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Sept. 14 -Sept. 27/Vol. 6, No. 19/ErieReader.com



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From the Editors

Lately, Erie's getting a lot of attention.

In our last issue, we highlighted a few passages from James Fallows, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic*, who spent a week here in late August with his wife, contributing writer Deborah Fallows.

The two continue to publish heart-felt – and highly-recommended – dispatches on *The Atlantic's* website, including one by Deborah on Sept. 5 about our phenomenal Blasco Library. She concludes, "The library has already changed the Erie waterfront for the better. Now, with adaptations to the new era of Erie and its people in mind, there is every reason to think the library can continue to help Erie residents change their lives for the better, too."

We couldn't agree more.

(Also a breath of fresh air: James Fallows' take on the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). Read it! After this issue of the *Reader*, of course.)

Still, other recognition hasn't been quite so hopeful. At least not on its surface.

In a segment on the Sunday, Sept. 11 edition of NPR's *All Things Considered*, Kevin McCorry explores the possibility of Erie's four public high schools shutting down, which would necessitate busing Erie students to surrounding districts.

This isn't new news to Erieites. But McCorry's outsider perspective, combined with the inclusion of several local voices, makes for a freshly moving piece.

McCorry talks to a few inspiring Strong Vincent students, whose viewpoints prove Erie Schools Superintendent Jay Badams' contention that kids living in the inner city or in poverty *do*, in fact, know what they're missing.

Strong Vincent junior Nathan Stevens, who's white, tells McCorry, "We're a city school and the surrounding districts are higher income and they always think that they're better than us ... That's just how it works around here."

Sophomore Whitney Henderson, who is black, adds that "Everybody thinks it's a ghetto school, or that the people that go here are dumb, or bad."

But in the report, Henderson expresses concern about being bused elsewhere. "If I went to Harbor Creek, or if I went to McDowell, I'd feel like an outcast because of my skin color,

because I'm black."

McCorry asks, "Would Erie's crisis even be happening if it was a majority white district?"

Dominique Booker, another SVHS student, responds, "I don't think so, but then I just question ... It's a really hard question because you look ... and they have more money, more stuff, but I don't want to think that way."

Nobody *wants* to think that way, of course. Nobody *wants* to believe that shutting down our high schools so students can "have some sort of equity," as Badams puts it, "may end up being the most ethical and moral decision."

Nobody *wants* to believe that shutting down our high schools so students can "have some sort of equity," as Badams puts it, "may end up being the most ethical and moral decision."

Despite myriad logistical challenges, McCorry cites Kimberly Quick, policy associate at the Century Foundation, a D.C.-based think tank that advocates for school integration.

Quick explains, "If the outcomes and the benefits that a school can provide to the son of a janitor are tied to those of the son of a congressman, then they are more likely to get those resources."

McCorry highlights Century's findings that "integration, when planned and done well, has historically led to major boons for low-income and minority students," and that no evidence suggests negative effects on suburban students.

Still, at first glance, continued national attention on Erie's educational apocalypse seems dire, indeed.

Except that we're also getting attention for having a superintendent willing to risk just about everything – including, undoubtedly, sleep – to ensure that our students are given a fair chance at education.

And for students willing to have honest conversations about divides many adults would rather ignore.

Regardless of which schools they attend, it seems they have plenty to teach us.

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NEWS & VIEWS

Just a Thought

Tryin' to make it real.



By: **Katie Chriest**

*I love the lie and lie the love / A-hangin' on, with push and shove
Possession is the motivation / That is hangin' up the God-damn nation*

At first, I can't place where the song's coming from. It sounds great, and on this – the second night of the Detroit Jazz Festival – I'm half-expecting it to be live from a nearby stage.

I'm half-expecting *anything*, in fact.

We've grown accustomed to surprises and cacophony by now, as the sounds of thousands bump up against one another throughout the closed streets of downtown. Our walk is cadenced by bucket-drumming buskers, then loudspeaker proselytizers, then a teen-aged trombone quartet, then world-renowned jazz stars, then chanting Hare Krishnas ... and on like that for several blocks.

But "Compared to What," Gene McDaniels' 1969 protest song against the Nixon administration and a mosaic of other societal ills, is blasting out of two killer speakers mounted pannier-style on a bicycle.

Bike Man, weaving in and out of the crowd on this hot summer night, would draw attention even without music blasting. His entire bike frame – plus wheels – is lined in twinkling blue and purple lights. Chopper-high handlebars arrange his upper body into broad-shouldered defiance. And his face wears a street smart, "don't mess with me" gaze, like he's acting out the lyrics he plays.

The President, he's got his war / Folks

don't know just what it's for

*Nobody gives us rhyme or reason /
Have one doubt, they call it treason*

As he slow-pedals by, the marching crowd morphs into a hymn-like choir. A few white hippie chicks raise their arms and sway *a la* Woodstock, and a group of to-the-nines-dressed black women hip-shake as they walk – all singing along.

*Church on Sunday, sleep and nod /
Tryin' to duck the wrath of God*

The whole thing is totally spontaneous, of course. All in-the-moment improv, all pure reaction to the inspired moves of whoever's also there. Exactly like jazz. And exactly like what Detroit seems to be doing, as it's tryin' to keep it real.

Preacher's fillin' us with fright / They all tryin' to teach us what they think is right

They really got to be some kind of nut (I can't use it!)

But we can use this: one of the funk-iest, most instantly-affecting tunes out there – especially the Eddie Harris/Les McCann version from the 1969 Montreux Jazz Festival, which we're enjoying courtesy of Bike Man.

The whole thing is totally spontaneous, of course. All in-the-moment improv, all pure reaction to the inspired moves of whoever's also there. Exactly like jazz.

And exactly like what Detroit seems to be doing, as it's tryin' to keep it real. You can see it in countless murals with rising-from-the-ashes themes, and on ubiquitous t-shirts that proclaim, "Detroit Hustles Harder" and "Nothing Stops Detroit."

There's no denying the city's apocalypse; no pretending things are fine. Whole blocks are lined with bombed out shells of bygone eras. Once-state-ly homes now wear boarded-up windows. Homeless men sleep on the Episcopal Church steps. Drunks hover hungrily outside a downtown liquor store. Towering weeds overtake abandoned businesses, as nature embarks on its own reclamation project – no federal funding required.

So you can see real Detroit. But more importantly, you can *feel* real Detroit. And it feels like a city facing its reality with the sort of defiant attitude that'll call bull on the likelihood of trickle-down-touting suit-wearers to fix everything.

Detroit is beautiful, by the way. Gorgeous architecture, abounding outdoor sculptures and murals – and a DIY, nothing to lose ingenuity that seems to liberate artists and creatives. After all, they're the ones who'll make the city soar.

We can – and have – drawn a lot of parallels between Detroit and Erie, and there's plenty to learn from that city as it manages its trial-and-error ascent.

But Detroit's attitude is what we Eriettes need most of all.

Looks like we always end up in a rut ...
Erie has heart, soul, and humor to burn. But sometimes we take ourselves a little too seriously. As "Compared to What" shows, heavy truths are most effectively communicated with a funky-as-hell beat.

If we're tryin' to keep it real, the best thing we can do is to lighten up and get bold.

Everybody now!

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



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Considering the City and County

Waiting on a train



By: Civitas Member Lisa Austin

The journalist, transportation expert, and Albion native, James McCommons, says that “America has a passenger system suited to a third-world country.”

For much of the past century, the U.S. has poured billions of tax dollars into massive highway systems instead of investing in public transit. Like any addiction, the more you feed it, the more the needs of our automobiles grow.

As Joni Mitchell sang, “they paved paradise, and put up a parking lot.” Charles Buki, in his 2016 Comprehensive Plan, *Erie Refocused*, noted “recent development on the Bayfront ha[s] featured an abundance of ... parking which cannibalizes prime waterfront sites.”

Forty-four years after Mitchell’s song was a hit, Erie is still paving paradise.

Ignoring the success of progressive planning in other revitalized cities, many of Erie’s leaders dismiss the idea of improved public transportation, especially high-speed rail, as a hippie proposal. The fact that Amtrak can’t support itself financially is tossed out as a conversation-ending condemnation.

But McCommons explains that “the idea that Amtrak has

to make money is a false notion” (emphasis mine). McCommons says, “no passenger rail system in the world makes money.” Instead, he proposes that safe and convenient rail service, like quality public education, should be funded via taxes because it is a “public good.”

Noted investor and author Roger McNamee offers another rationale. In his 2009 *Huffington Post* blog, he writes that the U.S. must invest trillions in a multi-decade plan to upgrade our “second rate” public education, power grids, cellular grids, and transportation systems. Without this intervention, McNamee says these systems will decline to third-world status, subjecting the entire U.S. economy to the decline experienced by auto manufacturers.

McNamee adds, “Strategic investment in infrastructure produces a foundation for long-term growth.” His words are featured in the new *Emerge 2040* plan which is built on the multi-year *Destination Erie* community project.

One *Emerge 2040* principle encourages the “transition to efficient, coordinated, and sustainable infrastructure systems.” Anna Franz, director of *Emerge 2040*, comments that participants “from all corners of Erie County ... want to be better con-

nected via transit within Erie County and outside of it.”

Thanks to All Aboard Erie (AAE), the Erie region has a voice in multi-state and national planning for a U.S. high-speed rail (HSR) system. AAE is an “advocate for improved transit options, especially high-speed rail.” AAE Executive Director Brian Pitzer explains that “it’s not all about fast trains, it’s equally about transportation’s capacity to transform a region driven by the innovative economic development that accompanies high-speed rail.”

Pitzer, AAE Assistant Director Julie Minich, and the AAE board have developed an HSR vision. They are actively raising funds for a \$25,000 HSR study for a route connecting Erie and Pittsburgh. Conducted by Mary-

Ignoring the success of progressive planning in other revitalized cities, many of Erie’s leaders dismiss the idea of improved public transportation, especially high-speed rail, as a hippie proposal. The fact that Amtrak can’t support itself financially is tossed out as a conversation-ending condemnation.

land-based Transportation and Economic Management Systems, the study is an important step in bringing HSR to our region.

Another step in making HSR a reality here is to create a tangible vision we can share. To that end, at the Aug. 22 AAE meeting, Pitzer unveiled a first draft of the AAE-commissioned map by David Edmonston showing Erie connected regionally to places like Union City and nationally to places like New York City. Pitzer

also reviewed major donations from FirstEnergy Foundation and the Erie County Government, a pledge from the Erie Community Foundation, and recent commitment of \$3,000 from an anonymous Pennsylvania-based foundation. Pitzer reported that this new \$3,000 pledge will be honored once AAE reaches \$20,000 of its \$25,000 goal. Luckily, thanks in part to a Kickstarter Campaign guided by Mercyhurst University’s Kris Wheaton, AAE is halfway there.

McCommons believes that “America is probably going to take the step to bring back rail in a serious way.” Pitzer agrees, saying that once Florida unveils its HSR system in 2017, more states are going to embrace HSR. And encouragingly, Franz says Erie residents recognize that a “strong public transportation system advances economic development and quality of life goals.”

