free and open to everyone, while spicier attractions include an admission cost and are for the 21+ crowd only. So be sure to check out some of the Pin-Up Party's further details before you head south of the city. – Ryan Smith

4 p.m. to 2 a.m. // 1 Fountain Ave., Cambridge Springs // Penny's Pin Up Party 2016 on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Friday, Sept. 2

The Mosaic Foundation Returns to the Kings Rook Club



Coming to us from New York's pristine Finger Lakes region, the Mosaic Foundation – a diverse collection of multi-talented musicians – stays true to its name and deep roots, mashing

CALENDAR

ska, dub, dance-hall, and other influences into a sweet, positive, powerful sound that's uniquely their own.

What they bring to the stage, they say, is "an exploration in reggae that is pushed to the limits – and sometimes spills over."

What The Mosaic Foundation bring to the stage, they say, is "an exploration in reggae that is pushed to the limits – and sometimes spills over."

They've brought that adventure to Erie before, and they'll be bringing it again when they hit the stage at the Kings Rook Club for a free show.

It's a really good chance to catch some really good vibes, and – as is most often the case at the good 'ol Rook – the price is more than right. – Ryan Smith

10 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // facebook.com/kingsrookclub

Saturday, Sept. 3

Lake Effect Hardcore and Regional Bands Crash Basement Transmissions



XREPRESENTX

Gimp Guy Underground Promotions is bringing another Hardcore Take-over to Erie.

Insidious, from New Hampshire, has crafted a style as menacing as their name suggests, creating dooming, sludgy chord progressions mixed with aggressive metallic riffs and break-

downs that are sure to get you in the mosh pit.

Holding it down for Lake Effect hardcore are xRepresentx and Livid Life. xRepresentx, the Straight Edge kings of the Erie scene, deliver sobering messages in their lyrics, as well as songs that cut the bull and are straightforward, classic Erie hardcore. Livid Life is the newest band to carry the Lake Effect torch, whose song "Lake Effect

This show, more than any in recent memory, could be a starting point for a new generation of hardcore music in Erie.

Style" is a testament to the band's effort to keep hardcore alive in Erie.

From New Jersey comes Dissent, a band that isn't afraid to combine the opposing styles of beatdown hardcore and melodic hardcore, as present in their song "Eternal Price."

Baltimore's Iron Price is hot off the hype of playing the second day of This Is Hardcore, a huge annual four-day festival in Philadelphia featuring the biggest names and best up-and-coming bands in the hardcore scene. Missing them would not be recommended to any fan of the genre.

It seems with every hardcore show that comes along, I make a point to mention that the Erie scene isn't what it once was. Nate Heinrich of Livid Life shared his thoughts on the topic, saying "Erie hardcore used to be something everyone here knew about, but the Dead City (a moniker for Erie within the scene) is more of a hardcore graveyard now than ever before."

This show, more than any in recent memory, could be a starting point for a new generation of hardcore music in Erie, if only you should come out to support it. If these bands don't get you wanting to spin-kick your way into the scene, nothing will. – Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$5 // All Ages // facebook.com/events/134280823679336/

MUSIC

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.

Electroflux Experimental Music Series

Aug. 31 — 7 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

Songwriter Sunset

Sept. 1, 8 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Refuge

Sept. 2 — 6 p.m.

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

Sas Acoustics

Sept. 2 — 6 to 9 p.m.

The Ugly Tuna Tavern, 1010 Peninsula Dr. facebook.com/SASAcousticDuo.

Strangers and Liars

Sept. 2 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Mo' Mojo

Sept. 2 — 7:30 p.m.

Edinboro University Louis C. Cole Auditorium in Memorial Hall, 205 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

Mosaic Foundation

Sept. 2 — 10 p.m.

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

The Duke Sherman Band

Sept. 3 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

The Gilligans

Sept. 3 — 6 p.m.

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

Frank-n-Stan

Sept. 3 — 6 to 9 p.m.

814 Pub and Grill, 1325 State St. jazzerie.com.

Insidious, xRepresentx, Dissent, Iron Price, Livid Life and Nightjar

Sept. 3 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

Dionisio

Sept. 3 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Presque Isle Records Endless Summer Nights

Sept. 3 — 8 p.m.

Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/events/101249766960031.

Eric Brewer & Friends and Claire Stuczynski

Sept. 3 — 10 p.m.

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

Jesse James Weston

Sept. 4 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Basket Eddy and Colette Bone

Sept. 4 — 5 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro

Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Deathbed, Amavasya, Primal Scream Therapy, and Bathed in Formaldehyde

Sept. 4 — 5 to 10:30 p.m.

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

Florida Georgia Line

Sept. 8 — 7 p.m.

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

The Ignite Festival

Sept. 9 — 4 p.m. & Sept. 10, 11 — 10 a.m.

Ignite Festival Campground, 14849 Brown Hill Rd. theignitefestival.com.

Jackson Sation

Sept. 9 — 6 p.m.

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

Abbey Road

Sept. 9 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Concourse at Union Station, 121 W. 14th St. facebook.com/Abbey-Road-Music-of-The-Beatles-530834120401036.

Gimp Guy's Annual Birthday Bash

Sept. 9 — 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/gimpguyunderground.

The Highlife

Sept. 9 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Wave Trails, Barlow and Jumper Jamboree

Sept. 9 — 10 p.m.

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

Small Town Revolution

Sept. 10 — 6 p.m.

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

Matt Boland

Sept. 10 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Funktional Flow

Sept. 10 — 10 p.m.

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

Gem City Revival

Sept. 11 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Jay Baumgardner

Sept. 11 — 5 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Blasco Library Concert Series

Sept. 12 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Nihil

Sept. 13 — 7 p.m.

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

Faculty Collage Concert

Sept. 14 — 8 p.m.

Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

DANCE

Erie Dance Conservatory Nutcracker Auditions

Sept. 3 — 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Erie Dance Conservatory School, 8335 Edinboro Rd. eriedanceconservatory.org.

Lake Erie Ballet Nutcracker Auditions

Sept. 10 — 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lake Erie Ballet, 1020 Holland St. lakeerieballet.org.

FOOD & DRINK

What if the Shoe Were on the Other Hoof with Keith Allison

Sept. 2 — 6 to 8 p.m.

Whole Foods Co-op Community Room, 1341 W. 26th St. facebook.com

Erie Food Tours

Sept. 3, 10 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Pints for Paws

Sept. 4 — 3 to 7 p.m.

Public House, 4565 W. Ridge Rd. humanesocietyofnwpa.com.

