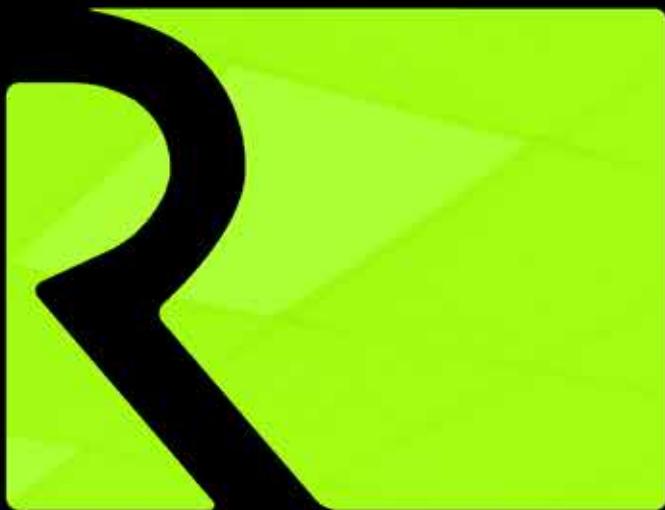


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ERIE READER

Nov. 9-Nov. 22/Vol. 6, No. 23/ErieReader.com

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Making Education a
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From the Editors

What's next? A time to move forward.

Here we are, finally. We can all breathe a sigh of relief now that campaign season is over. Inhale all the dust of partisan rhetoric and insidious name-calling. Fill your lungs with the dirt-digging, the mudslinging, and the empty promises. Let it all out. Exhale.

Now, do it again.

The war isn't over. Past all the victorious gloating and defeated lamentations, this cycle never ends. Sure, it turns and vanishes, but before you know it, the rotation comes back around to repeat itself. Things move on and evolve, showing us that now is the time to launch our new endeavors, large and small.

We see our history being built. Every passing second gives birth to a new fact for the history books. There's so much that we can learn from the past when looking to our future. In this issue, Dan Schank talks with presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, who will be speaking at the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit on Tuesday, Nov. 15. She draws upon her reservoir of knowledge to give us a context for this madness. Find out how her writings played a part in the the story of Hillary Clinton. Compare our election cycle to other periods of American history and see which era had it worse than us.

Now is the time to launch our new endeavors, large and small.

Go with Mary Birdsong as she catalogs the launch of Donjon's new ship. A barge built along our eastern bayfront, one "just shy of the length of two football fields at 584 feet, and the width of two city buses end to end at 78 feet." Sea-Chem 1 is now on the open water, and we have the story of how it got there. Our community is building things everywhere.

Other seeds of growth are being planted in our city's school district. In an attempt to steer our local public education system away from economic disaster, community schools are transforming the way we educate. Join Jim Wertz as he explores the evolution of public education. He brings countless hours of research to his piece, having also recently penned a lengthy essay on the topic for the JES.

In the television series *The West Wing*, one of the most uttered phrases was the question, "What's next?" The fictitious President Jed Bartlet would use it to move on to the next item of business. It was the last line spoken by the newly sworn-in president, as well. Bartlet's final line of the series was an answer. While flying from the White House, the first lady asked him, "What are you thinking about?" After a moment, he simply said, "Tomorrow."

You have the power to make changes and start new things every day. Take a look at our event spotlights. If you have never been somewhere, go there. Start your own events. Be a part of your community. We might still have a long way to go, but there's nothing stopping you from doing everything possible to make this the best place you can.

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Just a Thought

Suffocated by suffixes



COCO CURRANSKI VIA FLICKR

By: Katie Chriest

At a recent gathering of my husband's family, we relaxed around a table digesting an abundant dinner and generously poured wine. I sat there placidly, my senses taking in the scene, as snippets of conversation intertwined. Then one thread looped me in.

"Well, I don't want to be an *environmentalist*," said one man, flatly. "But I do worry about those frogs."

I missed who "those frogs" are, but his disdain for the notion of being an *environmentalist* caught my attention.

"Well, we certainly have that in common," I thought. "I don't want to be an environmentalist, either. Does anyone want to be an environmentalist? Or any -ist, for that matter? Wouldn't we all rather come into this life and, you know, *just live it?* -Ists, frankly, are a pain."

I said this to myself, mind you. I was afraid that saying it to him might lead to uncomfortable confrontation at what was otherwise a genial gathering. So I missed an opportunity to build a person-to-person connection that might've given us both pause next time we feel the knee-jerk reaction of labeling others. This was two weeks before the election that has sharpened the

edges along lines of disagreement, and made the bonds between us brittle and tenuous.

Still, I regret what a coward I was.

But interestingly, this man is a farmer whose very livelihood depends on the health of his environment. My guess is that if we'd had a conversation about so-called "environmental" issues, we'd have found a lot of common ground. I'm pretty sure he wants clean air, non-toxic water, and healthy soil. Don't we all?

In a perfect world, there would be no need for environmentalism. But instead, we live in a world – a state – where even doctors must become "environmentalists."

As Don Hopey reported in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on Oct. 27, "The Pennsylvania Medical Society's 300-member House of Delegates unanimously approved a resolution calling for [a] fracking moratorium." The organization "is urging the state to establish an independent health registry and start studying fracking's public health impacts."

Hopey continued, "Dr. Walter Tsou, past president of the American Public Health Association and the author of the resolution, noted that ... 'growing evidence has shown [fracking's] increasing deleterious effects outweigh any economic benefit.'"

What this rudimentary protest sign doesn't acknowledge is that if we prioritize clean energy, both Earth and Wall Street win.

Hopey referenced statements by Protect Pennsylvania: Health Professionals for a Livable Future: "Many communities that benefited economically from the initial shale gas boom are now experiencing environmental and human health consequences," and "in-state health studies have demonstrated worsening asthma, premature births, neurological and mental symptoms, and other adverse effects."

Meanwhile, "The medical society's call for a moratorium came just a day before the release of a new study by the Yale School of Public Health that found numerous carcinogens used in fracking have the potential to contaminate the air and water of nearby communities and increase the risk of childhood leukemia."

In a perfect world, there would be no need for environmentalism. But instead, we live in a world – a state – where even doctors must become "environmentalists."

One of those carcinogens, incidentally, is benzene – the same substance that the EPA has recently accused Erie Coke Corp. of emitting into our community.

Again.

Erie Coke has agreed to pay a "\$500,000 civil penalty [to] help end the federal lawsuit," and "to monitor benzene and fix benzene leaks from equipment," according to the *Erie Times-News*.

Living among corporations like this ought to make environmentalists of us all.

Now that Election Day is over, may we look beyond the yard signs and the -isms toward the things we *all* want for ourselves, our families, and our community. After months of polluting politics, a breath of fresh air ought to be an easily agreed-upon priority.

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

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The Erie County Public Library is now accepting applications for our 4th Artist in Residence to take place in the Spring of 2017.

Recognizing that active engagement in the arts is vital to the expansion of culture, the Erie County Public Library, along with the Friends of the Erie County Public Library as its sponsor, provide this residency to help grow the artistic spirit in Erie County.

In accordance with this role, the Erie County Public Library is committed to the following principles:

- ▶ Encouraging interactive, artistic curiosity among young adults and adults within the Erie community
- ▶ Providing free, high-quality, hands-on programming in a variety of artistic mediums that is accessible to all young adults and adults and is available at all library outlets
- ▶ Increasing public awareness and equal access to involvement in the arts
- ▶ Giving artists an opportunity to share their passions with the wider community

The position is open to established and/or emerging artists of any type. Teaching experience is a plus, but not required. In addition, a stipend is provided to the chosen artist, as well as a materials budget. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, December 16, 2016.**

For more details or information, please email Marcy Hall, Library Assistant at mhall@eriecountypa.gov or call 451-6927.

NEWS & VIEWS

Charting a New Course Together

Finding a new direction for City Hall



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Jay Breneman, Erie County Councilman

You don't need a passport to see the world. All it takes is a trip around Erie.

Aside from the many cultural festivals during the summer, one can see the rich tapestry of human experience with a simple trip to our delis, donut shops, and neighborhood markets, our community centers, and our public schools.

Erie has a long and proud history of giving new Erieites a shot at the American dream, and there are no signs of that slowing down. But it seems that City Hall is detached from this reality as it focuses on building political walls and excluding the core of any community: the people who live here.

My daily encounters in Erie have far surpassed my years (and related global travels) in one of the most diverse organizations in the world: the U.S. Army.

There are, however, marked differences in serving as a leader in our community versus in the military. In the Army, I was responsible for the daily well-being of my unit, the success of our missions, and our professional ability to grow and do better the next day, every day.

In Erie, that role is more global.

Schools

The phrase "As Erie's Public Schools go, so goes Erie" was not coined by the school district to instill fear; it's a reality that has yet to be accepted in City Hall.

The current administration speaks of turf, and parallel but separate responsibilities; but what you won't hear is shared efforts or strategic partnerships, even when it comes to our comprehensive plans.

Our schools are the bedrock of a stable tax base, and serve as the cornerstone of our economic potential for decades to come. City Hall must work with our school district not only for funding equity out of Harrisburg, but for the future economic security and social well-being of our community.

This means creative collaboration as well as joint development and implementation of shared plans.

Neighborhoods

During my listening tour, which began Sept. 1, countless conversations with parents, homeowners, young professionals, and business leaders all reflected one common refrain: Those who can make the choice are looking for reasons to stay, and to continue making Erie their home. Sadly, they already have too many reasons to

choose somewhere else.

Those without the resources to make that choice become more responsible for the rising costs of a city managing its own decline, with decreasing opportunities for themselves or their children.

We need to change this narrative and chart a new course for Erie.

If City Hall wants our neighborhoods to thrive, Erie's citizens must be front and center on that task and effort. Work cannot merely be done for our people and community; instead, progress must be made with them at the table – helping to make decisions regarding our neighborhoods with our collective sleeves (sometimes literally) rolled up.

Jobs

There's one sure way for City Hall to ensure businesses stay and grow in Erie, and that is through communication.

We cannot afford to passively wait for businesses to come knocking on

There's one sure way for City Hall to ensure businesses stay and grow in Erie, and that is through communication.

the mayor's door or to find out after the fact that they are packing up and moving out of town. Nor can we expect other organizations to bear all the responsibility. The role of the mayor must involve visiting the offices of our private sector consistently, not only to see how they're doing but to champion any resources – municipal or otherwise – that they need for greater viability in the City and across the region.

On Friday, Nov. 11th at 3:15 p.m. in Wayne Park (East Sixth Street & East Avenue), I am announcing my candidacy for mayor of Erie because I believe we need to help Erie grow each day, every day, by focusing on our greatest resource: our people.

Jay Breneman can be contacted at email@jaybreneman.org or on Twitter @jaybreneman.

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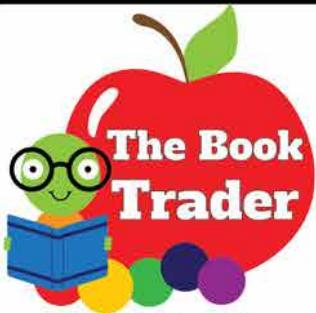
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News of the Weird

Atomic ant colonies and Putin's Florida arrest

By: Chuck Shepherd

Can't Possibly Be True

Kids as young as 6 who live on a cliff top in China's Atule'er village in Sichuan province will no longer have to use flexible vine-based ladders to climb down and up the 2,600-foot descent from their homes to school. Beijing News disclosed in October, in a report carried by CNN, that a sturdy steel ladder was being built to aid the 400 villagers after breathtaking photographs of them making the treacherous commute surfaced on the internet earlier this year [<http://cnn.it/2fzPCon>] [CNN, 10-26-2016].

Round Up The Usual Suspects ("Youth Pastors")

Sentenced to six years in prison for sex with teenage girls (September): former Youth Pastor David Hayman, 38 (Hackensack, New Jersey). Sentenced to six months in jail for sending inappropriate texts to teenage boys (August): former Youth Pastor Brian Burchfield (Shawnee, Oklahoma). Charged and awaiting trial for impregnating a 15-year-old girl (October): Youth Pastor Wesley Blackburn, 35 (New Paris, Pennsylvania). Sentenced to 10 years in prison for sexual abuse of a 16-year-old girl (September): former Youth Pastor Brian Mitchell, 31 (North Olmsted, Ohio). Charged and awaiting trial for luring teenagers into prostitution (October): Youth Pastor Ron Cooper, 52 (Miami). Sentenced to 90 days in jail as part of a sex assault case involving a 13-year-old girl (September): former Youth Pastor Christopher Hutchinson, 37 (Parker, Colorado). [The Record (Hackensack),

9-23-2016] [KFOR-TV (Oklahoma City), 8-24-2016] [Associated Press via Washington Post, 10-15-2016] [Cleveland.com, 9-8-2016] [WFOR-TV (Miami), 10-19-2016] [KMGH-TV (Denver), 9-30-2016]

An "Ant" Version of Hell

Researchers in Poland reported in August the "survival" of a colony of ants that wandered unsuspectingly into an old nuclear weapon bunker and became trapped. When researchers first noticed in 2013, they assumed the ants would soon die, either freezing or starving to death, but, returning in 2015 and 2016, they found the population stable. Their only guess: New ants were falling into the bunker, "replacing" the dead ones. Thus, ants condemned to the bunker slowly starve, freezing, in total darkness, until newly condemned ants arrive and freeze and starve in total darkness -- and on and on. [Science Daily (8-30-2016) via WeirdUniverse.net (9-16-2016)]

Judicial Activism

Jackson County, Michigan, judge John McBain briefly gained notoriety in October when a Michigan news site released courtroom video of a December 2015 hearing in which McBain felt the need to throw off his robe, leap from the bench and tackle defendant Jacob Larson, who was resisting the one court officer on hand to restrain him. Yelling "Tase his ass right now," McBain is shown holding on until help arrived -- with Larson perhaps undermining his earlier courtroom statements claiming it was his girlfriend, and not he, who was the aggressor in alleged stalking incidents. [MLive.com, 10-13-2016]

