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Sept. 28 - Oct. 11/Vol. 6, No. 20/ErieReader.com

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



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## From the Editors

### Gainfully employing Erie's strengths

**I** live on the lower west side of Erie, and I like my neighborhood a lot.”

That's how Dan Schank begins his feature on concentrated poverty in this issue. Schank's opening immediately undermines the generalization that young professionals don't want to live here. The reality, as usual, is far more nuanced than the supposition.

As Schank explains, “the problem isn't that I wouldn't be happy in Frontier or Fairview. The problem is that I'm *already happy where I am*. But my local property options make little fiscal sense. And if I had children, I would be facing a genuinely moral dilemma rather than an annoying economic obstacle.”

It's difficult to imagine how many Erie families currently face this “moral dilemma.” Our city is full of potentially gorgeous, architecturally interesting, well-built homes with abundant character and expansive possibilities. And today, more and more young people are embracing a DIY attitude.

Meanwhile, as Ella Julian writes in her feature about the new Voodoo Brewery location in Erie's historic Boston Store building, “Critics of the region lament the brain drain effect – when 18- to 25-year-olds leave their hometowns after high school or college. However, in many regions, 30- to 49-year-olds and their young children are moving back, contributing to a phenomenon known as brain gain.”

Julian is referring to Voodoo CEO Matt Rachocki, who moved back from New York City to raise his family and invest in the area. Surely, he's not alone.

What a time this could be for Erie real estate. Trendsetting homebuyers celebrate all things vintage, antique, and original. Character is commanding top dollar.

Unfortunately, many of those who might be thrilled to get their hands on one of Erie's incredibly affordable fixer-uppers are instead inclined to purchase homes elsewhere.

This circumstance, as we all know, has a paralyzing ripple effect.

“When the health of our schools relies on the value of our properties, we incentivize flight and punish those who stay put,” Schank writes. “When trust breaks down between our police and our most vulnerable neighborhoods, crime flourishes and abuses occur. When fear of that crime escalates, foot traffic disappears, businesses fail, and basic needs can't be met.”

Schank's approach is multifaceted, and explores how issues like education, income inequality, food insecurity, and social justice interrelate.

What a time this could be for Erie real estate. Unfortunately, many of those who might be thrilled to get their hands on one of Erie's incredibly affordable fixer-uppers are instead inclined to purchase homes elsewhere.

Encouragingly, however, he also highlights the ways numerous community members and organizations have stepped in to ameliorate those issues.

This same generosity is acknowledged by Ti Sumner, in her piece about the Erie firefighters of Engine 8, with whom she spent an August day and night.

“The crew sleeps in one large room on the second floor,” Sumner writes. “It's comfortable, with window air conditioners and cable TV. But these days, the city pays for few things. Every bed, TV, chair, and kitchen utensil is donated from the community or paid for out of the station house fund, to which each crew member contributes.”

The fact that our already-tapped community is being relied upon to support essential services is troubling. But the fact that the community can be relied upon is promising. And the more we cultivate Erie's magnanimity, the more people will want to live here.

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## NEWS & VIEWS

### Just a Thought

Taking a cue from autumn



KATIE CHRIEST

**A sunflower, planted by the birds in the author's backyard, catches a September morning's light against a brilliant blue sky. Subtlety is not a sunflower's forte. Thank goodness.**

just want a breather.

Then arrives shining September's magical skies. Even at high noon on a perfectly clear day, autumn's light is soft. Dawn and dusk are less edgy, too. They don't have summer's urgency or propulsion of life forward. It's a relief, really.

We don't exactly live in a culture that values softness, if you hadn't noticed. Or slowness. Or careful, methodical deliberation. Instead, we're hyped up from all directions. From entertainment to elections (if there's still a distinction), the message

is that softness equals weakness and slowness equals stupidity.

About 10 years ago, I saw a TED talk by Carl Honoré, called "In Praise of Slowness." I used to show it to Gannon University students, already exhausted by their resume-building, constantly-connected schedules. Most of them longed to live in a less-pressured world, but couldn't imagine such a thing was feasible. And many, at 19 or 20 years old, were already deeply nostalgic for simpler times.

Honoré explores how we got so rushed, arguing that "speed becomes a way of walling ourselves off from the bigger, deeper questions. We fill our head with distraction, with busyness, so that we don't have to ask, am I well? Am I happy? Are my children growing up right? Are politicians making good decisions on my behalf?"

That last one haunts me, come election season. Of course, the fact that numerous Americans only make time to notice what our elected leaders are

up to once every four years is alarming enough.

So many more of the decisions made by state and local elected officials will have direct, everyday effects on our lives. The quality of our regional air, water, schools, roads, economy – these are being determined each day by officials elected by far too few of us who bothered to get to the polls.

And the reality that countless Americans *have* so little time, since they're working multiple low-wage jobs just to get by, is even more disheartening. But inevitably, many Americans whose lives are devoured by work will vote for the national and local candidates perpetuating the very conditions oppressing them.

Yet online, as accessible as the latest

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**We don't exactly live in a culture that values softness, if you hadn't noticed. Or slowness. Or careful, methodical deliberation. Instead, we're hyped up from all directions. From entertainment to elections (if there's still a distinction), the message is that softness equals weakness and slowness equals stupidity.**

---

on Brangelina, are breakdowns regarding how elected officials actually vote on issues. PennEnvironment, for one, just released an exhaustive document regarding our Pennsylvania officials' environmental priorities.

Also available are resources regarding how "truthy" politicians' statements are, at [politifact.com](http://politifact.com) – an invaluable tool come debate season.

We are all products of a culture addicted to busyness and compulsively filling every waking moment with distractions. But we're also a culture endowed with the responsibility to elect those whose decisions will largely determine the quality of our lives.

Surely, we can find time for that.

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

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## A Day in the Life of an Erie City Firefighter

Running into a blazing building can be 'terrifying,' but some choose to do it, anyway.



T. SUMNER

By: Ti Sumner

Even in this age of transforming autobots and X-wing Starfighters, kids still become excited at the sight of a fire engine. In fact, most adults do, too. As much of the population swoons over the release of iPhone 7 and tech geeks continue their ascent into “cool guy” territory, there remains an undeniable affinity for the big, red truck.

On a humid, 87-degree, full-sun August Friday afternoon, among swelling crowds at Celebrate Erie, I watch as city firefighters of Engine 8 interact with children and adults alike, next to a retired fire truck parked in front of City Hall. Without shade, and wearing navy blue uniforms, the firefighters get no relief from the heat. But as this job goes, if you can't take the heat – which often reaches 1,200 degrees in a burning building – don't don the uniform.

“I rely on the guy next to me,” says Jerry Herrmann, a 12-year veteran, in response to why he runs toward a fire while most people run away. “We're all talking about how hot today is, but when a building is burning, we don't have time to think about that. Each of us has a job to do and that's all we focus on when we arrive at the scene.”

Even during Engine 8's two-hour Celebrate Erie shift, there is the feeling of teamwork. As Herrmann answers one girl's question about riding in the

truck, Trevor Doust, the youngest and newest member of today's crew, helps a young boy climb.

It's fitting for Doust to be the one lifting the children and helping with their seat belts. All morning, the rest of the crew had joked about the pleasure of having such a young crew member to do the “extra” stuff – a role that Doust embraces.

I met Doust at 7:36 a.m. while he washed a set of second-hand silverware he had purchased a few days earlier from a yard sale (he later explained that all the Engine 8 crews had been washing and reusing the same four large spoons for years). He has brightly-colored, well-demarcated tattoos running up both arms and smiles frequently. By 8:05 a.m., Doust has brewed fresh coffee, taken out the garbage, and started cutting carrots and potatoes for the slow-cooker; it's his turn to make dinner and he brought brisket. Within minutes of my arrival to shadow the Engine 8 crew for a 24-hour shift, the firehouse is operating like any other well-structured house.

As the daily schedule goes, each crew member inspects personal and truck equipment upon arrival, usually between 6:45 and 7:15 a.m. Breakfast is at

**As photos on these pages depict, a firefighter's day is rarely ordinary. Firefighters from Erie's Engine 8 firehouse respond to emergencies, educate curious youngsters, and practice, practice, practice.**

7:30, chores at 8, and training at 9 a.m.

If it sounds a bit regimented, it is. It has to be. Every moment, every movement, every article of clothing is planned, prepped, and prioritized to get the crew on the truck and pulling out of the station within one minute. When the call comes in, drop everything and run. Boots, fire pants, suspenders, fire jacket, helmet – forget nothing – in the seat (always the same) belting in, ignition turned, sirens on. One minute.

Greg Purchase, my liaison for the day and the crew's driver, refers to the morning prep as “chaotic organization.”

“Each person has a specific job and is responsible for specific things,” Purchase says. “My job as driver is to inspect the truck when I arrive. If something is missing or out of place, that's my responsibility.”

Brass polished (including the fire pole the crew still uses) and other cleaning done for the day, Purchase pulls the truck onto the drive in front of Station House 8 at 832 East Avenue to begin the day's training with the new hydraulic Hurst equipment (the tool that cuts through a car frame to save occupants after an accident and is otherwise known as the “Jaws of Life”). The truck idles loudly and, as the crew passes the tool, the first call comes in.

The crew grabs their gear and we're off. The captain's job during calls is to communicate with dispatch and di-

rect the route. Capt. Fred Droney rides in the passenger seat while Purchase drives. It's like this every time.

As we ride, I realize for the first time the actual weight and volume of the job. A firefighter's gear weighs 70-90 pounds. And on any given call, a person could be within minutes of critical in-

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**A firefighter's gear weighs 70-90 pounds. And on any given call, a person could be within minutes of critical injury or death. Response time and precision are vital, while carrying nearly 100 extra pounds, and that's all before the bucking force of water hoses capable of throwing water at a level of 100 pounds of pressure.**

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jury or death. Response time and precision are vital, while carrying nearly 100 extra pounds, and that's all before the bucking force of water hoses capable of throwing water at a level of 100 pounds of pressure.

And there's noise. A lot of it. Engine, siren, dispatch radio, air conditioning, and beeping. The trucks are high-tech and when any little thing is off, something beeps or an alarm sounds.



T. SUMNER



TJ SUMNER



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Noise does not decrease at the scene. Buildings do not burn in silence. Once a crew enters a building, other than the mics in their helmets for communication, firefighters can neither see nor hear through the smoke or above the thundering fire. Again, the captain leads, and each firefighter on the team has a job. As Herrmann said, they rely on each other to follow their training. Once inside that building, their lives, as well as anyone else's in the building, depend on the crew's ability to adhere to their tasks and their captain's directions.

"Every call, every fire is different," Droney says. "We go through all this training before we come on the job so we understand the basics of fire and emergency rescue. But when we get a call, we develop the plan on the spot and hopefully it's the right plan. There rarely are redos in emergencies."

We arrive to the emergency site in under four minutes, and Droney, Dust, and Herrmann rush in, equipped with emergency medical supplies capable of maintaining life until paramedics arrive. Visual inspection proves the situation to be non-emergent, but nobody in the house speaks English, and communication initially stalls until a family member joins to interpret. From there, things proceed smoothly. EMS arrives quickly and we load back into the truck and head to the foot of Pennsylvania Avenue for pump practice before lunch.