Arts & Drafts

Sept. 8, 9, 10

The Brewer at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewerie.com.

2nd Anniversary Party

Sept. 9 — 3 to 10 p.m. & Sept. 10 — noon to 8 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

Homegrown Dinner

Sept. 9 — 6:30 to 10 p.m.

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

FILM

Robots Movie

Ongoing through Oct.

31 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

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

D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

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

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

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 1 p.m.

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

Journey to Space

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 2 & 5 p.m.

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

Sing Street

Aug. 31 — 6 p.m.

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

Captain Calamity (1936)

Sept. 1 — 8 p.m.

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

Northville Cemetery Massacre (1976)

Sept. 2 — 8 p.m.

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

The Hunting Ground

Sept. 6 — 8:30 a.m. to noon
Edinboro University Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd. facebook.com

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Saturday, Sept. 3

Presque Isle Records Showcases Eclectic Talent at Bobby's Place



C. BROWN

Presque Isle Records will connect some Erie-based talent with nearby brilliance when it brings in The Working Poor, from Pittsburgh. It promises to be an eclectic night of music, with the aforementioned Steel City group providing laid-back alt-country rock; and heavier, thoughtful tunes from This American Sound – who feature the evening's other performer, C. Brown, on a rock/rap anthem called "Mind F***ed." The Cartwrights will round out the bill with their self-described "two fisted, two steppin' two headed country" sounds.

Those unfamiliar with this lineup can check out a couple of songs be-

fore heading to the gig. The Working Poor's album *New Wealth* highlights the band's relaxed but cheeky country sound – really listen to the lyrics – and its curious use of brass instrumentation. C. Brown, on the other end of the spectrum, likens his sound to TuPac and DMX among others, using electronic strings, drum, and keys under a most stellar vocal pacing and rap style: check out "A Fear of Falling." This American Sound aren't rap artists, but those offended by colorful language should take heed. Another one of their singles, "F**k the Dawn," presents the band's Weezer-like vibe with a slight 90s twist. And try out The Cartwrights' crazy, guitar-chasing, speedy-as-heck country tune, "Walking on My Grave" – which is not as creepy as it sounds.

Such a packed night of genres, bands, and styles is rare. To really experience some great local talent, this showcase will be the place to be. – Miriam Lamey

8 p.m. // Bobby's Place // 1202 W. 18th St. // 455.9840

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Re-live your childhood with *Raiders!*

Jeremy Coon and Tim Skousen's 2015 documentary *Raiders!* kinda sells itself.

In 1982, two pre-teen boys in Missis-



sippi decided to produce their own shot-for-shot remake of Steven Spielberg's beloved 1981 film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Over the next seven years, armed with allowance money and all of the technology available to 11-year-olds in the eighties, they methodically recreated every scene of the Harrison Ford favorite. Except one.

After years of no-budget attempts at Hollywood action sequences, one crucial moment proved too difficult to stage. Worse still, the duo's friendship was pushed to the limits as they bickered over a girl. By the late eighties, the film remained tragically, endearingly incomplete.

Fast-forward to the early aughts, when file-sharing and social media began to allow homegrown projects like theirs to circulate freely. The remake soon found its way to horror-maestro Eli Roth (of the *Hostel* franchise), who sent a copy to Harry Knowles (found-

er of the nerd-friendly website *Ain't It Cool News*). A cult classic was born.

But it still wasn't finished. Accordingly, Coon and Skousen's documentary isn't limited to the eighties. It also follows the filmmaking duo, Chris Strompolos and Eric Zala, as they turn to Kickstarter to complete the project in 2014. Now in their forties, the childhood friends make one final attempt to complete the labor of love they devoted so much of their childhoods to.

For extreme fandom enthusiasts, DIY tinkerers, offbeat cinephiles, and hardcore Spielberg lovers, *Raiders!* is sure to warm the heart.

If that doesn't sound exciting to you, I probably can't convince you with flowery language. For extreme fandom enthusiasts, DIY tinkerers, offbeat cinephiles, and hardcore Spielberg lovers, *Raiders!* is sure to warm the heart. Everyone else can stay home (and be boring). – Dan Schank

Film at 6 p.m., followed by in-person Q&A with filmmaker/star Eric Zala and screening of the original adaptation // Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. // erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html

com/edinborofilmseries.

Raiders! The Story of the Greatest Fan Film Ever Made

Sept. 7 — 6 p.m.

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

Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

Sept. 8 — 8:30 to 11 p.m.

Edinboro University Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd. facebook.com/edinborofilmseries.

Dreams That Money Can Buy (1947)

Sept. 9 — 8 p.m.

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

Love & Friendship

Sept. 14 — 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 Sept. 17

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

InnovationErie Competition 2016

Ongoing through Sept. 25

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.

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.

Failure

Sept. 7 through 18 (Work-in-progress day Sept. 3 — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Opening Reception Sept. 6 — 7 to 9 p.m.)

Allegheny College Doane Hall of Art, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

Sailcloth Art Project

Sept. 8, 9 (Opening Reception Sept. 1 — 6 to 8 p.m. & Live performance Sept. 10, 11 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.)

Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. facebook.com/bayfrontmaritimecenter.

Just the Blues by Joyce Perowicz

Sept. 9 through Oct. 4

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

Second Sundays

Sept. 11 — 2 to 4 p.m.

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

THEATRE

Driving Miss Daisy

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

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

All My Sons

Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. Sept. 4, 11 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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

An American Daughter

Sept. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 — 8 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Fortunate Victory

Sept. 9, 10 — 10 a.m., noon, 2p.m. & 4 p.m. & Sept. 11 — noon & 2 p.m.

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

Rejoice

Sept. 9, 10 — 8 p.m.

Allegheny College Vukovich Center for Communication Art, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

A Canterbury Feast

Sept. 10, 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 12, 19 — 5:30 p.m. & Sept. 11, 18 & Oct. 2, 23 & Nov. 6, 13 — 2:30 p.m. & Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 11, 18 — 7 p.m.

Station Dinner

Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

COMMUNITY

Erie County Fair

Ongoing through Sept. 3

Erie County Fairgrounds, 13993 Route 8 & 89 wattsburgfair.com.

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.

Erie Times News Career Fair

Aug. 31 — 10 a.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Health Chats

Aug. 31 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

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.

Farmers Market

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

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

Erie SeaWolves vs. Akron RubberDucks

Aug. 31 & Sept. 1 — 7 p.m.

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

Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

Aug. 31 & Sept. 2 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Saint Mary's Follies

Sept. 1 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier stmmaryshome.org.