Names in Florida News

Arrested in October and charged with kidnapping a 4-year-old girl in Lakeland: a truck driver, Mr. Wild West Hogs. Arrested in West Palm Beach in August and charged with trespassing at a Publix supermarket (and screaming at employees), Mr. Vladimir Putin. And in August, at the dedication of a new unit at Tampa General Hospital's pediatric center, longtime satisfied patients attended, including Maria Luva, who told guests her son, now 8 years old, was born there: Ywlyox Luva. [Associated Press via TampaBay.com, 10-12-2016] [WPEC-TV (West Palm Beach), 8-30-2016] [Tampa Bay Times, 8-12-2016]

Perspective

In 1921, researchers for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife stated categorically in a journal that "the one predatory animal" inspiring practically nothing "good" is the mountain lion, but recent research in the journal Conservation Letters credits the animal for saving the lives of many motorists by killing deer, thus tempering the current annual number (20,000) of driver-deer collisions. Even killing deer, mountain lions still trail pussycats as predators; researchers in Nature Communications in 2013 estimated that "free-ranging (U.S.) domestic cats" kill at least 1.4 billion birds and 6.9 billion small mammals annually. [Washington Post, 7-21-2016] [Audubon.org, 1-30-2013]

Least Competent Criminals

On the way to the police station in Youngstown, Ohio, on Oct. 19, after being arrested for, among other things, being a felon in possession of a gun,

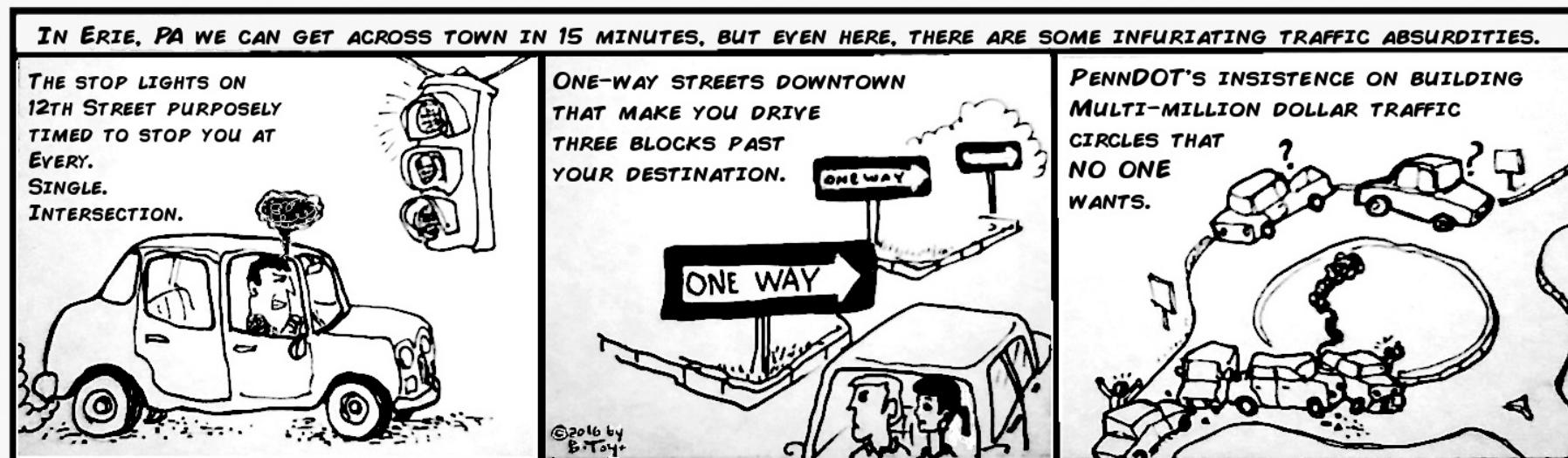
Raymond Brooks, 25, asked an officer (apparently in all seriousness) whether, after he got booked at the station, he could have his gun back. (The police report did not specify whether the officer said yes or no.) [The Vindicator (Youngstown), 10-20-2016]

Recurring Themes

Sovereigns! The director of the Caribbean Cultural Center at the University of the Virgin Islands, facing foreclosure of her home by Firstbank Puerto Rico, decided she was not really "Chenzira Davis-Kahina" but actually "Royal Daughter Sat Yah" of the "Natural Sovereign Indigenous Nation of ... Smai Tawi Ta-Neter-Awe," and she and her equally befuddlingly named husband have sued the bank for \$190 million in federal court (and begun the flood of incomprehensible paperwork). The couple's law of "Maat" conveniently holds that attempts by federal marshals to seize their property would double the damages to \$380 million. [Virgin Islands Daily News, 8-22-2016]

"Emotional Support" Animals: Daniel, age 4 -- and a duck -- accompanied a woman in her 20s in October on a flight from Charlotte, North Carolina, to Asheville, outfitted in a Captain America diaper and red shoes to protect its feet, occasionally (if in-advicedly) giving the woman a peck on the mouth. Reporting the event was author Mark Essig, who has written favorably about pigs but admitted he'd never before been on a flight with "companion poultry" and mused whether Daniel, gazing out a window, experienced an "ancestral" yearning to fly. [Citizen-Times (Asheville), 10-17-2016]

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NEWS & VIEWS

The Art of Smuggling: At press time, Leston Lawrence, 35, an employee of the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa, was awaiting a court decision on charges that he stole \$140,000 worth of thick gold coins ("pucks") that, over time, were taken from the mint in his rectum. The mint's "highest security measures" never turned up a puck on or in Lawrence; he was arrested after the mint investigated a tip that he had sold an unusual number of them for someone of his pay grade. [Washington Post, 9-21-2016]

Government in Action

Mayor Paul Antonio of Toowoomba, Australia (pop. 100,000), admitted he had picked an uphill fight, but still has recently been handing out cards to men on the street asking them to help the city (in unspecified ways) become completely free of pornography. Though the city has several tax-paying sex businesses (even a strip club and a brothel), Antonio's message (augmented by public confessions of men burdened by their porn habits) is directed at the internet's ease of access to images of male "dominance and power" over females. [Australian Broadcasting Corp. News, 10-11-2016]

The Passing Parade

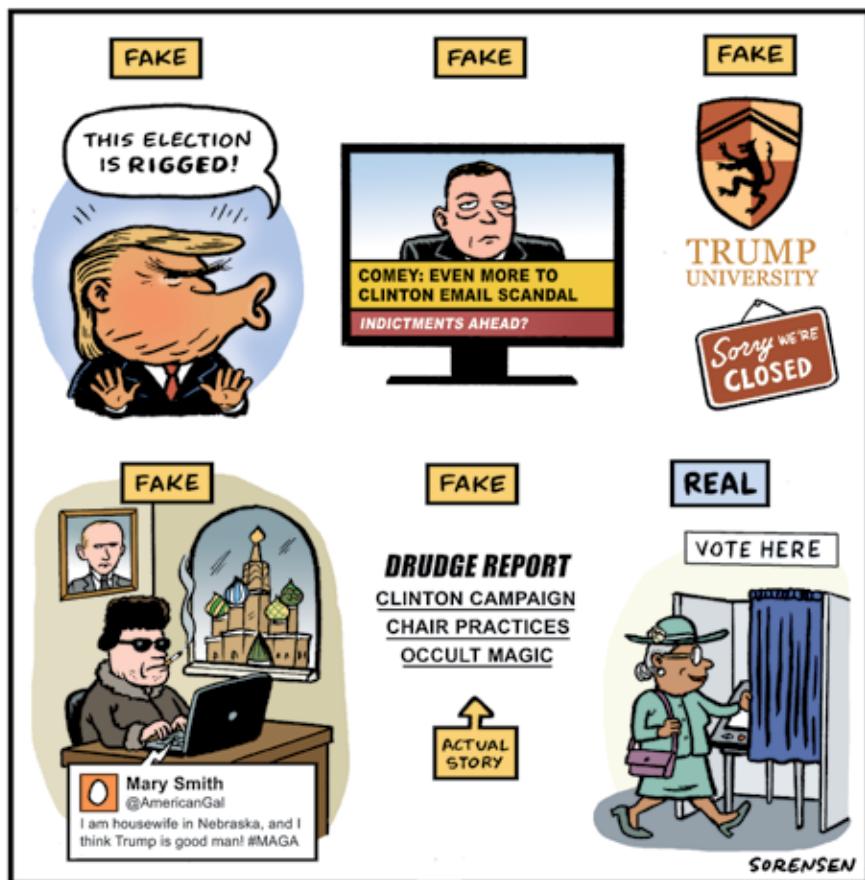
Tiny Thrills: (1) The town of Warley, England, announced it has applied

to the Guinness people for the honor of having the world's smallest museum. The Warley Community Association's museum, with photos and mementoes of its past, is housed in an old phone booth. (So far, there are no "hours"; visitors just show up and open the door.) (2) The recent 100th anniversary of America's National Park Service drew attention to the park in Guthrie, Oklahoma -- 10 feet by 10 feet, behind the post office and dating from the original Land Office on the spot in 1889. (According to legend, the city clerk, instead of asking the government for land "100 foot square (100 feet by 100 feet)," mistakenly asked for "100 square feet.") [Conde Nast Traveler, 10-17-2016] [KFOR-TV (Oklahoma City), 4-8-2016]

A News of the Weird Classic (March 2012)

Some municipal street signs with specific instructions are hard enough to read, anyway, but according to the signs in front of Lakewood Elementary School in White Lake, Michigan (filmed in February 2012 by Detroit's WJBK-TV), the speed limit drops to 25 mph on "school days only" -- but just from "6:49-7:15 a.m., 7:52-8:22 a.m., 8:37-9:07 a.m., 2:03-2:33 p.m., 3:04-3:34 p.m., 3:59-4:29 p.m." [WJBK-TV, 2-15-2012]

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The Serial Gamer

The Nintendo Switch makes a bold statement.



By: Paul Schillinger

On Oct. 20, Nintendo released a concept trailer for their newest home/portable console hybrid, the Switch. The console itself is gorgeous, almost Apple- or Sony-esque. Imagine a powerful, portable gaming system you could dock to your home TV and enjoy your games at home or on the go. The long-rumored system would bridge the gap between Nintendo's home and portable lines of hardware.

That trailer hit all the right notes for me. No motion controls! It seems Nintendo is waking up to the fact that they struck gold with the Wii, and the success of motion controls at this point seems unlikely. No touchscreen – at least not shown in the trailer. Touchscreens are cool and all (most of us have one in our pockets), but touchscreen gaming is a different story. It rarely works out well, and most well-implemented touchscreen games are simplified for the medium. The trailer also did not show a single Amiibo (Nintendo's take on the toys-to-life genre.) However, it would be foolish to think the Switch wouldn't have Amiibo support – along with motion and touch, but the fact it's not in the trailer is bold to say the least.

Nintendo showed off the new Legend of Zelda game running on their new hardware, which keeps looking better and better. The most notable game shown, however, was Skyrim. Skyrim shouldn't be a big deal. It's a five-year-

old game, but showing it means more than that. It's an adult game – no Pokemon, no mini game collection – a real game for people who like to play real games. The possibility of playing Skyrim on the next Nintendo console doesn't excite me at all – I have a PS4 for that. But Nintendo knowing who their audience is does. We are the parents buying the games for our kids now.

It seems Nintendo is finally catering to – no! – embracing their audience of fans that appreciate and have followed them throughout the years. The trailer

Finally in 2016, with their backs up against the wall, Nintendo is changing. They are making a statement.

features no kids (although it did feature millennials that can afford luxury big city apartments, but that's another article), no Miyamoto selling us on some gimmick of a *new way to play*. I have grown up alongside the games industry and have watched games get more mature along with me. And I am once again hopeful for Nintendo.

I urge you to watch the trailer. Finally in 2016, with their backs up against the wall, Nintendo is changing. They are making a statement.

Paul Schillinger can be contacted at pSchillinger@ErieReader.com.

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Community Schools

Making education a neighborhood anchor



Patti Corritore leads her 2nd grade students at McKinley Elementary School, one of the five pilot community schools in the Erie School District.

By: Jim Wertz

This fall Erie's Public Schools rolled out its pilot of the community schools strategy. More than \$1.5 million in seed funding was provided through the collaborative efforts of the Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy, and the United Way, with additional funds coming from the district and its corporate partners.

The community school strategy is predicated upon the belief that public education is the foundation of a democratic society, and this year five schools were selected to be matched with corporate partners, which will help fund the initiative, and community or "lead" partners that will implement the community schools strategy in select schools.

Edison Elementary School, Emerson-Gridley Elementary School, McKinley Elementary School, Pfeiffer-Burleigh School, and Wayne School were selected last summer through a request for proposals from each of

Erie's 18 public elementary and middle schools. The program is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000 per school, per year. Each school will feature comprehensive support of the students and the community in which the school is located. This involves an adaptive curriculum that is community centered, including service opportunities and experiential learning in the community to strengthen the bond between people and place; co-located health services, mental health services, and family support agencies; as well as adult education and workforce training.

The corporate partners are GE Transportation (Edison Elementary), Hamot Health Foundation (Wayne School), Highmark (Emerson-Gridley Elementary), LORD Corporation (McKinley Elementary), an anonymous donor and Erie Insurance Group (Pfeiffer-Burleigh School). These corporate partners financially support the lead agencies, which will hire community school directors and connect partner schools with additional social support agencies based upon needs assessments per-

formed at each school. The lead partners for the five pilot schools are the Achievement Center (Edison Elementary), Safe Harbor Behavioral Health Of UPMC Hamot (Wayne School), Gannon University (Emerson-Gridley Elementary) and Sarah Reed Children's Center (Pfeiffer-Burleigh School). The United Way is the lead partner for McKinley Elementary, but Edinboro University will provide the strategic services like those furnished by other lead partners.

The objectives of the community school strategy nationwide are to improve student-teacher relationships by allowing the teachers to focus on students' educational needs while the community school partners tend to students' life needs.