During our conversation, Pitzer mentioned Bill Welch (1940-2016), a committed environmentalist who served as a founding board member of All Aboard Erie. Pitzer recalled a road trip to Cleveland with Welch to witness a ceremony acknowledging improvements at the city’s Amtrak station. Pitzer considers Welch “a tireless visionary for his environmental ideals” who made the journey because “any improvement to rail in Cleveland would eventually have an impact here in Erie.”

Pitzer knows that “no one is going to hand HSR to us – we have to do the work ourselves.” He believes “we will have high-speed rail when enough people in Erie want it.”

Do you?

Civitas members can be reached at civitaserie.com, via Facebook at *CivitasErie*, by emailing Lisa@civitaserie.com, or by scheduling a Friday morning meeting at the Civitas office in the Masonic Building.

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JIM BOWEN

By: Senator Sean Wiley

As summer winds down here in the 49th District, the march towards the November election is gearing up. If you aren't registered to vote, get registered. It's easy. And it's likely one of the most impactful decisions you'll make on your own life and the lives of your fellow Americans.

At the commonwealth level, the Senate convened during the last week in August for a voting session to confirm the executive nomination of Bruce Beemer for appointment as attorney general, as a result of the resignation of the embattled, and now convicted, former AG Kathleen Kane.

Beemer has an extensive legal background and most recently served in the office of the inspector general after leaving the office of the attorney general as first deputy amid the Kane fiasco. Beemer testified against then-Attorney General Kane, stating that he tried to intervene in what ended up being her damning decisions.

He earned unanimous support from my colleagues and me, and began his duties as attorney general immediately thereafter, pledging to "endeavor to restore a sense of honor and integrity to the office ... I will do everything in my power to allow all of those individuals who work there to focus only on their jobs, to make the attorney general's office a place that the citizens of Pennsylvania can be proud of."

A tall order, to say the least, as the

office has been mired in controversy and legal drama worthy of an Oscar for the majority of Kane's term. Beemer will inherit problems, no doubt. And he only has until the Nov. 8 election to sort through them, as he is not on the ballot to serve as the new attorney general come 2017.

The General Assembly made one thing clear in their support of Beemer: History will not repeat itself in the attorney general's office.

The Senate Labor & Industry Committee convened that same week to hold a public hearing on a very divided issue: amending the existing Commonwealth Human Relations Act to also prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation based upon sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

This legislation has been called "Gov. Wolf's bathroom bill," and painted with a very disparaging brush per the larger, national conversation sparked after North Carolina passed a law requiring individuals to use the facility associated with their innate gender, irrespective of gender identity.

This issue is indeed divided. However, it is not seemingly all that partisan, as the prime sponsor is a conservative Republican member of the Senate. Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh), the high-powered majority chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has authored Senate Bill 1306, and maintains that sexual orientation and

gender identity should be included so that they are equally protected.

Most commonwealth residents are likely unaware that still, in 2016, a Pennsylvanian can indeed be fired for being gay, denied housing as a transgender individual, or discriminated against in the workplace for expressing a gender identity different than the sex they were born.

How is it acceptable for anyone to fear losing their job because of who they are or whom they love? Aren't we rather in the business of hiring, firing, or promoting Pennsylvanians based upon merit, qualifications, and accomplishments? Will Pennsylvania hide behind a veiled religious liberty defense; or conjure memories of the Jim Crow South, where it was customary to discriminate against people of color?

How is it acceptable for anyone to fear losing their job because of who they are or whom they love? Will Pennsylvania hide behind a veiled religious liberty defense; or conjure memories of the Jim Crow South, where it was customary to discriminate against people of color?

The Pennsylvania that I know and love is better than that. And if your religion tells you to hate or fear another human being, then it's time to find a new religion.

This bill remains on the docket for potential consideration as the full General Assembly returns to voting session at the end of this month, and it remains to be seen whether that consideration will happen.

What indeed is very apparent is that a law should never be necessary for all people across this commonwealth to be treated with mutual respect and dignity; that is an inherent right for all of us as human beings.

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

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My Secret to Surviving Cancer: One-on-one Support from My Nurse

A call to save nursing jobs and chemotherapy infusion services at the Regional Cancer Center



Pablo Reyes, right, calls his Regional Cancer Center nurse, Jennifer Dougan, his hand-holder, hero, and beacon of light. Reyes worries that the elimination of chemotherapy infusion treatment services at the RCC will compromise future patients' healing connections to their nurses.

By: Pablo Reyes

Five years ago, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma Stage 2 cancer, with a mass that infected a few of the lymph nodes in my neck and grew down and around my heart. After nearly a year of medical appointments, and chemotherapy lasting about seven months, my treatment was over and the cancer dissolved, along with any sense of individuality or confidence I once had. Thankfully, God sent me an angel to help me in my fight. Her name is nurse Jennifer Dougan, and she saves lives! Here's how:

I remember my first day of chemotherapy like it was yesterday. I walked through the main entrance of the Regional Cancer Center (RCC) and handed one of the patient care attendants my RCC identification card. After a brief but nervous wait, I was invited back to the chemotherapy infusion wing to begin treatment. I recall being scared as I was escorted to a large blue medical chair in the back corner of the room, where I was to be connected to the infusion machine. Moments later, I was introduced to the woman who would be there with me every step of the way.

Jennifer Dougan is a sweet, positive, soft-spoken individual – always with a smile and an open ear, speaking words of encouragement. She is the mother of a beautiful young girl – better known as her little angel – whom she is in the

process of adopting, and to whom she provides the best of support. It is that same support that Dougan provides to each of her patients; it was that same support that saved my life.

Effective Sept. 1, 2016, the RCC administration will have moved medical oncology infusion services to member hospitals within the Erie region. I felt it was finally necessary to share my story, as those oncology nurses who saved my life may no longer be at the RCC.

Although Executive Director Michael Keyes guarantees increased chemotherapy services and newly created positions at member hospitals, what he did not mention is all of the medical personnel who will be affected by this reorganization. As a patient in remission, I am concerned that other RCC patients will be deprived of the one-on-one support from nurses like Dougan, and other staff members who pride themselves on knowing their patients by name and working each day to treat their individual conditions.

Financial challenges are something agencies large and small are experiencing all over the region, but are the savings that can be gained by eliminating oncology infusion services worth the sacrifice of patient care? How about those who rely most on a comprehensive treatment approach – how will this change impact their health?

Cancer patients are more than just patients. They are warriors, and we need to provide them with the tools

they require to persevere through battle. The reality is, treatment will not be the same for those patients who receive radiation and chemotherapy in a single visit to the RCC. Or, for those patients who commute to the RCC alone because their parents or loved ones are working full-time jobs to maintain insurance needed to cover treatments, which inevitably cost hundreds and thousands of dollars each month.

Ultimately, treatment is more than chemotherapy. Treatment is having the nurse who knows you sit by your side, holding your hand as you pour out your soul and refuse to take another round of treatment ... because it was just yesterday that you started to feel like yourself again – a feeling so rare, as your mind constantly battles “what if” thoughts and your body deals with the side effects of chemotherapy drugs.

That's how chemotherapy was for me. Dougan was my hand-holder, my hero, and my beacon of light. In many ways, she was my unconditional support.

We cannot allow patients diagnosed with life-changing diseases to be deprived of the life-saving continuity of care that all nurses and medical staff at the RCC provide.

Chemotherapy treatment is one of the most vulnerable experiences in patients' lives. For anyone who has been diagnosed with a life-changing illness, I bet you would agree. For anyone reading this who has not been diagnosed, I bet you have a family member or loved one who has.

And finally, for anyone who has ever lost a loved one to cancer, I am sorry, and would not be surprised if you received similar support from the nurses and staff, too, as I often watched Dougan speaking with family and loved ones in the waiting rooms when the news was not so great. I bet your nurse helped in any way possible. I bet your nurse always went the extra mile.

Now is our time to help the nurses and staff of the RCC, and to go that ex-

tra mile, too. To assist them in saving not only their jobs, but also the lives of patients within our community who are battling cancer.

RCC nurses and staff members strive each day to provide care. Every day the staff see, feel, and experience the realities of cancer and its effects. Rather than retreat, they choose to stay and fight. They support those patients battling these illnesses, unconditionally. As members of this community, we have an opportunity to fight for them. We must not retreat; we must take action.

For the last 30 years, the RCC has provided patients in the Erie region

For the last 30 years, the RCC has provided patients in the Erie region the comprehensive care they deserve under the convenience of one roof. If there was ever a time for our community to come together and advocate support of the RCC, it's now.

the comprehensive care they deserve under the convenience of one roof. If there was ever a time for our community to come together and advocate support of the RCC, it's now. We need to work together to develop a better solution that benefits all parties and does not eliminate chemotherapy infusion treatment services at the RCC.

On my five-year anniversary of being cancer-free, I feel I need to say thank you by speaking out. I would not be here without the support provided to me at the RCC.

We owe to it nurses like Jennifer Dougan and all RCC doctors, physician assistants, and staff who work as a family to take care of our families. And we need to stick together, because we have more work to do in the fight against cancer.

Pablo Reyes is a cancer survivor, IUP doctoral candidate, and RCC lover. He can be contacted at preyescruz@gmail.com.



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News of the Weird

Audit looming? No problem. Just use accounting 'adjustments,' like the Department of the Army.

By: Chuck Shepherd

These Shoes Weren't Made for Walkin'

The upscale clothier Barneys New York recently introduced \$585 "Distressed Superstar Sneakers" (from the high-end brand Golden Goose) that were purposely designed to look scuffed, well-worn and cobbled-together, as if they were shoes recovered from a Dumpster. The quintessential touch was the generous use of duct tape on the bottom trim. Critics were in abundance, accusing Barneys of mocking poverty. [USA Today, 8-30-2016] [Daily Mail (London), 8-29-2016]

News That Sounds Like a Joke

The British food artists Bompas & Parr are staging (through Oct. 30) a tribute to the late writer Roald Dahl by brewing batches of beer using yeast swabbed and cultured from a chair Dahl used and which has been on display at the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden, England. (2) A 16-year-old boy made headlines in August for being one of the rare survivors of an amoeba a brain-eating amoeba which he acquired diving into a pond on private property in Florida's Broward County. (By popular legend, Floridians are believed to lack sufficient brain matter to satisfy amoebas!) [The Independent (London), 8-17-2016] [NBC News, 8-24-2016]

Government in Action

The Drug Enforcement Administration has schemed for several years to pay airline and Amtrak employees for tips on passengers who might be traveling with large sums of cash, so that the DEA can interview them with an eye toward

seizing the cash under federal law if they merely "suspect" that the money is involved in illegal activity. A USA Today investigation, reported in August, revealed that the agency had seized \$209 million in a decade, from 5,200 travelers who, even if no criminal charge results, almost never get all their money back (and, of 87 recent cash seizures, only two actually resulted in charges). One Amtrak employee was secretly paid \$854,460 over a decade for snitching passenger information to the DEA. [USA Today, 8-11-2016, 1-7-2016]

Update: In August, the Defense Department's inspector general affirmed once again (following on 2013 disclosures) that the agency has little knowledge of where its money goes this time admitting that the Department of the Army had made \$6.5 trillion in accounting "adjustments" that appeared simply to be made up out of thin air, just to get the books balanced for 2015. (In part, the problem was laid to 16,000 financial data files that simply disappeared with no trace.) "As a result," reported Fortune magazine, "there has been no way to know how the Defense Department far and away the biggest chunk of Congress's annual budget spends the public's money." [Fortune, 8-19-2016]

Wait, What?