Nordic Walking

Sept. 2, 9 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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

History by Pontoon

Sept. 2 — 4 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8

The Secrets are out at Basement Transmissions



San Diego's post-hardcore group, Secrets, are coming to Basement Transmissions, along with a stacked local lineup, before heading out for a full-U.S. tour with Ice Nine Kills.

Secrets released their third studio album *Everything That Got Us Here* in 2015, which peaked at number 20 on the U.S. Indie charts. Constant lineup changes have caused Secrets to have a different screaming vocalist on each of their albums, and *Everything* utilizes significantly less of that vocal style, focusing primarily on clean vocals and catchy choruses. Despite the recent release, the band dropped a surprise single last March titled "Waste Away."

Topping the local lineup is Ashes of a Generation. With influences rang-

ing from rock 'n' roll to metalcore, this Meadville-based band best describes their sound as melodic metal. The band released a music video for their song "Collection Day," which features catchy guitar riffs and manages to still be heavy without relying on breakdowns.

Next on the bill are Edinboro's Malloy Run. Being the only non-metal band on the lineup doesn't mean they can't be heavy, too – the ending of the song "Bedrot" is just as heavy as any other band on the bill. Check out the song's music video, expertly shot and edited by photographer Brian Wilson (now the band's bassist).

Reformer, from Rochester, New York, is the only non-local opening act on the bill, whose self-titled EP was set for release on Aug. 27. The band released the singles "Exposure" and "Guilty Pleasures" from the EP, two heavy and melodic songs that give just a taste of what the band is capable of.

Also from Erie are Bathed in Formaldehyde, a six-piece metal band whose occasional bursts of emotion in their songwriting give them a distinct sound, setting them apart from other bands in the Erie metal scene.

There are a great things happening at Basement Transmissions, so come out to the show, invite all your friends, and don't keep this show a secret. – Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$13 advance, \$15 day of show // facebook.com/events/236921736707939/

Thursday, Sept. 8

Spectators are Welcome at the 23rd Annual Edinboro Highland Games and Scottish Festival



You needn't travel across the Atlantic to experience a wee bit of Scotland. From Thursday, Sept. 8 to Sunday, Sept. 11, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania celebrates Scottish heritage with four days of music, dance, and athletics.

In addition to the National Scottish Fiddle Championships, which the university has hosted for the past four years, the festival will feature the National Scottish Harp Championships. Other competitions include highland dancing, bagpiping, heavy athletics, disc golf, and plein air painting.

When Thompson came to Edinboro University, he was surprised that this type of event didn't previously exist. Incredibly proud of his own Scottish heritage, Thompson began planning the first Highland Games.

In 1993, 500 people attended Edin-

boro's inaugural Games. Today, more than 5,000 visitors spend the weekend immersing themselves in Scottish culture – sampling traditional foods, listening to world class musicians, and more. The celebration now also includes beer tastings from local breweries, which coincidentally began on the festival's 21st birthday.

Main events take place on Saturday at Edinboro University, both in and around McComb Fieldhouse.

"If you get there before noon, you'll want to see the opening ceremony," Thompson said. "It's spectacular with the pipe bands marching and playing and the Scottish clans on parade."

The fun begins on Thursday night at Sprague Farm and Brewery in Venango. It continues on Friday with a Folk Harp Showcase at the Edinboro Presbyterian Church and a dinner performance at the Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs. At Edinboro University, regional fiddle championships begin at 7 p.m. and the "calling of the clans" bonfire starts at 8 p.m. Saturday, the festival runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Chelsea House Orchestra wraps up the weekend on Sunday morning at 10:45 at the Edinboro United Methodist Church.

Keep up on the latest by following @BoroHighlandGms on Twitter. – Tracy Geibel

For specific times and locations, contact tthompson@edinboro.edu or visit edinboro.edu/events/highland-games/

Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

Erie Downtown Bike Night

Sept. 2 — 6 to 10 p.m.
State St. from 4th to 14th streets, eriedowntown.com

King of Bass Tournament

Sept. 3, 4
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. northcoastbass.com

Fall Homeschool Program: Monarch Tagging

Sept. 3 — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

German Heritage Festival

Sept. 3 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Sept. 4 — 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
St. Nick's Grove, 5131 Old French Rd. dank-erie.org

Free Fireworks

Sept. 3 — 10 to 10:15 p.m.
Waldameer & Water World, 220 Peninsula Dr. waldameer.com

Yogilates with Michele Curtze

Sept. 4 — 11 a.m. to noon

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

Sunset Tai Chi Classes and Worship

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

Waterford Community Fair

Sept. 5 through 10
Waterford Community Fairgrounds, 13012 Route 19 waterfordfair.org

Family-to-Family Education Class

Sept. 6 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
NAMI of Erie County, 1611 Peach St. Suite 105 namerie.org

Gem City Concert Band Rehearsal

Sept. 6 — 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. gemcitybands.org

Peer-to-Peer Education Program

Sept. 7 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
NAMI of Erie County, 1611 Peach St. Suite

105 namerie.org.

Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival

Sept. 8, 9, 10, 11
Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St. edinboro.edu

USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

Sept. 8 through 15
The Kahkwa Club, 3300 Kahkwa Club Rd. kahkwa.com/2016Mid-Am

Intro to Computers and the Internet I

Sept. 8 & Oct. 22 & Nov. 8 & Dec. 8 — 9 a.m. to noon
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org

Erie Land Lighthouse Tours 2016

Sept. 8 — 1 to 5 p.m. & Sept. 9 — 10:30 a.m. & Sept. 10, 11 — noon to 4 p.m.
Foot of Lighthouse St. erielighthouse.org

Tour of Kraus Department Store Museum

Sept. 8 — 3:30 p.m.
Kraus Department Store, 810 Parade St. gcsoe.org

Tall Ships Erie

Sept. 8 — 4 p.m. & Sept. 9 — 2:30 to 6 p.m. & Sept. 10 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Sept. 11 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Erie Maritime Museum, 150 E. Front St. tallshipserie.org

German Cultural Society Monthly Meeting

Sept. 8 — 7 p.m.
Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org

Moonlight on the Bay

Sept. 9 — 6:30 p.m.
Perry Monument at Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. cvcerie.org

Barber Beast on the Bay

Sept. 10 — 8:30 a.m.
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. barberbeast.org

Windows

Sept. 10 & Oct. 25 & Nov. 12 — 9 a.m. to noon
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org