Shooting water through a hose sounds easy enough; but it's actually a \$20,000, complicated system of multiple hoses and pressure valves, manipulated and maintained by a designated firefighter at the truck's highly complex, state-of-the-art control panel. Shutting down even one hose too quickly can blow out

the pump engine with a sudden release of backpressure. On a 500-gallon truck with 1,300 feet of hose, each of which is capable of pumping 150 gallons of water per minute, this practice is an integral part of the accident preparedness and prevention methods that firefighters follow as a whole.

Once the crew cleans, rolls, and replaces the hoses, we return to the station for lunch, and a call comes in for illegal backyard burning. The crew rakes and douses flames until embers lie dormant and we return to the firehouse to prepare for the Celebrate Erie shift.

Even as Purchase backs into the fire-

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"Every call, every fire is different," Droney says. "We go through all this training before we come on the job so we understand the basics of fire and emergency rescue. But when we get a call, we develop the plan on the spot and hopefully it's the right plan. There rarely are redos in emergencies."

---

house, each crew member performs a specified job: Droney and Herrmann stand at the garage door and at the back of the firehouse parking area, respectively, to cover Purchase's blind spots, while Dust stops East Avenue traffic.

After Celebrate Erie, the crew welcomes Dust's brisket. Throughout the day, there had been many calls; most of which seemed to go to Engine 12 on



## FEATURE

Peach Street. Only two so far for Engine 8.

Other than dispatch, the station is quiet and relaxed after dinner. Herrmann eventually retires to the TV room and Doust pulls out his phone to practice Spanish.

"I don't like to run into language barriers like we did today," he says, tapping a lesson on his phone.

The crew sleeps in one large room on the second floor. It's comfortable, with window air conditioners and cable TV. But these days, the city pays for few things. Every bed, TV, chair, and kitchen utensil is donated from the community or paid for out of the station house fund, to which each crew member contributes.

The crew hopes for a quiet night, and they are rewarded. A car fire erupts in a garage after 1 a.m., requiring the services of multiple engines. Before we reach the Bayfront, dispatch calls us off and we return to the station. We hear Engine 12 called out again.

Doust is the first one up and brewing coffee by 6 a.m., and I am grateful. I did not lug equipment or pull on a single item of extra clothing, yet I'm exhausted. Every dispatch call runs through every firehouse. Perhaps they sleep through the calls better than I do.

"We just never know when or what kind of call we will get," Doust says over his steaming black coffee. "When I started training for this, I was terrified at how many ways there are to get injured. All the safety drills we do, all the precautionary procedures we follow – they're all because somebody got hurt or died doing something in the past."

The approach firefighters take toward emergency and disaster preparedness must work, because according to a 2014 article published in *Time* magazine, firefighting does not even rank in the top 20 most dangerous professions.

As the relief crew arrives, Purchase checks the previous night's logs. Engine 12 went on 24 calls in 24 hours. They must have been awake all night. I can't imagine their exhaustion as they slump into their cars and drive home.

"I love the sound of a firefighter snoring at night," Droney had said the previous day. "It means that all firefighters are accounted for and safe."

For more information on becoming a local firefighter, visit [erie.pa.us/fire/Recruitment.aspx](http://erie.pa.us/fire/Recruitment.aspx). Ti Sumner can be reached at [TSumner@ErieReader.com](mailto:TSumner@ErieReader.com)



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## News of the Weird

Some 'multigrain' bread has a little more protein than you'd like.

By: Chuck Shepherd

### Insanity Defined

Police and prosecutors in Dallas, appropriately sensitive at having been the site of the 1963 killing of President Kennedy, have apparently taken out their shame on assassination buff Robert Groden. As the Dallas Observer reported in September, Groden has been ticketed by police dozens of times for operating book sales booths near the "grassy knoll" (site of the alleged "second shooter" of the president) and yet he prevails in court every single time (82 straight, and counting). (Tip for visitors from the Observer: Never publicly utter "grassy knoll" in Dallas, as it seems particularly to offend the police.) [Dallas Observer, 9-8-2016]

### The Continuing Crisis

Stephen Mader, 25, native of Weirton, West Virginia, and former Weirton police officer, is fighting to get his job back after being fired for not being quick enough on the trigger. When Ronald Williams Jr., in May, made a ham-handed attempt at "suicide by cop," it was Mader who, rather than shooting, tried to talk Williams down (based on his Marine Corps and police academy training), but when Williams pointed his unloaded gun at two of Mader's colleagues, and one of them quickly shot the man to death, police officials fired Mader for having been insufficiently aggressive. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 9-11-2016]

Can't Possibly Be True: Few U.S. forces in Afghanistan speak the native Pashto or Dari, and the war prospects would be dim were it not for coura-

geous Afghan civilians who aid the U.S. as interpreters under promise of protection and future emigration to the U.S. However, the congressional battle over immigration policy has delayed entry for about 10,000 interpreters, who (along with their families) face imminent death if they remain in Afghanistan. Some in Congress also regard Afghans as riskier immigrants (despite the interpreters' demonstrated loyalty). [New York Times, 8-18-2016]

### Suspicious Confirmed

Master baker Stefan Fischer filed a lawsuit recently against Bakery of New York for wrongful firing because he refused to use "bug-infested" flour to make batches of bread. According to Fischer, when he informed management of the bugs in the facility's 3,000-pound flour silo, he was told simply to make "multigrain" bread, which Fischer took to mean that fewer diners would complain if they heard "crunching" while eating multigrain. [New York Daily News, 9-15-2016]

### Leading Economic Indicators

News Corporation Australia reported in September the enviable success of a 16-year-old British entrepreneur, Ms. Beau Jessup, who has so far earned about \$84,000 with a simple online app to help rich Chinese parents select prosperous-sounding English names for their babies. Users choose among 12 personality traits they hope their baby to have, then receive three suggestions (including a list of famous people with those names). Jessup got the idea when living in China and noticing that some babies of the rich were given lame names, such as "Gandalf"

and "Cinderella." [News.com.au (Sydney), 9-9-2016]

Chinese Management Techniques: (1) About 200 employees at a travel service in Shandong Province were fined the equivalent of \$6.50 each recently for failing to comply with orders to "comment" (favorably, one supposes) on the general manager's daily posts to the Twitter-like Internet site Sina Weibo. (2) In June, a motivational trainer working with employees of the Changzhi Zhangze Rural Commercial Bank reportedly told the poor-performing bank personnel (among the 200 at the session) to "prepare to be beaten." He then walked among the workers, whacking some with a stick, shaving the heads of the males and cutting the hair of the females. [Beijing Youth Daily via China Daily, 8-19-2016] [Reuters via The Guardian (London), 6-21-2016]

### Weird Science

Trees talk to each other and recognize their offspring, according to Australian ecology researcher Suzanne Simard (most recently lecturing on the influential video series TED Talks). Trees are not independent organisms but belong to arboreal "families" with characteristics identifying them to other family members. According to Dr. Simard, "mother" trees that ordinarily expand their roots wildly may hold back to give nearby "kinfolk" tree roots a chance to spread. Using "isotope tracing," she learned of trees passing healthful carbon, via fungi, to neighboring family seedlings, which she said renders the seedlings more resistant to future stress. [Treehugger, 7-29-2016] [Daily Telegraph (London), 9-11-2016]

### Can't Stop Myself

The lifelong pickpocket known as "Auntie Sato," 83, who has spent nearly 30 years of her life behind bars, was sentenced again (two years, six months) in August for a purse-snatching from a traveler in Tokyo's Ueno Station. "Why," asked the judge, does Auntie Sato keep at it, especially since she also owns property and has rental income. Said she, "I thought about (stopping)," but "gave up." "It's hopeless." (2) Faisal Shaikh, awaiting his cellphone theft case to be called at the Thane sessions court in Mumbai, India, in August (one of several theft charges pending), wandered up to the court stenographer's desk and swiped her cellphone. He was apprehended shortly afterward near the courthouse. [Japan Today, 8-7-2016] [Mumbai Mirror, 9-1-2016]

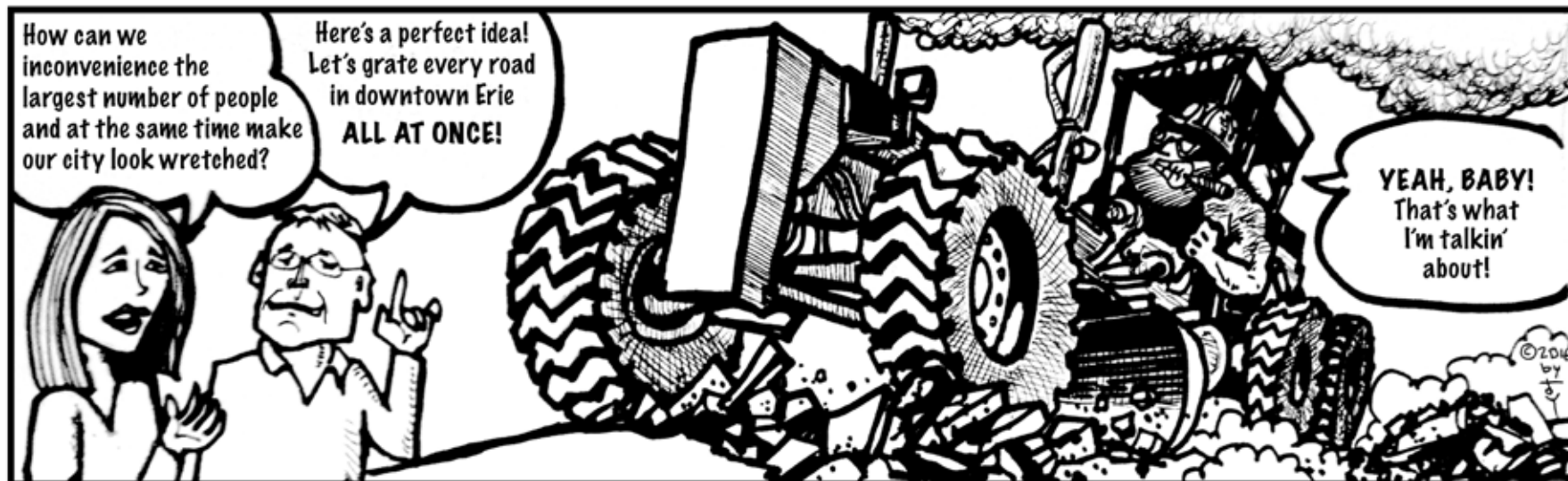
### Oops!