In August, the banking giant Citigroup and the communications giant AT&T agreed to end their two-month-long legal hostilities over AT&T's right to have a customer service program titled "Thanks." Citigroup had pointed out that it holds trademarks for customer service titles "thankyou," "citi thankyou," "thankyou from citi" and "thankyou your way,"

and had tried to block the program name "AT&T Thanks." [NASDAQ.com, 8-25-2016]

In July in the African nation of Malawi (on the western border of Mozambique), Eric Aniva was finally arrested but not before he had been employed by village families more than 100 times to have ritual sex to "cleanse" recent widows and girls immediately after their first menstruation. Aniva is one of several such sex workers known as "hyenas" (because they operate stealthily, at night), but Malawi president Peter Mutharika took action after reading devastating dispatches (reporting hyenas' underage victims and Aniva's HIV-positive status) in The New York Times and London's The Guardian, among other news services. [Washington Post, 7-27-2016]

The July 2012 Aurora, Colorado, theater shooter, James Holmes, is hardly wealthy enough to be sued, so 41 massacre victims and families instead filed against Cinemark Theater for having an unsafe premises, and by August 2016 Cinemark had offered \$150,000 as a total settlement. Thirty-seven of the 41 accepted, but four held out since the scaled payout offered only a maximum of \$30,000 for the worst-off victims. Following the settlement, the judge, finding that Cinemark could not have anticipated Holmes's attack, ruled for the theater making the four holdouts liable under Colorado law for Cinemark's expenses defending against the lawsuit (\$699,000). [Los Angeles Times, 8-30-2016]

Weird China

Misunderstandings: (1) "Mr. L," 31, a Chinese tourist visiting Dulmen, Germany, in July, went to a police station to report his stolen wallet, but signed

the wrong form and was logged in as requesting asylum, setting off a bureaucratic nightmare that left him confined for 12 days at a migrant hostel before the error was rectified. (2) In August at a hospital in Shenyang, China, "Wang," 29, awaiting his wife's childbirth, was reported (by People's Daily via Shanghaiist.com) to have allowed a nurse to wave him into a room for anesthesia and hemorrhoid surgery a procedure that took 40 minutes. (The hospital quickly offered to pay a settlement but insisted that, no matter his purpose at the hospital, he in fact had hemorrhoids, and they were removed.) [The Guardian (London), 8-8-2016] [Shanghaiist.com, 8-17-2016]

Evidently, many Chinese wives who suspect their husbands of affairs have difficulty in confronting them, for a profession has risen recently of "mistress dispellers" whose job instead is to contact the mistress and persuade her, sometimes through an elaborate ruse, to break off the relationship. For a fee (a New York Times dispatch said it could be "tens of thousands of dollars"), the dispeller will "subtly infiltrate the mistress's life" and ultimately convince her to move on. A leading dispeller agency in Shanghai, translated as the "Weiqing International Marriage Hospital Emotion Clinic Group," served one wife by persuading the mistress to take a higher-paying job in another city. [New York Times, 7-29-2016]

Ironies

Flooding from rains in August tore down a basement wall of the Connelville (Pennsylvania) Church of God, wrecking and muddying parts of the

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NEWS & VIEWS

building and threatening the first-floor foundation, but under the policy written by the Church Mutual Insurance company, flooding damage is not covered, as rain is an "act of God." (Church Mutual apparently uses a standard insurance industry definition and thus recognizes, contrary to some religious beliefs, that not everything is caused by God.) [WTAE-TV (Pittsburgh), 8-31-2016]

In 2005, India enacted a landmark anti-poverty program, obligating the government to furnish 100 days' minimum-wage work to unskilled laborers (potentially, 70 percent of the country's 1.3 billion people). Programs often fail in India because of rampant corruption, but a recent study by a Cambridge University researcher concluded that the 2005 law is failing for the opposite reason --anti-corruption measures in the program. Its requirement of extreme transparency has created an exponential increase in paperwork (to minimize opportunities for corruption), severely delaying the availability of jobs. [Phys.Org News, 7-21-2016]

The Passing Parade

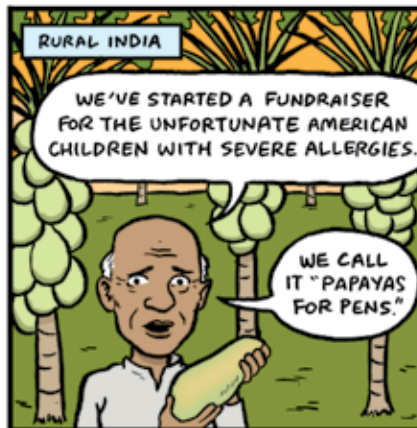
Vegetarian Deb Dusseau of Portland, Maine, celebrating her 10-year anniversary of "all vegetables, all the time," reported to a tattoo artist in August and now sports, on her right arm, wrist to shoulder, an eggplant,

peppers, mushrooms, peas, greens, onions, a radish and multiple tomatoes drawn in an "old seed catalog" motif. (2) Pro baseball player Brandon Thomas (of the independent Frontier League's Gateway Grizzlies in St. Louis, Missouri) hit a bases-loaded home run on Aug. 21 over the fence, into the adjacent parking lot, where the ball smashed the windshield ... of his own car. [Bangor Daily News, 8-29-2016] [Sports Illustrated, 8-22-2016]

A News of the Weird Classic (October 2012)

Horse showjumping is a long-time Olympics sport, but since 2002, equestrians have been performing in "horseless" showjumping, in which horse courses are run by "riders" on foot (who, by the way, do not straddle broomsticks!). According to an October (2012) Wall Street Journal report, an international association headed by retired pro equestrian Jessica Newman produces at least 15 shows a year, with from 40 to 130 competitors, galloping over jumps that vary from 2 to 4 feet high (5 feet in "Grand Prix" events), with the "riders" graded as if they were on horses (timed, with points off for contacting the rails). Explained Newman, about the shows' success, "It's just fun to be a horse." [Wall Street Journal, 10-8-2012]

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Erie Playhouse Celebrates its Centennial

100 years of drama, music, laughter, and family



NICK WARREN

By: Mary Birdsong

Harry B. Vincent would be very proud. Vincent, founder and driving force behind the creation of what was then called the Little Theatre, debuted his players on the evening of January 18, 1916. He always had the highest hopes for his company, but he still might be amazed that his theatre's descendent, the Erie Playhouse, is marking its centennial year.

Playhouse staff, volunteers, and patrons honored the anniversary earlier this year, but they are pulling out all the stops during the 2016-2017 season to celebrate this milestone. Besides the usual presentation of top-notch productions, a variety of special events are on tap.

They have every reason to be proud and commemorate their accomplishments. The Playhouse is one of the oldest community theatres in the nation. And earlier this year, it was voted the state's best community theatre in the Pennsylvania Theatre Guide's Best of 2015 Readers' Choice Awards.

The cohesive organization in existence today is the result of many people with vision and the drive to keep the theatre going. "We are grateful to everyone who came before us and has brought us to this point," says Executive Director Almi Clerkin. "Whatever challenges the Erie Playhouse faced in the past century, we've made it through."

Some of those challenges were daunting. Two world wars kept the stage dark from 1918 to 1919 and 1942 to 1946. In the 1960s, the permanent home on West Seventh Street had to be sold to Gannon University for financial reasons, leaving vagabond troupes to make their way from one rented space to another. The Playhouse finally found a truly permanent home in the former Strand Theatre on West 10th Street in 1983, where it planted deep roots.

Some of the high points along the way include the leadership of talented directors and managers such as Newell Tarrant, Bill Cohen, and David Matthews.

Matthews' tenure ran from

1962 (as the business manager for 10 years) through 2006, when he retired as managing director after 34 years at the helm. He oversaw some of the lean years with no home and few resources; but he also led the way when they settled into their current facility.

Today, the Playhouse has 12 full-time and five part-time staff members, and a budget from Harry Vincent's dreams. It offers seven mainstage productions as well as concerts and other special events. The vibrant Youththeatre program stages three full productions a season, engaging children and their parents from the community, and the recently created Playtime program, a collaboration with the United Way and the Imagination Library, brings books to life with art and drama for children ages two to five at more than five social service agencies in

Playhouse players, top and opposite, as well as Sue Lechner and Almi Clerkin, bottom left and right, have ushered the Playhouse into its triumphant present, along with a familial team of long-loyal cohorts.

Since 1983, Erie Playhouse has occupied this space on West 10th Street, where it has continued to renovate and renew itself: a (literally) shining example of what a great downtown tenant can be.

the area. In addition, the organization collaborates with the Erie Philharmonic and the Erie Times-News in a program making it possible for all fifth graders in the city schools to attend a concert and a play.

If you want to help the Playhouse celebrate, there are ample opportunities. One of them might not be the sold-out gala and tribute concert slated for Sept. 17, unless you already have your ticket. But more occasions to suit every interest are available.

You might like a New Year's Eve party celebrating 100 years of Broadway, two Princess Balls on March 26 and April 2 to open the always-sold-out day of imagination for more of

the under-10 set, and a Launch Party on April 26, where the shows for the 2017-2018 season will be announced.

One special evening will be Jan. 18, 2017, when the Playhouse will reenact the very first evening of the theatre's history by staging the three one-act plays originally performed: *Sunset*, *I'm Going*, and *Galatea of the Toy Shop*. The location of this performance has yet to be determined, but the hope is that it will "take the Playhouse back to its roots," says Clerkin.

An internal project – something for the actors' own satisfaction – will be entering a production in the American Association of Community Theatre's AACTFest competition. They will be performing *The Glorious Ones* in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in the state contest in March of 2017. A win there would send them to a re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NICK WARREN



gional challenge and, if victorious, they will move on to the national festival in Rochester, Minnesota.

"The Playhouse has only entered one of these contests before and won the state title," says Clerkin. "We will be focused on the state competition only and see where it goes from there." The community is invited to view this play in early March when the Playhouse stages it at the Schuster Theatre in preparation for the Williamsport performance.

The anniversary celebration culminates in a weekend-long Playhouse Family Reunion commencing on Friday, July 28 with a concert by the Boston-based band Uro, a street fair for the entire community on Saturday during the day, followed that evening by what's being called a Concert Extravaganza in which performers from the past, present, and future will perform songs celebrating 100 years of the Playhouse. The final reunion event is a Sunday brunch where Youththeatre alumni will be honored, and possibilities for the next 100 years will be explored.

It is the next century that

is on the mind of many Playhouse staff and supporters. Clerkin plans to retire next year, and so does Marketing and Special Events Director Sue Lechner. Both are ready to hand off the care of their beloved theatre to the next generation.