On a regular basis, we hear anecdotal evidence of teachers going well beyond their job descriptions to tend to the personal needs of students who might come to school each day – if they come to school each day – from difficult home lives. Every day, scores of students come to school hungry, some not having eaten since the previous day's lunch period; or they leave school

one afternoon only to find themselves homeless because their parents or caretakers have been evicted from their apartments during the school day; or they are among the many children who are exposed to crime, violence, and blight in their neighborhoods and in their lives.

Stories such as these are silent travelers that emigrate into each classroom and each social interaction, impacting the quality of both while placing student and teacher behind on their agenda, many times well before the school day begins.

The community school strategy has successfully mitigated the out-of-school impediments to learning in both urban and rural communities across the country. In Ohio, the Cincinnati School District was in peril. Between 1975 and 2010, urban sprawl reduced the district's school-aged population from 90,000 to just 28,000 students. The tax base was comparatively nonexistent. In 1999, the district initiated a public referendum to repair crumbling school infrastructure. It failed. Only 19 percent of the voting population in Cincinnati had school-aged children and only half of those went to public schools. Cincinnati public schools were on the verge of collapse.

Recognizing that the community at large needed health and social services as well as community programming for both children and adults, the Cincinnati School District declared that all of its public schools would become Community Learning Centers, where medical clinics provide primary health services with co-located mental health services. They offer exercise classes and book clubs; plus college and career counseling in addition to tutoring services that link the district's accelerated learning programs. Since 2006, the results of these programs is staggering.

In 2006, the district faced an achievement gap nearing 15 percent, a graduation rate of 51 percent, and 14 of the city's 55 schools were in a state of academic emergency. By 2015, 43 of the dis-

FEATURE

trict's 55 schools had been designated Community Learning Centers and the achievement gap dropped to 4 percent, the graduation rate climbed to 82 percent, and only three schools remained in a state of academic emergency. In 2010, the Cincinnati School District was named the top urban school district in the state of Ohio.

In the 1980s, Kentucky was widely considered to have the worst educational system in America. It ranked 43rd in the nation for per-pupil education funding with local funding for some districts a paltry \$80 per student. It also ranked 49th in post-high school college enrollment, and last in the U.S. for adults with a high school diploma. In a landmark Kentucky Supreme Court case, *Rose v. Council for Better Education* (1989), the Court ruled that the state's general assembly had failed to provide "an efficient system of common education." In his decision on behalf of the Court, Chief Justice Robert F. Stephens wrote, "Lest there be any doubt, the result of our decision is that Kentucky's entire system of common schools is unconstitutional. There is no allegation that only part of the common school system is invalid, and we find no such circumstance ... This decision covers the creation of local school districts, school boards, and the Kentucky Department of Education to the Minimum Foundation Program and Power Equalization Program. It covers school construction and maintenance, teacher certification – the whole gamut of the common school system in Kentucky."

In response to this decision, the General Assembly passed the Kentucky Education Reform Act (1990) creating a statewide system of community schools, which included family resource centers to provide before- and after-school childcare, family literacy services, as well as health services and referrals; and youth service centers that, in addition to providing health and social services, offered career and college counseling, implemented a summer jobs program, and administered substance abuse programs as well as family crisis counseling. Today, the state's education system is ranked 27th in the nation. It was 48th nationwide less than two decades ago. It has the ninth highest graduation rate in the country and the lowest achievement gap between rich and poor students in the nation.

Cincinnati, Ohio, and Kentucky each

share analogous traits with Erie, Pennsylvania and our Commonwealth, respectively. Erie has experienced a steady decline in school-aged population over the past several decades as a result of urban sprawl; and it, too, has struggled to reconcile the effects of a diminishing tax base and the absence of an equitable state funding formula as it deals with aging infrastructure and growing populations of English language learners and special needs students among its abundance of students living in poverty.

Moreover, Pennsylvania has gone from being a model of educational efficiency in the early 2000s to being the target of educational reformers for the absence of a fair funding formula, a lack of support for early childhood

It is, in many ways, a return to the educational values upon which public education in the United States was founded.

education, and the incremental dismantling of public higher education. Pennsylvania now ranks 45th nationally in education funding and 41st in early childhood education, according to the annual national education report, *Quality Counts*.

There are legislative agendas emanating from the governor's office and the legislature, but given the current political climate, nationally and in Pennsylvania, there is no guarantee of educational reform generally, or specific economic relief targeted for Erie's Public Schools.

The community schools strategy provides the city's teachers and administrators with an agency that has not been part of the public school experience for nearly half a century. It is, in many ways, a return to the educational and traditional values upon which public education in the United States was founded.

Jim Wertz is the author of the fourth Jefferson Essay, "The Past, Present, and Future of Public Education in Erie," which will be published later this month by the Jefferson Educational Society and will be available at jeserie.org. He can be reached at jWertz@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @jim_wertz.

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Two Years and 6,000 Tons of Steel in the Making

Donjon's Sea-Chem 1 heads for open water.



NICK WARREN

By: Mary Birdsong

“We made this from scratch, from the first plate of steel on the tables, to this,” says Milton Lauscher III, assembly foreman for Donjon Shipbuilding and Repair, gesturing towards the impressive four-story vessel looming over us. We are standing near the gate separating Erie Bay from the east graving dry dock where the massive tank barge, Sea-Chem 1, is now floating, nearly completed. “That is what we are most proud of.”

Clear pride of accomplishment shows on his face and permeates the facility as workers scramble to put the finishing touches on the double-hulled chemical tank barge. And it probably has for every one of the last 800 or so days, since construction began in July of 2014 after Donjon won the bid to build for the company Seabulk Tankers. Sea-Chem will be an ocean-going vessel carrying liquid chemical or petroleum cargo.

A few dimensions and its weight are all you need to understand this enormous achievement. Sea-Chem is just shy of the length of two football fields at 584 feet, and is the width of two city buses end-to-end at 78 feet. It was created with approximately 6,000 tons of steel, equivalent to 25 and a half unfueled Boeing 747s.

Despite these impressive numbers, Sea-Chem is non-locomotive, meaning it has no engine and cannot move without a source of power. The back end of the barge is designed to accept an engine tug (in this case, the Sea Power, built in Florida) which is married to the cargo barge through a special coupling device.

Once together, they are called an articulated tug barge, or ATB. The coupling acts as a hinge, so that, when moving over an ocean swell, for example, the front and the back of the combined vessels can move independently to keep the ship steady. Sea Power contains the pilothouse and all the controls for managing the cargo; Sea-Chem will be unmanned when it plies the seas.

According to Project Manager Rick Hammer, this is the first tank barge “new build” completed at the Erie Donjon facility. Consequently, constructing it was far more complex than assembling a typical lake-going freighter. It needed different materials, tighter margins, and the addition of sophisticated safety and pollution-prevention features.

“This build was much more rigorous

Above: Project Manager Rick Hammer stands alongside the vessel. Right: Sea-Chem, docked along the east bayfront, receives a few finishing touches.

in every aspect, due to the nature of it being a chemical/oil tank barge,” explains Hammer. “It required thicker steel, more stringent welding, more regulatory oversight, more extensive testing, more technical coatings, and more specialized equipment and vendors.”

Precision is vital to meet the standards of the American Bureau of Shipping and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), an agency of the UN. Sea-Chem is classified as a Type 2 tanker by the IMO, meaning it can transport cargo with “appreciably severe environmental and safety hazards which require significant preventive measures to preclude an escape of such cargo,” according to the IMO website.

To meet this criteria, Sea-Chem’s double hull protects the inner cargo tanks should anything pierce the outer cladding. Further, the deck has a 9-inch tall containment wall, called a coaming, encircling the perimeter to prevent any accidental spills. Within the coaming are two emergency hatches that drain any spills into a spare cargo tank.

The barge also has a fully automated system that continuously monitors the atmospheric conditions inside the cargo tanks. “If the sensors detect an oxygen-rich environment that could potentially fuel a fire, it will sound an

alarm in the pilothouse of the tug,” says Hammer. If this occurs, a non-reacting inert gas can be injected into the tanks, blanketing the cargo and preventing explosion or fire.

This is important when you are carrying 185,000 barrels of liquid cargo, which is 777 million gallons, divided among 10 separate cargo tanks holding 777,000 gallons each. That amount of fluid is enough to fill approximately 12 Olympic-sized swimming pools or Waldameer’s wave pool 15 times over. At port, Sea-Chem can discharge cargo at a rate of 7,800 gallons per minute, meaning that off-loading takes a mere

A few dimensions and its weight are all you need to understand this enormous achievement.

16 hours.

Another impressive number is the quantity of paint and coatings used to spare the barge the ravages of its salty travels. Hammer estimates approximately 20,000 gallons were used. In terms we can all understand, that’s 160,000 16-ounce cups of coffee. He also says completing **[Cont. on Page 37]**



NICK WARREN

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Spotlight on Erie

November 9 – 22, 2016

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Will Allen to Discuss the Future of Urban Farming



Food deserts and the growing global food crisis have become popular topics in recent years, and for good reason. As the amount of agriculturally-available land decreases due to factors such as commercial farming and urban sprawl – plus flooding and droughts due to climate change – population continues to rise. It doesn't take an economist to figure out that the laws of supply and demand will eventually tilt toward decreased quantities and increased costs for fresh produce. The bottom line: The food crisis is a complex problem demanding innovative solutions.

Now's your opportunity to be influenced by this food pioneer.

Will Allen, author of *The Good Food Revolution* and creator of Growing Power, a nonprofit for urban agriculture training, will speak at Penn State Behrend on these issues and others related to personal, social, and community health in areas of low food supply. In his book, Allen discusses ways to grow greater food yields in small spaces, the importance of community involvement, and combating racism in the process. His work on his Milwaukee, Wisconsin 3-acre urban garden has contributed significantly to methods such as composting and aquaponics.

In 2008, Allen received a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant," and in 2010, *Time* magazine named him one their 100 World's Most Influential People.

Now's your opportunity to be influenced by this food pioneer. – Ti Sumner

7:30 p.m. // free and open to the public // McGarvey Commons of the Reed Union Building, Penn State Behrend // for more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 898.6171 // growingpower.org

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Hey Girl, Nice Shot: Christine Tells Chilling True Story



If you are not familiar with the very real story of Christine Chubbuck, you're not alone. In today's world, Chubbuck's story would be plastered all over the internet: "TV Star Shoots Herself on Live Television," or "You'll Never Guess what This News Reporter Did on Air." But in 1974, it eventually became yesterday's news and the story faded out of the spotlight. Like many things from the 1970s and 80s that are now being re-examined by the public consciousness, Chubbuck's tragedy is garnering new attention thanks to the film *Christine*, featured at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. The film follows the then 29-year-old news reporter through her struggles to find intimacy in her personal life and the fight to keep her integrity as a reporter in a changing world. Rebecca Hall (playing Chubbuck) gives an eerie performance, perfectly capturing her character's inner battles with her mental health. In her *New York Times* review, Manohla

From raving reviews to rotten ones, it seems all can agree that Rebecca Hall's performance is one not to be missed.

Dargis writes, "Ms. Hall builds her slow-burning performance with both subtly fluctuating expressive details and larger physical gestures." Director Antonia Campos (*Simon Killer*, *After-school*) and screenwriter and produc-

er Craig Shilowich (*Frozen River*, *Dark Horse*) create a visually muted world, using reds sparingly in significant moments, to help drag the audience into Chubbuck's melancholic life. From raving reviews to rotten ones, it seems all can agree that Hall's performance is one not to be missed. Hall transforms into a character we can all empathize with and care for, making the inevitable ending an unsettling reminder as we watch the slow-motion tragedy unfold. Guy Lodge of *Variety* writes: "As the film marches to its unavoidably wrenching conclusion, we irrationally hope – if only for a split-second – that she might not pull the trigger." – Ella Julian

Following the film, there will be a panel discussion featuring WSEE/WICU Anchor Lisa Adams, NAMI of Erie County's Denise Kolivoski, WICU Anchor Emily Matson, and Edinboro University Communications and Media Studies Professor Jim Wertz.

Film at 7 p.m., followed by panel discussion // \$5 // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th Street // 459.5477 or erieartmuseum.org

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Born Without Bones Brings Dark, Upbeat Rock to BT



Basement Transmissions' Floor Punk shows have become a staple of Erie's underground music scene, flaunting local talent and exposing touring acts to new faces more intimately than they could on the main stage. This time, Massachusetts' Born Without Bones step up to show Erie what they're about.

Born Without Bones' most recent release, *Baby*, showcases the band's distinct style, a fusion between early Fall Out Boy-esque pop punk and grunge rock, the former being more prevalent in their 2012 album *Say Hello*. It's evident on *Baby* how much the band

has matured and grown in their songwriting, most noticeably on the tracks "Rough Terrain," which manages to somehow be both darker and upbeat at the same time (a theme across the album's entirety), and "Slow Motion," a song with a chorus so catchy it would fit right in on a Buzz Ballads compilation, had it only been written 20 years earlier.

Touring with BWB is Save Face, from New Jersey. Save Face's style is very comparable to their tour mates', perhaps only exchanging their slightly darker edge for a more melodic sound, on their latest album *Folly*.

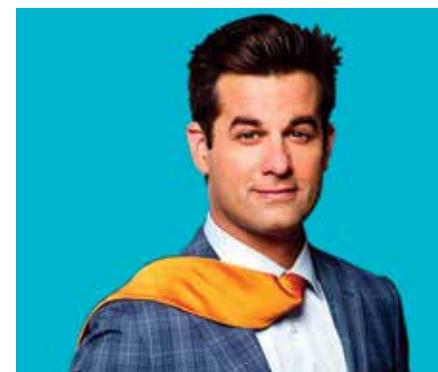
Local opening acts for the night are Meadville's Archway, Erie's Mallory Run and acoustic artist Josh Travis. Archway is hot off new their new release, *Crossroads*, while Mallory Run returns for a hometown show, after touring other cities surrounding the Great Lakes.