Storytime Saturdays

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

Erie Otters vs. Hamilton Pre-Season Game

Sept. 10 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com

11th Annual Homegrown Harvest Festival

Sept. 11 — noon to 5 p.m.
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. goodellgardens.org

Albion Area Fair

Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Albion Boro Park, Academy St. albionfair.com

Mail Merge

Sept. 13 & Oct. 15 & Nov. 17 — 9 a.m. to noon
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org

Great Books: Seven Deadly Sins

Sept. 13, 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org

Great Books On-going Class

Sept. 13, 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society,

3207 State St. jeserie.org

Therapy Dogs

Sept. 13 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org

Taste of the Ars

Sept. 13 — 5:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. nah.eriebenedictines.org

Photo Workshop: Raptors from Tamarac

Sept. 13 — 6:30 p.m.
Mercy Hilltop Center, 444 E. Grandview Blvd. erierphotoclub.com

Social Justice Activist Bryan Stevenson

Sept. 13 — 7 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu

Sister Cities: An Economic Development Comparison between Erie, PA and Lublin, Poland

Sept. 14 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org



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Friday, September 16,
5:00 to 11:00

Saturday, September 17,
11:00 to 11:00

Sunday, September 18,
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And **Erie Brewing Company's Irish Red Ale**, brewed especially for the festival and only available here!
And Irish whiskey tasting!

Free Admission, Free Parking, Rain or shine, enter at 4th and French, downtown. • www.erieirishfestival.com or visit us on Facebook.



*Fall Early
Literacy
Programs*

Sept. 12 - Dec. 16, 2016
www.erialibrary.org

Mondays

- Blasco Baby Bounce: Ages 6-18 Mo. @ 9:30 & 11 a.m.
- Blasco Evening Storytime: Ages 2-5 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Edinboro Family Storytime: Ages 2-5 @ 10 a.m.

Tuesdays

- Blasco Toddler Time: Ages 18-36 Mo. @ 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- Iroquois Family Storytime: Ages 2-5 @ 10 a.m.

Wednesdays

- Blasco Preschool Storytime: Ages 3-5 @ 10 a.m.
- Millcreek Family Storytime: Ages 2-5 @ 10 a.m.

Thursdays

- Blasco Preschool Storytime: Ages 3-5 @ 10 a.m.
- Lincoln Family Storytime: Ages 2-5 @ 10 a.m.



RAGTIME

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CALENDAR

Hoisting Up Some History and, well, a Duck

Tall Ships bring a bounty of fun to home port Erie.

SEPT. 8 TO 11



By: Mary Birdsong

Whether you go for the history, the maritime entertainment, or simply the sight of magnificent sails on the horizon, the Tall Ships Festival might be just what you need for sailing into late summer.

The festival launches with the Parade of Sails at 4 p.m. on Sept. 8 and ends three days later as nine tall ships set off for their next ports of call. In between, the bayfront becomes a celebration of all things nautical.

The ships are, of course, the centerpiece of the festival. Our beloved *Niagara* will lead the parade, joined by the schooners *When and If*, *Mists of Avalon*, *Appledore IV*, and *Denis Sullivan*; brigantines *Pathfinder* and *Playfair*; the clipper *Pride of Baltimore II*, and the galleon *El Galeon*, a replica of a galleon that was part of Spain's West Indies fleet in the sixteenth century.

The majesty of the parade will get a shot of whimsy this year when *The World's Largest Rubber Duck* paddles into the bay along with the ships. This inflated fowl stands (sits?) more than six stories tall. It's 64 feet wide and 74 feet long. And although a floating marvel, it weighs an impressive 11 tons.

Afterward, the vessels and duck will be berthed at the Bayfront Convention Center, Dobbins Landing, and the Erie Maritime Museum. Unfortunately, the sailaways – short trips on some of the ships during the festival – are already sold out.

Besides touring the ships and taking selfies with the duck, live music (and a cold one) will be available at the Labatt Beer Garden in the Bayfront Convention Center. Musical offerings there are diverse, from the current pop of local band First to Eleven to seafaring and pirate songs from

Tom Mason and the Blue Buccaneers. The Hardtackers will perform traditional sea shanties, and a few other folk and acoustic entertainers round out the lineup.

The convention center will also host a festival marketplace, presentations about underwater archeology, and the War of 1812 shipwrecks. Additionally, you'll be able to visit the Pennsylvania Woodmobile to learn about Pennsylvania forests, and the Drake Well Museum's Meet-U Energy Education trailer, which teaches about oil heritage and the modern-day oil and natural gas industries.

The Erie Maritime Museum is hosting fun and learning for all ages, too. Several members of the regional Science Alliance will be presenting hands-on science explorations. Plus, there will be naval gunnery and sail handling demonstrations, a historical reenactment of the life of a British sailor, and artisans from the Mystic Seaport Museum.

With several Tall Ship events under our belt, it's no surprise that Erieites are looking forward to this one. So is the crew of the *Niagara*, who, once again, gets to show off its home port.

Niagara Captain William Sabatini is excited to be a part of it. "We have ships joining us for the first time and some old favorites returning. Everyone is bound to have a good time at Tall Ships Erie."

And everyone will, including me. I love the ships, the history, the fun. But if you must know, I'm going for the duck.

Single-day and two-day passes available // 452.2744 ext 208 // tallshipserie.org

Mary Birdsong can be contacted at mBirdsong@ErieReader.com, and you can follow her on Twitter @Mary_Birdsong.



2016 Fall Schedule Distinguished Visiting Speakers



Bruce Kibler, Ph.D. & Pawel Pasierbiak, Ph.D.
Sister Cities – An Economic Development Comparison between Erie, PA and Lublin, Poland

September 14: Term kick-off reception 6-7 pm
& Lecture 6-8:30 pm

FREE EVENT



Jean E. Snyder, Ph.D.*
Harry T. Burleigh: From the Spiritual to the Harlem Renaissance

* Book signing

September 20 at 7-8:30 pm

FREE EVENT



Paul Hertneky, M.F.A.*
Readings and Conversations from *Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood*

* Book signing

September 22 at 7-8:30 pm

FREE EVENT - In partnership with Werner Books



John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.*
Erie Canal Genealogy: The Peopling of Upstate New York and the Midwest

September 30 at 7-8:30 pm



CZB Planning Firm
Implementing Erie's New Plan – How Progressive Cities Address Their Challenges

October 12 at 7-8:30 pm

FREE EVENT

For the full Fall Schedule 2016 lineup & to register for these events, please visit at 3207 State Street, Erie, PA 16508, online at www.JESErie.org, or call 814.459.8000.