By August, Raymond Mazzarella was befuddled up with the tree in his neighbor's yard in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania, as it was continuously dripping sap onto his car and so grabbed a chainsaw, cut through the 36-inch-wide trunk, and (he thought) fixed the problem. However, the tree fell directly onto Mazzarella's small apartment house, dispossessing five tenants and, ultimately, forcing inspectors to condemn the entire building. [WNEP-TV (Scranton), 8-22-2016]

### Recurring Themes

Popular Fetishes: (1) A middle-aged man was reported in three incidents in the Aberdeen, Scotland, area in August and September to be approaching women and asking for pig-

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## NEWS & VIEWS

gyback rides. He was still at large. (2) In September, England's Derby Crown Court sentenced Sanjeev Sandhu, 29, to six months in jail because of the "extreme" pornography on his phone. One image was of children having sex, but the judge also noted images featuring humans having sex with dogs, a donkey, a bull and in another case, a fish. [Evening Express (Aberdeen), 9-5-2016] [Derby Telegraph, 9-3-2016]

### How to Tell If You're Drunk

Dave Little, 27, vacationing on the Mediterranean island of Ibiza, Spain and partying hard, apparently was at press time still haggling with eBay, trying to get out of his "successful" auction bid (blamed on a fingering misadventure on his phone) of 28,500 British pounds (about \$37,000) for a Scania Irizar Century bus. eBay, of course, warns that bids are legally binding. Little believes that his dad had earlier searched bus information on the phone and that alcohol then affected his own navigation between screens. [Metro News (London) 8-25-2016]

### The Passing Parade

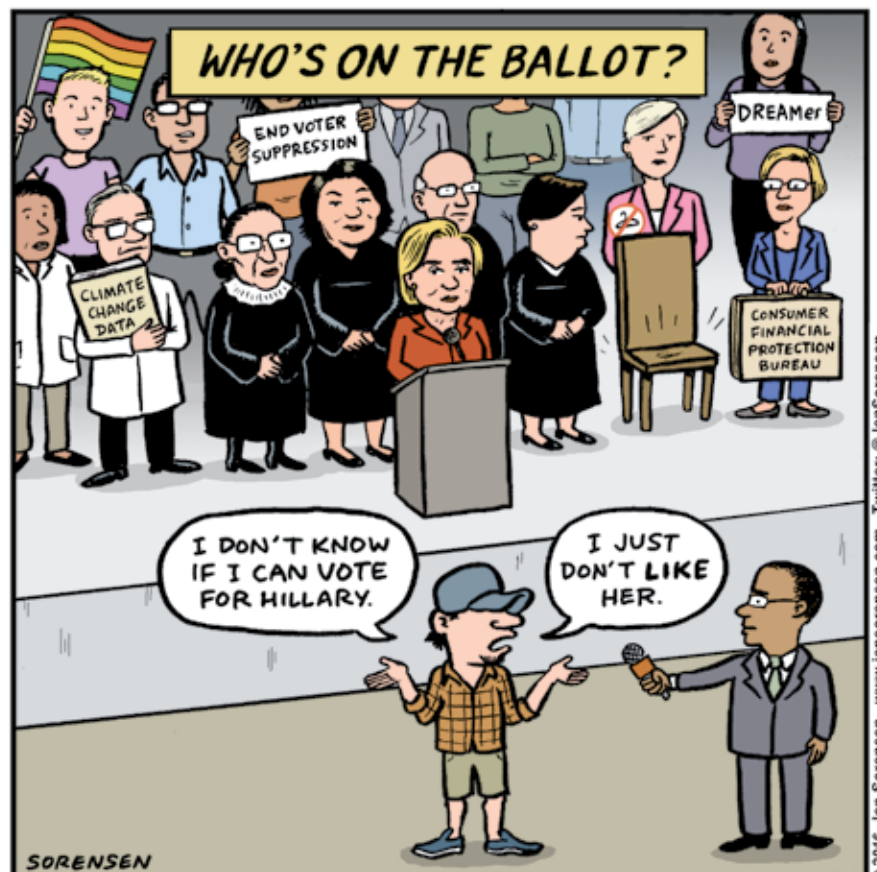
A water line in Hood County, Texas, broke in August, 5 feet below ground on Andrea Adams's property, but Acton Municipal District worker Jimmie Cox, 23, came to the rescue which involved Cox briefly submerging

himself in the mud, face down to his waist, to clamp the line. He said later, "In this line of work, (we) do it a lot." (photo: <http://bit.ly/2bPCtos>) (2) On Sept. 9, a man (who said later he somehow could not stop his car) drove off of a nine-story downtown parking garage in Austin, Texas. The SUV hung upside down (caught only by the garage guide wire that wrapped around one wheel) until passers-by pulled him to safety. (photo: <http://bit.ly/2bYnTcc>) [WFAA-TV (Dallas-Fort Worth), 8-25-2016] [KXAN-TV (Austin), 9-9-2011]

### A News of the Weird Classic (November 2012)

No Do-Overs: By 2009, James Washington believed he had gotten away with a 1995 murder, but then he had a heart attack, and on his deathbed, in a fit of remorse, told a guard in the jailhouse where he was being detained on an unrelated offense, "I have to get (this) off my conscience." However, Washington miraculously recovered from the heart attack and tried to take back his confession, but prosecutors in Nashville, Tennessee, used it to augment sparse evidence from 1995, and in October 2012 the now-healthier Washington was convicted of the murder and sentenced to 51 years in prison. [WSMV-TV (Nashville, Tenn.), 10-31-2012]

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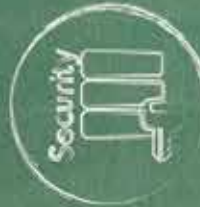
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# Concentrated Poverty in Erie

Fighting for change in our most vulnerable communities



**Emmaus Grove, an urban garden consisting of over 70 raised beds full of fresh vegetables and produce, is the most recent Emmaus Ministries project.**

NICK WARREN

By: Dan Schank

## I. Bad Incentives

I live on the lower west side of Erie, and I like my neighborhood a lot.

I can walk my dogs to Gridley Park in the afternoon, and take a stroll to the Lavery Brewing Company in the evening. If I'm in the mood for an epic sunset, Bayview Park always delivers. If I need to head downtown, I can get there on foot.

I rent an apartment, but I can probably afford to buy one of the handsome, turn-of-the-century structures along Eighth, Ninth, or 10th Street. But when I scroll through the real estate listings on my iPad, investing in nearby property seems dangerous. Homes aren't appreciating in the lower west. Property taxes typically fall between three and four thousand dollars per year. And beside the little apple icon on my Trulia app – in red letters, no less – the schools are listed as “below standard.”

If I head west, I could invest more confidently in the Frontier neighborhood, where home values have plateaued rather than declined,

and where the schools “meet standards.” Or I could travel further, into the sought-out suburbs of Fairview where the schools are “exemplary” and property values are likely to rise.

Don't get me wrong – the problem isn't that I wouldn't be happy in Frontier or Fairview. The problem is that I'm *already happy where I am*. But my local property options make little fiscal sense. And if I had children, I would be facing a genuinely moral dilemma rather than an annoying economic obstacle.

This is an article about the bad incentives we face in Erie, and the people working to overcome them. When the health of our schools relies on the value of our properties, we incentivize flight and punish those who stay put. When trust breaks down between our police and our most vulnerable neighborhoods, crime flourishes and abuses occur. When fear of that crime escalates, foot traffic disappears, businesses fail, and basic needs can't be met.

This is how concentrated poverty escalates.

According to data from *Erie Refocused*, our flawed-but-informative Comprehensive Plan, the city's poverty rate sits at 27 percent. That's 10 percent higher than the average for Erie County. And certain neighborhoods are struggling far more than others. In the East Bayfront, for example, it jumps to 46 percent.

My middle-class housing woes are the least of our problems.

## II. Consolidating Resources Through Community Schools

Let's delve a bit deeper into those troubled schools I mentioned.

If you read the local news, you probably know that our public school system is in trouble. One person who has served as the voice of reason (and exasperation) is Erie schools Superintendent Jay Badams. His increasingly urgent call for greater state funding has attracted national news as we try to iron out solutions to a \$4.3 million budget deficit and a deteriorating infrastructure. I spoke to him

about these problems and how to address them.

According to Badams, “we're spending less than 89 percent of the districts in the commonwealth on our students. And arguably, our students are among the highest in need, based on statistics. We're in the top 3 percent for English language learners, and we're in the top 3 percent for students living in poverty.”

Some small victories have kept our school system from complete collapse, such as the budget that finally passed in May after months of political bickering. Somewhat more encouraging is the state's recently-adopted Fair Funding Formula, which forces our legislators to consider factors like poverty rates and language needs when allotting money to a district. But at the end of the day, “we're looking at a five- to six-year fiscal projection that shows us with a negative fund balance of more than \$50 million,” explains Badams.

One encouraging development is the “community schools” program being piloted at four local elementary and middle schools (Edison, McKinley, Pfeiffer-Burleigh, and Wayne). Conceived in partnership with the United Way of Erie, the model transforms these institutions into neighborhood hubs where local charities, businesses, and citizens can come together to share their services.

Here's how it works: The school district appoints a “lead agency” at each location to bring together the different participating organizations and individuals. The agency then appoints a director to help alleviate some of the burdens placed on our over-

worked school principals. According to Badams, this person assigns two key staff members, “one for social work or mental health services, and another who is responsible for programming outside of the school day – after-school, weekend, and evening activities.”

Accordingly, community schools can stay open longer to provide services that would otherwise necessitate bus rides or car trips, which struggling families often can't afford. Students in need of counseling can attend sessions on site after classes end. Food programs can be expanded throughout the day. Recent immigrants can drop by for language instruction. The elderly can even make use of the gym.

Perhaps best of all, community schools don't require much additional state funding. Instead, key local benefactors, ranging from big companies like General Electric (which will serve as a business partner at Edison) to grassroots organizations like LifeThruMusic, step in to assist the struggling district. For once, Badams is optimistic: “The cost of these services is now completely off of our books, and really *not* reliant on state funding. And that's vital when we have to count every penny and we're coming up short.”

## III. Food Insecurity

As the 2008 financial crisis fades into history, it's not uncommon to assume we're in a period of recovery. For some, that's true. But for the poorest among us, access to good food is only getting worse.

In a July article for *The Atlantic*, journalist Ned Resnikoff looks at USDA data and finds that “approximately 17.4 million homes across the U.S. [are] populated with more

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NICK WARREN

**Knowing firsthand the psychological damage that gun violence can do, City Councilwoman Sonya Arrington has called for a Trauma Task Force to be set up in Erie.**

than 48 million hungry people.” To put those numbers in perspective, household food insecurity was just under 10.9 percent in 2006, but had jumped to 14 percent by 2014.

This places an incredible burden on our charitable organizations. Accordingly, I spoke to the leader of one of ours: Sister Mary Miller, director of Emmaus Ministries. Emmaus Soup Kitchen typically serves over 250 people per month, and Emmaus Food Pantry feeds over 500 families per week. During the school week, they run a Kids Cafe which offers nourishing meals to young people. Their most recent project is Emmaus Grove, an urban garden consisting of over 70 raised beds full of fresh vegetables and produce.

I was surprised to learn that homeless people aren't usually their primary clientele. Miller estimates that approximately 10 percent of the people who frequent their soup kitchens live on the streets. “When you walk in, you'll see people with addictions, you'll see the elderly, you'll see people with mental health issues,” she says. But on the Tuesday prior to our conversation, she also fed about 30 children.