I may have said this more than a few times by now, but I can't stress enough how important it is to come out to smaller shows and support local and touring bands to keep the scene alive. Of course, it helps a lot more when the bands are as great as they are for this show. – Tommy Shannon

6 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$8 admission; all ages // facebook.com/events/1761948500744875

Thursday, Nov. 10

Michael Kosta Finds His Stroke at Jr.'s



The one-time 864th-ranked player in professional tennis is about to raise a racket in the 814 ... as a professional comedian.

Michael Kosta now serves them up both on the standup stage and in the

studio, currently presiding over *The Comment Section* on the E! entertainment network. The show plumbs some of the 21st century's richest resources of comedy – the internet and social media – to make sense of (and/or fun of) the current climate of pop culture. Kosta previously appeared on E!'s *The Soup Investigates* and FS1's *The Crowd Goes Wild*, which took a similarly light-hearted glance at the world of sports. He was also a frequent guest on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *Chelsea Lately* with Chelsea Handler.

Kosta's standup material does not deviate too much from his network material – only he addresses how modern phenomena in culture and dating affect Michael Kosta (he is wont to refer to himself in the third person, especially in his more animated bits). He has a gift for punctuating his anecdotes with ironic twists and flips subjects at a brisk pace without rushing through them – as a former athlete, he has honed an innate sense of timing and thrives on finding his zone. That being the case, Kosta is very intolerant of distractions – he will verbally backhand you if he catches you dickering with mobile devices during his show, so please remember your courtesies.

Like the perfect lob shot, comedy is about toying with expectations and exploiting the boundaries ... in that aspect, Kosta ranks much higher than 864th worldwide. Reserve your ticket to watch him play. – Matt Swanseger

Nov. 10 through 12 // 7 p.m. Thursday (\$12.50); 6:45 or 9:30 p.m. Friday and

Saturday (\$15) // 1402 State St. // jrslastlaugh.net/michael-kosta

Thursday, Nov. 10

Holiday Merriment Brought by Straight No Chaser



It's a bit too early for sugarplums to dance in anyone's heads, but holiday entertainment will arrive at the Warner Theatre on Nov. 10 with a capella group Straight No Chaser. Raise a glass to this outfit who present their aptly-named "I'll Have Another ... 20th Anniversary World Tour" celebrating their formation in 1996 and first ever gig at Indiana University. Singer Steve Morgan, one of the band's original members, explains the group's humble beginnings: "We started out by begging sororities and dorms to let us come in and sing for anyone who would listen. Now, we are fortunate enough to be able to sing for thousands of people a night (and we only have to beg some of them!). Also, we give a lot of thought now to the 'show'; anyone who has seen our show knows that we are more than

just a concert, we want to entertain you every step of the way."

Concertgoers can expect seasonal tunes from the group's latest release, *I'll Have Another ... Christmas Album*, which dropped on Friday, Oct. 28. It's their first full-length holiday album since 2009, and includes Christmas classics both old and new: traditional carols and modern holiday pop favorites. Straight No Chaser also added a few original tunes to the mix, such as "Feels Like Christmas," which features Jana Kramer. "We heard from fans in certain markets that have never been able to see our Christmas show, so we have been rolling with our holiday set since the tour began in mid-October. It has definitely given the show a different feel than how we normally start our fall tour, but that's been great to

Raise a glass to this outfit who present their aptly-named "I'll Have Another ... 20th Anniversary Tour."

mix things up," Morgan adds.

The all-male outfit cites some of their influences as The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Sting, Dave Brubeck and Timbaland. Audiences will surely be treated to an eclectic performance this November. "So grab a drink, enjoy the show, and laugh right along with us," Morgan laughs. "You owe it to yourself after making it through this election sea-

son!" – Miriam Lamey

7:30 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State Street // Tickets \$59.50, \$47.50 & \$37.50 // 452.4857 or sncmusic.com/tour

Friday, Nov. 11

Dreamy Folk Pop Vibrantly Soothing at BT



Life can become hectic at times. Whether it comes from pressures at work, school, or an abnormally stressful election season, sometimes we just need to sit back and give ourselves time to cool down. Basement Transmissions recognizes this need, and is taking a break from the usual chaotic sounds that can be heard around the block to give us a more toned down and mellow show, by bringing Liz de Lise and her dreamy folk pop musings to Erie.

This Philadelphia native's vibrant yet calming guitar topped with her com-

MUSIC

Floor Punk Show

Nov. 9 — 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Faculty Recital Series

Nov. 9 — 8 p.m.

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

New Horizons Music Project: Strings and Folk

Nov. 10, 17 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Dreamy Folk Pop Show

Nov. 10 — 6 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Straight No Chaser

Nov. 10 — 7:30 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

The Groove

Nov. 11 — 6 p.m.

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

Gem City Revival

Nov. 11 — 7 p.m.

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

Friday Night Jazz

Nov. 11, 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Anchor In at Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. jazzerie.org.

Dave Callaghan Quartet

Nov. 11 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Wegman's Cafeteria, 6143 Peach St. jazzerie.com.

Awake at Last, Beneath The Current, Of Shadows, First to Eleven, and Bathed in Formaldehyde

Nov. 11 — 6 to 10 p.m.

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

Intrepid Travelers

Nov. 11 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Rankin & Schell

Nov. 12 — 1 to 4 p.m.

Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. facebook.com/Arundel-Cellars-398619953537600.

Saturday Night Jam

Nov. 12, 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.

Anchor In at Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. jazzerie.com.

Classical Rivalries

Nov. 12 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

Cognitive, Obelus, Bravura, and Anti-matter

Nov. 12 — 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Bobby's Place, 1201 W. 18th St. facebook.com/gimpuguyunderground.

MoChester

Nov. 12 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Brian K. Chase

Nov. 13 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Roche Guest Artist Series: Mercyhurst University Voice Alumnae

Nov. 14 — 8 p.m.

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

Styx

Nov. 16 — 8 p.m.

Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

Double Duo, The Logan Series

Nov. 17 — noon to 1 p.m.

McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

Dave Callaghan Quartet

Nov. 18 — 6 to 9 p.m.

814 Grille, 1320 State St. jazzerie.com.

Sarah Elizabeth

Nov. 18 — 7 p.m.

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

Basket Eddy, Bootjack, Dom DeCecco and Colette Bone

Nov. 18 — 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

November Reign V

Nov. 19 — 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Frank-n-Steve

Nov. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.

814 Grille, 1320 State St. jazzerie.com.

Mozart and Laughter

Nov. 19 — 6:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 250 W. 7th St. gannon.edu.

For My True Love: Madrigals, Motets, and Songs for the Season

Nov. 19 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Paul, 134 W. 7th St. facebook.com/ErieRenaissanceSingers.

Jazz Ensemble Concert

Nov. 19 — 8 p.m.

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

Whiskey Daredevils

Nov. 19 — 9 p.m.

Darcy's Pub and Grub, 3746 W. 12th St. whiskeydaredevils.com.

Spiritual Rez, Six Year Stretch, and Hamilton

Nov. 19 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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

Steve Strickland Duo

Nov. 20 — 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Gem City Concert Band

Nov. 20 — 2 to 3:30 p.m.

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

Funktional Flow

Nov. 23 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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

DANCE

Home of the Free Because of the Brave

Nov. 11 — 7 to 9 p.m.

Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy, 2825 State St. facebook.com/events/191270317978296.

A Night on Baker Street Dance

Nov. 12 — 5:30 to 10 p.m.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. facebook.com/Stardust-Ballroom-Dance-Club-of-Erie-597514403606573.

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forting voice are a recipe for tranquility. De Lise is currently on a national tour promoting her self-titled album, highlighted by tracks like “Baby,” “Divine Lorraine,” and “Empathy, Ok.”

Local opening acts include Pine Diary, a soulful blend of indie, folk, shoegaze, jazz, and a hint of blues fronted by the remarkable voice of Jess Royer with *Erie Reader's* own Nick Warren on guitar. Royer especially shows off her wailing pipes in the song “Wandering Souls.” Also from Erie are The Sex Blossoms, an acoustic duo whose voices complement each other and their music in stellar fashion.

We all need time to just sit back, relax, and recharge our batteries. So come out to the show and let the sonically stimulating songs soothe your soul, before getting back into the hustle and bustle of the real world. – Tommy Shannon

6:30 p.m. // *Basement Transmissions*, 145 W. 11th St. // \$5 admission; all ages // facebook.com/events/1766193710313824/

Wednesday, Nov. 16

You're Foolin' Yourself (if you don't believe Styx will rock the Warner)

Some myths hold that Greek deities who drank from the River Styx (the “river of hate” separating the lands of living and dead) would lose their voices for nine years, just in time to bemoan (or cheer) an additional nine years of Olympian-council ineligibility. Others maintain that immersion in the Styx could render one virtually invulnerable – except, perhaps, for a certain Achilles’ heel (Hades, the watershed for the original cosmic joke).

The river’s namesake band could not



be more aptly titled. Artsy prog-rockers who gradually acquired a flair for arena bombast, they occupied the pantheon of rock gods by the late '70s and early '80s. Guitarist/co-lead vocalist Tommy Shaw’s incorporation into the band ushered in a string of four (!) triple-platinum albums: *The Grand Illusion* (1977), *Pieces of Eight* (1978),

Too much time on your hands Wednesday evening? Set and open course for the Warner Theatre and come sail away, come sail away.

Cornerstone (1979), and *Paradise Theater* (1981). Styx was a classic example of a band fans loved to love and critics loved to hate – success deflected derision, however. It seemed as though the group had bathed in an enchanted river, granting them powers beyond mortal comprehension.

Infighting quickly became the band’s Achilles’ heel, and after 1983’s far-flung rock opera *Kilroy Was Here* (which nonetheless bred the timeless “Mr. Roboto”), the band lost its voice – or rather, voices. Founding member and keyboardist Dennis DeYoung was convinced that the band’s theatrical-pop

direction was the proper course, while Shaw argued that the hard-edged arena rock of (his) songs like “Renegade” and “Blue Collar Man” had propelled them to the top. The two personalities went their separate ways and did not reunite on a semi-permanent basis until 1996. Renewed friction and DeYoung’s increasing sensitivity to light (problematic for an arena rock band with a flashy light show) soon forced him out of the band for good.

The current lineup consists of Shaw, Todd Sucherman (drums and percussion), Lawrence Gowan (vocals and keyboards), Ricky Phillips (bass, guitar, vocals), and original members James “JY” Young (vocals, guitar) and Chuck Panozzo (bass, vocals – when possible). They come to Erie having averaged over 100 shows a year for the past two decades – refuting the notion that no souls who enter the Kingdom of the Dead may leave.

Too much time on your hands Wednesday evening? Nothing to do but all night to do it? Set an open course for the Warner Theatre and come sail away, come sail away for \$48.50. – Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. // 811 State St. // erieevents.com or 452.4857 // \$48.50 (good seats) or \$58.50 (better seats)

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Gravity & Other Myths Brings Audiences Extremely Close to the Action

The experience of attending a live theater performance is so much more intimate and immediate than watching actors on a movie or television screen. Australian ensemble Grav-



ity & Other Myths (GOM) will take theatergoers at Mercyhurst University’s Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center to another level with its performance.

Talk about raw theater: The show, which has appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and other international locations, will bring the audience directly into the arena. The set is stripped down, sans lighting and other

See the actors struggle, move into the poses with ease and emotional work, and “see the personal narratives of the performers come naturally alive.”

illusory elements. Actors are acrobats and wear minimal costumes and makeup. The audience can hear, see, smell,

Nov. 12 — 8 p.m.
Dafmark Dance Theater, 1033 State St. dafmark.org.

Mercyhurst Dance Department: A Choreographic Showcase
Nov. 21 — 8 p.m.

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

FOOD & DRINK

New Cherry Bomb Beer Release

Nov. 9 — 7 to 9 p.m.
The Plymouth Tavern, 1109 State St. eriebrewingco.com.

Veterans Luncheon

Nov. 11 — 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Harvest Celebration

Nov. 11 — noon to 5 p.m. & Nov. 12, 13 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Various Locations,

lakeeriewinecountry.org.

Party with the Brewers

Nov. 11 — 5 to 10 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. eriealeworks.com.

Erie Friday Night Splash Party

Nov. 11 — 7 to 10 p.m.
Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. specialolympicspa.org.

Ales & Aces

Nov. 12 — 4 to 7 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy. lakeeriealetrail.com.

Pancake Breakfast

Nov. 13 — noon
Sacred Heart Church Auditorium, 816 W. 26th St. sacredhearterie.org.

Authentic North Indian Cuisine

Nov. 16 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Brewmaster Dinner

Nov. 19 — 5 p.m.
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

JazzErie Jazz Brunch

Nov. 20 — 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
La Nuova Aurora Society, 1518 Walnut St. jazzerie.com.

Toast & Taste

Nov. 20 — 1 to 4 p.m.
The Concourse at Union Station, 121 W. 14th St. shc-erie.ticketleap.com/toastandtaste.

Thanksgiving Eve Release

Nov. 23 — 5 to 11 p.m.
Lavery Brewing Company, 128 W. 12th St. facebook.com/laverybrewing.

FILM

Walking With Dinosaurs: Prehistoric Planet

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — 11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m.

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

Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — noon & 4 p.m.

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

Journey to Space

Ongoing through Mar. 3, 2017 — 2 & 5 p.m.

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

Vermin Supreme

Nov. 9 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Edinboro University Frank G. Pogue Student Center Room 2017, 405 Scotland Rd. facebook.com/EUPUPB.

Most Likely to Succeed

Nov. 9 — 7 p.m.

McDowell Intermediate High School Little Theatre, 3320 Caughy Rd. millcreekeeducationfoundation.org.

Christine

Nov. 9 — 7 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Up in the Air (1940) and Mud and Sand (1922)

Nov. 11 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Young Frankenstein (1974)

Nov. 12 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

Pan's Labyrinth

Nov. 16 — 6 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State

St.erieartmuseum.org.

Boy and the World

Nov. 17 — 8:30 to 11 p.m.
Edinboro University Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd. facebook.com/Edinborofilmseries.