"The Playhouse is always evolving," remarks Lechner. "With all the new social media outlets available and new ways for outreach, the young leaders need to step forward."

The Playhouse Board of Directors also has ambitious goals for sustaining the theatre and its facilities. Currently underway is a \$1.4 million fundraising campaign to upgrade the "back of the house." Plans are for a new curtain and rigging, the installation of an ADA-compliant bathroom on the stage level to accommodate actors with disabilities, sinking the orchestra pit, and installing a proscenium lift if funding allows. Monies will also be used to replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system remaining from the 1940s.

Planning for the future also means nourishing the Playhouse's endowment, the

organization's financial foundation. Rather than seek out large gifts for this \$1 million campaign, the Playhouse is launching a grassroots effort allowing anyone to make smaller gifts. Their goal is to receive 10,000 gifts of \$100 each.

"We've always had many loyal supporters," explains Clerkin. "This campaign will allow so many friends of the organization to own a part of the Playhouse's future."

Playhouse staff and volunteers do not use the terms "family" and "next generation" lightly. Everyone who contributed to this story volunteered these terms to illustrate the strength of this close-knit community.

"We're a family," says Doris Becker, 91, who has been involved with the Playhouse since her first child role in 1935.

Lechner echoes the sentiment. "The Playhouse welcomes everyone and it's a place where members support each other both on and off the stage."

From our interaction, it's clear members respect and learn from each other, and

celebrate each other's contributions. They also take great pride in all the couples who found each other while volunteering or working at the Playhouse.

When we spoke, Charles Corritore and Becker rattled off a long list. While Managing Director Richard Davis was telling me about how he met his husband at the Playhouse, Lechner jumped right in and described – with dialogue – how she watched their romance develop. Everyone spoke with excitement about another Playhouse wedding coming up soon. Davis summed it up best when he said "the Playhouse is not just our job, it's our lives."

To deepen a sense of family, many biological clans have worked or performed together. Lechner shared that one of her happiest moments was when she was on the stage with her entire family. But there are "adoptions" as well. "Charlie (Corritore) is my third son," said Becker as we sat in the box office with him. Corritore just blushed a little and offered, "I am very proud to be called her son."

Corritore's long association with the theatre (in his 43rd season) is similar to many others' tenure with the organization. The next generation is now working up the ranks. "We have people on staff who were youth performers when I was Youththeatre director" says Clerkin. "It's very exciting. They are the future of the Playhouse."

What does that future hold? Clerkin says they will always need people to come see a play, but "we have to balance that with what we do for the community." She goes on to mention more community outreach and collaboration, something blossoming during her tenure that will certainly expand with the next generation.

Both Clerkin and Lechner will continue to be involved with the organization af-

ter they retire. But both are pleased to be here for the centennial. "It's a privilege and a great responsibility to be part of the hardworking Playhouse staff and dedicated board as we honor those who have had the foresight to get us to our 100th season," says Clerkin.

Those predecessors deserve to be honored, as they were as hardworking and generous as the current staff. In 1919, while World War I was winding down, the core members of the theatre re-banded and created The Community Playhouse in what is now the Downtown YMCA. They opened the doors to all with no admission charge. They did

The Playhouse is one of the oldest community theatres in the nation. And earlier this year, it was voted the state's best community theatre in the Pennsylvania Theatre Guide's Best of 2015 Readers' Choice Awards.

put out a barrel in the lobby marked "the future tale of the Playhouse." One can imagine a penny or nickel dropping with a soft thud into it. Or maybe a silent dollar or two from the more wealthy patrons.

The Erie Playhouse grew under the tender care of these ancestors. Clerkin says as they prepare the theatre for generations to come, "our place in Erie is secure with the talent and support we receive from our Playhouse family and the community."

It all happens one penny or nickel or \$100 at a time. Harry Vincent would be proud.

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



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Sunday, September 18, 11:00 to 5:00



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Spotlight on Erie

September 14 – 27, 2016

Friday, Sept. 16

A Gaelic Ole Time at the Erie Irish Festival



Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good, but *oftentimes* being good creates its own luck. Not to brogue, but the Erie Irish Festival has proven absolute class for the lads and lasses at St. Pat's over the years, with suds, spuds, and shenanigans to spare. If it ain't *banjaxed*, don't fix it, as they

Not to brogue, but the Erie Irish Festival has proven absolute class for the lads and lasses at St. Pat's over the years, with suds, spuds, and shenanigans to spare.

say. The organizers have held to that axiom for 24 years, celebrating halfway to St. Paddy's Day with traditional music, dance, food, and plenty of "the black stuff" (i.e., Guinness).

Over 47,000 residents of Erie County identify as at least part Irish, no doubt stemming from the mass migrations of the mid-1800s that brought nearly 2 million native Irish to the U.S. (fleeing both famine and religious tensions). Many of them settled in port cities, forming tight-knit communities and working as laborers. The influx tapered off after the Emergency Immigration Acts of 1921 and 1924; but by then, Irish-Americans had made a significant impact in industry, westward expansion, and infrastructure (namely the railroad system). Erie's Irish

found employment in the then-bustling manufacturing sector and contributed to the community's growth that peaked in the mid-20th century.

But enough of being a dry shite history professor – let's get on with the festivities, shall we? Musicians will include The Corned Beef and Curry Band (pub music), County Mayo Irish Band (Irish ballads/Irish-American folk), the Mountain Thyme Ramblers (Irish bluegrass), Bangerzz (Neo-Celtic folk rock), and more.

Speaking of bangers and mash (a Sunday exclusive), the food tent will serve quality grub throughout the weekend, including many permutations of the poppies-and-tatties (and/or taters) that form the foundation of the Irish diet. And don't forget dessert – have you been drinking? If not, live a little and try your bread pudding with some drunken raisins soaked in whiskey.

Meanwhile, Rince Na Tiarna will lord over the dance all three days, clacking, tapping, and stomping away. You'll be Flatley-knackered just watching their energetic performances. If the Jameson doesn't get you first – don't press your luck. – Matt Swanseger

Friday 5 to 11 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. // St. Patrick's Church, 130 E. 4th St. // erieirishfestival.com // free admission

Friday, Sept. 16

Chita Rivera to Perform as Part of a Mercyhurst University Milestone



The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University will celebrate its 20th anniversary for the 2016-17 season. Kicking off the extra-special lineup is Tony Award-winning Chita Rivera, whose unique solo

performance, *Chita: A Legendary Celebration* will take place on Friday, Sept. 16.

Rivera was last at Mercyhurst in November of 2013, where she held an onstage conversation about her career and experience. More recently, she appeared on Broadway in *The Visit*, the final John Kander/Fred Ebb/Terrence McNally musical, which opened on April 23, 2015.

Her performance at Mercyhurst will

The Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University will celebrate its 20th anniversary with Tony Award-winning Chita Rivera kicking off this season.

feature numbers from *West Side Story*, *Sweet Charity*, *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Rink*, and *The Visit*. The show will also feature the music of Leonard Bernstein, Charles Strouse, Jerry Herman, and Stephen Sondheim, and attendees will be treated to a special Kander/Ebb tribute.

Since this is a special year for Mercyhurst, an esteemed and exciting lineup has been booked. Here's a sampling: Theatergoers should save the date for April 11, 2017, as playwright and actress Anna Deavere Smith will perform a series of monologues in "Reclaiming Grace in the Face of Adversity." Plus, this year's artist-in-residence program will provide a home for Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem, a folk quartet from New England who will be performing and working with the Erie community. – Miriam Lamey

7:30 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th Street // 824.3000 // miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/

Saturday, Sept. 17

Punk Rock the Vote at Blasco Library

Punk rock and politics go together like dark chocolate and coarse salt ... like peanut butter and pickles ... like Ren and Stimpy – dichotomous, no doubt, but somehow just right.

As for our local libraries, they're there for learning, for thinking, for



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growing, and for grooming an active voice in the world around you.

And now, Erie's flagship public repository of knowledge, the beautiful Blasco Library, is also there to Punk Rock the Vote.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, Blasco – and its same staffers behind the awesome, ongoing Local Music Project – are hosting their second event: a get-out-the-vote initiative featuring an afternoon full of punk-adelic fun for a beyond worthy cause. There'll be important information, instructive discussions, and the opportunity to register to vote; performances by Erie's Diesel Houdini, Sonic Medusa, and Dysmorphia; and tasty local food truck vittles from The Cluck Truck and Wiener Takes All.

"The main purpose of this event is to raise voter awareness, provide a venue where folks who aren't registered to vote can easily get registered, and to provide a little bit of voter education," says one of its organizers, Jessica Makowski. "Representatives from the League of Women Voters and Voter Registration will be here to provide info and to help people register."

Punk rock, politics, and the library: cool. – Ryan Smith

Noon to 4 p.m. // 160 E. Front St. // facebook.com/eriemusicproject

Saturday, Sept. 17

Lawrence Park Historical Society Celebrates its 90-year Anniversary

The Lawrence Park Historical Society (LPHS) will honor its enduring heritage on Saturday, Sept. 17 with a fun-filled festival.

The LPHS Fest will take visitors back



to the 1920s. They can learn about the past through walking and trolley tours. Horse-drawn tours will be offered at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Only 25 seats are available for each time slot, so tickets are being sold in advance at LPHS during operating hours, at \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under age 12.

While enjoying the festival, visitors can check out displays at LPHS, participate in activities offered by the library, or enjoy children's games and

crafts.

Additionally, the fest will include an art contest. Winners, decided by a public vote, will have their work featured at Coffee in the Park for October. Entries depict Lawrence Park, or artists' interpretations of the township in the 1920s.

An artisan/craft fair will feature handmade artwork at the Lawrence Park United Methodist Church.

Fest buttons are \$5 per person and grant admission to most of the day's events. They can be purchased at The Shoppe on Main Street, Dabrowski's Restaurant and Deli, The LP Dinor, and the LPHS. — Tracy Geibel

10 a.m. // Lawrence Park // 899.1505 // facebook.com/LPHistoricalSocietyFest/

Saturday, Sept. 17

Potterfest 2016: Things Get Harry at Edinboro University

Quidditch you just can't scratch? Case of the Hogwarts that won't clear up? Point your broomsticks



down Route 99 to the Wizarding World of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania for Potterfest.

For one week, the Edinboro campus becomes a place even a Muggle could love, with a bevy of activities for you and the whole un-enchanted family. Although J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is fantasy, it has had a very real impact on pop culture and its themes and symbolism have spurred serious discussion in the academic communi-

ty. For those who want to skip philosopher's stones with fellow intellectuals, the Ravenclaw Conferences could be your ticket. Brainiacs can also engage in the Joey Laythe Wizard Scrabble Tourney Sunday afternoon (starting at 1 p.m.) or Potterbowl Trivia Monday evening at 7 p.m.

If you can't summon the motivation for that, don't get your knickers in a twist — there are plenty of more passive entertainment options for you

For one week, the Edinboro campus becomes a place even a Muggle could love, with a bevy of activities for you and the whole un-enchanted family.

and yours. Enjoy a symphonic wind ensemble performance of music from the Harry Potter movie series Tuesday evening (7:30 p.m.) or Potter 6.0, an original play by M.B. McCarthy, both

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Dave VanAmburg & Friends

Sept. 14, 21 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Maxi's Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Faculty Collage Concert

Sept. 14 — 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Rankin & Schell

Sept. 15, 23 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Colony Pub Trio

Sept. 15, 22 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. jazzerie.com.