When I ask her about the conditions that create food insecurity, she immediately mentions housing: “If you go to some of the homes where the poor are living and ask what their rent is, you would probably be astounded. People are paying \$600 or \$800 in

rent for what I would call a dump.”

Miller sees systemic problems like low-paying jobs, absentee landlords, and lack of access to a living wage as the main drivers of food insecurity. In an email after our conversation, she mentions growing fear at Emmaus about the pending 17 percent spike in costs from Penelec. When you force people to choose between food and electricity, a lot of people go hungry.

When asked about solutions, her response is multifaceted: “It has to be education, it has to be good-paying jobs, it has to be decent housing, it has to be safe neighborhoods.”

#### IV. Neighborhood Safety

To address our need for safe neighborhoods, I reached out to City Councilwoman Sonya Arrington, who had just returned from an unusual journey on the Monday morning when we spoke.

“I took 15 kids from my program camping,” she says. “I rented a cabin, and I spent from Friday to Sunday afternoon with these kids.” The kids she refers to are the often-troubled youths in her L.E.A.D. (Leadership Empowerment Accountability Diversity) program at the Booker T. Washington Center at 17th and Holland streets. Arrington estimates that 80 percent of the young people are court-appointed – and none of them are seasoned campers.

I asked her to describe a typical

offers a computer lab, job training services, and a music program.

For Arrington, the program “is all about giving back. Because the majority of them have done something to require being in my program.” Recent initiatives like a clean-up effort at the Holland Street playground help her students to take pride in their neighborhoods.

Arrington is fighting for institutional changes as well. She's a strong advocate for reforms to our police department, such as mandatory body cameras and an independent citizens' review board. “The people in the inner city feel like nobody is listening to them,” explains Arrington. “These changes would signal that [our police] do care. And that would bring hope back to our community.”

Gun violence is a top priority for the councilwoman, whose 19-year-old son was shot down outside of a convenience store on Buffalo Road in 2010. Knowing firsthand the psychological damage that gun violence can do, she has called for a Trauma Task Force to be set up in Erie.

“A lot of the things that are going on in our community occur because these young men are traumatized,” Arrington contends. “They have lost siblings, cousins, and best friends to violence. And nobody is asking them if there is anything we can do to help, or if they need somebody to talk to.” Her plan is to offer counseling and therapy services at our com-

munity centers, which are located in the neighborhoods that often need them the most.

As our conversation ends, Arrington notes that “we cannot let our fear keep us from living our lives from day to day.” As I learn more about local efforts to achieve prosperity in Erie, I'm comforted by the number of ordinary people who have refused that very fear.

For example, Sister Mary Miller notes the “tremendous community response” to a serious fire in their soup kitchen last September, which proved essential to rebuilding efforts. Hundreds of people responded to the bad news about our schools with paintbrushes and washcloths at Wilson Middle School and Lincoln Elementary this July, resulting in large-scale, cost-free infrastructural improve-

As our conversation ends, Arrington notes that “we cannot let our fear keep us from living our lives from day to day.” As I learn more about local efforts to achieve prosperity in Erie, I'm comforted by the number of ordinary people who have refused that very fear.

ments. And as “those volunteers are coming in and seeing the state of the schools and understanding the problems, they're becoming advocates,” adds Daria Devlin, our public school district's coordinator of grants and community partnerships.

When our institutions fail, there's a growing number of energized citizens ready to pick up the slack. Let's hope that their inspiring work will pressure our political leadership to stop offering bad incentives – and to focus on issues like education, income inequality, food insecurity, and social justice, instead.

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



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# Spotlight on Erie

September 28 – October 11, 2016

**Thursday, Sept. 29**

## Gannon University's Schuster Theatre presents *Crimes of the Heart*



**C**rimes of the Heart is a play that walks a tightrope between levity and long-faced drama.

But it's obviously a successful trek: Playwright Beth Henley won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for drama for her stage show.

"It's a wonderful mix of seriousness and hilarity, not unlike real life," explained Shawn Clerkin via email. Clerkin, director of theater and an associate professor in Gannon University's School of Communication and the Arts, directs *Crimes*.

"I prefer tragicomedy as a description as it, for me, indicates that the nature of the plot and the predicaments of

Set in contemporary Mississippi during a 24-hour period, *Crimes* revolves around Meg, Lenny, and Babe: the three Magrath sisters. Babe has recently attempted to murder her abusive spouse.

the characters would seem to want to result in a more serious ending," he added. "But there's a sense of Southern poetic justice, not to mention a strong feminine assertion from the playwright, that bolsters and encourages laughter, even at the uncomfortable climax of the play."

Set in contemporary Mississippi during a 24-hour period, *Crimes* revolves around Meg, Lenny, and Babe: the three Magrath sisters. Babe has recently attempted to murder her abusive spouse.

Brought up in a dysfunctional family, their asocial upbringing is reflected in their past and current relationships. How this sorority serves penance for their individual "crimes of the heart" is the heart of the play.

"While it's set in the very real Copiah County of Mississippi, in a very messed-up family, we can all identify with the need to maintain healthy relationships, especially in times of personal and family challenge," summarized Clerkin. "We easily empathize with the heartbreak and hilarity the Magrath sisters endure on this almost unbelievable day."

He added, "This is a touching and funny play that will please audience members in a truly affirming way. If you're looking for repulsion, you'll have to look somewhere else!" – Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

8 p.m. Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 6, 7, and 8; 2 p.m. Oct. 9 // 620 Sassafras St. // For more information, contact the Schuster Theatre Box Office at 871.7494 or visit [gannon.edu/schustertheatre](http://gannon.edu/schustertheatre).

**Friday, Sept. 30.**

## Big Something Rounds Out September at the Kings Rook Club



**T**hey're something, Big Something. Part of the best of the best of the new school of jam, Big Something came up out of the Southeast around 2009, bringing a refreshing, bold sound to the modern music festival scene.

That season's all but over for the year now, but Big Something still has a lot to give – and they're bringing it (two hefty sets-worth of it) to the Kings Rook Club on Friday, Sept. 30.

Like many of their contemporaries, Big Something has a sound that takes the listener along for one hell of a fun ride, and a two-set Friday night in Erie is sure to be an adventure beyond easy description.

It's shaping up to be another good week for live music in the Gem City. – Ryan Smith

9 p.m. // 1921 Peach St. // [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub)

**Friday, Oct. 7**

## Celebrate Fall with a D'lightful Pumpkin Walk



**T**his Halloween display promises to d'light viewers.

Erie's fifth annual Pumpkin D'Light Night Walking Tour will now be held for two consecutive nights at Headquarters Park.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8, you can attend this family-friendly pumpkin walk that includes nearly 1,000 locally-carved pumpkins set up on a mile-long trail. The pumpkins are carved by local preschool and elementary school students, senior home residents, and by others in places like the Erie Zoo.

Each year, the event attracts 3,000 to 4,000 visitors. Co-chairperson Patty Dicks calls the night "magical."

Attendees should allow half an hour to walk through. But all are welcome to proceed at their own pace, taking more time to enjoy the jack-o-lanterns if they

Pumpkin D'Light Night serves as a major fundraiser for the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Erie County. It began after one member, Beth Hardy, attended a similar walk in Connecticut.

wish. In addition to the walk, there will be a display with jack-o-lanterns flashing in time to music provided by a team of students and teachers from Central Tech High School. The event will also offer a corn maze and other activities.

Pumpkin D'Light Night serves as a major fundraiser for the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Erie County. It began after one member, Beth Hardy, attended a similar walk in Connecticut.

Entrance costs \$3 for adults (age 12 and older), \$2 for children (age three

to 11), and is free for anyone under two years old. Visitors may want to bring a flashlight. Dogs are not allowed. – Tracy Geibel

6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8 // 1927 Wager Rd. // [facebook.com/events/941409309318344/](http://facebook.com/events/941409309318344/)

**Saturday, Oct. 8**

## Peek'n Peak's Fall Fest Fills the Summer Festival Void



**I**f you're already missing the many outdoor concerts and weekend festivals Erie offers residents throughout the summer months, Peek'n Peak Resort's annual Fall Fest may be just what you're looking for. Set in the foothills of western New York, the resort is the ideal location for a family fun day trip.

Spanning the two weekends of Oct. 8-9 and 15-16, Fall Fest is geared as a family-friendly event, with activities running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Both weekends will feature a farmers market and more than 130 vendors offering everything from crafts to hand-made jewelry and food.

The first weekend features The Mutley Crew Frisbee Dogs, a dog adoption day with the Anna Shelter, and the 19th Annual Car Show to benefit Erie Shriener's Hospital for Children. Jungle Terry's Wildlife Adventure, a Jam Format Rail Jam, magic shows, carriage rides, and a petting zoo represent just a few of the many festivities available both weekends.

Those who participate in Peek'n Peak's cold weather activities will be happy to see the return of the Snow-Sports Equipment Swap. Both new and slightly worn apparel can be purchased through vendors in the main ski lodge during Fall Fest hours both weekends. In addition, all resort season passes will be available at a discounted price.

Fall Fest has become much more than just an exploding pumpkin of a good time. Go for the foliage or go for the food. You may even return home with

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## CALENDAR

one more family member of the four-legged canine type. – Ti Sumner

10 a. m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8-9 and 15-16 // Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Old Rd., Clymer, NY // 716.355.4141 // Complete Fall Fest schedule at [pknpkfallfest.com/fall-fest](http://pknpkfallfest.com/fall-fest)

### Monday, Oct. 10

#### Cure Your Case of the Mondays with Marbin



“Two guys from Israel and two from Chicago playing really fast. Guitar, bass, and a tiny saxophone.” Or, even just “Marvin with a b.”

Those are straight-ahead self-descriptions for Marbin, an instrumental prog/jazz/rock outfit that is, in actuality, all over the place – beautifully, and deftly so.

The Chicago-based band is hard-working, and its do-it-yourself ethos has landed its incredibly talented members shows in more than 1,000 locales over the past six years or so. That's made for a lot of fans: They've sold more than 20,000 albums, too. And there was that one month about a year ago when a couple of their videos got over 1.5 million hits on Youtube.

Now, suppose you're a real music-head. Now, suppose these guys are coming to Erie.

Suppose you'd best not miss this. Marbin will be bending all sorts of sound barriers – and local prog-jam favorites GNOSIS (along with another band to be announced) – will be joining in the fantastic voyage at Basement Transmissions on Monday, Oct. 10.

That really ought to get your head (and the rest of you) in the right place for the rest of the work week. – Ryan Smith

6 p.m. // 145 W. 11th St. // [facebook.com/basement.transmissions](http://facebook.com/basement.transmissions)

### MUSIC

#### Colony Pub Trio

Sept. 29 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
 Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

#### Rodger Montgomery

Sept. 30 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
 Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22043 US Hwy 6 & 19 sleepingchainsaw.com.