The Rebound

Nov. 18 — 7 p.m.
Edinboro University Multipurpose Room Frank G. Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Rd. edinboro.edu.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles (1987)

Nov. 19 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

National Theatre Live: Hamlet

Nov. 20 — 12:55 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St.

CALENDAR

and almost touch the actors; there is no “fourth wall” in place. At this performance, attendees will see the actors struggle, move into the poses with ease and emotional work, and will see “the personal narratives of the performers come naturally alive.”

GOM formed in Adelaide, South Australia in 2009. The ensemble aim to present honest, open performances that are more like acrobatic physical theater than traditional circus or theater performances typically onstage or in the round. The group create, direct, and perform all their own work, and will provide a personal and evocative performance right here in Erie. — Miriam Lamey

7:30 p.m. // *Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center at Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. // \$20 Adult, \$15 Senior/Military, \$10 Student/Youth // 824.3000 or miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/*

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Pan's Labyrinth Helps to Crown Short Film Finalists

The Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania will show *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006) and its annual short film-making competition finalists' films at the Erie Art Museum on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.

Pan's Labyrinth is often described as a



sort of “*Alice in Wonderland* for grown-ups.” It combines fantasy with reality, telling the story of a young girl named Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) — whose mother (Ariadna Gil) recently married a ruthless army officer (Sergi Lopez) — in 1944 Spain. Directed by Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, this 2006 film won three Oscars and three BAFTAs, and was also nominated for or awarded nu-

Pan's Labyrinth is often described as a sort of “*Alice in Wonderland* for grown-ups.”

merous other honors.

The Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, a non-profit organization based in Erie, strives to create awareness for beyond-mainstream films. To do so, the group hosts week-

ly films at the Erie Art Museum, which are led by the Film Society's executive director, John C. Lyons. — Tracy Geibel

Doors at 5 p.m.; film begins at 6 p.m. // 20 E. 5th St. // \$5 // brownpapertickets.com/event/2600305

Saturday, Nov. 19

Celebrate Life and Love with a Reggae Dance Party



Spiritual Rez, a reggae band that promises to “shake a stage like a psychedelic dance earthquake,” will perform in Erie for a CD release party at the Kings Rook Club on Saturday, Nov. 19.

On their latest album, *Setting in the West*, which was released in early October, Spiritual Rez worked with Kenny Carkeet, a founding member of AWOL-NATION, to combine their “high-ener-

gy reggae sound” with “edgy contemporary pop.” The album includes story songs, love songs, and songs with this specific message: “Follow your dreams and never give up.”

“Determination has always carried us as a band,” band member Toft Willingham says. “After college, we were homeless for four years, just touring nonstop, committed to never giving up. To have made it this far doing what we love and not see an end in sight is a testament to hard work, but above all, it's a blessing.”

The album's final track, “Digital Age,” expresses the band's “desire to progress,” and encourages listeners to embrace change rather than fear it.

Spiritual Rez has performed with artists like George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic, Steel Pulse, and Jimmy Buffet.

Other performers at the Rook will include popular Erie-based bands Six Year Stretch and Hamilton. Six Year Stretch offers a mix of alternative, pop, and rock. Hamilton, performing in the upstairs lounge as part of the after-party, is a cover band influenced by artists like Otis Redding, Bill Withers, John Mayer, and Dave Matthews. — Tracy Geibel

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. // 1921 Peach St. // \$7; members and their guests only // facebook.com/events/302907700068145/

miac.mercyhurst.edu.

VISUAL ARTS

InnovationErie Competition 2016

Ongoing through Nov. 13
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Neil Donovan & John Vahanian Wood and Mixed Media Sculpture

Ongoing through Nov. 15
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

I Think I Found It Upside Down by Dietrich Wegner

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

Marking Place

Ongoing through Nov. 22
Allegheny College Doane Hall of Art, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu.

Barry Underwood

Ongoing through Dec. 9
Bruce Gallery in Doucette Hall, 215 Meadville St. brucegallery.info.

Dark Garden

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

Jose Picayo Polaroids:

A Retrospective

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

Mood Swing Review: A solo exhibition by Ron Bayuzick

Ongoing through Feb. 11, 2017
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Organic Forms and Pulsating Lines by Barbara and Julian Stanczak

Nov. 14 through Dec. 18 (Reception Nov. 17 — 5 to 7 p.m.)
Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

Second Sundays

Nov. 13 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

Noreen Finn, Recent Paintings

Nov. 18 through Jan. 10, 2017
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

THEATRE

Rent

Nov. 9 — 7:30 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. erieevents.com.

A Streetcar Named Desire

Nov. 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 13, 20 — 2 p.m.
Erie Playhouse, 13 W. 10 St. erieplayhouse.org.

Aside from Being Dead, He's in Perfect Health

Nov. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 — 8 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com.

27th Annual Medieval Feast

Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19 — 7 p.m. & Nov. 13 — 2:30 p.m.
Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs, 1 Fountain Ave. theriversideinn.com.

A Canterbury Feast

Nov. 11, 18 — 7 p.m. & Nov. 12, 19 — 5:30 p.m. & Nov. 13 — 2:30 p.m.
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

Fools

Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19, 26 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 13, 20, 27 — 3 p.m.
All An Act Theatre, 652 W. 17th St. allanact.net.

Legends of Broadway

Nov. 15, 16 — noon
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

A Simple Space by Gravity & Other Myths

Nov. 16 — 7:30 p.m.

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

Cirque du Soleil

Nov. 17, 18, 19 — 7:30 p.m. & Nov. 19 — 4 p.m. & Nov. 20 — 1:30 & 5 p.m.

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

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration

Nov. 17, 18, 19 — 8 p.m. & Nov. 20 — 2:30 p.m.
Allegheny College Vukovich Center for Communication Art, 520 N. Main St. sites.allegheny.edu.

Dark Play or Stories for Boys by Carlos Murillo

Nov. 18, 25 — 8 p.m.
2nd Floor Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

COMMUNITY/VARIETY

Wall of Heroes

Ongoing through Nov. 30 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Tinker the T-Rex Comes to the TREC

Ongoing through Feb 24, 2017 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr.

events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Healthy Eating: Making Every Nutritious Bite Count

Nov. 9 — 9 to 11 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tai Chi

Nov. 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Introduction to Pranich Healing

Nov. 9 — 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.
Edinboro Branch Library, 413 Plum St. erielibrary.org.

Zumba Gold

Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30 — 12:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Bowling for Fun

Nov. 9, 16, 23 — 1 to 3 p.m.
Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd. lifeworkserie.org.

Cloud Basics

Nov. 9 — 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Oriental Painting

Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30 & Dec. 7 — 5 to 7 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach

St.lifeworkserie.org.

LifeWorks Antiques Roadshow

Nov. 9 — 6:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Local History: Wilbur Henry Adams

Nov. 9 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Room 219 Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

Cultural Series: Exploring Hybrid Forms

Nov. 9 — 7 p.m.
Alex Theatre at Mercyhurst North East campus, 16 W. Division St. northeast. mercyhurst.edu.

Talkin' Turkey

Nov. 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

The Good Food Revolution

Nov. 9 — 7:30 p.m.
McGarvey Commons at Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

Lake Erie Eagles

Nov. 9 — 7:30 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

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Veggie Tray
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Platter
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(as well as any items
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Lake Erie Ale Trail Leads to Presque Isle Downs & Casino

Eleven local breweries join forces for 'Ales & Aces'



QUINN DOMBROWSKI VIA FLICKR

SATURDAY, NOV. 12

Craft beer enthusiasts will have a chance to keep it local this season. Eleven breweries from the area are joining forces, raising their collective glasses during Erie Craft Beer Week. Together, they've formed an organization known as the Lake Erie Ale Trail.

These brewers are in good company, including: Arundel Cellars and Brewing Company, Blue Canoe Brewery, The Brewerrie at Union Station, Erie Ale Works, Erie Brewing Company, Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing, Lavery Brewing Company, Millcreek Brewing Company, Sprague Farm & Brew Works, Timbercreek Tap & Table, and Voodoo Brewing Company.

The main event of Erie Craft Brew Week will be Ales & Aces. You might be able to guess what the "ales" implies, while "aces" refers to Presque Isle Downs &

Casino. The casino's Brew Brothers location will be the epicenter of local beers on the evening of Nov. 12. There, you'll be able to sample two winter beers from each of the 11 breweries. Attendees will also be privy to custom food pairings, auctions, and live entertainment; and receive \$10 in slot play from the casino.

In summation of the event, Erie Ale Works President Jeff McCullor confessed, "We attend a lot of beer fests and this one is going to take the cake." He added that "Brew Brothers has been a driving force in this event and really wants to support us as local businesses and brewers. We're all looking forward to showing what this town has for a craft-oriented event."

In addition to Ales & Aces, be sure to check out each location, as they'll host different events and promotions during Erie Craft Brew Week. One event will be the premiere of an Ale Trail collaboration: the German Stein beer known as "HAWT Roxxx" will be tapped at Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing on Nov. 10. – Nick Warren

4 to 7 p.m. // Brew Brothers at Presque Isle Downs & Casino, 8199 Perry Hwy, Erie // 860.8999 // Tickets \$50 online and at door // lakeeriealetrail.com/ecbw/

Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Depression, and the Switch to Turn Them Off

Nov. 9 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Cardio Fitness Class

Nov. 10, 17 — 9:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Wise Words for Wellness: Questions for the Pharmacist

Nov. 10, 17 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Live and Learn: River of Life Chiropractic

Nov. 10 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Admiral Room Blasco

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

Excel II

Nov. 10 — 5 to 8 p.m. & Dec. 13 — 9 a.m. to noon

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

Martin Espada, Creative Writers Reading Series

Nov. 10 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Larry and Kathryn Smith Chapel Penn State Behrend, 4701 College Dr. psbehrend.psu.edu.

Getting to Know You: Herta Danowski & Roy Voshall

Nov. 10 — 7 p.m.
Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

Michael Kosta

Nov. 10 — 7 p.m. Nov. 11, 12 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net.

When Roads Diverge: Robert Frost and the Belief of the Future

Nov. 10 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Yoga Retreat at Peek'n Peak Resort

Nov. 11, 12
Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Pieces & Patterns Scrapbooking and Vendor Event

Nov. 11, 12, 13

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THANKSGIVING EVE at the Plymouth November 23rd

OVO Brings Spring to a Chilly Erie November

A presentation from Cirque du Soleil warms up the imagination.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NOV. 17 – 20

Seasons march forth in a progression of life, death, and rebirth. As the year wanes, many look inward, pondering changes, becoming a little older. This fall, such sentiments are encapsulated in the cornucopia of color and imagination called OVO by Cirque du Soleil, which comes to the Erie Insurance Arena Nov. 17 through 20 for six performances only.

OVO means “egg” in Portuguese – the universal symbol of new life. This production differs from others by Cirque du Soleil in that “some shows are written

and presented more in a dark atmosphere,” says Nicholas Chabot, part of the company. “This – OVO – is super bright and super colorful ... it has a defined, super easy story to follow.”

The story opens in a magical, colorful world presenting many quirky and animated insects with nuanced lives of their own: the bright red ants who strive to gather food (juggling their edibles with their feet and, playfully, each other); the graceful dragonfly who balances and glides among the plants; the diablos, who send fiery spinning spools around the forest. The

realm is also home to a daring spider (played by the contortionist), acrobatic fleas, a ladybug, a slinky-like insect, trampolining crickets, and many other animated characters.

Suddenly, a mysterious egg appears in the creatures’ world. At the same time, a newcomer to the colony – a blue fly – arrives and disrupts the peace. He falls for the glamorous ladybug, and has to prove to the community that he is deserving of the ladybug’s love.

Through amazing physical feats, the ensemble present themes of love, energy, and life’s cyclical pattern. “It’s an easy story for kids,” explains Chabot. “There is also plenty of humor for adults, and everyone will enjoy the mesmerizing acts.”

Many innovative elements come together to make OVO, including costumes, music, lighting, and the physical prowess of the performers. The aforementioned egg is enormous and, at the beginning, covers most of the stage. Set designer Gringo Cardia took his inspiration from real-world insects, and creates a habitat that is a forest, a cave,

and also resembles a house. The music has a funky bossa nova feel with electronic elements and lots of percussion, played by a seven-piece band and vocalist. And the costumes, designed by Liz Vandal, took inspiration from real insects; the concept was to “connect with the feeling of being face to face with a spider, a cockroach or a butterfly,” but also to give the costumes a “superhero” aura. Finally, the cast is comprised of 50 actors from 12 different countries.

Chabot would describe OVO in three words: “impressive, colorful, and energizing.”

OVO is Cirque du Soleil’s 25th live production and was first performed in Montreal in 2009. Audiences should leave all expectations at the door when they

come to the Erie Insurance Arena, Chabot urges.

“Put your problems and worries aside and really get into the bug’s world,” he says. “Don’t question what’s before your eyes. Jump in – expect to be impressed and to wonder how the performers do it.” – Miriam Lamey

Thursday, Nov. 17 to Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19 at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. // Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. // cirquedusoleil.com/usa/erie/ovo/buy-tickets



Innovative elements come together to make OVO, including costumes, music, lighting, and the physical prowess of the performers.

Peek'n Peak Resort, 1405 Olde Rd. pknpk.com.

Veterans Day Flag Ceremony

Nov. 11 — 11 a.m.

Edinboro University Reeder Hall Lawn and Flagpole, 219 Meadville St. edinboro.edu.

Holiday Craft Show

Nov. 11 — 1 to 6 p.m. & Nov. 12 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Nov. 13 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rainbow Gardens, 220 Waldameer Park Rd. wqln.org.

Erie Polar Plunge

Nov. 12 — 9 a.m.

Presque Isle State Park Beach 7, 301 Peninsula Dr. specialolympicspa.org.

Windows

Nov. 12 — 9 a.m. to noon

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

Mercyhurst University Fall Open House

Nov. 12 — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mercyhurst University, 501

E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Santa's Arrival at the Millcreek Mall

Nov. 12 — 10 a.m. to noon

Millcreek Mall, 5800 Peach St. millcreekmall.net.

Porreco College Open House

Nov. 12 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Porreco College, 2951 W. 38th St. edinboro.edu.