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CALENDAR

This Party Too Strudelicious For Ya

See what's kuchen at the 20th annual German Heritage Festival.

SEPT. 3 AND 4



LAURO SIRGADO

just down the road from St. Nick's Grove, which hosts the 20th Annual German Heritage Festival this Labor Day week-end.

Get a jump start on Oktoberfest (which officially takes place Sept. 17 through Oct. 3 in Munich) with ethnic food, drink, dress, and dance – thanks to DANK (Deutsch-Amerikanisch National Kongress) Chapter 71, Lake Erie Fanfare, and rulers like Lou (Crown Prince Ludwig I, for whose wedding the first Oktoberfest was celebrated in 1810).

Enjoy traditional German lager styles such as Maerzen (i.e. "March beers," which are brewed and stored six months in anticipation of Oktoberfest) and bocks (malty brews from Einbeck – due to the silliness of dialects it was often misheard as "ein Bock" or "a goat"). Food offerings include Bratwurst, Knackwurst, strudels, noodles (Spaetzle), and a cheese redolent of the petting zoo (Limburger).

Results are in and Germany is *not* your Vaterland? Deutschland needn't be in your DNA to enjoy yourself – more universal festival fare such as hot dogs, kettle corn, and ice cream will also be available. Whether you're "Aus und Proud" (i.e. dancing in your dirndl/living la vida lederhosen to the live polka bands) or an Auslander (i.e., non-native), this one's for *du*.

11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday // 5131 Old French Rd. // dank-erie.org // \$5 general admission ages 12 and over, \$8 for both days

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

By: Matt Swanseger

You can get the Volk out of the Old Country, but you can't get the Old Country out of the Volk.

Until the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Germany was rarely unified and seldom stable, leading many citizens to give themselves das Boot to America, bringing their traditions aboard. Immigration peaked in the 1850s (approx. 1 million) and 1880s (approx. 1.5 million), with Erie receiving an influx of several thousand. Wolfgang Erhart was Erie's first recorded German settler, setting up shop at the corner of 10th and State streets in 1830.

His successors poured into the area north and east of him, with Parade Street becoming the eventual nexus of Little Germany. Other prominent settlements included Warfel Farm (encompassing East Avenue to Elm Street between East 18th and East 28th streets) and Marvintown (at the junction of Routes 8 and 97),



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ERIC BREWER & FRIENDS
+ CLAIRE STUCZYNSKI
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FRI 09/09
WAVE TRAILS
+ BARLOW
+ JUMPER JAMBOREE
[FREE]

SAT 09/10
FUNKTIONAL FLOW
[FREE]

FRI 09/16
OUT TO LUNCH
[FREE]

SAT 09/17
WAVE MAGNETIK
[FREE]

FRI 09/23
CONSIDER THE SOURCE
+ GNOSIS
[DOWNSTAIRS] STEREOSPHERE
[UPSTAIRS]

SAT 09/24
HAMILTON
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FRI 09/30
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August 31, 2016

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NUNZI'S
OFF THE WALL
PARK TAVERN
PETE'S PUB
RED FOX INN
Z'S TAVERN

PEACH ST.

APPLEBEE'S
BUFFALO WILD WINGS
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Saturday, September 24



Beethoven 5K/1Mile Walk

Perry Square @ 10am
Featuring live orchestra
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The Music of Sting and The Police

Warner Theatre @ 8pm
Opening night in our
Hanes Erie Pops Series

Mark your calendars now!



October 15
Opening Night
with Ken Johnston



November 12
Beethoven 8
& Demarre McGill



January 21
Sibelius 2
& Kate Lee



March 11
Emanuel
Ax



April 8
'Organ'
Symphony



October 29
Music of
Danny Elfman



December 3
Come Home
for the Holidays



February 4
Casablanca
with live orchestra



April 1
Disney
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Your Guide to 2016 Fairs

Five opportunities to finish summer with family fun



Erie County Fair, Wattsburg Agricultural Society

Sunday, Aug. 28 to Saturday, Sept. 3

After 132 years, the Erie County Fair still draws a crowd. This year's festivities include a performance by Chris Higbee, a talented singer and fiddler who is returning by popular demand, and a unique motorcycle-racing show put on by the Fearless Flores Family inside the "Globe of Death," a metal ball. This traveling family of four was featured on the sixth season of *America's Got Talent*. They've performed across the country, but this is their first time at the Erie County Fair.

Admission is \$8 per person, which includes parking, most rides, and grandstand entrance, except Friday and Saturday.

13993 Rtes. 8 & 89 // 739.2232 // wattsburgfair.com

Spartansburg Community Fair

Saturday, Sept. 3 to Saturday, Sept. 10

The Spartansburg Fair includes tractor pulls, truck pulls, and a game of cow patty bingo throughout the week. On the final day, a parade is held at 11 a.m. that includes antique cars and tractors, marching bands, clowns, and more. Later that night, the celebration continues with a demolition derby and fireworks.

Admission is \$4, though children under 12 are free. Ride passes cost \$9.

214 Jefferson St., Spartansburg // spartansburgcommunityfair.com

Waterford Community Fair

Monday, Sept. 5 to Saturday, Sept. 10

The 71st Waterford Community Fair has a schedule packed full of family-friendly events. This year's headlining event, a monster truck show, takes place on Saturday, Sept. 10. Rides will be available, as well.

You can currently purchase fair booster buttons online for \$8. This covers admission costs for every day of the fair, but not entrance to grandstand events. Advance sale Ride-a-Rama passes are available for \$15 per day.

13012 Rte. 19, Waterford // 796.6923 // waterfordfair.org

Albion Area Fair

Tuesday, Sept. 13 to Saturday, Sept. 17

The Albion Area Fair proudly proclaims that it is "the biggest little fair around." It includes tractor pulling competitions, baking contests, and a horseshoe tournament. Admission is \$5 per person, though children under 12 enter for free.

Academy St., Albion // 756.3911 // albionfair.com

North East Community Fair

Thursday, Sept. 15 to Saturday, Sept. 17

The mission of the North East Community Fair is to educate the community and provide a place where people can show off their work. It's held annually at the North East High School gymnasium. Admission is free.

1901 Freeport Rd., North East // northeastcommunityfair.org

Tracy Geibel can be reached at tgeibel@ErieReader.com.

By: Tracy Geibel

Was it even summer if you didn't attend a fair? Snack on a funnel cake? Take a ride on the Ferris wheel?

