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ERIE READER

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Women's March
Almi Clerkin
Dan Laughlin
Doris Cipolla
Gull Point



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



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Embracing love for everyone.

It's easy for some people to feel angry in times like these. Things seem like they're crumbling down around us so quickly that it's difficult to even keep track. But a recurring sentiment is also making its way through to our psyches, and it's an important one: love.

And what an appropriate time for love it is.

It's the early days of February, and that marks one thing for sure: Valentine's season. Of course, it's a "constructed" holiday. But at least it's one that was constructed around a noble purpose.

There are plenty of different ways to share the spirit of the holiday. Join 14 local musicians who all have something to say about love. Listen to a mixtape just for you and let them lead you through the ups and downs of love's curious path.

The sentiment is for everyone too, not just the relationship. Miriam Lamey gives you plenty of ideas for Valentine's Day whether you're single, a couple, or a family. Matt Swanseger abstracts the idea even further, detailing several historical Erie pairings of every sort.

The week leading up to this issue was book-ended by protests. On Saturday, Jan. 21, a crowd estimated at over 2,500 people assembled in Perry Square for the Erie Women's March. On that unseasonably warm day, people came out in droves to march and listen to speakers. One speaker, Doris Cipolla, has offered her personal take on several important subjects that we're happy to feature in this issue.

Erie's Women's March was a sister march, one echoed around the entire world. The "main event," so to speak, was in Washington, D.C. Mary Birdsong recounts her experience participating in this iconic event, where she was one of an estimated 500,000 to 1 million individuals. It was a rallying cry for women around the world to come together in meaningful, peaceful demonstration.

On Sunday, Jan. 29, protesters assembled again to stand with immigrants and refugees. Though the day was at least 30 degrees colder than the previous week, hundreds were eager to make their voices heard in solidarity with Erie's new Americans. Speakers addressed the crowd, including the *Erie Reader's* own Maitham Basha-Agha. The Iraqi-born photojournalist recently exhibited his series *Rust Belt New Americans*, which focuses in on the moving life stories behind dozens of resettled refugees. Through witnessing beautiful photography and touching biographical accounts, the viewer quickly forges a personal connection with each local subject. The series is ready to view online.

When it feels like forces throughout the world, and even in our own country, seem hell-bent on shutting others out, love is a very important thing to hold onto.

Love for humanity is a force that can change the world. Now is the time to embrace and celebrate it, whether it happens to be Feb. 14 or not.

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Women Take Washington

Standing up for good in Trump's America



Flourishes of pink wool dot the nation's capital in a small section of the Women's March on Washington that took place Saturday Jan. 21, 2017.

MARY SCUTELLA

By: **Mary Birdsong**

I wasn't expecting to be standing with well more than half a million people in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 21. Nor had I conceptualized or ever worn a "pussy hat," a pink cap with pointed cat ears. Then again, back during the primaries when Donald Trump was leading in the polls, a friend remarked on social media, "This is a joke, right?" And I agreed it had to be.

But here I am, and here we are with a new president who gives many of us pause.

With the remnants of the inauguration surrounding us, and his harsh words about "American carnage" still burning a hole in my psyche, I stand amidst fathers with daughters and mothers with sons, people of every color, culture, age, ability, and gender. In his address the day before, Trump promised, "The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans."

I repeat, *all* Americans.

So, I wondered, would that woman over there in a hijab have his ear? Can that same-sex couple over there stop worrying that their legal marriage might suddenly disappear?

The new president also suggested that the triumphs of the Washington establishment did little for our nation's struggling families, which seemed brutally insulting to an Obama administration that implemented the Affordable Care Act, allowing more than 20 million Americans to access health care, some for the first time. I also recalled how, in 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not bar same-sex couples from marrying. Just those two acts alone reduced hardships for many families.

Trump also said, "we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the people."

Experts estimate that between 500,000 and 1 million people showed up for the Women's March in Washington, D.C. alone to hold him to that promise.

The flood of people was a wide and diverse river. Even before arriving downtown, I felt the drumbeat of activism at the suburban Metro station. People carried signs that were funny, vulgar, thoughtful, and sincere. We had to wait on the platform as five packed trains came and went full of cheering

people. When our turn came, we cheered too, and waved at those still stuck waiting for their ride at subsequent stations. They waved back. While there was undoubtedly anti-Trump fury in the air, there was also joy, a positive spirit, and a marshaling of optimism.

Mary Scutella, an Erie resident who hails from a family of social activists, remarked, "We

America on inauguration Friday might have been the flags and the pomp and peaceful transition of power. But the America I embrace showed up in force on Saturday, with rainbow flags, compassion for all, and an optimistic gleam in its eye, ready to fight for what it believes in.

are a sea of people standing in solidarity. We have nothing to really gain from this except the knowledge that we can still trust strangers. And that together we are unstoppable."

The crowd was unstoppable in its exuberance; but not in its motion, as the press of human-

ity quickly filled every pocket of space around the National Mall. As we slowly made our way through the growing sea, the mood never soured.

David Dennis, owner of Lake Country Bike in North East said, "I am still trying to wrap my mind around the experience of so many culturally different Americans standing united. There was no violence, no panic, and no chaos, but unbelievable order."

Everyone worked hard to not step on toes and apologized when then did. A young black woman gave up her turn at the porta-potty to guard an elderly white woman's walker. Another woman stood nearby handing out tissues to compensate for the lack of paper in the facilities.

America on inauguration Friday might have been the flags and the pomp and peaceful transition of power. But the America I embrace showed up in force on Saturday, with rainbow flags, compassion for all, and an optimistic gleam in its eye, ready to fight for what it believes in.