#### The Groove

Sept. 30 — 9 p.m.  
 Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

#### Big Something and Smackdab

Sept. 30 — 9 p.m. to midnight  
 Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### The Riffriders

Sept. 30 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
 LastShot Erie, 3064 W. 12th St. [facebook.com/TheRiffridersBand](http://facebook.com/TheRiffridersBand).

#### Super Vana: The Ultimate Nirvana Tribute

Sept. 30 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

#### SaS Acoustics

Oct. 1 — 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

#### Crawl

Oct. 1 — 9 p.m.  
 Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/events/1141304365927995](http://facebook.com/events/1141304365927995).

#### Storms Within

Oct. 1 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. [facebook.com/StormsWithin](http://facebook.com/StormsWithin).

#### Special Guest, Haewa, Zeno's Paradox

Oct. 1 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### Rankin & Schell

Oct. 2 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
 Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com).

#### Sing-alongs with Lori Burke

Oct. 3 & Nov. 7, 28 — 10 to 10:30 a.m.  
 Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

#### D'Angelo Department of Music: Faculty Recital Series

Oct. 5 — 8 p.m.  
 Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu).

#### Tony Grey & Ian Maciak: Galactic Duo

Oct. 7 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### Buffalo X Erie Hip-Hop Showcase

Oct. 8 — 6 to 11 p.m.

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

#### The Vendettas

Oct. 8 — 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.  
 South Erie Turners, 2663 Peach St. [facebook.com/thevendettaserie](http://facebook.com/thevendettaserie).

#### After Funk and Before the Other Time Before

Oct. 8 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
 Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### Mark Beery & Jack Belczyk

Oct. 9 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
 Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com).

#### Marbin and Gnosis

Oct. 10 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
 Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. [basementtransmissions.com](http://basementtransmissions.com).

#### Ken Johnston in Recital

Oct. 10 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
 Blasco Library, 160 E. Front St. [eriephil.org](http://eriephil.org).

### DANCE

#### Doo Wop Dances

Sept. 28 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
 LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

#### Dancing Wheels Company

Oct. 7 — 7:30 p.m.  
 Mary D'Angelo Performing



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# Healthy Smiles




## Saturday, October 1

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
(Registration begins at 8 a.m.)

LECOM School of Dental Medicine presents Healthy Smiles, a program designed to provide **FREE** necessary dental services for children ages 2-17 (accompanied by a parent/guardian). All children will receive a dental screening, and cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants will be given as needed.

**If you have any questions, please call  
(814) 868-1001**

Patients will be seen on a **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE** basis at the LECOM School of Dental Medicine Dental Offices. This is a one time event and will not establish any child as a patient of record at LECOM School of Dental Medicine. All children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to receive dental treatments.

This event has been organized with help from members of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA).

The LECOM Dental Offices are a community outreach service of the LECOM School of Dental Medicine located in Bradenton, FL.



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**How-to Use Retargeting to Increase Holiday Sales**

September 29, 2016 | Location TBA | Erie

**Search Engine Optimization Basics: Learn the Fundamentals of SEO**

October 11, 2016, 9am-Noon | Room 222, 5451 Merwin Lane in Knowledge Park, Erie

**Getting Started with Google Analytics**

October 20, 2016, 9am-1pm | eCenter @ Linden Pointe, Hermitage, PA

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**NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

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## Double-down on De Palma at the Erie Art Museum

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28 AND WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9



Brian De Palma might not be the greatest of the “New Hollywood” directors who arrived on the scene in the 1970s, or the most popular – but he’s almost certainly the *strangest*.

To be fair, Martin Scorsese has made some strange movies (his underrated *King of Comedy* comes to mind) and Steven Spielberg’s *A.I.* is pretty weird, but De Palma’s lexicon of disturbed killers, split-scene camera theatrics, and left-field plot twists puts him in a bizarre category all his own.

Witness the insane final act

of *Carrie* if you don’t believe me. Or dig a bit deeper and consider the oddball identity politics of *Hi, Mom!* (one of the most bizarre films of the already-very-bizarre 1960s). Even *Scarface* is pretty weird, once you set aside the dorm-room posters it inspired and see it for the crazed satire that it is.

On Sept. 28, you’ll have an opportunity to hear from the man himself at the Erie Art Museum. *De Palma*, Noah Baumbach and Jake Paltrow’s 2015 documentary, is – true to its name – a 110-minute conversation with

the eccentric director.

In the film, De Palma seems totally at ease with the filmmakers as well as his reputation. He’s incredibly generous with his own insights, regrets, achievements, and accomplishments – appearing friendly,

If *De Palma’s* trip down memory lane whets your appetite, come back to the museum for one of his most underrated movies a week later. 1981’s *Blow Out* is exactly the sort of low-key, introspective crime drama that makes the scene he emerged from so special.

arrogant, insightful, and occasionally sexist all at once.

If the film’s trip down memory lane whets your appetite, come back to the museum for one of

his most underrated movies a week later. 1981’s *Blow Out* is exactly the sort of low-key, introspective crime drama that makes the scene he emerged from so special. With a style that calls to mind *The Conversation*, Francis Ford Coppola’s masterful follow-up to *The Godfather*, the film offers a somber reflection on the ethics of filmmaking during an era of oppressive political disillusionment. And John Travolta is surprisingly good in it!

De Palma has never enjoyed the reverence afforded to Scorsese or Coppola – and he’s never endured the wrath that’s been directed at George Lucas, either. These two films bring his unique vision back into the spotlight. – Dan Schank

De Palma screens Wednesday, Sept. 28, *Blow Out* screens on Wednesday, Oct. 9 // Both films at 7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. // [erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html](http://erieartmuseum.org/events/film.html)



Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu).

### FOOD & DRINK

#### Walk the Shops

Sept. 29 — 5:30 to 8 p.m.  
*Presque Isle Wine Cellars at the Colony, 2658 W. 8th St. [piwine.com](http://piwine.com).*

#### Oktoberfest

Sept. 30 — 6 to 10 p.m.  
*The Brewery at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. [brewerie.com](http://brewerie.com).*

#### Uncork a Cure

Oct. 1 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
*Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [lakeeriewinecountry.org](http://lakeeriewinecountry.org).*

#### Winemaker’s Dinner

Oct. 2, 7 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
*Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com).*

#### Complimentary Wine Tasting

Oct. 6 — 3 to 5 p.m.  
*Bello’s Market at the Colony, 2650 W. 8th St. [piwine.com](http://piwine.com).*

#### Veg-Out, Canning and Preserving

Oct. 7 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
*Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St. [theerievegsociety.org](http://theerievegsociety.org).*

### FILM

#### Robots Movie

Ongoing through Sept. 30 — 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).*

#### Mysteries of the Great Lakes

Ongoing through Sept. 30 — 1 p.m.

*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).*

#### D-Day: Normandy 1944 Movie

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

*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).*

#### Journey to Space

Ongoing through Oct. 31 — 2 & 5 p.m.

*Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [trepci.org](http://trepci.org).*

#### De Palma

Sept. 28 — 7 p.m.  
*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### Rocky Horror Picture

#### Show (1975)

Sept. 30 — 8 p.m. & midnight

*Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).*

#### Blow Out

Oct. 5 — 7 p.m.

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### The Danish Girl

Oct. 6 — 8:30 to 11 p.m.

*Edinboro University Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd. [facebook.com/edinborofilmseries](http://facebook.com/edinborofilmseries).*

#### Eerie Horror Film Fest

Oct. 7, 8, 9

*Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [eeriehorrorfilmfestival.com](http://eeriehorrorfilmfestival.com).*

#### Trafficant: The Congressman of Crimtown (2015)

Oct. 7, 8 — 8 p.m.

*Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. [facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse](http://facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse).*

#### The Met: Live in HD Tristan und Isolde

Oct. 8 — noon

*Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. [miac.mercyhurst.edu](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu).*

#### Time to Choose

Oct. 12 — 7 p.m.

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Just the Blues by Joyce Perowicz

Ongoing through Oct. 4

*Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. [glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).*

#### Henry Katzwinkel

Ongoing through Oct. 17

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### One Hundred Twelve Miles

Ongoing through Oct. 22

*Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St. [brucegallery.info](http://brucegallery.info).*

#### Faculty Exhibition

Ongoing through Oct. 25

*Allegheny College Doane Hall of Art, 520 N. Main St. [allegheny.edu](http://allegheny.edu).*

#### A Homecoming, Works on Paper by Marie Spaeder Haas

Ongoing through Nov. 3

*Gannon University Center for Communication and the Arts,*

*700 Peach St. [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).*

#### InnovationErie Competition 2016

Ongoing through Nov. 13

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### I Think I Found It Upside Down by Dietrich Wegner

Ongoing through Nov. 20

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### Dark Garden

Ongoing through Jan 8, 2017

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### Jose Picayo Polaroids: A Retrospective

Ongoing through Jan. 8, 2017

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### Mood Swing Review: A solo exhibition by Ron Bayuzick

Ongoing through Feb. 11, 2017

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

#### Neil Donovan & John Vahanian Wood and Mixed Media Sculpture

Oct. 7 through Nov. 15

*Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th*

*St. [glassgrowersgallery.com](http://glassgrowersgallery.com).*

#### Second Sundays

Oct. 9 — 2 to 4 p.m.

*Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).*

### THEATRE

#### Ragtime

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

*Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. [erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org).*

#### Rollercoaster

Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 2 — 2:30 p.m.

*Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).*

#### Crimes of the Heart

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

*Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).*

#### 27th Annual Medieval Feast

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 & Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Nov. 6, 13 — 2:30 p.m.

*Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. [theriversideinn.com](http://theriversideinn.com).*

#### A Canterbury Feast

# The Rocky Horror Show

Don't just dream it. Be it!

OCTOBER 7 TO 29



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PACA will present Rocky Horror for the second year in a row. Come armed with glitter, naughtiness, a costume or two, and the willingness to get in on the action.**

out. Incidentally, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is the film which came out in 1975. *The Rocky Horror Show* play originally hit London's Royal Court Theatre in June of 1973.

As for the esteemed cast at PACA, most are last year's repeat offenders, except for those playing Janet Weiss and Eddie. Janet will be played by Earl Kunsman, who is four-foot-nine and per-

forms as a Sweet Transvestite under the name Vicky Bendme. He "has the ring to prove he's no joker" both onstage and off: In real life, Bendme – aka Kunsman – is engaged to fellow cast member Chris Gaertner, who will be playing Brad Majors.

Janet is not the only character whose gender is bent, as Brit Soule reprises her role as Dr. Frank-Furter. So there's a woman playing a man playing a woman, who's really – *spoiler alert* – an alien from the planet Transsexual in the galaxy of Transylvania.

The role of Eddie will be played by a rotation of local talent: local bluesman Ron

Yarosz (of Ron Yarosz and the Vehicle) and jazz/folk loop-master Justin Moyer will drop in, and "Matty B" (Matt Boland, frontman of Matty B and the Dirty Pickles) will reprise his role for just one week-end.

Last and certainly not least, the Narrator is played by Jerry Brace, who is also co-directing *Rocky Horror* with PACA's Mark Tanenbaum. Brace estimates that by the time the show closes in October, he will have performed the role a total of 86 times. He was first cast as the Narrator in the mid-90s, in a Roadhouse Theatre production. "It was fast, funny, edgy, and sexy," he says of the gig.