Fortunately, you have plenty of time. Summer ends on Thursday, Sept. 22, and if you were so determined, you could visit a local fair nearly every day until then. Though you'd consume an alarming amount of hot dogs, pizza, and caramel apples, it might be enough to hold you over until next year's festivities.

The Crawford County Fair has just ended, but the Erie County Fair began Sunday, Aug. 28 and lasts until Saturday, Sept. 3. The trend continues with the Spartansburg Community Fair from Sept. 3-10 and the Waterford Community Fair from Sept. 5-10. The season closes with the Albion Area Fair from Sept. 13-17 and the North East Community Fair from Sept. 15-17, leaving only a few days where you will have to cook your own dinner and find alternative entertainment.



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- The largest gift was \$103,000, made to Shriners Hospital for Children.
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Mark Your Calendar -- Erie Gives 2017

- **Friday, July 28, 2017**
Erie Gives nonprofit registration deadline
- **Tuesday, August 8, 2017**
Erie Gives



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stevenson's visit to Erie is a gift from activist Doris Cipolla, a Harborcreek resident who established a speaker series in memory of Charlene M. Tanner, her loving partner for more than 35 years.

probation and more likely to be sentenced to prison. Black men are more than six times more likely to be incarcerated than white men. Native Americans are incarcerated at more than twice the rate of whites; Latinos are held under state jurisdiction at 1.7 times the rate for whites. One of every three black boys, and one of six Latino boys born in 2001 will go to jail or prison if current trends continue.

"Our system treats you better if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent," Stevenson said. "We need significant reforms."

At the end of the day, hope

When he comes to Erie, Stevenson will challenge the people in his audience to shed their indifference and "consider getting closer to the poor and incarcerated, to stay hopeful and to do uncomfortable things in pursuit of greater justice. It's hard but necessary and rewarding in ways that can't be fully measured."

How does he keep from becoming discouraged?

"For me, hopelessness is not an option. Hopelessness is the enemy of justice. My hope is rooted in that if one person stands when the voices of oppression say, 'sit down,' if one person speaks when the forces of injustice say, 'be quiet,' there is hope. I stay hopeful by looking for ways to stand and speak when it might make a difference."

Bishop Brock is hopeful, too. "We see the trajectory of what's happening in our community. We're coming together and making a commitment that we're going to make a difference where we live."

Lisa Gensheimer is a documentary producer and writer who lives in North East. She can be contacted at lisa@onmainstreet.com

warriors, we need officers who think of themselves as guardians. We have to make improving trust between communities and the police a higher priority and we have to train officers differently."

Policing is only one facet of what Stevenson describes as a flawed criminal justice system.

The EJI website lays out the facts: African Americans make up about 13 percent of the nation's population, but constitute 28 percent of all arrests, 40

Hopelessness is the enemy of justice," says Stevenson. "My hope is rooted in that if one person stands when the voices of oppression say, 'sit down,' if one person speaks when the forces of injustice say, 'be quiet,' there is hope."

percent of those incarcerated in jails and prisons, and 42 percent of the population on death row. African Americans are arrested at rates 2.5 times higher than whites; Native Americans are arrested at 1.5 times the rate for whites. African Americans and Latinos are about half as likely to make bail as whites; Latinos are twice as likely and African Americans 87 percent more likely to be subject to pretrial incarceration. African Americans and Latinos are less likely than whites to be sentenced to

[Cont. from page 16] have to get fathers involved. These kids need male role models."

Brock would agree, but he would counter that many fathers are in jail serving sentences for minor offenses such as drug possession.

No doubt the shootings have the community's attention now. Unified Erie has rallied law enforcement and community leaders around prevention, law enforcement, and reentry, based on a model that is having some success in Kansas City, Missouri. And in September, with a boost of United Way funding, four Erie School District schools will be turned into "community schools," bringing social services like health care, dental care, and mental health support, plus after-school and family programming, directly into school buildings, making the services more accessible under one roof.

That's all good news. Still, there's no getting around some festering issues in our criminal justice system.

Race against the system

Stevenson, who served on President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, comes to Erie at a time when police shootings of black men have become all too common nationwide, and when the City of Erie Police Department is under investigation by the Department of Justice and FBI for use of excessive force.

"We have to change the culture of policing," Stevenson said. "We don't need law enforcement officers who think of themselves as

Speaker Series is Living Testimony

When Sister Helen Prejean came to Mount Saint Benedict last spring to talk about her prison ministry and decades-long fight against the death penalty, I told her Bryan Stevenson would be speaking in Erie on Sept. 13. A broad smile spread across her face. "That's going to be a gift," she said quietly, "Really, really a gift!"

Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners and has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court five times. A recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award Prize, often referred to as the "Genius Grant," he has gained national attention for challenging bias against the poor and people of color.

On Aug. 16, the EJI announced it will build the nation's first memorial to victims of lynching and a museum that explores African American history, "From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration." Both the memorial and the museum are expected to open in downtown Montgomery, Alabama, in 2017.

Stevenson's visit to Erie is indeed a gift, and it comes from activist Doris Cipolla, a Harborcreek resident who established a speaker series in memory of Charlene M. Tanner, her loving partner for more than 35 years. Tanner died of metastatic cancer in 2005. Because of their shared interest in social justice, peace, and the environment, Cipolla hopes the series will inspire others to help create a healing environment for the world.

It wasn't until Tanner's death that Cipolla found the courage to "out" their relationship, in her partner's obituary. For decades they lived a covert life because they feared discrimination and losing their jobs. Tanner was director of admissions at St. Vincent Health Center for 43 years until her retirement; Cipolla was a teacher in the Erie School District.

Since then, Cipolla has become an outspoken advocate for LGBT rights, organizing protests, writing articles, and in 2008 testifying before the Pennsylvania State Senate in opposition to the Marriage Protection Amendment, which denied the legal rights of same-sex couples. In 2014 Pennsylvania's ban on gay marriage, in force since 1996, was ruled unconstitutional. In recognition of her efforts, Cipolla received the 2016 LGBT Community Progress Award from the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality.

"I guess in a way it keeps Charlene alive for me," says Cipolla, who together with her partner, stood in the rain with Benedictine nuns at death penalty protests, served long lines of patrons at Emmaus Soup Kitchen, and held candles on city streets to Take Back the Night against violent crime.

"I want people to know that gay people are decent people. I want them to see us as loving people. In seeing Char and me as a couple fighting for what we believe in, my hope is others will recognize that people have to be judged by their character, regardless of their sexual status or the color of their skin," says Cipolla. "My point is, we are all people." – L.G.