Songwriter Sunset

Sept. 15, 22 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Thursday Night Riot

Sept. 15 — 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/gimpguyunderground.

The Highlife

Sept. 16 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Salmon Frank

Sept. 16 — 7 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Brian K. Chase

Sept. 16 — 7 p.m.

The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Chita: A Legendary Celebration

Sept. 16 — 7:30 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Rob Zombie

Sept. 16 — 8 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Geek Army

Sept. 16 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Out to Lunch

Sept. 16 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Punk Rock the Vote

Sept. 17 — noon to 4 p.m.
H.O. Hirt Auditorium Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Tango and Travels

Sept. 17 — 6:30 p.m.
Luther Memorial Church, 22 5 W. 10th St. gannon.edu.

JD Blues and Jazz

Sept. 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.
814 Pub and Grille, 1325 State St. jazzerie.com.

Touch of Gray

Sept. 17 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

Tyler Smilo

Sept. 17 — 7 p.m.

Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Division Street Machine

Sept. 17 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Wave Magnetik

Sept. 17 — 10 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

First to Eleven

Sept. 18 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Dock Boys

Sept. 18 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Old Town Porch Fest

Sept. 18 — 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Old Town Neighborhood, between W. 6th and W. 9th Myrtle and Poplar St. facebook.com/OldTownPorchFest.

Fred Oakman

Sept. 18 — 5 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Erie Urban Hip-Hop Awards

Sept. 18 — 6 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/basement.transmissions.

Big Dog Acoustics

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

Metal on the Main State

Sept. 23 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

Ron Yarman

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

James Drakes

Sept. 23 — 7 p.m.
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. cork1794.com.

Consider the Source, Gnosis and Stereosphere

Sept. 23 — 9 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Whiskey Road

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

Max Schang

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

Sonny's Fugitives

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

Abbey Road

Sept. 24 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Brix Winery, 6654 W. Main Rd. facebook.com/Abbey-Road-Music-of-The-Beatles-530834120401036.

Every Breath You Take

Sept. 24 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Chris Higbee

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

Hamilton

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

Acoustic Jukebox

Sept. 25 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Jesse James Weston

Sept. 25 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Simply Because

Sept. 25 — 5 p.m.
Sunset Grille, 12670 Edinboro Rd. edinborolakeresort.com.

Secret Keeper: Stephan Crump and Mary Halvorson

Sept. 25 — 8 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. pacal505.com.

Aritmia

Sept. 26 — noon to 1 p.m.
McGarvey Commons at Penn State Erie, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

FOOD & DRINK

Gears 2 Beers

Sept. 17 — 8 a.m.
The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. wqln.org.

Wine & Brew Walk

Sept. 17 — 4 to 7 p.m.
Downtown Meadville Mall,

920 Water St. facebook.com/meadvillechamber.

35th Annual Wine Festival

Sept. 23 — 4 to 9 p.m. & Sept. 24 — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. & Sept. 25 — noon to 5 p.m.

Gibson Park, 2 Gibson St. & Gravel Pit Park, 10300 West Main Rd. nechamber.org.

Erie VegFest 2016

Sept. 24 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. theerievegsociety.org.

Lunch and Literature

Sept. 24 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Kahkwa Club, 3300 Kahkwa Rd. aauwerie.org.

First Annual Craft Lager Fest

Sept. 24 — noon to 4 p.m.
Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com/laverybrewing.

FILM

Robots Movie

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — noon & 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. trepci.org.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes

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



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High School Students and Family Members are invited to our Open House Saturday, September 24 at the LECOM Erie Campus, from 1-4pm.

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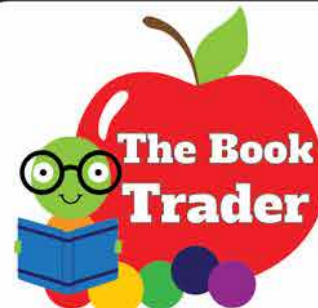
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119 Erie St.
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(814) 734-1980

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Thursday and Friday evenings (8 p.m.) at the Cole Auditorium. After all, you'll need your rest for the Quidditch tournament that will close out the festival.

The popular airborne sport from the novels has been adapted for the gravity-bound, spawning leagues around the nation. The game combines elements of rugby, dodgeball, and tag. Teams are comprised of seven players, each delegated a specific task. At its core, it is three chasers trying to get the "quaffle" (a volleyball) through the opposition's hoops, guarded by a keeper. Besides the keeper, each team has two beaters to mount a defense. They hurl "bludgers" at the chasers, who upon being struck must return to their own endzone and drop the quaffle, should they be in possession. Finally, a snitch enters the playing field every 18 minutes with a "tail" (think flag football) attached to his or her behind (the sport is coed). If your team's seeker successfully snatches the snitch's tail, it's game over. If that's not incredible enough, this is done with a broomstick betwixt the legs at all times.

Leave your invisibility cloaks at home, folks. You'll definitely want to show up for this. – Matt Swansger

Sept. 17 to 24 // Full list of events, times, and locations at potterfest.cs.edinboro.edu/Schedule // 219 Meadville St., Edinboro

Thursday, Sept. 22

Randy & Mr. Lahey Bring their Trailer Park Romance to Basement Transmissions



Basement Transmissions will soon host our neighbors from the north. They might be the neighbors that bring down the property value, but that's part of the fun.

Centered around characters introduced in the Canadian mockumentary-style show, *The Trailer Park Boys*, Jim Lahey (John Dunsworth) is an ex-cop-turned-trailer park manager of Sunnyvale trailer park and Randy (Patrick Roach) is a shirtless, cheeseburger-loving ex-prostitute who is Lahey's faithful sidekick.

A guaranteed evening of hilarity and debauchery at its finest, the 2016 "No Pants Unpissed" tour will have plenty of drunken fun for all. The boys have been taking their piece of the trailer

park out on the road for eight years now, and the performance has become a fast-paced comedic pairing, entertaining the crowd with silly drunken songs, skits, profanities, a little Shakespeare, and perhaps a bit of audience participation to add to the festivities.

A don't-miss evening of fun for any

A guaranteed evening of hilarity and debauchery at its finest, the 2016 "No Pants Unpissed" tour will have plenty of drunken fun for all.

fan of *The Trailer Park Boys* – or even just anyone with a keen sense of humor. – Angie Jeffery

Doors 7 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // Tickets \$20-25 at ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1215771 // facebook.com/events/159104701170331/

Friday, Sept. 23

Gallery Night Offers a Wide Spectrum for the Artistically Curious

With art for the mind and food for the tummy, they should rename Gallery Night, Palate Night.



"Palate," as defined by Dictionary.com, refers to both "intellectual or aesthetic taste; mental appreciation" as well as the "sense of taste."

And as 13 separate galleries and one museum welcome visitors after usual business hours in order to present their establishments' current *objets d'art*, entertainment and foodstuffs will likewise be on hand in many venues.

Gallery Night also offers several meet-and-greets with the featured artists, such as mosaic artist Lena Logvina at Artlore Studio, "realistic" painter Herm Weber at D'Hopkins Denniston Gallery, and Dietrich Wegner, who will discuss his solo exhibit, *I Think I Found It Upside Down*, at Erie Art Museum.

According to Erie Art Museum's website, other highlights include:

– Robo Tins, a conglomeration of collectible cast-offs, vintage tins, and other found objects lovingly con-

Dr. trecpi.org.

Journey to Space

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 2 & 5 p.m.

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

Love & Friendship

Sept. 14 — 7 p.m.

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

The Range Feud (1931)

Sept. 15 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

RoboCop (1987)

Sept. 16 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

National Theatre Live: A View from the Bridge

Sept. 18 — 12:55 p.m.

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Midnight Special

Sept. 21 — 7 p.m.

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

Great Guy (1936)

Sept. 22 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

The Tree of Life

Sept. 22 — 8:30 to 11 p.m.

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

Zontar, the Thing From Venus (1966)

Sept. 23 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

9 to 5

Sept. 25 — 1:30 to 4 p.m.

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

De Palma

Sept. 28 — 7 p.m.

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

VISUAL ARTS

Nocturnal Emissions by Alison Stinely

Ongoing through Sept. 17

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

Do You Know What I Mean?

Ongoing through Sept. 17

Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St. brucegallery.info.

Failure

Ongoing through Sept. 18

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

Art Faculty Show

Ongoing through Sept. 25

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

InnovationErie Competition 2016

Ongoing through Sept. 25

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

Just the Blues by Joyce Perowicz

Ongoing through Oct. 4

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

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.

A Homecoming, Works on Paper by Marie Spaeder Haas

Sep. 16 through Nov. 3 (Opening Reception Sept. 16 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)

Gannon University Center for Communication and the Arts, 700 Peach St. gannon.edu.

One Hundred Twelve Miles

Sept. 21 through Oct. 22

Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St. brucegallery.info.

Vinyl Palooza

Sept. 22, 23 — 4 to 10 p.m.

McCoy's Barrelhouse & Grill, 1013 State St. erieartsandculture.org.

Gallery Night

Sept. 23 — 7 to 10 p.m.

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

PIAA Annual Art Show

Sept. 23 — 7 to 10 p.m. & Sept. 24 — 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. & Sept. 25 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Niagara Bank Community Room, 801 State St. facebook.com/groups/128266797188784.

Mood Swing Review: A solo exhibition by Ron Bayuzick

Sept. 23 through Feb. 11

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

Faculty Exhibition

Sept. 27 through Oct. 25 (Opening Reception and Artists' Lectures Sept. 27 — 7 to 9 p.m.)

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

THEATRE

An American Daughter

Sept. 15, 16, 17 — 8 p.m.

PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

Driving Miss Daisy

Sept. 16, 17 — 7 p.m. &

Sept. 18 — 2:30 p.m.

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

A Canterbury Feast

Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 12, 19 — 5:30 p.m. & Sept. 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.

Legends of Broadway

Sept. 20, 21 & Oct. 4, 5, 18, 19 & Nov. 1, 2, 15, 16 — noon & Oct. 15 — 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 16 — 2:30 p.m.

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

Vicki Lawrence & Mama

Sept. 22 — 7:30 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Rollercoaster

Sept. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 & Oct. 1 — 7:30 p.m. & Sept. 25 & Oct. 2 — 2:30

Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

Ragtime

Sept. 23, 24, 29, 30 & Oct. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 2, 9 — 2 p.m.

Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10

CALENDAR

structured into unique sculptures by Eric Schwartz at Artlore Studio;

- "Vivid" paintings and drawings of ethereal female forms in stunning settings by Mercedes "Mercy" Maclay at Radius CoWork Gallery;
- Nautical works from tattoo artist Cory Thompson at Beachcomber Boutique;
- Photographer Vance Lupher and

As 13 separate galleries and one museum welcome visitors after usual business hours, entertainment and foodstuffs will likewise be on hand in many venues.