So what does this Narrator do, exactly? Brace explains: "The premise is that the Narrator, a criminologist, has accumulated evidence and testimony from survivors of a past event. As he tells the story, it unfolds as a series of recollections: 'Two young ordinary, healthy kids ... cross-dressing transsexuals from another planet ... sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll.'" He adds, "The fun part is that many in the audience already know the story and heckle the daylights out of [the Narrator] ... in good fun, of course."

So naturally, there's plenty of audience "partici.....(say it!!!).....pation" at *Rocky Horror* performances. This tradition dates back to shortly after *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* film release when a cult following emerged. Crowds at the Waverly Theatre in New York City began to interact with the film, starting with the first instance of a moviegoer bellowing "Buy an umbrella, you cheap bitch!" as Janet put a newspaper over her head. Eventually, props and other running commentary came into play. For

instance, another audience prop often handed out is "cards for sorrow, cards for pain" inspired by the song "I'm Going Home."

Brace feels that his role provides the "ideal" spot from which to direct *Rocky Horror*, and he is excited about the "really talented blend of new and seasoned actors and musicians" who have come together to make this show sparkle in the highest of high heels. These musi-

The tradition of audience participation dates back to shortly after *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* film release when a cult following emerged. Crowds at the Waverly Theatre in New York City began to interact with the film.

cally-inclined "creatures of the night" providing the utmost in sonic accompaniment include Nick Warren (bass), Pete Gool (guitar), Morgan Brace (drums, and Jerry's son), and bandleader Graham Scott (piano).

Brace adds, "All I have to do is bring it all together and make sure the entertainment value stays as high as the energy level."

And you naughty, naughty people just have to show up. With plenty of glam, naturally. – Miriam Lamey

8 p.m. Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, and 30; plus midnight shows on Oct. 15, 22, and 29 // 1505 State St. // 434.0687 // [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com)

If you like your rock with a touch of glam, a swagger like Marc Bolan's and a velvety voice – plus a sultry stage presence – then you, my friend, are the perfect audience participant for *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Erie's own Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA) will present *Rocky Horror* for the second year in a row. Come armed with glitter, naughtiness, a costume or two (no outside props, please; they're available for a small fee at the venue), and the willingness to get in on the action. This year, additional shows have been added due to popular demand; last year's run was entirely sold

Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 11, 18 — 7 p.m. & Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 12, 19 — 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 2, 23 & Nov. 6, 13 — 2:30 p.m.  
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. [canterburyfeast.com](http://canterburyfeast.com).

**August: Osage County**  
Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 2, 9, 16 — 3 p.m.  
All An Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. [allanact.net](http://allanact.net).

**Legends of Broadway**  
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](http://canterburyfeast.com).

**The Rocky Horror Show**  
Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 — 8 p.m. & Oct. 15, 22, 29 — midnight  
PACA, 1505 State St. [paca1505.com](http://paca1505.com).

**COMMUNITY**  
**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](http://asburywoods.org).

**Tots in Nature Classes:**

**Where the Sidewalk Ends**  
Ongoing through Oct. 5 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://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](http://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](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

**Harvest Fest**  
Ongoing through Oct. 31  
Port Farms, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd. [portfarms.com](http://portfarms.com).

**Fun with Ham Radio**  
Sept. 28 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Bowling for Fun**  
Sept. 28 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Farmers Market**  
Sept. 28 — 3 to 6 p.m.

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

**Great Britain Alone: June 1940 to June 1941**  
Sept. 28 — 4 to 6 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**The 2016 Presidential Election**  
Sept. 28 — 6 p.m.  
Women's Club of Erie, 259 W. 6th St. [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).

**Wine Glass Painting**  
Sept. 28 — 6 p.m.  
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. [arundelcellars.com](http://arundelcellars.com).

**Fall Walking Program**  
Sept. 29 — 8:30 to 9 a.m.  
Liberty Park, Lawrence Pier [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

**Intro to Laptops**  
Sept. 29 & Oct. 18 & Dec. 10 — 9 a.m. to noon  
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

**"Ledge": New and Selected Poems**  
Sept. 29 — 9:30 a.m.  
Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. [edinboro.edu](http://edinboro.edu).

**Wise Words for**



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Erie Arts & Culture

PHOTO CREDIT: DANNY JONES;  
2016 BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL

**Kings Rook Club**

**\*\* FRI 30**  
SEPT  
**BIG SOMETHING**  
DOWNSTAIRS CONCERT COMPLEX  
UPSTAIRS LOUNGE SMACKDAB

**\*\* SAT 15**  
OCT  
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WITH ALYSSA  
FRI 09/30  
BIG SOMETHING  
[DOWNSTAIRS]  
SMACKDAB  
[UPSTAIRS]  
SAT 10/01  
SPECIAL GUEST  
+ HAEWA  
+ ZENO'S PARADOX  
[FREE]

FRI 10/07  
TONY GREY  
& IAN MACIAK  
GALACTIC DUO  
[FREE]

SAT 10/08  
AFTER FUNK  
+ BEFORE THE OTHER TIME BEFORE  
[FREE]

FRI 10/14  
RIVERS  
[FREE]

SAT 10/15  
JIMKATA  
+ PALADIN  
[DOWNSTAIRS]  
WEAZILDUST  
[UPSTAIRS]

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- OCT. 15 • 16 MODEL FOR MARRIAGE PT 3
- OCT. 22 • 23 MODEL FOR MARRIAGE PT 4
- OCT. 29 • 30 WHAT'S A KID TO DO?
- NOV. 5 • 6 HOW TO PARENT WELL
- NOV. 12 • 13 THE BIBLE & SLAVERY
- NOV. 19 • 20 TAKE IT TO WORK PT 1
- NOV. 26 • 27 TAKE IT TO WORK PT 2

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- DEC. 10 • 11 PART 2: FALL
- DEC. 17 • 18 PART 3: REDEMPTION
- DEC. 23 • 24 PART 4: CELEBRATION

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Sun. 9 & 11 am

**Union City**  
16 Market St.  
Sun. 9 & 11 am



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**Knowledge Park:  
Erie's Innovation District**



**September 29 at 8pm  
on WQLN-TV 54.1  
and streaming live  
at WQLN.org**



**September 30 at 9pm  
on WQLN-TV 54.1**

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**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

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County Executive, Erie County

**The Honorable Joseph Sinnott**  
Mayor, City of Erie

**The Honorable Sean Wiley**  
State Senator, 49th District of PA

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## Nimble Dancers Spin a Fantasy

Dancing Wheels bring a world premiere to Mercyhurst.

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

**D**ancers gift us with human bodies that curve in magnificent ways, creating expression, evoking emotions good and bad, inspiring awe. Dancing

Wheels, now in its 36th year, will prove these and more when it performs at Mercyhurst University on Friday, Oct. 7. Tantalizingly, it brings a new package to be unwrapped.

Started by Mary Verdi-Fletcher in 1980, Dancing Wheels has been the flagship company integrating dancers with and without disabilities. Erie has been fortunate to experience several visits by the Cleveland-based company, but none have been fully-staged presentations.

On this outing, the company is mounting a comprehensive performance with three pieces. Unlucky for Cleveland, but great for us, the company will premiere *Labyrinth: A Tribute*, based on the 1986 film by Jim Henson and Dennis Lee. Slated to be premiered in August at an outdoor venue, "the performance had to be cancelled due to weather-related power outages," says Sara Lawrence-Sucato, tour manager and company member.

In *Labyrinth*, a 16-year-old girl is required to navigate a fantasy world to reclaim her baby brother who has been snatched

by the Goblin King. The work features music by David Bowie, Trevor Jones, and Javier Navarrete, and the choreography of Dezaré Foster.

The company is eager to stage *Labyrinth*, especially Law-

this performance."

Dancing Wheels will also perform *Wall of Glass*, from 2009, with choreography by Lisa K. Lock, and an excerpt from the 2012 work *Anomalies*, choreographed by Mark Tomasic and featuring the music of David Karagianis and Polygon Window.

On stage with Lawrence-Sucato will also be Mercyhurst alums Kelly Clymer and Emily Schwartzing.

"Mercyhurst does such a great job of bringing in entertaining, innovative, and informative performances," offered Lawrence-Sucato. "I had wanted Dancing Wheels to be presented by the university ever since I graduated 10 years ago."

This should be a beautiful present to unwrap. — Mary Birdsong

7:30 p.m. // Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. // Adults \$20, Seniors \$15 Students/Youth \$10 // 824.3000 // [miac.mercyhurst.edu/box-office/](http://miac.mercyhurst.edu/box-office/)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Started by Mary Verdi-Fletcher in 1980, Cleveland-based Dancing Wheels has been the flagship company integrating dancers with and without disabilities.**

### Wellness: Questions for the Pharmacist

Sept. 29 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Transgender 101

Sept. 29 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### American Short Stories

Sept. 29 & Oct. 6, 13 — 4 to 6:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Historic Sixth Street Walking Tour

Sept. 29 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Watson Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St. [eriehistory.com](http://eriehistory.com).

### Light the Night Walk

Sept. 29 — 5:30 to 9 p.m.  
Jerry Uht Park, 110 E. 10th St. [lightthenight.org/wpa](http://lightthenight.org/wpa).

### Acrylic Painted Rock Mandalas

Sept. 29 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

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

### Paint & Rock

Sept. 29 — 8 to 10 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### Objection Your Honor! Erie County Courthouse Tour

Sept. 30 — 10:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Chris Kattan

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.  
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. [jrslastlaugh.net](http://jrslastlaugh.net).

### Erie Canal Genealogy: The Peopling of Upstate New York and the Midwest

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

### Richard Rodriguez: Professing Faith in a Post-9/11 World

Sept. 29 — 7 p.m.  
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. [mercyhurst.edu](http://mercyhurst.edu).

### Bear Scout Activity Day

Oct. 1 — 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### Robot Olympics Class: Grades 4 - 7

Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

### 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Celebration

Oct. 1, 2, 8, 9 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Mount Pleasant, 14510 Mt. Pleasant Rd. [skimountpleasant.com](http://skimountpleasant.com).

### Minecraft Play Mods: Grades 2 - 4

Oct. 1 — 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

### Excel II

Oct. 1 & Dec. 13 — 9 a.m. to noon & Nov. 10 — 5 to 8 p.m.  
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Storytime Saturdays

Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 11 to 11:30 a.m.  
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. [facebook.com/Erie.BN](http://facebook.com/Erie.BN).

### LEGO Animation Class: Grades 2 - 6

Oct. 1 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

### Scratch Programming 1 Class: Grades 4 - 7

Oct. 1 — 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. [boxoflight.org](http://boxoflight.org).

### Curious George Costume Character Storytime

Oct. 1 — 11:30 a.m. to noon  
Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. [facebook.com/Erie.BN](http://facebook.com/Erie.BN).

### Idea Share

Oct. 1 & Nov. 5 & Dec. 3 — 1 to 2 p.m.  
Peninsula Room Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Presque Isle Poker Pedal

Oct. 1 — 2:15 p.m.