Stevenson's presentation, Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. in Mercyhurst University's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (PAC), is free and open to the public. Tickets available starting Sept. 6, PAC box office. Limit two per person.

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Ryley Walker

Golden Sings That Have Been Sung
Dead Oceans



Ryley Walker is a subtle artist. His folk compositions harken back to an undiscovered corner of the early 1970s.



Golden Sings That Have Been Sung harnesses dark, powerful feelings with a poetic presentation. His third album, *Golden Sings* comes hot off the trails of last year's *Primrose Green*, one of the strongest releases of 2015. Walker's work is purposefully meditative, like a slowly burning stick of incense in a dimly lit college apartment. The album begins strongly with "The Halfwit in Me," calling upon clarinet coos and country twangs alike. The fingerstyle guitar work lingers, swirling and hypnotic. Another album highlight comes in "Sullen Mind," whose string bass backing dynamically thunders through almost chaotic guitar flourishes as the singer rues his "Christian education." Lyrics speak of barrooms and religious themes, a slurred account of a pious past. At worst, he's a lethargic Van Morrison (Walker also happens to physically resemble the singer circa *Astral Weeks*), with sections of the album becoming quickly forgettable. At his best, he's one of the best indie folk artists working today. – Nick Warren

Frank Ocean

Blonde
Boys Don't Cry



Four years ago, Frank Ocean released his debut album *Channel Orange*, which went on to be one of the most widely ac-



claimed albums of the 21st century. After crossing vast seas to live up to the hype, he's made it. *Blonde* (accompanied by the exquisite visual album, *Endless Love*) retains a relaxed demeanor, while still smoldering with emotion underneath. The epic, 17-track R&B album begins with "Nikes," featuring Ocean's voice pitched up an octave for the hook, as he uses the shoes as a metaphor for misguided excess. "Ivy" includes a Mac Demarco-like chorus, rolling out a parade of guest star producers starting with Jamie XX (a match made in Pitchfork heaven). Pink + White features vocals by an uncredited Beyoncé, produced by Pharrell Williams. Several songs use streamlined accompaniment, with just keys ("Good Guy") or guitars ("Self Control"). One of the definite high points is "Solo (Reprise)," featuring a spectacular verse by Outkast's Andre 3000. After coming out in a 2012 open letter (days before *Orange* was released), Ocean addresses his sexuality most artfully by not addressing it, replacing the pronouns, while owing nothing to anyone. – Nick Warren

Young the Giant

Home of the Strange
Fueled By Ramen



Young the Giant return with a banal yet listenable album. The Irvine, California rock quintet provide another



collection of acceptable "alternative" rock. Sameer Gadhia and company offer up a helping of watered-down confections. The boys give us more easy-listening versions of TV on the Radio hits from 2008 (the sure to be kind of heard "Something to Believe In"). The Fueled by Ramen band brings us tastefully assembled songs. The Giants (as they may be known) record a new crop of cutting-edge mediocrity. 2014's *Mind Over Matter* masterminds are at it again with more follow-up tunes. These purveyors of sound faintly tinge their rock tunes with possible hints of blues. The band you recognize from that one Michelob Ultra commercial pour us another low calorie glass filler. The song you bobbed your head to at Subway is back for seconds. The band your friend insists is "actually pretty good" make due on their half-hearted promise. Guitarists Jacob Tilley and Eric Cannata lay down the riffs for some groove-heavy tunes like "Jungle Youth." But really, the band's fine, I guess. – Nick Warren

Old Songs New Opportunities

Simba La La: World Music for Children
Self-Released



Blending ethnomusicology and children's songs, the Erie Art Museum has helped to create a cultural artifact



filled with joy and hope. *Simba La La: World Music for Children* comes to us courtesy of the Old Songs New Opportunities (OSNO) project. Erie is home to over 10,000 refugees from all over the world. From richly vibrant cultures, they bring the songs and stories they grew up with. OSNO includes 62 women and two men from countries like Sudan, Bhutan, Iraq, Ukraine, and the Congo. Led by Kelly Armor and Ally Thomas, OSNO coordinates engaging classroom programs for childcare facilities. The recording showcases the songs at their purest level. A small handful of tracks showcase hand drums, flute, or accordion, while most remain a capella. Though unadorned, the simple compositions are remarkably infectious. Catchy melodies (sung first in their native tongues, then in English) transcend borders, providing the perfect cultural bridge for children to learn. Recorded thanks to a successful IndieGoGo campaign, the 36-track collection will get its own release party Sunday, Sept. 11 at the Erie Art Museum. – Nick Warren



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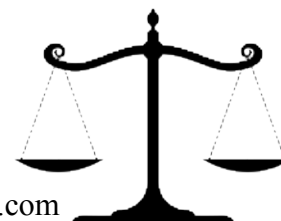
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Erie Faces Erie

Art Becker

photographer

Ed Bernik

photographer

"I get to do what I love: to fly around the country and shoot photographs of things."

Ed Bernik: I am so excited for you and for your career to flourish again. How did your recent move to Florida affect your photography?

Art Becker: It opened up an entirely new world to me and allowed me to unleash all my creativity. It allowed me to be exactly who I am as a photographer.

EB: In your Facebook posts, I've noticed this new intensity in your work. Is it inspired by the move, the quality of the light in Florida?

AB: Both of those, but also a change I would never have planned. The way [the move] happened freed me up and allowed me to explore a bunch of new things, photographically speaking.

There was a whole group of images I'd wanted to play with, but I never would have had the opportunity or time because I was working day to day photographing plus running my business.

EB: I've noticed how you're posting new images almost daily. It seems you wake up in the morning and start shooting, like you can't put the camera down.

AB: Yes, definitely. But last night, my wife Kathy and I went to 8 Great Tuesdays, and I went without a camera bag. Many of my old friends came up to us and said, "Art, I don't think I've ever seen you without a camera!" I told them, "No not tonight, we're here to enjoy our vacation in Erie."

EB: So this is a vacation?

AB: Yes, we're in town for one week to visit family, my son and his wife and our beautiful new granddaughter, and to go to and photograph the Blues & Jazz Festival, hang with our friends, and chill.

EB: You've been a part of the festival

since its inception?

AB: I was speaking with John Vanco, and yes – I've been photographing it from the beginning, 24 years. It's one of those gigs you just can't not do. Like the Allegheny Forest stuff that you do, it's a part of who you are.

EB: Have you thought about taking those 24 years of images and doing a commemorative book?

AB: Yes, I'd like to do it for the 25th anniversary next year. I have all those images cataloged and ready to go.