Sovereign Ballet dancers collaborating to produce an aesthetically striking exhibit of dancers "stopped" in time at Sovereign Ballet.

The three-hour shindig is free and open to the public. - Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

7 to 10 p.m. // Participating galleries throughout Erie // For more information visit eriemuseum.org.

Friday, Sept. 23

A Wonderful Way to Experience Local Wine



The 35th Annual Wine Country Harvest Festival from Sept. 23 to 25 will prove - again - that there are some incredible wines and innovative vineyards just minutes from one another in a truly gorgeous setting.

Amy Vercant, executive director of the North East Area Chamber of Commerce, explains that the exclusive regional wines featured over the weekend are what make the festival truly

exciting. From 6 Mile Cellars to Mazza Vineyards, wineries large and small will sample their wares.

Since this is a special year, the 35th annual WineFest will be introducing what will hopefully be a new tradition: a Stomp Off.

Tunes will be supplied by 17 bands, including The Conchords, Dangerbird, Americana Songbook, and the Four Jays. Throughout each day, guests can sample wines, check out crafts, and bring the kids to activities at both Gibson Park and Gravel Pit Park.

Since this is a special year, WineFest will be introducing what will hopefully be a new tradition: a Stomp Off. From noon to 2 p.m. in Gibson Park on Sept. 24, contestants will be paired with local celebrities to compete in a grape-stomping contest. Ordinary folk will be attempting to win North East gift certificates, while celebrities will be flexing their leg muscles to support a local charity of their choice. - Miriam Lamey

Gravel Pit Park, 10300 West Main Road, and Gibson Park, Routes 20 and 89, North East // nechamber.org/pages/AboutWineFest

Friday, Sept. 23

Consider the Source Headlines a Mind-melting Evening at the Kings Rook Club



From what I've seen, all kinds of people (from hippies and freak folks to metalheads and prog nerds) can really dig Consider the Source.

Because they're pretty damn amazing.

The NYC trio of improv masters makes a joke of any standard genre

St.erieplayhouse.org.

COMMUNITY/VARIETY

USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

Ongoing through Sept. 15

The Kahkwa Club, 3300 Kahkwa Club Rd. kahkwa.com/2016Mid-Am.

Preschool Nature Discovery Classes: Bugs, Spiders, Caterpillars, Oh My

Ongoing through Oct. 4 - 9:30 to 11 a.m.

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

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.

Albion Area Fair

Sept. 14, 15, 16, 17

Albion Boro Park, Academy St. albionfair.com.

Tots in Nature Classes: Where the Sidewalk Ends

Sept. 14 through Oct. 5 - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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

Farmers Market

Sept. 14, 21, 28 - 3 to 6 p.m.

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

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

Sept. 14 - 6 to 8:30 p.m.

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

The Preservation and History of Valley Forge

Sept. 15 - 9:30 a.m.

Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

Quilting on the Bayfront

Sept. 15, 16, 17 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

American Short Stories

Sept. 15, 22, 29 & Oct. 6, 13 - 4 to 6:30 p.m.

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

Intro to Computers and the Internet II

Sept. 15 & Dec. 15 - 5 to 8 p.m. & Oct. 29 & Nov.

15 - 9 am to noon

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

Walter Campbell

Sept. 15 - 7 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

NatureHoods: Converting Urban Parks to Outdoor Classrooms

Sept. 15 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Acrylic Feather Painting

Sept. 15 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Erie Irish Festival

Sept. 16 - 5 to 11 p.m. & Sept. 17 - 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. & Sept. 18 - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

St. Patrick Church, 130 E. 4th St. erieirishfestival.com.

Michael Winslow (from the Police Academy)

Sept. 16, 17 - 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

Full Moon Night Hike

Sept. 16 - 8 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Edinboro Potterfest

Sept. 17 through 24

Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

Erie Walk to End Alzheimer's

Sept. 17 - 8:30 a.m.

Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. act.alz.org.

Windows II

Sept. 17 & Nov. 1, 19 - 9 a.m. to noon

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

International Coastal Cleanup at Presque Isle and Erie Bluffs State Parks

Sept. 17 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

An Introduction to Medicinal Herbs

Sept. 17 - 10 a.m. to noon

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

18th Annual LEAF Festival

Sept. 17 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Lawrence Park Historical Society Fest

Sept. 17 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Lawrence Park Township, facebook.com/LPHistoricalSocietyFest.

Healthy Hoops

Sept. 17 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, 312 Chestnut St. mlkcentererie.org.

Teas and Decoctions Workshop

Sept. 17 - 12:30 to 2 p.m.

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

Making Herbal Tinctures Workshop

Sept. 17 - 3 to 5 p.m.

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

Erie Cemetery Walks: Erie Settlers

Sept. 18 - 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Erie Cemetery, 2116 Chestnut St. erieyesterday.org.

13th Annual Slavic Festival

Sept. 18 - noon to 7 p.m.

Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, 3415 Wallace St. eriecountybyzantines.org.

Monday Family Story Time

Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 17, 24, 31 & Nov. 14, 21 & Dec. 12 - 10 to 11 a.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Magic Steve Bennett

Sept. 19 - 4:45 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

After the Sanctions: the Resultant Russian Psyche vis a vis the West

Sept. 19 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Suicide Prevention Conference

Sept. 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepromotions.com.

Microsoft Outlook

Sept. 20 - 9 a.m. to noon

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

Nordic Walking

Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4 - 10 to 11:30 a.m.

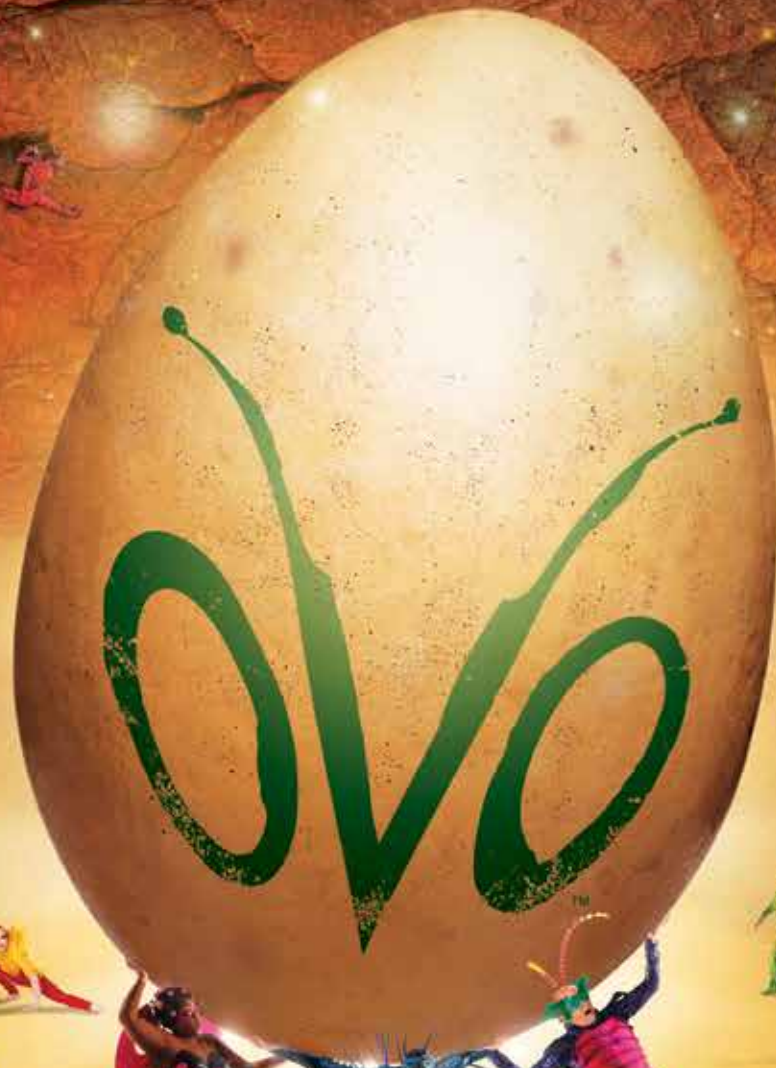
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Backstage Erie Tour

Sept. 20 - 1 to 2 p.m.

Kraus Department Store, 810 Parade St. preservationerie.org.

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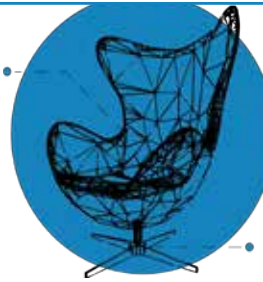
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MADE IN ERIE

Product Design Lab

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LEARN EXCELLENT PRODUCT DESIGN PRACTICES FROM NATIONAL AND LOCAL DESIGN EXPERTS:

- 9:00 Doors Open / Introduction
- 9:30 Hirt - *The History of Industrial and Product Design*, Henry Adams
- 10:30 Hirt - *Industrial and Product Design Today*, Devin Roberts
- 11:00 Hirt - Panel: *The Past, Present & Future of Erie Manufacturing*
- 12:00 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
- 1:00 Admiral Room - Fundamentals of Design: *Spaghetti Challenge*.
- 2:00 CHOOSE ONE 30-MINUTE SESSION:
 - Hirt *Visual Design*, Lisa Austin
 - Admiral Room *Empathetic Design*, Shradda Sangelkar
 - Room 219 *Engineering for Cost*, Devin Roberts & Greg Dillon
- 2:30 CHOOSE ONE 30-MINUTE SESSION:
 - Hirt *Visual Design*, Lisa Austin
 - Admiral Room *Empathetic Design*, Shradda Sangelkar
 - Room 219 *Engineering for Cost*, Devin Roberts & Greg Dillon
- 3:00 Hirt - Local Resources Overview
- 3:50 Hirt - Concluding Remarks

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 24

9:00AM-3:00PM

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typification, effortlessly marrying old, deep Middle Eastern and world influences with jazz, metal, funk, and everything else, including all the best elements of the Information Age-inspired new school of jam.

As you could expect, Consider the Source is straight-up awesome live, so catching them – especially if it's right here in Erie – is well worth considering.

"If intergalactic beings of pure energy, after initiation into an order of whirling dervishes, built some kind of pan-dimensional booty-shaking engine, powered by psychedelics and abstract math, it'd probably just sound like a CTS tribute band," the band themselves say.

True enough. As you could expect, they're straight-up awesome live, so catching them – especially if it's right here in Erie – is well worth considering.

And Consider the Source will be bringing their epic journey onto the Kings Rook stage on Friday, Sept. 23.

Local psych-jam favorites GNOSiS are the opening act, and Ohio-based prog-rockers Stereosphere close it out, so it's sure to be a grand evening of mind-melting music at the Rook. Get in

there to get out there. – Ryan Smith

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

Saturday, Sept. 24

The First Annual Craft Lager Fest Convenes at Lavery Brewing Company



"Oktoberfests, Pilsners and Bocks, oh my!" they say.

"Come celebrate all things lager," they say.

That should be enough to get most any beer lover (hell, even liker) in the mood for what will be a first of its kind,

early autumn celebration of craft lager brewing in Erie.