Erie BayHawks vs. Windy City

Nov. 12 — 7 p.m.

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

Monday Family Story Time

Nov. 14, 21 & Dec. 12 — 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Weight Lifting for Balance, Strength, and Posture

Nov. 14 — 10:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Vibrant Life Series: End of Life Physical and Emotional Support

Nov. 14 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

University Spotlight Series: When is it Time? Driving Cessation Planning

Nov. 14 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Planetarium Show: Supermoon

Nov. 14 — 7 to 9 p.m.

Edinboro University Planetarium Room 169 in Cooper Science Center, 230 Scotland Rd. edinboro.edu.

An Evening with Fred Barnes

Nov. 14 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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

Erie Together Community Forum

Nov. 15 — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erietogether.org.

Intro to Computers and the Internet II

Nov. 15 — 9 am to noon & Dec. 15 — 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Fit for Life Fitness Class

Nov. 15, 22, 29 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Therapy Dogs

Nov. 15 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Local Author: Jenn Shepherd

Nov. 15 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

Fireside Wreath Making

Nov. 15 — 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd.

asburywoods.org.

An Evening with Doris Kearns Goodwin

Nov. 15 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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

Outside the Window: Fox

Nov. 16 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Ask an Expert Series: Returning to the Nest

Nov. 16 — 6 to 7 p.m.

Millcreek Municipal Building, 3608 W. 26th St. lifeworkserie.org.

The RECAP Initiative: Reducing Youth and Gang Violence by 79 percent in Boston

Nov. 16 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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

Mail Merge

Nov. 17 — 9 a.m. to noon

Room 212 Blasco Memorial

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

Vibrant Life Series: Shots Aren't Just for Children: Adult Immunizations

Nov. 17 — 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Tony Arnold

Nov. 17 — 7 p.m. Nov. 18, 19 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.

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

Smartest Places on Earth: Why Rustbelts are the Emerging Hotspots of Global Innovation

Nov. 17 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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

Medication Consultations

Nov. 18 — 9 to 11 a.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Pokemon Social Night: Grades 4+

Nov. 18 — 5:30 to 8 p.m.

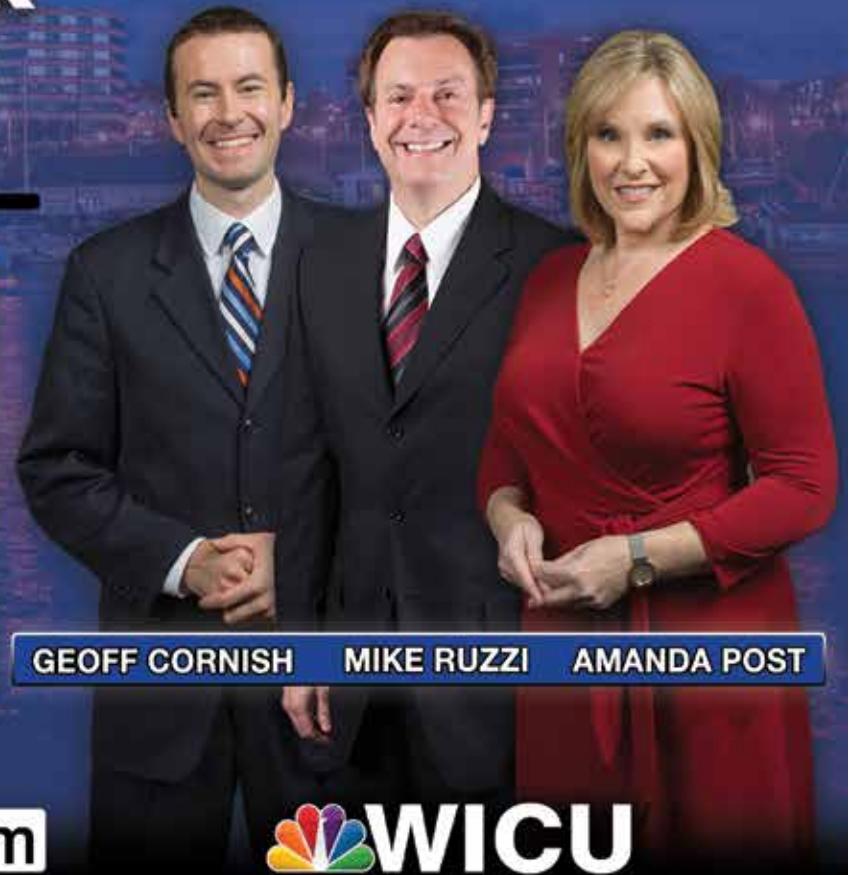
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Whiskey Daredevils Kick-start New Music Venue

The Cleveland Punkabilly band shakes up 'The Local' at Darcy's.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

at Darcy's Pub and Grub on West 12th Street. A few conversations later, he was asked to help spearhead a new live music venue. Bruce Hoffman, one of the owners of Darcy's – who also own Bruce's Pub and Grub on Eighth Street – wanted to see what they could do together for the local music scene.

The downstairs section of Darcy's is now known as "The Local." Boland helped

renovate the space, setting up a stage with curtains, a PA, and lighting. There's an ancillary bar, and no smoking downstairs, but you can still light up upstairs, where the main bar is located.

Boland explains the venue's intentions: "I'm trying to make it musically unbiased, to avoid cliques, and to have a different crowd every night potentially. For all of October, we had acoustic acts, and now in November, we're having full bands."

There's certainly a variety lined up, with bluesman Rodger Montgomery's band on Nov. 11, and Stephen Trohoske's Art Groupies on Nov. 12. Matty B & the Dirty Pickles will also play on Nov. 18.

"It can go from being an intimate setting where singer-songwriters have a place to showcase their music to a fun place for a full band," adds Boland. "Bands can have a new home where anyone can play." – Nick Warren

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Anyone familiar with the Whiskey Daredevils knows what's in store: loud, raucous fun with plenty of luscious guitar licks. The Cleveland quartet is ready to bring their unique brand of country, rockabilly, and punk rock back to town. Their appearance here heralds the release of their latest full length, *The Good Fight*.

The band is made up of singer Greg Miller and drummer Leo P. Love formerly of the Cowslingers, joined with guitarist Gary Siperko of Rocket From the Tombs fame and Rebecca "Sugar" Wildman, former bassist for Lords of the Highway.

Throughout their 12-year history, the Daredevils have graced many an Erie stage. Soon, they'll be breaking in an new one.

A short time ago, Matt Boland (of Matty B & the Dirty Pickles, Potwhole, Pine Diary, etc) began hosting an open mic

Box of Light Studio, 419 State St. boxoflight.org.

Clever Crows

Nov. 18 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

DIY Ceramic Tile Set

Nov. 18 — 1 to 3 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Fantastic Beasts Release Party

Nov. 18 — 7 to 9 p.m.

Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach St. facebook.com/Erie.BN.

The Digital Forevermore: Are We Ready?

Nov. 18 — 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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

Wine, Art, and Jazz

Nov. 18 — 8 to 11 p.m.

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

Windows II

Nov. 19 — 9 a.m. to noon

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

Mercyhurst North East Open House

Nov. 19 — 10 a.m. to noon

Ridge Health & Safety Building at Mercyhurst North East campus, 16 W. Division St. northeast.mercyhurst.edu.

Introduction to Pranich Healing

Nov. 19 — noon to 1 p.m.

Lincoln Community Center, 1255 Manchester Rd. erielibrary.org.

Thanksgiving on the Isle

Nov. 19 — noon to 2 p.m.

Presque Isle Lighthouse Parking Area in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Election

Nov. 19 — 1 p.m.

LEAF Education Center at Frontier Park, 1501 W. 6th St. aauwerie.org.

Writing and Self Publishing Workshop

Nov. 19 — 1 to 3 p.m.

Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Rd. erielibrary.org.

NCFA National Championship Bowl Game

Nov. 19 — 3 p.m.

Dollinger Field, 501 W. 12th St. ncfafootball.org.

Vera Bradley Purse Bingo

Nov. 19 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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CALENDAR

McClelland Park Trails Offer Residents Urban Green Space

Take a walk on the east side.



MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

By: Ti Sumner

Dogs are the new kids. We buy them sweaters when it's cold and take them swimming when it's hot. We get them vaccinated each year and skip work when they're sick. Some dogs even attend daycare and make friends.

In fact, more households have dogs than kids. The demand for establishments to become more pet-friendly is greater than ever. According to the Trust for Public Land, dog parks currently lead urban park growth in most major cities. Last year, the city of Erie embraced this trend with the dedication of its first public dog park at McClelland Park off of East 26th Street near McClelland Avenue.

Now, thanks to the efforts of a few city employees and the Sierra Club's Lake Erie Group, in addition to funding support from grants and local donors, McClelland Park also offers updated trails and walkways throughout its 56-acre

Bob Meehan, 34, giving water to the family dog, Cellie at McClelland Dog Park, joined by his two sons, Lindon and Holden.

woodland and wetlands system. Possibly most impressive is the width of the Wetlands Rim and Main Loop trails, on which wheelchair hikers can safely pass in opposite directions.

The Sierra Club Foundation awarded the McClelland Park project a \$10,000 grant – one of only nine awarded nationally last year – with the goal of “[protecting] close-to-home natural spaces so that access to the outdoors is equitable and available to all communities.”

So this year, when you're tempted to take that country drive to admire the fall foliage, think instead about the new trails. And make walking the new driving.

Ti Sumner can be reached at TSumner@ErieReader.com

High School FILMMAKERS' EXPO

Create a documentary film in one day on the theme of violence and our community.

Date: Saturday, November 19
Time: 11am – 5pm
Place: Erie Art Museum, 20 East Fifth Street

REQUEST A FREE APPLICATION:
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Erie's Voices is a program of the **Film Society of NWPA**

Erie Art Museum

<p>Wednesday, November 9 7:00pm Christine (2016) with Media Panel</p> <p>Based on true events; this film is winning raves on the festival circuit. In 1974, a TV news station manager issues a mandate for juicier and more exploitative stories, a story firmly at odds with Christine's (Rebecca Hall) serious brand of issue-based journalism. To accomplish her goals, she must overcome her self-doubt and give the people what they want.</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 16 8:00pm PA Short Film Contest Finalists</p> <p>7:00pm Pan's Labyrinth (2006) 10th Anniversary</p> <p>Alice in Wonderland for grown-ups, with the horrors of both reality and fantasy blended together into an extraordinary, spellbinding fable. Winner of 3 Oscars.</p>
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Harborcreek Social Hall, 7275 Buffalo Rd. eriebenedictines.org.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil

Nov. 20 — 1 to 2 p.m.
Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. [facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA](https://www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfNWPA).

Stop the Violence, Have Courage
Nov. 20 — 3:30 p.m.

Zurn Hall Mercyhurst University, 501 E. 38th St. eriebenedictines.org.

Privacy Issues

Nov. 21 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

County Council Meeting

Nov. 22 — 5 p.m.
Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th St. eriecountypa.gov.

Gentle Yoga

Nov. 22, 29 — 5:30 p.m.
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

University Spotlight Series

Nov. 22 — 12:30 to 2 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

Erie Bluffs After Dark

Nov. 22 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie Bluffs State Park, 1122 West Lake Rd. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Bayfront Brawl II MMA Cage Fighting

Nov. 23 — 7 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier erieevents.com.

Hunger for the Mediterranean

Petra Restaurant has your falafel cravings covered.



MATHAM BASHA-AGHA

By: **Miriam Lamey**

When you crave New York City street cart-style, grease-and-tahini-running-down-your-arm falafel in Erie, you might think you'll have to resign yourself to a nice Google image and then heat up last night's leftovers.

But if you have leftovers from Petra Restaurant on West Lake Road, then you have something more promising and delightful than any image or rubbery mac and cheese. You have the real deal.

Petra promises no greasy fare yet does bring forth a wealth of subtly-flavored food, very familiar to those acquainted with Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cuisine. However, the restaurant and menu mark an excellent starting point for those who want to try this fare for the first time in a comfortable setting. Dishes are authentic, fresh, tasty – and elegant.

Instead of a foil-wrapped falafel sandwich, you receive a generously stuffed pita or balanced appetizer order of the crispy, fluffy – not oily – chickpea delights that come with a light and

creamy tahini sauce.

And of course, Petra offers more than falafel, with a large but mostly simple menu: kebabs over rice, specialty Mediterranean entrees, and a unique dish or two that the waitstaff are happy to explain.

Portions are generous and cooked entirely to order – the Salmon Alexandria was just as rare inside as was request-

Petra offers more than falafel, with a large but mostly simple menu: kebabs over rice, specialty Mediterranean entrees, and a unique dish or two that the waitstaff are happy to explain.

ed, and the lamb kebabs were likewise as well-done.

The prices may be daunting. But even the largest appetites should have leftovers, particularly after sampling the complimentary bread and za'atar, that aforementioned delightful falafel, the creamy yet light hummus and smoky, smooth baba ganoush, and the not-to-be-missed cheese Fatayer.

Liam Mathew, executive chef of Petra, showcasing a falafel appetizer, a gyro platter, and sliced tenderloin with red wine demi-glace.

Petra also offers a full bar with a generous wine and beer list at mostly reasonable prices. We stuck to wine and beer and were satisfied.

Other standout entrees were the Mucklouba with seasoned beef, the Chicken Mediterranean, and all of the soups. The lentil and the daily special are both a treat. Be warned: The rice is a tad on the salty side, but keeps well for reheating.

Petra isn't a big place but happily accommodated our large group (we did make reservations) and maintained an intimate feel, thanks to great waitstaff and plenty of attention.

Certainly more elegant than that street cart sandwich, Petra boasts some delicious food in a relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere that keeps falafel cravings at bay.

Petra Restaurant // 3602 West Lake Rd. // 838.7917 // petrarestaurant.com/ Miriam Lamey can be contacted at Miriam@eriereader.com.

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What Can We Learn From History About the 2016 Election?