Beach 1 Pavilion Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [discoverpi.com](http://discoverpi.com).

### Blasco Writer's Group

Oct. 1, 15 — 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Room 219 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Erie Otters vs. Kingston

Oct. 1 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

### Blessing of Animals

Oct. 2 — 3 to 5 p.m.  
The Cathedral of St. Paul, 134 W. 7th St. [cathedralofstpaul.org](http://cathedralofstpaul.org).

### Six Works of Western Art Every Educated Person Should Know Today

Oct. 3 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Publisher

Oct. 4 & Nov. 5 — 9 a.m. to noon  
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Nordic Walking

Oct. 4 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

### A Chorus Line

Oct. 4 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### Great Books: Seven Deadly Sins

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Examining Implications with Online Voting in the U.S.

Oct. 4 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### Great Books Ongoing Class

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

### DIY Fabric Art

Oct. 4 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

## A Windfall of Comedy at Jr's this Autumn

Here are three good opportunities to lighten up as the nights grow longer.

By: Matt Swanseger

Q: How does a quack artist lead off a preview article?

A: With an *introduction*.

Are you not entertained? Before you sentence this author (or your own private court jester) to the gallows or mount his head on the Popsicle stick from whence his dad jokes came, remember there is a more humane alternative – Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club and Restaurant, where the 2016-17 season is in full swing. Surely you'll be more inclined to clemency after spending an evening with the professional comedians touring this fall.

**Friday Sept. 30 & Saturday Oct. 1: Chris Kattan**



Most fans of *Saturday Night Live* will recognize Chris Kattan. If not, fire up Haddaway's "What Is Love" and see whether it doesn't trigger instantaneous head-bobbing or involuntary hip-thrusting. The longtime cast member rose to

fame in the mid-90s along with fellow L.A. comedy veteran Will Ferrell, playing a hand in creating some of the show's more memorable characters. Perhaps his most prominent role came in *A Night at the Roxbury*, where he and Ferrell starred as overconfident nightclubbers Doug and Steve Butabi, who were often booted from venues for gyrating against other patrons – and for general obnoxiousness.

Additional popular characters Kattan portrayed include the half-monkey/half-man Mr. Peepers, the babbling Suel Forrester, Goth Talk co-host Azrael Abyss, and the vaguely Hispanic male exotic dancer and expert seducer Mango. He will reprise these roles and more while sharing his experiences from SNL and beyond during his two sets both Friday and Saturday.

6:45 p.m. or 9:40 p.m. // 1402 State St. // jrslastlaugh.net // 461.0911 // \$20

**Thursday, Oct 6: Robert Kelly**

Bob Kelly rose to fame in the mid-2000s, cresting on the same wave that carried friend and fellow Bostonian Dane Cook to Myspace-era superstardom. His material is unapologetically blunt, cynical, and self-flagellating. His delivery is loaded with enough F-bombs to carpet the Eastern seaboard. He holds little back in discussing his insecurities, which some will find uncomfortably off-putting and others will find refreshingly candid, depending on how much information you consider to be TMI.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kelly is a regular guest on the XM satellite radio program *Opie and Anthony*, and has made numerous cameos on television (*Law and Order: SVU*, *Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn*, *Louie*), in cinema (*Good Luck Chuck*, *Ghost Town*), and in video games (*Grand Theft Auto IV* and *V*). He has released four comedy albums,

Robert Kelly holds little back in discussing his insecurities, which some will find uncomfortably off-putting and others will find refreshingly candid, depending on how much information you consider to be TMI.

the latest being 2015's *Robert Kelly: Live at the Underground*. You'll have only one chance to see him aboveground at Jr's, so get your tickets now.

7 p.m. // 1402 State St. // jrslastlaugh.net // 461.0911 // \$20

**Friday, Oct. 7 & Saturday Oct. 8: Monroe Martin III**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It is said that experience is the best teacher, and Monroe Martin's experiences have taught him how to transfigure less-than-ideal circumstances into effective comedy. Martin's father was incarcerated and his mother was not exactly a role model either, which meant a childhood spent bouncing between foster homes and dysfunctional environments. Martin is a natural storyteller with a gift for conveying the humor and irony in awkward or unfortunate situations. Every downer is just more fodder for this up-and-comer.

6:45 p.m. or 9:40 p.m. // 1402 State St. // jrslastlaugh.net // 461.0911 // \$20

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

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

**Manufacturing Day**

Oct. 5 — 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriemfgday.com.

**Learn Computer Coding**

Oct. 5 — 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

**Haunted History Tours**

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 & Nov. 2 — 7:30 p.m. & Oct. 21, 28 — 7 & 9:30 p.m.  
The Brewery at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. brewery.com.

**Electability**

Oct. 6 — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Edinboro University Diebold Center for the Performing Arts, 217 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

**Geriatric Social Workers Association Senior Forum**

Oct. 6 — 2 to 4 p.m.  
Admiral Room Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

**American Heart Association Heartwalk**

Oct. 6 — 4 to 7 p.m.  
Liberty Park, 726 W. Bayfront Pkwy. heart.org.

**Robert Kelly and Stavros Halkias**

Oct. 6 — 7 p.m.  
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

**Bats: Myths and Legends**

Oct. 6 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

**SCOTTtalk**

Oct. 6 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

**100% Raw Powerlifting Event**

Oct. 7, 8, 9  
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

**Lakewood Book Sale**

Oct. 7 — noon to 8 p.m. & Oct. 8 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Lakewood United Methodist Church, 3856 W. 10th St. lakewooderie.org.

**Minecraft Play Maps: Grades 5 - 7**

Oct. 7 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

**Pumpkin D'Light Night**

Oct. 7, 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Headwaters Park, 1927 Wager Rd. facebook.com/eriepumpkinwalk.

eriepumpkinwalk.

**Scary Creature Feature**

Oct. 7, 8 — 6:30 p.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

**Monroe Martin**

Oct. 7, 8 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.  
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

**Erie Otters vs. Oshawa**

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

**Fall Fest 2016**

Oct. 8, 9, 15, 16  
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

**Making Strides of Erie**

Oct. 8 — 9 a.m.  
Perry Square, Sate and South

Park Row makingstrides.acevents.org.

**Edinboro University Homecoming Parade**

Oct. 8 — 11 a.m. to noon  
Edinboro University, 219 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

**Planetarium Show & Tour: Homecoming Stars**

Oct. 8 — 4 p.m. & 6 p.m.  
Edinboro University Cooper Science Center, 230 Scotland Rd. edinboro.edu.

**Lions, Tigers and Beers**

Oct. 8 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Erie Zoo, 423 W. 38th St. facebook.com/events/1206811542693478.

**Erie Otters vs. Flint**

Oct. 8 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

**Erie Cemetery Walks: Police and Firemen**

Oct. 9 — 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
Erie Cemetery, 2116 Chestnut St. erieyesterday.org.

**LEAF in Color Walking Tour Event**

Oct. 9 — 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. & 3 p.m.  
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

**Erie Handmade Fair**

Oct. 9 — 1 to 4 p.m.  
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/events/850878778389535.

**Duck Identification**

Oct. 9 — 2 to 3 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

**Book Sale**

Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

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# SUNDAY GAME DAY SPECIALS

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COACH'S  
COLONY PUB & GRILLE  
DARCY'S PUB & GRUB  
EDUARDO'S  
GIRARD CAFÉ  
HI & DRI  
KELLY DOWNS  
LAST SHOT  
LEFTY'S TAVERN  
LOMBARDO'S  
MIKE'S SPORTS BAR  
ODIS 12  
RACK N ROLL  
SANDBAR  
THAT PLACE  
TREEHOUSE TAVERN  
THE BARRACKS  
THE CAB  
UPTOWN BROWNS  
21 HAMPTON

## EAST

ALIBI BAR  
BOOTLEGGERS  
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## Voodoo Brewery

Now serving up good vibes on State Street



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Ella Julian

Downtown Erie was the place to be on Saturday, Sept. 17. The whole city seemed to come out for the grand opening of Voodoo Brewery's newest location in the Boston Store building. It was a celebration of Voodoo's success, and a turning point for both local business and State Street.

In 2012, when CEO Matt Rachocki purchased Voodoo – now in its ninth year – with the help of a crowdfunding campaign, the brewery was facing the prospect of bankruptcy. However, Rachocki felt “the business had great potential,” and the Fairview, Pennsylvania native jumped at the chance to make a difference in his hometown. While it was always his

plan to make his way back to Erie to raise his family, the opportunity to take on the challenge of running a brewery gave Rachocki a reason to leave New York City behind, and begin working in earnest in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Critics of the region lament the brain drain effect – when 18- to 25-year-olds leave their hometowns after high school or college. However, in many regions, 30- to 49-year-olds and their young children are moving back, contributing to a phenomenon known as brain gain. Rachocki and his family are examples of the latter trend.

Since Rachocki took the reins at Voodoo, and after the introduction of their employee-owned program, the

brewery has flourished. After opening locations in Pittsburgh and Meadville, and launching two food trucks (“Foodoo,” of course), Erie was the next logical step.

Erie is no stranger to craft breweries, however, having seen several other microbreweries open in recent years. According to journalist Tali Arbel, “The arrival of a craft brewery [is] often one of the first signs that a neighborhood [is] changing.” For Erie’s future, the recent expansion in our local beer scene is a hopeful sign of good things on the horizon.

Rachocki needed to find the perfect location for Voodoo’s Erie branch. After a series of unsuccessful efforts to find a fitting use for the former department store-turned-restaurant, Voodoo Brewery is finally bringing life and activity back to the iconic storefront.

Besides the remarkable size of the space itself, including a patio and sidewalk dining, the next thing that captures the eye is the the artwork on the walls – from monster murals to abstract graffiti to

**From monster murals to abstract graffiti to chalkboard-wall menus, there isn't a corner of the Boston Store location that hasn't been graced by the talented hands of the Voodoo crew.**

chalkboard-wall menus, there isn't a corner that hasn't been graced by the talented hands of the Voodoo crew. The use of reclaimed pieces, such as pallets

According to journalist Tali Arbel, “The arrival of a craft brewery [is] often one of the first signs that a neighborhood [is] changing.” For Erie’s future, the recent expansion in our local beer scene is a hopeful sign of good things on the horizon.

for all the tables and patio seating, give it an urban-industrial, underground theme – all contributing to a familiar vibe for fans of the Voodoo brand, and a fun-loving but sophisticated update on the classic barroom look.

On the night of the grand opening, the house was packed. According to Rachocki, there were 11 bartenders, but “you can only have so many people pouring beer.” Despite the lines, service was still friendly and speedy – no one was without a beer in hand for too long. A steady stream of delicious smells from the kitchen made their way through the space as patrons happily enjoyed good food, good beer, and good vibes (which, appropriately, is the name of a Voodoo beer).

Rachocki said he “couldn't be happier” with the turnout on opening night, and that “Erie really came and supported [us].”

Stay current on Voodoo's social media pages for exciting updates and all the mouth-watering menu changes.