The event features 15 breweries from across Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio, with the brewers themselves on hand to pour their finest cold fermented brews at Lavery Brewing Company.

The event features 15 tri-state breweries, with the brewers themselves on hand to pour their finest cold fermented brews at Lavery Brewing Company.

"Craft Lager Fest is a new concept in the beer fest world," says company President Jason D. Lavery. "Participants will get to enjoy traditional lagers," which are cold-fermented beers that were perfected in Germany.

"They are often smooth and balanced, but can have as much flavor as ales," says Lavery. "Craft brewers have tended to brew ales since they tend to be hopper and easier to brew. [But craft] brewers lately have stepped up their games, and have begun to revisit these delicate, refined lagers."

He says those who go can expect to enjoy pilsners, Oktoberfests, marzens, doppelbocks, weizenbocks, India pale lagers, and plenty of others.

There's a whole Beer Olympics thing

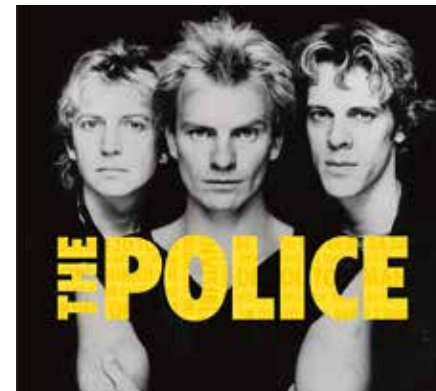
happening there, and locally-made sausage and house-made sauerkraut will be available, too.

So there. – Ryan Smith

Noon to 4 p.m. // Tickets \$20, available at Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. // LaveryBrewing.com; 454.0405

Saturday, Sept. 24

Police Musicality: Erie Philharmonic, Jeans N' Classics Take on the Music of Sting and the Police



With one band, with one show, you will know, Symphonicity. Conductor Daniel Meyer and the Erie Philharmonic teams with Ontario's Jeans N' Classics for *Every Breath You Take: The Music of Sting and the Police* at the

Great Books: Seven Deadly Sins

Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.

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

Therapy Dogs

Sept. 20, 21 — 3:30 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Great Books On-going Class

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

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

Erie Traveling Zoo

Sept. 20 — 6 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

County Council Meeting

Sept. 20 — 7 p.m.

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

Harry T. Burleigh: From the Spiritual to the Harlem Renaissance

Sept. 20 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

2016 Expo and Flu Kickoff

Sept. 21 — 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Shrine Club, 2525 W. 38th St. lifeworkserie.org.

Remarkable Women: Abigail Adams

Sept. 21 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Education Funding in Pennsylvania: Past, Present and Future

Sept. 22 — 9:30 a.m.

Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

Files and Folders

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

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

Adult Learner Open House

Sept. 22 — 5:30 p.m.

Science Complex Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

Ryan Conner

Sept. 22 — 7 p.m. & Sept. 23, 24 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

Randy & Mr. Lahey

Sept. 22 — 7 p.m.

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

Readings and Conversations from Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American

Sept. 22 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Erie Youth Hockey Association Fall Face Off Tournament

Sept. 23, 24, 25

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

Erie Admirals Elite Challenge Cup

Sept. 24, 25

Family First Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. erie-admirals.com.

Beethoven Street Fair: 5K run and 1 Mile Walk

Sept. 24 — 9 a.m. to noon

Perry Square, 568 State St. eriephil.org.

Bicycle Tour of Presque Isle

Sept. 24 — 9 a.m. to noon

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

Excel I

Sept. 24 — 9 a.m. to noon & Nov. 3 — 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Made in Erie Product Design Lab

Sept. 24 — 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

H.O. Hirt Auditorium at Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Apple Festival

Sept. 24 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Camp Sherwin, 8600 W. Lake Rd. ymcaerie.org.

Honey Harvest Festival

Sept. 24 — 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

HYS Therapeutic Arts Initiative Fundraiser

Sept. 24 — 2 to 8 p.m.

St Boniface Usher's, 9902 Dewey Rd. facebook.com/events/1096817530365053.

Erie Cemetery Walks: Brewery Tour

Sept. 25 — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Erie Cemetery, 2116 Chestnut St. eriestesterday.org.

2016 WineFest Car Cruise

Sept. 25 — noon

Gravel Pit Park, 10300 West Main Rd. facebook.com/TheNorthEastChamber.

Emmaus Grove Harvest Fest

Sept. 25 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Emmaus Grove, 214 E. 11th St. facebook.com/EmmausGrove.

Girls and Dolls Gala of America

Sept. 25 — 1 to 5 p.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier girlsanddollsgala.com.

Parking Lot Palooza

Sept. 25 — noon to 5 p.m.

Colony Plaza Parking Lot, 2580 W. 8th St. facebook.com/groups/1319158374776049.

PowerPoint

Sept. 27 & Dec. 17 — 9 a.m. to noon

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

Autumnal Equinox

Meditation

Sept. 27 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

All Natural Fall Fragrances

Sept. 27 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

Building an Innovation Ecosystem in Northwestern Pennsylvania

Sept. 27 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Great Britain Alone: June 1940 to June 1941

Sept. 28 — 4 to 6 p.m.

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

The 2016 Presidential Election

Sept. 28 — 6 p.m.

Women's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. edinboro.edu.

Wine Glass Painting

Sept. 28 — 6 p.m.

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

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CALENDAR

Warner Theatre, opening the 2016-17 Hanes Erie Pop Series.

Classical music is generally not the younger generation's cup of tea, in the Sahara or otherwise. But whereas they may say “de do do do, de da da da” to the likes of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, few have ever been able to say no to Sting (see “Don't Stand So Close to Me,” inspired by his days as coveted young schoolteacher Gordon Sumner). Jeans N' Classics is banking on that popularity to bring aboard the hundred million castaways who would not ordinarily feel at home at the orchestra. Rock musicians and a full symphony will be together this night, plowing the field of gold that has been Sting's illustrious career.

The Police are hardly a contemporary band, but their keen songwriting outshone most of their contemporaries and a great majority of those charting today.

The Police sold 75 million records worldwide, with their 2007-8 reunion tour selling 3.7 million tickets and grossing \$358 million – few would be driven to tears with that outcome. As a solo artist, Sting has four platinum or multi-platinum albums under his belt – who wouldn't want to be walking in those footsteps? The Police are hardly a contemporary band – after all, they recorded their last album in 1983 (*Synchronicity*) – but their keen songwriting outshone most of their contemporaries and a great majority of those charting today.

The Police's music married punk, reggae, pop, and jazz influences, showcasing increasingly sophisticated lyrics and song structures as the band evolved while remaining eminently appealing. Andy Summers' mastery of complex chords and Stewart Copeland's command of his drum kit made the power trio a force to be reckoned with. Sting's solo compositions veered in more new age and world directions while carrying over some of the jazz sensibilities of his younger days with various UK ensembles. Even if Sting sounds like he's babbling nonsense on occasion, his sound should translate brilliantly to an orchestra.

All you'll want to be is next to the euphonium when the lights dim and the curtains open. Bring on the night; bring on the 2016-17 season. – Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. // 811 State St. // eriephil.org/pops-series/#september // \$35-\$56;
40-under-40 honorees free

Sunday, Sept. 25

Pop Out and Pop Up at Parking Lot Palooza



New York City has them. Cleveland's got a few. They're probably out in Los Angeles as well, and now Erie has its own.

Mod Apothecary owner Stacey Skala Orr and Pointe Fourre Vintage Boutique owner Emily George came together to plan and execute Parking Lot Palooza: Sunday Market Pop-Up, which will transform the Colony Plaza parking lot into an outdoor shopping and socializing event on Sept. 25 from noon to 5 p.m.

We were “inspired by popular flea markets in bigger cities,” explains Skala Orr, and as such, the duo decided to “transform the east end of the Colony Plaza parking lot into an outdoor mar-

From jewelry to art, aromatherapy to Voodoo beer, the event will unite the imaginative for a shopping and socializing extravaganza.

ket experience for the community, featuring live music, food trucks, and vendors selling their original, handcrafted goods.”

The duo seeks to “Keep Erie Weird,” and really use the event as an opportunity to highlight the crafty, creative, and downright curious endeavors of local talent. From jewelry to art, aromatherapy to Voodoo beer, the event will unite the imaginative for a shopping and socializing extravaganza.

And to further support the community, these entrepreneurs also decided to partner with the #AJO Forever in Our Hearts Foundation. Skala Orr explains, “Voodoo Brewery and The Juice Jar will be donating \$1 for each beer or juice sold. Many vendors are being creative with their proceeds, including custom #AJO bracelets by Agatha & Emily and Amaurabeads, to name a few.”

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To enlighten the ears, music will be provided by Matt Texter, Gem City Revival, Pine Diary, and Flora. Sean Patrick and the Newgrass Revolution will close out the event during the afterparty, which lets the Colony Grille get in on the action from 6 to 10 p.m., when the restaurant will offer food and drink specials. – Miriam Lamey

Noon to 5 p.m. // Colony Plaza (east end), 250 W. 8th Street // shopsatthecolony.com/

Sunday, Sept. 25

Brooklyn-based Guitarist Mary Halvorson Brings Compelling Soundscapes to PACA

Mary Halvorson seems to be riding a wave of critical acclaim. She's garnered it for a range of recent projects, from solo guitar to a 19-piece en-



semble, and just about everything in between. Hailed in *Jazziz* as "one of the most original and arresting jazz guitarists to emerge in the first decade of the century," Halvorson's recent

performances have included clubs and concert stages in Spain, France, Slovenia, Austria, Poland, Belgium, Italy,

Jazz Times characterized Halvorson's playing as "sonic outbursts tempered by compositions that are highly intelligent and harmonically sophisticated, full of nuance, beauty, and the sound of surprise."

Finland, and Switzerland. On Sept. 25, she brings her current duo project, Secret Keeper, featuring bassist Stephan Crump, to Erie's PACA.

Jazz Times characterized Halvorson's playing as "sonic outbursts tempered by compositions that are highly intel-

ligent and harmonically sophisticated, full of nuance, beauty, and the sound of surprise." These qualities were on display at a recent performance I attended at Cleveland's Bop Stop – with Thumbscrew, Halvorson's collaborative trio. I'm confident we can expect that same level of inspired playing here.

But here's a pet peeve confession: I hate it when adventurous musicians play Erie and so few local musicians show up to listen and appreciate. To address this sad situation, I'll quote PopMatters.com's take on Halvorson: "Fans of today's beyond-category jazz should be lining up for this music, but so should indie rock fans or guitar heads or noise rockers or any other music fan who cares to hear the daring mix with the heady." – Sheldon Peterson

8 p.m. // 1505 State St. // \$10 // paca1505.com or 434.0687

Vegging Out Takes on New Meaning with Erie's First Ever VegFest

Stop by VegFest 2016 and discover the fun in a plant-based lifestyle.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24, FROM 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.



By: Ti Sumner

Whether you are the gung-ho vegan, the reluctant vegetarian (because the spouse is), or the curious carnivore, Erie's first ever VegFest will have something for everyone to eat, experience, or learn. With hula-hoop and karate demonstrations, activities at VegFest will be as varied as the reasons for eating plant-based diets.