A conversation with Doris Kearns Goodwin



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By: Dan Schank

Winston Churchill had extremely bizarre sleeping habits. And he used to drive Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt crazy on account of them.

During WWII, the British Prime Minister made long visits to the White House, where he was often known to drink brandy until 3 a.m. and to disappear for an afternoon nap without telling anyone. FDR found it tough to keep up with him, and his staff often struggled to respond to his erratic schedule.

It's strange, intimate details like this one that make presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's work so compelling. The anecdote comes from 1994's *No Ordinary Time*, her Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the FDR ad-

ministration during the Second World War. More recently, her epic Lincoln biography, 2006's *Team of Rivals*, compelled superfan Barack Obama to choose Hillary Clinton as his Secretary of State. But its influence doesn't stop there – it was also the catalyst for Steven Spielberg's appropriately-named biopic *Lincoln* in 2012.

I spoke with Kearns Goodwin, who will soon be in town for the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit, by phone in late October. We chatted about the current election, *The Daily Show*, populism, conspiracy theories, and the dangers of partisan gridlock. Our conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

Dan Schank: Can you tell us a bit about your correspondence (and friendship) with President Obama?

Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will speak at Mercyhurst's D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on Nov. 15 as part of the Jefferson Educational Society's Global Summit.

Doris Kearns Goodwin: In 2007, sometime in the early stages of the nomination battle with Hillary, I got a call on my cell phone. And he said: "Hello. This is Barack Obama. I've just read *Team of Rivals* and we have to talk." He was interested in the emotional intelligence of Lincoln – how he was able to put past hurts behind him, and how he was able to stamp down jealousy and envy.

I went to talk to him in the Senate office building, and that began a relationship that developed during his presidency. I became involved with a group of historians who went to the White House every now and then to give him advice. We'd go as Truman, Jackson, Jefferson, or LBJ historians, to bring our thoughts into the dining room with him at a small dinner. And we'd advise him on whatever problems he was facing at the time.

When he won the nomination, he was really reading up on Lincoln (not just because of my book but because of others as well) and someone asked him if he would really be willing to put a chief rival into his inner circle – even if his or her thoughts were an occasional pain in the butt. And he referenced Lincoln, saying that if the country's in peril, and these are the strongest available people in the country, then yes, he would put these rivals in his cabinet.

DS: Now that your scholarship has directly influenced public policy, has it changed the way you work?

DKG: When the impeachment happened with Bill Clinton, the television networks turned to historians to deal with this incredible issue. So that was probably the first time, at least in my generation, that a lot of historians were talking publicly about history on television.

What has been fun for me about it – and helpful – is that when you spend 10 years writing a book on Lincoln, or six years writing one on Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, to be able to go on television for a few minutes allows you to have an outlet for your thoughts

about the current day. And I'm always trying to bring history to bear on the current situation.

When Jon Stewart first asked me to be on *The Daily Show*, it was really scary. And my children said, "You have to!" Because they watched him, obviously, and they got some of their news from him.

I remember still that he came down the corridor, and he had made up a song about me to put me at ease. And he said that each time I came on, there would be another verse added to the song. So I just felt totally relaxed.

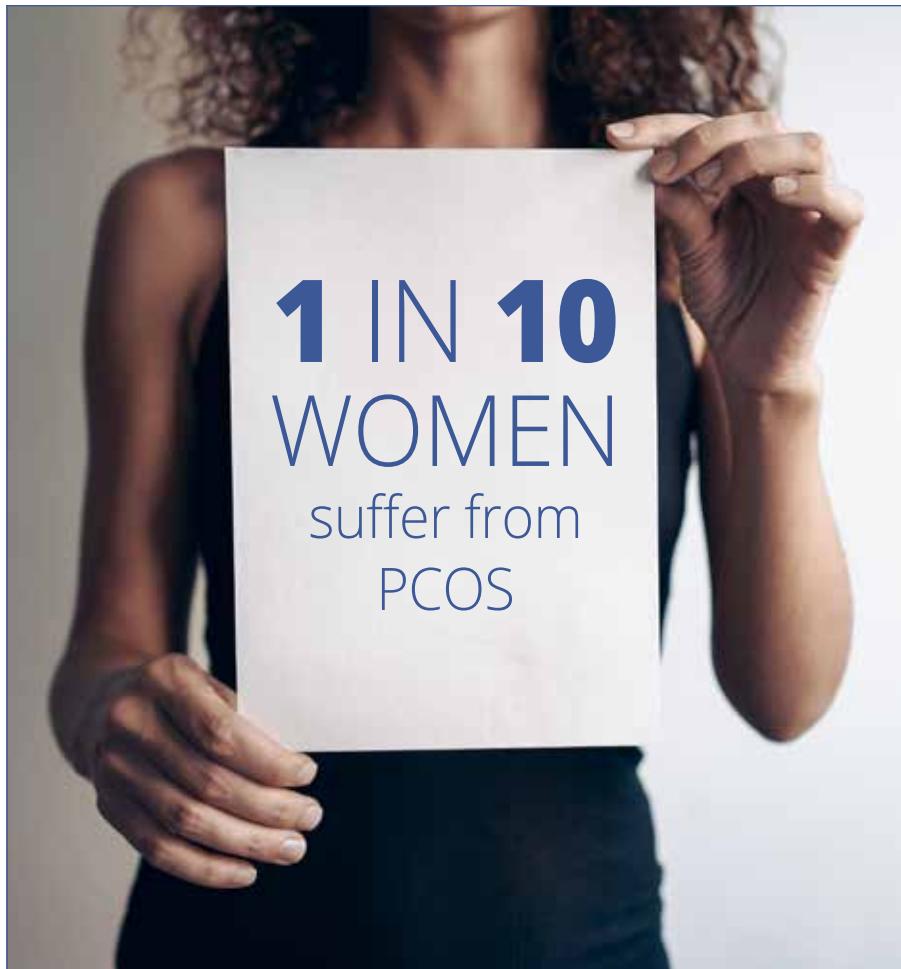
And it is fun to reach people that way because if I go to speak at colleges, there will be people who know me from television rather than from having read these long books.

DS: You've written extensively about populist presidents like the Roosevelts and Lyndon Johnson. Could you talk about the role of populist rhetoric in the current presidential race?

DKG: The fact that Bernie Sanders reached such a large following – and obviously Trump has, too – shows that there are concerns. A segment of the country, especially in the working class where jobs have been taken away by technology or globalization, feel that they haven't been looked after.

It reminds me of what happened at the turn of the 20th century when the industrial revolution had shaken up the economy. Then, it was people on the farms feeling that, as people were migrating to the cities, they were being left out of the process, that immigration was taking their jobs, that a gap was growing between the rich and the poor ... and they were nervous about where the country was going. I think a lot of those feelings are replicated today because of the changing economy.

But then the question is: What do you do about it? And that requires real solutions, not just rhetoric. That's what Teddy Roosevelt was able to do. There was a lot of populist rhetoric in the 1890s, and then when he got into office as a progressive, he was able to mobilize the Congress to change the working hours for women and children, to deal with the exploitation in the factories, and to deal with big companies swallowing up small companies. It requires political skill as well as



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FEATURE

rhetorical skill if you want something to happen.

DS: How do you think Hillary Clinton can respond to today's populism?

DKG: One of the things Teddy Roosevelt did was to get out of Washington. He actually took train tours for six weeks in the spring and six in the fall. He knew that he had to hear, on a local level, what people were feeling. Somehow a train seemed a wonderful way to do that. Because they go through small villages as well as cities, he could meet with people along the way.

I've often thought that the trouble with today's transportation is that you can fly in and fly out. You're not getting a sense of how the local people are truly feeling. One wild thought might be to take regular train rides to feel what the country is feeling. I think she'll need to really keep in touch with that popular sentiment outside of Washington.

The other thing, obviously, would be to reach across the aisle and have more congresspeople and senators to the White House, like LBJ used to, to ensure that you've made the best effort to spend time with them.

DS: The Trump candidacy has attracted an unusual amount of misinformation, including outright conspiracy theories. Can you talk about the history of misleading information and its influence on presidential campaigns?

DKG: In contrast to a time when you had three television networks who pretty much agreed on the facts, now because of the polarized cable structure – and because people are listening to like-minded people for what they want to hear – you have a fractured sense of what's true and what's not. And even if facts get checked, it doesn't matter. That makes it much harder to govern, when there is such a split between what different people perceive as reality.

It seems to me that this has happened more in this election than it has since the 1850s, when the country was splitting apart between North and South. In my lifetime, it's been as difficult in this election as I've seen it.

DS: So the 1850s are the closest correlation?

DKG: People always ask me if there's solace in history. And I say, "Well, it may not give you solace that it was worse in the 1850s leading up to a Civil War!" (laughs) For example, when Charles

Sumner was dinged over the head by a southern congressman, he was out of the Senate for two years. It was a brutal assault. He was heroized in the North, and the southern congressman who assaulted him was heroized in the South.

I don't think we're at that stage now. But it's dangerous when you have a campaign where the dialogue is so much coarser than it has been in recent times. Now young children are hearing discourse during these debates – and afterward on television – that has to be affecting the way we think about politics and the country.

Another issue is that there is so much stuff out there today – on the internet, in various places – that people can pull anything from anywhere. And even if you say "That's not factually true," there's always yet another article that

"There is so much stuff out there today – on the internet, in various places – that people can pull anything from anywhere. And even if you say 'That's not factually true,' there's always yet another article that says it is."

says it is. If you're so used to people throwing around expert opinions from somebody-or-other, you don't know how to make sense of them all.

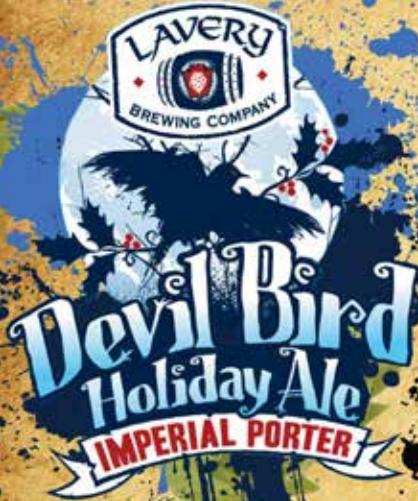
It used to be that people had figures – political leaders, or people like Walter Cronkite in the old days – where you had a sense of trust in their authority. But I'm not sure that those figures exist in the same way that they used to. So you're just left on your own to mediate this whole thing, and it's very hard. The more information we have, sometimes the less we know, because there's no way to filter it.

Doris Kearns Goodwin will speak at Mercyhurst University's Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, jeserie.org/jes-summit/global-summit

Dan Schank can be contacted at dschank@eriereader.com.

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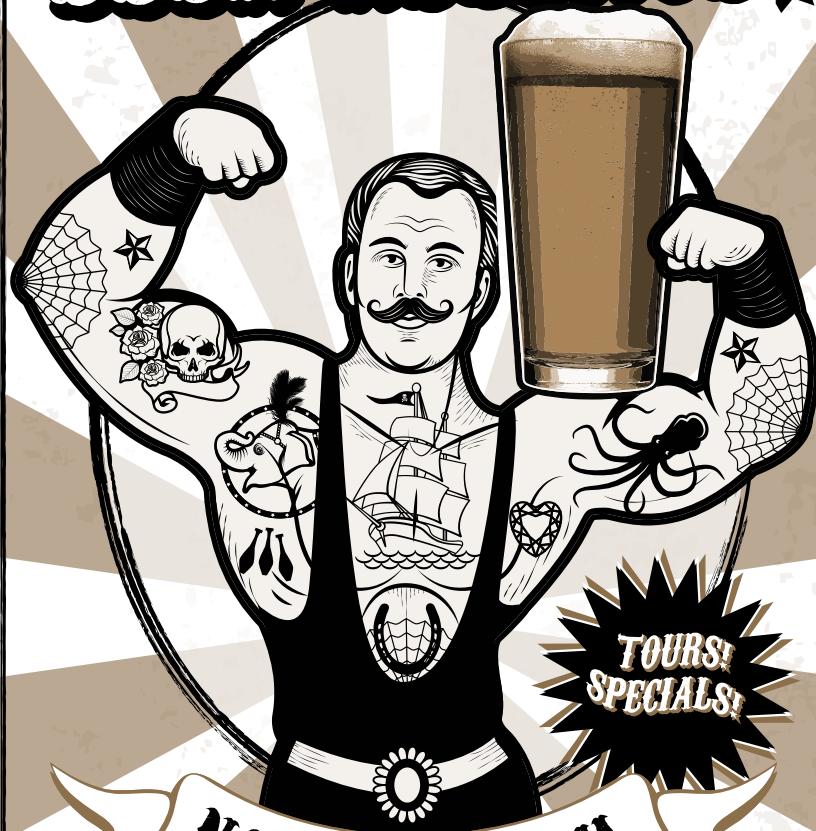
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Drive-By Truckers

American Band
ATO Records



American Band is the 11th studio album by the Athens, Georgia band Drive-By Truckers. It's easy to see why the



band has amassed such a dedicated following. Principal songwriters Patterson Hood and Mike Cooley serve as the voices of the band. Speaking generally, Hood's tracks are darker and more somber ("Darkened Flags on the Cusp of Dawn," "Sun Don't Shine"), while Cooley's are infectiously raucous ("Surrender Under Protest," "Kinky Hypocrite"). The band has long had crossover success with indie rock fans. Picture someone mentioning that they like country, quickly name-dropping Hank Williams and Johnny Cash to clarify that they don't care for that *stuff on the radio*. It's an apt distinction, as fans of Wilco and Bruce Springsteen will agree. By the time the album has reeled you in, you hear "What It Means." It's easily the most significant track on the album, a forthright discussion of the Black Lives Matter movement. It's a startlingly beautiful protest song sung with a white southern growl. An honest perspective, it's the most outwardly political statement the band has ever made. – Nick Warren