Ella Julian can be contacted at [EJulian@eriereader.com](mailto:EJulian@eriereader.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

— 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
McCord Memorial Library, 32 W. Main St.  
[mccordlibrary.org](http://mccordlibrary.org).

**Fascism, Populism and the Rise of the 'Us-first' Movement**

Oct. 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society,  
3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

**Files and Folders**

Oct. 11 & Nov. 29 & Dec. 3 — 9 a.m. to noon  
Room 212 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

**Preschool Nature Discovery Classes: Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf**

Oct. 11 through Nov. 1 — 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.  
[asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

**Therapy Dogs**

Oct. 11 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd.  
[erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

**Blasco Talent Share**

Oct. 11 — 6 to 8 p.m.  
Peninsula Room Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.  
[erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

**Creating Images**

**for Competitions: Mike Dziak**

Oct. 11 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Mercy Hilltop Center, 444 E. Grandview Blvd.  
[eriephotoclub.com](http://eriephotoclub.com).

**County Council Meeting**

Oct. 11 — 7 p.m.  
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. [eriecountypa.gov](http://eriecountypa.gov).

**Tots in Nature Classes:**

**Leaf Jumpers**

Oct. 12 through Nov. 2 — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. & 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.  
[asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

**Pumpkin Patch Hunt**

Oct. 12 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. & Oct. 29 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.  
[asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

**Erie Otters vs. Sarnia**

Oct. 12 — 7 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

**Implementing Erie's New Plan: How Progressive Cities Address Their Challenges**

Oct. 12 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society,  
3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).



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**Okkervil River**

Away  
ATO Records



Away starts off strong. "Okkervil River R.I.P." – the opener – begins with a vocal cadence reminiscent of 2005's titular track, "Black Sheep Boy." It builds with majesty, lyrically creating music-about-music that would make Don McLean proud. Its title might as well be a mission statement. Frontman Will Sheff has forged ahead in the absence of any regular band members. Okkervil River lives through Will and Will alone these days, and it seems to be working out just fine. Lightly fading into the next track, "Call Yourself Renee," the album softens into lugubrious, symphonic indie folk. The orchestration, drawing upon studio musicians selected by Sheff, is lush and beautiful. Songs like "Comes Indiana Through The Smoke" draw on melodic motifs, ruminating on a theme. The tracks go at their own pace, averaging more than six minutes apiece. The demarcations fade in *Away*, an epic narrative full of dark humor and literary acumen. Intelligent writing has always been Okkervil River's non-so-secret weapon, and it's just enough to help the album stand, despite its lack of hooks or memorable choruses. – Nick Warren



**Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds**

Skeleton Tree  
Bad Seed Ltd.



Nick Cave has cultivated a decades-long career based around life's darker emotions. *Skeleton Tree* exudes a raw intensity that envelops the listener within the first few seconds. There's an inescapable context to this album that tragically augments the experience. In July of 2015, the singer's son, Arthur Cave, fell from a cliff in Brighton, England, passing away at the age of 15. It's impossible not to imagine the inner turmoil behind every note. Though much of the album was recorded prior to this event, there were several sections added in its wake. Cave's musical output has frequently dealt with the issue of death, but never with such a concrete, personal perspective. Details of his son's death, and the subsequent release of *Skeleton Tree*, are explored in Andrew Dominik's documentary feature, *One More Time With Feeling* (a line lifted from the song "Magneto"). The sound thunders in with "Jesus Alone." Tracks like "Girl in Amber" have a cinematic intensity, while Else Torp's soprano in "Distant Sky" provides a cue for a weeping emotional catharsis. – Nick Warren



**Preoccupations**

Preoccupations  
Jagjaguwar



In April of this year, the Canadian band Viet Cong changed their name. Going forward, they will be known as Preoccupations. Abandoning the insensitive moniker, the band began recording their follow-up. The name is an improvement, but is the music? The answer is a tentative "not really." The band's then-onymous debut album, released in January of 2015, was nothing short of phenomenal. This album is decidedly decent. But one shouldn't be quick to write off an album simply because it doesn't exceed the standards set by its predecessor. *Preoccupations* is a noble effort of post-punk revival, channeling the sounds of bands like Joy Division, Echo & the Bunnymen, and Bauhaus, among others. Scott "Monty" Munro and Daniel Christiansen's shimmering guitars, soaked with wet reverb and delay, hover over the steady eighth-note chug of vocalist Matt Flegel's bass work. Songs decay into noise-based drones, most notably in the track "Memory." Every song title consists of a single, captivating word plucked from its chorus. Flegel's lyrics are bleak, intelligent, and existential. The recording sounds excellent, brilliantly warm and entrancing. – Nick Warren



**Against Me!**

Shapeshift With Me  
Xtra Mile Recordings



Some people have been following Against Me! since their earliest recordings. The band seemed to be evolving with us as we aged along with our modern culture. Each album in their catalog has a distinct voice, oftentimes reinventing the band (or Axl Rose), even in some small way. *Shapeshift With Me*, relative to the band's spectacular catalog as a whole, is certainly one of their less powerful studio albums. Singer Laura Jane Grace came out as transgender in 2012. Being one of – if not the – highest profile trans musicians in the world, Grace has been characteristically open about her personal journey. This is the second studio release since 2014's acclaimed *Gender Dysphoria Blues*. It starts off in raw punk anger, with "ProVision L-3," named after a brand of full-body scanners used by the TSA. Overall, the album mirrors the tone of 2011's *White Crosses*. Lyrically, it's similar, not getting as intimately explicit as other efforts. Unlike every other AM! album (besides *Crosses*), it suffers from a half-hearted ending, lacking any emotionally dynamic closing number, while still being highly listenable. – Nick Warren



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9/28 **DE PALMA** (2016)  
A documentary about the famous writer & director of *Scarface*, *The Untouchable* & *Mission: Impossible*.

10/5 **BLOW OUT** (1981)  
A movie sound recordist (John Travolta) accidentally records the evidence that proves that a car accident was actually murder.

10/19 **LO AND BEHOLD** (2016)  
**ZERO DAYS** (2016)  
An exploration of the Internet and the connected world followed by the story of Stuxnet, a piece of self-replicating computer malware that the U.S. and Israel unleashed to destroy an Iranian nuclear facility.

11/2 **SALAM NEIGHBOR** (2015)  
Two filmmakers fully embed themselves in a Syrian refugee camp.

11/16 **PAN'S LABYRINTH** (2006)  
A bookish young stepdaughter of a sadistic army officer escapes into an eerie but captivating fantasy world in 1940's Spain.

10/12 **TIME TO CHOOSE** (2015)  
A documentary that addresses worldwide climate change challenges and solutions.

10/26 **INTO THE FOREST** (2015)  
After a massive power outage, two sisters learn to survive on their own in their isolated woodland home.

11/9 **CHRISTINE** (2016)  
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# Erie Faces Erie

## Eric Brewer

musician

## Ed Bernik

photographer

*"The playing, the music, and the emotion and feeling I want to create and make people feel is the passion. That's the pursuit."*

**Ed:** When did you first feel musical?

**Eric:** I had a weird introduction to music. As a kid, I was sensitive to loud noises. When my parents would play music, I'd want them to turn it down. Then, in fifth or sixth grade, a friend of mine showed me how to play a few things on the piano. I was more interested in the task of playing the music correctly than I was in the actual music. I was into hitting the right keys at the right time, like a muscle memory thing.

Drums were my first instrument. I think the appeal was the aggression of just hitting something. But once I hopped onto the guitar, things started to click for me.

**Ed:** What was that transition point, the leap to becoming a guitarist?

**Eric:** I think it was from a desire to create and to write a song. After I played drums for a while, my parents got me a little four-track cassette recorder from back in the eighties. I was trying to write my own songs. So I'd play a drum track and would hear stuff in my head. I couldn't play anything else, so I picked up bass. Then I'd say, "Well, I got part of a song. I kinda need to learn guitar to finish it." And once I started playing

guitar, everything else went out of the way.

**Ed:** How did you study music? Did you go to a teacher or just sit and listen in your room?

**Eric:** Both. I had some really good teachers: Frank Singer, Mike Ohm. I took lessons from those guys when I was in high school. I'd devour what they were giving me. Sometimes I wasn't the best student in high school because I was lazy. I didn't think I'd ever be at a level where I could pursue music as a career. That just seemed so improbable. Not that I thought I'd be famous or on the charts. I just didn't think I'd ever be good enough to even get paid for it.

But I'd also sit in my room and listen to things over and over; just try to find it by ear. Sometimes I'd get exactly what they were doing. Other times, it was a mystery for me – like Jeff Beck. I would know the notes he was playing, but the inflection and the articulation and the tone – I couldn't get anywhere near it. So just learning things by ear was huge, too.

I did go to music school for a couple years, at Duquesne in Pittsburgh. I started out as a music technology/audio engineering major. And I quickly realized that I was not technically minded enough to stay with that. But I took lessons from a couple guys there who are probably some of the most accomplished jazz players around. One was Joe Negri, who was on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* as "Handyman Negri." At probably 80 years old, he hadn't lost a step. He was incredible! So being in that environment helped a lot.

Studying music, I've never had one set agenda. It's exploratory and it's still going. You never learn everything. There is so much more to learn. You hear stuff every day that just blows your mind. It's a lifelong journey.

**Ed:** A lot of guitar players talk about their sound. And guys go nuts. They beat the heck out of it. Have you found your voice? Have you found your sound at this point in your career?

**Eric:** I'd like to think that I've gotten closer to it. There are two sides to that coin. There's



your tone that comes from your gear. A lot of guys, myself included, have kind of obsessively pursued the gear side of

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**Studying music, I've never had one set agenda. It's exploratory and it's still going. You never learn everything. There is so much more to learn. You hear stuff every day that just blows your mind. It's a lifelong journey.**

---

*it. I've got to have this finished Martin or this Les Paul. You can drive yourself crazy chasing that. It's almost never what*

you're expecting it to be. I'm a huge gearhead. That's kind of my downfall – financially, anyway. I'm always buying new guitars and amps.

I think I've found the gear that will achieve a sound I can mold, and put forth what I want the audience to hear. The more important side is what comes from your fingers, your heart and your mind. And the emotion you're trying to create. That's the more intangible thing. I don't think I've gotten there yet. One day I hope to have a voice as a musician that people hear and go, "Oh yeah, that's Brewer." Some people are just blessed with the gift of individuality. Others of us have to work for it.

I pay a lot of attention to articulation and what comes from

the fingers. And what comes from inside. That's what matters. The gear is my fun hobby. The playing, the music, and the emotion and feeling I want to create and make people feel is the passion. That's the pursuit.

**Ed:** What projects are you working on now?

**Eric:** Another solo album. I did one back in 2008. I just recorded myself and it wasn't an outstanding effort by any means. But it was something.

This will probably be instrumental. So that excites me: just the ability to do whatever I can imagine. Whatever I can envision.

*Eric Brewer: [facebook.com/Eric-Brewer-Friends-53330364043](https://www.facebook.com/Eric-Brewer-Friends-53330364043)*

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

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