"We originally went vegan for health reasons," said Lisa Casler, co-founder of Erie Vegan and Vegetarian Society. "But we quickly became dedicated to improving vegan options and education here in

Erie."

Years ago, ordering a vegetarian meal at a restaurant basically guaranteed a sub stacked thick with cheese and a tomato thrown on top. Thanks to the creativity of a few local business owners, however, the days of boring vegetarian meals are long gone.

"After years of watching vegetarian friends piece together meals of tiny side salads and baked potatoes, I knew I wanted to diversify my menu so everyone could enjoy their food and have fun," said Katie Schmid, owner of Lucky Louie's Beer and Wieners on Route 97.

Schmid's menu includes 32 jazzed-up wieners, 28 of which can be made entirely vegetarian by swapping in a vegan jumbo Smart Dog, which is something she will do as a vendor at VegFest.

Shimmy Shack, a 100 percent vegan and gluten-free food truck out of Michigan, will offer tantalizing burger-and-fries culinary delights that dare even the most committed carnivore to find these treats less than spectacular. According to their website, Shimmy Shack's mission is to "[remove] the stigma attached to the word "vegan" [by] showing how awesome, tasty, sexy, and filling vegan food can be."

Tandoori Hut, Moe's Southwest Grill, Pizza Pete's Pizzeria, and Golden Wok will also provide vegetarian and vegan samplings.

Aside from the food, watching Jennifer Dennehy's strikingly fluid hula-hoop dancing demonstrations will be worth the stop alone. After battling arthritis and a severe knee injury at a young age, Dennehy is proof that activity can combat pain and illness. Premier Martial Arts, The Village of Healing and Wellness, and other vendors will also provide demonstrations and information.

"There is more to veganism than just the types of foods we eat," Casler said. "We want VegFest to show that a plant-

based lifestyle is about adding to life, not about subtracting from it."

Festival speakers include author and activist Victoria Moran – a self-pro-

Years ago, ordering a vegetarian meal at a restaurant basically guaranteed a sub stacked thick with cheese and a tomato thrown on top. Thanks to the creativity of a few local business owners, however, the days of boring vegetarian meals are long gone.

claimed "obesity survivor," Dr. Richard Oppenlander, Bruce Friedrich, and Root Force Personal Training studio owners and *Vegan Muscle and Fitness* contributors Derek Tresize and Marcella Torres.

VegFest 2016 will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Zem Zem Shriners Banquet and Conference Center at 2525 West 38th Street. The event is free and open to everyone.

For more information about Erie VegFest 2016, visit theerievegsociety.org/vegfest-2016.html. Ti Sumner can be reached at TSumner@ErieReader.com.

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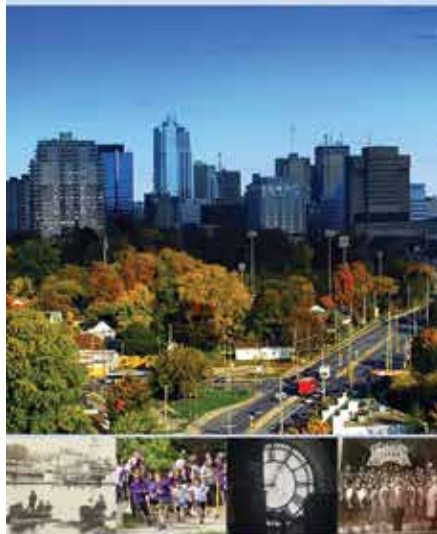
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SPACE IS LIMITED

Angel Olsen

My Woman
JagJaguwar



For her third full-length record, Angel Olsen has hit upon a near-perfect synthesis of her previous work.



My Woman balances the spartan folk pop of *Half Way Home* and the fuzzy adventurous indie of *Burn Your Fire for No Witness*. Olsen's voice is simultaneously powerful and fragile, her notes wavering and heartfelt. Producer Justin Raisen has harnessed the sound of 1960s pop with a timeless edge. Songs like "Never Be Mine" capture a bygone nostalgia rife with infectious melodies set against a luscious instrumental reverberation. *My Woman*, while at moments retro, still feels new. Olsen's emotion oozes through every measure, her voice artfully telling her story. High points in the album include "Not Gonna Kill You," wherein Olsen channels Grace Slick, making for one of the best tracks all year. Songs like "Sister" are evocative and sweeping, building up over the course of seven minutes, transitioning from whispered pleas to frenetic guitar solos. The album creates a fresh identity for Olsen, that of the artistic emotional rockstar, able to take her place at the table of musical greats. — Nick Warren

Strangers and Liars

A Little Bit Stranger
Self Released



Local four-piece Strangers and Liars are fantastic at what they do. Centering in on a quintessential American rock



sound, *A Little Bit Stranger* perfectly showcases the Erie band at their best. Vocalist Tommy Link writes songs filled with romantic remorse and restrained bitterness. Tracks like "Love Sick" blend metaphor and biting wit into a hummable tune you'll find yourself singing days later. Link's vocals are lucid and articulate, with an accomplished upper register. Guitarist Justin Anderson's tone is one of the distinct highlights of the recording. His pitch-perfect lead playing is brilliantly tasteful, with just the right amount of bite and overdrive to make it smoke. The shimmering solo at the end of "The Price You Pay" gives way to the bluesy riffs of "Up and Down," to great results. Melody is revered, and respected. The opening notes of "Waste My Time" inform the theme of the entire song. Producer Jon Beveridge captures the band with a clarity that lets the musicianship shine through. Fans of classic rock like Tom Petty or The Band will find something familiar and welcoming in any of these nine songs. — Nick Warren

onewayness + dRachEmUsiK

Mirrors to the Bonfire
MCSD



Hypnotic and elegantly creepy, *Mirrors to the Bonfire* presents a poetic soundscape. Erie native Adam Holquist is the man



behind onewayness, providing an array of instrumentation from synths and samples to guitar and electric upright bass. Charles Shriner is dRachEmUsiK, exploring electronic wind instruments and additional synthesizers. Though Shriner lives in Indianapolis, the two have collaborated many times, with *Mirrors* marking their sixth album together (including three live improvisation albums). The album is comprised of three tracks over the span of 64 minutes. Droning waves undulate under the listener, paired with sampled sounds both organic and synthetic. It's easy to lose yourself in the atmospheric swirlings of the recording, concentrating on a few notes at a time. The duo is darkly meditative, deconstructing the listening process. It's intelligent and sometimes arrhythmic, giving way to a spoken word reading by Algy Pug from a Geneviève Behrend book, which provides the namesake to the initial track "Your Invisible Power." The titular tracks showcase Shriner's woodwind tones, paired with tremulous synth and floating space-age melodies, slowed down to create an epic two-part composition. — Nick Warren

Signals Midwest

At This Age
Tiny Engines



This is the fourth album for Cleveland punk quartet Signals Midwest, and it might be their best yet.



Frontman Max Stern sews together a story full of nostalgia, regret, and self-reflection. It also happens to be an endlessly catchy record. The experience of *At This Age* goes by fast, and it's easy to relive those moments over and over. keystones of the Cleveland punk and emo scene, Signals have been working hard, touring since their inception. Produced by Evan Weiss (better known as Into It. Over It.), this album is simpler, with more economical instrumental results than on previous ventures. Guitarist Jeff Russell, drummer Steve Gibson, and bassist Loren Shumaker are perfectly in step with each other, each part moving together in service of the greater sound. Lyricaly, Stern is as eloquent as ever, using imagery and personal references in a style more literate than what laymen expect of the genre. Track by track, there are exceptional standouts, such as "Should Have Been a Painter," and "West Side Summer," which ruminate on the album's larger themes. — Nick Warren

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Metal Menagerie

A longtime local car-parts sculptor gets Ripley's acclaim for his delightfully out-there art.



brought out for all to see just in time for Halloween some 25 years ago. "We were up all night the night before to make sure it was up," said Schaefer.

From there, the ideas (not limited to what's listed here) just kept coming: A big – really big – black-and-yellow bee; the iconic, tall rocket ship; a Maybury-style cop car; a satellite in a tree; a double front-ended Lincoln Town Coupe (which, at one point, was actually drive-able); a one-of-a-kind Air Mail plane; and a whole lot more, including "Auto Man," who's the first to greet visitors as they enter the property and who seems to have a special place in Schaefer's heart.

"He's been there a long time," Schaefer said. "He's my buddy." And Auto Man has taken on several different roles – fisherman, firefighter, and others – over the years.

At the end of the day, Schaefer reiterated, "I do it for the smiles."

And he's seen a lot of them.

"First, you see them parking. And by the time they get over there," he said, motioning toward the front of the property, "they're smiling."

Believe it or not, for him, that's some good pay right there.

To find out more about Schaefer's Auto Art – and to submit suggestions for possible future pieces – visit schaefersautoart.com.

Ryan Smith can be reached at rsmith@eriereader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @ryanmsmithplns.

By: Ryan Smith

Believe it or not: Not far outside of Erie's city limits, there exists a car-parts creature carnival – in plain view, and free to be explored.

That welded wildlife park (dubbed Schaefer's Auto Art after its maker, and its makeup) is weird and wonderful; and now – with a two-page spread in the latest edition of a *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* special publication – it's worldwide.

There it is, on page 196 in the recently-released 2016 edition of *Unlock the Weird!*: "Richard Schaefer is a 'junkyard artist' who has turned his Erie, Pennsylvania, front yard into an art attraction. What started with half of a 1971 Lincoln Continental stuck in the ground evolved into 25 years' worth of amazing artwork crafted from car door handles to tail pipes and everything in between. Schaefer has made almost 20 different car sculptures, including a spider, a two-headed dinosaur, and a rocket ship for the Millennium celebration in 2000!"

But the self-taught artist and talented tinkerer – a warm, friendly, family-oriented, and good-humored guy – isn't letting it go to his head.

"It is a weird book – I'll admit to that,"

the 66-year-old said humbly about the recent accolades, which he garnered after one of his daughters, Adele, contacted Ripley's on his behalf.

Schaefer's already no stranger to curiosity-seekers. After a quarter-century of making larger-than-life pop-up art out of car parts at his Hershey Road property, he's seen a whole lot of people looking at his creations, and he said he's always been happy to have them.

"If I had a dollar for every smile, I'd be a millionaire," he said when I (and my awe-struck wife and kids) interviewed him a couple of weeks back.

But, he smiled and said, "I just do it for the enjoyment."

Decades back, Schaefer – who learned about automotives as well as welding and fabricating from his father – began working at his brother's local junkyard, and that's where the ideas for his creatures were planted. Looking around at the medleys of metal parts, he found his first inklings of inspiration.

Above: Schaefer's bee, and right: Schaefer with Auto Man. The first of the artist's creations to greet visitors as they enter the property, Auto Man seems to have a special place in Schaefer's heart.

"I would see things," he said: a face here, a body there, a bug, a rocket ship. And before long, he was bringing these things to big, bold life.

First came the spider that sits high in the middle of the yard. Made out of 2,500 pounds of heavy metal – thick steel bars and a VW Beetle frame – it was born and



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