Leonard Cohen

You Want It Darker
Columbia



There have been a handful of exceptionally strong releases by aging musicians this year. Standing toe-to-toe



with Nick Cave's *Skeleton Tree* and David Bowie's *Blackstar* is Leonard Cohen's *You Want It Darker*. Those familiar with Cohen will not be surprised by the astounding songwriting showcased on this album. Those with only a cursory knowledge of the artist (i.e. "Hallelujah") will find this to be a perfect entry point for the singer's catalog of dense work. His 14th album since 1967, *Darker* employs Cohen's baritone rumble that emerged in the early 1990s. The instrumentation is just heavy enough to overshadow his signature keyboard sound (known by many from 1984's *Various Positions*). From the very first notes of the title track, the sound shows Cohen at his most modern, blending elements of jazz, gothic rock, and country with the flamenco-like guitar of his earlier work for a unique voice. Lush string sections ring out a weeping dirge with maximum effectiveness, especially on the latter half of the album. In the truest sense of the word, it's a haunting record. – Nick Warren

Lady Gaga

Joanne
Interscope Records



Lady Gaga has been diversifying her portfolio for the past few years. Between two astoundingly credible per-



formances at the 2015 Oscars and the 2016 Super Bowl, she started acting in *American Horror Story*. Now the iconic singer is reaching out for an ever-so-slight country flavor. Following the success of 2011's "You and I," Gaga tinges her dance pop with a touch of southern affectation. The first single, "Perfect Illusion," falls in line as a perfect sample of the electropop cut right from "Bad Romance" and family. The follow-up single, "Million Reasons," along with tracks like "Sinner's Prayer," "Grigio Girls," and "A-YO," have that taste of red-state drawl. The fact that these twangy tracks are so easy to group together is telling of how noticeable the distinction is. It's a frenetic mash of styles that feels like a future we were never supposed to have. Emotion is shoehorned in with dramatic flair, her schizophrenic nature turning on a dime. Above all, "Mother Monster" makes likeable, infectious music for the masses. Every song is listenable, with hook-heavy production and virtuoso vocals. – Nick Warren

Justin Moyer

Reconnect
Self-released



Erie's own Justin Moyer offers up 10 toe-tapping tracks for his debut album, *Reconnect*. Live, Moyer often performs his songs



with a loop pedal, adding in percussion parts, along with his own backup vocals. Not unlike these performances, the opening track builds gradually, swinging a steady groove that lures the listener in. It's three minutes into the eight-minute "Parachute" before Moyer sings a word, but by that time, you're already paying attention. This is dimly lit, arenose music of the highest degree. Percussive acoustic seventh chords infuse the tracks with a jazz influenced folk sound. Classically trained violinist Louis Nicolía proves to be an invaluable sonic ingredient, painting in emotional flourishes of strings throughout the album (notably on "Play Your Song"). "Highway Beggar Man" showcases the smoking Diddley Bow, a small cigar box style guitar capable of huge sounds (usually with one or two strings), wielded by Nicolía. The catchy "Carpal Tunnel" proves to be an indelible melody, complete with a kazoo solo by Moyer. Titular track "Reconnect" provides some of the more impressive lyrical turns on the album. – Nick Warren

[Cont. from Page 15] t h e paint job was one of the great challenges of the job.

The work going into meeting international requirements and making a safe, seaworthy vessel cannot be underestimated. At the peak of construction Donjon employed about 200 skilled workers on two shifts in both fabrication and assembly, which contributed to Erie's economy through regular employment for that two-year period.

The pay was hard-earned, as workers faced difficult conditions to complete the job. The Donjon facility is made up of two buildings. The shorter building on the west side con-

tains the long, flat tables (earlier referred to by Lauscher) where the steel is prepared and shaped.

The parts are then transferred to the assembly building to the east, the larger of the two. It has a 160-foot ceiling, and contains the 1,000-foot graving dry dock (only one of two that size on the Great Lakes). Both buildings have large doors opening to the outside, and no heat or air conditioning.

In winter, then, welders might have to shovel feet of snow in the dry dock to uncover their weld sites. In summer, they may have to lie across hot steel to reach their work.

Other workers have their own set of daunting conditions, as well. So when Hammer says, "It takes a special person to work in the conditions we have here," he means it.

John Witte, executive vice president and director of Donjon, agrees. "This is not an easy life. As you know weather here can be fickle. Just getting from home to a warm office in the winter is hard enough. These guys work in it every day, but still have a great work ethic and are a pleasure to be around."

Lauscher is one of those guys. And he loves what he does. "It's fantastic place to work. And coming from the

Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the weather is similar and I find the winters here a little milder," he says, grinning.

Now, as Sea-Chem prepares to start plying the oceans, and with the challenges of the build behind them, everyone is ready for its departure, which Hammer says, for him, will be the most rewarding moment of the two-year experience.

Seabulk Tanker officially took ownership on Friday, Oct. 14. After system tests are completed and passed, Sea Power and Sea-Chem will depart for sea trials on the lake. If all goes well, the new articulated tug barge will head for the St.

Lawrence Seaway and, eventually, Port Everglades, Florida: its home port. Although gone, it will take part of Erie with it wherever it goes.

As for the employees of Donjon, they are uncelebrated for the most part. They shouldn't be. As Hammer told me, "I am very proud of everyone here and the huge effort they have all put in. Their hands built this barge from raw steel."

Clearly, manufacturing in Erie is not dead.

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

Erie Faces Erie

Elisa Guida

founder and
executive director of
StringsforaCURE

Ed Bernik

photographer

"Music has always been a big part of my life. But so has art. So when all this came about and I thought of this idea, it just went together."

Ed Bernik: Give me a little background on StringsforaCURE.

Elisa Guida: Well, the first time I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I was 40 years old. I had just gotten married, was hoping to start a family, and that was just not in the cards. Fast forward 10 years, and I was diagnosed a second time. I did not have a lump either time. It will soon be 11 years since my second diagnosis. Life was still trucking along and what ended up happening was that in 2008, I was at a Bon Jovi concert and had been commissioned to make a guitar string bracelet through my other business [La Petite Jewelers]. I said to my husband, Ed, "I should get famous musicians to donate their used guitar strings and I should start helping [cancer patients]." To date, we've given out 1,464 gas, grocery, or pharmacy gift cards, plus medical and living expense grants. This program of ours is a national program. So in this little bit of time that StringsforaCURE has been around, we've helped over 1,215 cancer patients, giving over \$184,104 directly to patients.

EB: What made you decide to give up your own work and

pursue this foundation?

EG: Originally, I was looking at it as a creative outlet. I know what it's like to get a pick-me-up. I was considering the gift cards as a pick-me-up to get in the mail. To think that a total stranger is thinking of you during your treatments—I know what that feels like. But my friends should have sat me down! I joke about it, and last night I was blaming my mother. My mother said to me in 2010, "If you really want to do this, you should do it." Did I think it through? No!

EB: Did you realize the time and commitment?

EG: No. I actually thought I was still going to be able to run my other business in conjunction with StringsforaCURE. That was an impossibility.

EB: Do you see passing off the administrative duties in the future?

EG: I don't see that. There are so many hospitals now that depend on us to help their patients and we keep implementing new programs. There's a lot of behind the scenes work. Everybody thought it was just about the jewelry and didn't realize it was about the programs. The jewelry accounts for about 10 percent of our money. The strings are recycled materials; the musicians send them to us, but they would have been throwing them into the trash. There's no money value to our charity with the strings. The only time there's a value is when I have time to make a piece and if someone buys it. As a jeweler by trade, I knew I was going to have to give up my trade to run the foundation.

EB: On your website, you mentioned the effect of music on your life.

EG: I have always been into music. I went to see the Beatles when I was nine. I played the piano from ages nine to 14. After graduating from Mercyhurst with a fine art degree in jewelry, I started following and supporting the local music scene. That's why when we have our annual "Picking on Cancer" fundraiser, we always get the music donated. Ed and I have always gone to shows. During college I was going back to Philly to go to concerts. I was at [the Concert for] Bangladesh in the third row. Music has always been a big part of my life. But so has art. So when all this came about and I thought of this idea, it just went together.

EB: So the jewelry that you create starts with a guitar string.

EG: Yes. In the beginning, every single piece was custom. I would sit at my bench, look at the string, take the string apart, add whatever, put it up online,

and it was sold. That's how StringsforaCURE got started. We sold 1,000 custom pieces in the first year.

Now when I sit down, I have a select set of designs. Like

"In this little bit of time that StringsforaCURE has been around, we've helped over 1,215 cancer patients, giving over \$184,104 directly to patients."

the Rock Garden of Rock Stars strings: It's a flower, and I can do that with anybody's string. I also do crosses, they're very popular.

EB: Are there musicians you would like to see donate?

EG: The biggest thrill was Bon Jovi. I wrote on the back of my

ticket in 2008: Bon Jovi, Chris Daughtry, Paul McCartney. I still have the ticket. I did get Bon Jovi's and Daughtry's. There's a list on our website of all the musicians who have donated, like Lyle Lovett, Willie Nelson, Wynonna Judd, Bon Jovi, Daryl Hall, Melissa Etheridge, and Joe Bonamassa (who was the first to donate years ago). So if I ventured to say who I would like to get: Springsteen and McCartney.

EB: A wish for StringsforaCURE?

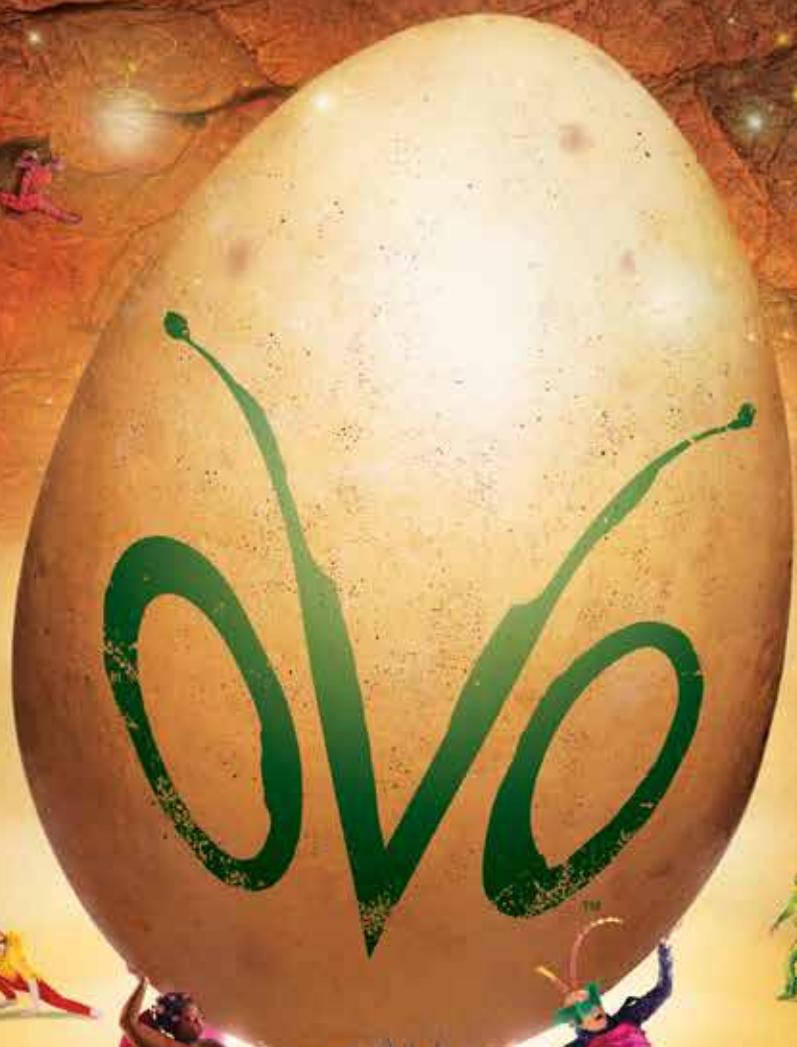
EG: I would like a famous musician to take us under their wing. To recognize the work that this little charity is doing. Then we could offer all of our programs, medical grants, living expense grants, etc. all across the United States.

Elisa Guida: stringsforcure.org

Ed Bernik: bernikphotography.com



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PRICES

OPENS NEXT WEEK!

ERIE INSURANCE ARENA

— CIRQUEDUSOLEIL.COM/OVO —

*\$25 child price available on select performances.
Service and facility fees apply. Prices subject to change without notice.
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PRESENTED BY

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Signature

OFFICIAL SPONSOR

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GET IN YOUR GAME!

\$40,000

BLACK FRIDAY
GIVEAWAY

Fridays in November
4pm-10pm

Five Winners Every Hour!
Cash Prizes up to \$1500!

- One Free Entry every Friday you play in November.
- One Bonus Entry for every 20 tier points you earn that day.
- Tier Entry Multiplier on Wednesdays

(Players can only win one time per night.)

\$80,000
SHOPPING
Spree GIVEAWAY

Just in time for the holidays! Saturdays in November
4pm-10pm

Five Winners Every Hour!
Win Gift Cards from local retailers ranging from \$250 to \$3,000!

- One Free Entry every Saturday you play in November.
- One Bonus Entry for every 20 tier points you earn that day.
- Tier Entry Multiplier on Thursdays

(Players can only win one time per night.)

GAME DAY SPECIALS

Join us on Sundays at The Brew Brothers to watch Football on the Big Screen

\$.50 - Wings
\$1 - 12oz Bud Light Draft
\$1 - Jumbo Smith's Hot Dog
\$2 - Pulled Pork Sandwich with French Fries

Different Food and Drink specials every Sunday
Find our specials on the Web and Facebook

Giveaways from Sports Obsession each week!




CASINO FLOOR
HAPPY HOUR

5PM-7PM

\$2 Single Well Drinks	\$2.50 House Wine
\$2 Draft Beer	\$3 Lambrusco
\$2.50 Blue Moon Draft	\$4 Fume Blanc (Ferrari Carano)
\$2.50 & \$3 Bottled Beer	\$7 Siena (Ferrari Carano)

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 ELDORADO RESORTS

 I-90 Exit 27, Erie PA
presqueisledowns.com

 1.866.ERIE.FUN

If You or Someone You Know
Has a Gambling Problem,
Help is Available.
Call 1-800-GAMBLER.