EB: That would make a great fundraiser for the festival.

AB: That's a great idea. I did help raise funds this year. To date, I've raised about \$2,300 through print sales on my website. I was shocked that so many people bought prints to help out.

EB: It's a good thing. People help a good cause and get some great art in return.

AB: I'll always be indebted to the Erie Art Museum. They let me teach there, and it helped me learn how to become a better instructor. They'll always be a part of me.

EB: Do you miss teaching photography?

AB: I miss teaching more than I would have imagined. I did have an offer to teach at a university in Florida but it was a full-time gig and I would have had to take a pay cut from my architectural gig. Maybe some day I'll be able to get back to it.

EB: What do you miss about Erie?

AB: Going to events we'd become accustomed to and hanging with close friends.

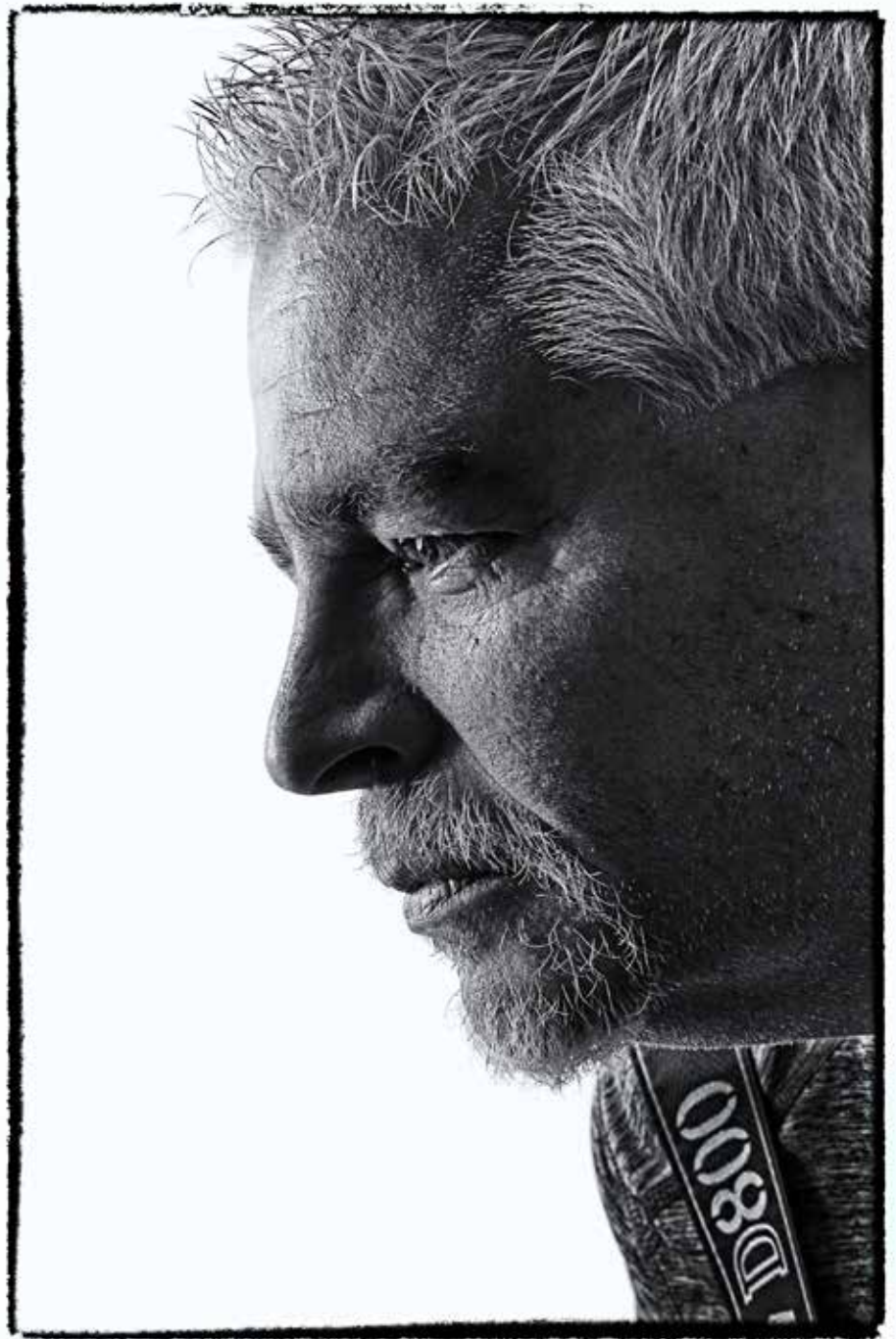
EB: In 25 years you've made a lot of friends. So now you and Kathy have a second grandchild in your life.

AB: Yes, a two-and-a-half-year-old grandson, Alec, and a two-month-old granddaughter. It's a lot of fun. We're called Papa and YaYa. The "PopArt" moniker is going to work for me really well. Somebody posted it as a joke on Facebook and I said, "Yeah, I could work with that."

EB: How has that affected your demeanor?

AB: I'm definitely much calmer. More relaxed. I don't post a lot of photos of them, but I do post some cute ones – even though I don't like cute – but they're cute. Your grandkids change your perspective on children as a whole. We have two grown children but this is different. They come to your house, they hang, and they go home ... which is kind of cool.

I was teaching my grandson how to burp this morning. You have to have these kinds of skills when you go to



grade school. It's an important skill and someone has to teach him.

EB: You and I have gone through maybe the last big budget heyday of commercial photography. What advice would give a young person who wants to enter that profession today?

AB: Get out!!

EB: Get out? [laughs]

AB: No, I mean get out and photograph as many things as you have the opportunity to photograph, as many different subjects as you can. And learn the craft, the art of photography. Learn how to see light.

The second most important thing is to understand that this is a business. Learn how to market your skills. Without one, you will never have the other. And have fun at it. It's going to be the roller coaster ride that is owning your own business and being self-employed. If you can ride out the storms, you'll be able to do

something you love. How many people do we know that get to do that? It's been a good ride and I'm still riding. I never dread Mondays. It's like, "Hey, I get to do what I love: to fly around the country and shoot photographs of things."

EB: Do you think the imagery itself has changed during your career?

AB: There are more images, but how many are really good? I think cream rises to the top and good composition, good light, and seeing it is still there. You can take some pretty amazing photos with your cell phone. It's not going to replace composition and seeing light. Somebody said online, "Who needs a professional photographer anymore?" Well, everyone does. We do something other people can't. We simply see things differently.

Art Becker: artbeckerphoto.com

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