Since the march, though, the president has signed orders to defund U.S. women's health initiatives internationally, re-inforced his support for oil exploration, directed the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to stop communicating with the public, instituted a temporary ban on most refugees and a suspension of visas for citizens of Syria and six other Middle Eastern and African countries – and is laying the foundation for his wall.

At his inauguration, Trump said, "We all enjoy the same glorious freedoms and we all

salute the same great American flag." As a veteran, I say hear-hear to the latter and happily honor the flag of my country.

I would disagree that we all enjoy the same freedoms, however. Women, immigrants, gays, lesbians, the transgendered, and people of color still face stubborn discrimination, and are fighting for equality in healthcare, wages, and the justice system. Yes, freedom is not a synonym for equality. But equality makes true freedom achievable.

Lisa Gensheimer, a writer, documentary producer, and *Erie Reader* contributor from North East, said she came because she wanted her "grandchildren to have a planet to stand on, clean water, fresh air, and a world where all people are treated equally with love and compassion and have the same economic opportunities." That sentiment was echoed throughout the day.

I also spoke with Delaney Hayes, age 14, who came from Oak Harbor, Ohio with her mom, aunts, and cousin. She came because "I'm already thinking ahead, and I want to be guaranteed equal pay for equal work." Who could deny her that simple dream?

But, you know, we all have a Delaney. My granddaughter, your great-grandson, your neighbors' adopted infant from Kazakhstan. In fact, somewhere between 3.3 and 5.2 million people in 653 cities across the U.S. all have Delaneys, evidently, as that's how many people stood up to be counted. It is our task to see that all of our Delaneys get a decent future. See you on the barricades.

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

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NEWS & VIEWS

Just a Thought

No, Napoleon. Some animals are *not* more equal than others.



On Labor Day weekend, at the Detroit port of entry from Canada, this sign was lit over a single closed lane. A few months later, it's taken on new meaning.

SHELDON PETERSON

By: Katie Chriest

In honor of Inauguration Day, I re-read George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Many of us encountered this short book back in junior high, but I wish it were required annually – ideally before every election.

In the story, the animals have kicked out their human master, Jones, and taken over his Manor Farm, which they rename Animal Farm. At first, egalitarianism and the common good are the animals' enthusiastically agreed-upon ideals. Commandments are written to ensure that the fundamental tenets of their newly-created society are upheld.

Over time, though, the conniving pigs get greedy. Led by the charismatic pig Napoleon, they turn the farm back into what it was before: a place where workers and commoners are manipulated to benefit those in power.

"No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal," they are told at one point. "He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?"

The other animals struggle to recall their history as their rights are eroded and liberty eludes them. Squealer, the pigs' press secretary, repeatedly lies to them, so that eventually, they're convinced that their memories have betrayed them about Animal Farm's founding ideals of equality and shared prosperity.

Toward the end, the animals are ut-

terly befuddled. "Sometimes it seemed as though the farm had grown richer without making the animals themselves any richer – except, of course, for the pigs and the dogs."

But when the animals would try to measure their present poverty against the way things were under Jones, "they had nothing to go upon except Squealer's list of figures, which invariably demonstrated that everything was getting better and better. The animals found the problem insoluble; in any case, they had little time for speculating on such things now."

The animals have lost many comrades who were worked to death, murdered, or exiled. They've lost their ideals due to ignorance of their own history. Nevertheless, they cling to the notion – perpetuated by the pigs – that they are lucky to be citizens of Animal Farm. Don't they remember the glory of the revolution? Would they rather live somewhere else?

Ultimately, the pigs prevail because they control the message. They limit the animals' access to information, then use their positions of power to determine how the commoners interpret that information. And the commoners – overworked, underfed, and desperate for something to believe in – are too busy and exhausted to notice.

Orwell's known for his prescience; even more so in 1984. He died at 47. I wish he'd lived longer and written more, but his extant works are surely worth revisiting.

How else to make sense of an admin-

istration deciding which information we don't receive? Requiring "political review" of climate science? Gag-ordering agricultural researchers? Or touting torture as a valuable anti-terrorism tool?

Or, the rampant collection of our personal data, which began long before this most recent Inauguration Day?

Or a zillion other WTFs?

But we really don't need Orwell. Our collective human memory of corrupting, anti-democratic power is enough.

What we do need, however, is to see each other – in grand gestures like the Women's Marches so many of us joined in downtown Erie and globally on Jan. 21; but also in smaller gestures, closer to home.

Ultimately, the pigs prevail because they control the message. They limit the animals' access to information, then use their positions of power to determine how the commoners interpret that information. And the commoners – overworked, underfed, and desperate for something to believe in – are too busy and exhausted to notice.

"Several of them would have protested if they could have found the right arguments," Orwell writes.

Today's right arguments are letters written to our local representatives, kindness shown to our city's newcomers and refugees, and dissent spoken against the rhetoric of hatred and fear, whether we hear it on TV, at the bar, or in our streets.

Why wait for "Sugarcandy Mountain?" A better world can be ours right here – even now.

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

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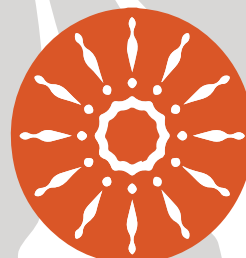


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LGBT Rights at Risk

Conservative religions erect barriers against same-sex couples



LGBT activist Doris Cipolla delivers a heartfelt speech to the crowd at Perry Square following the Erie Women's March on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017.

home personnel to decline services, judges to refuse marrying same-sex couples – and even laws to prevent local governments from passing non-discrimination protections such as the one we have in Erie County. Some of these bills are so sweeping that they not only discriminate against LGBT people, but extend to single mothers and anyone with a sexual relationship outside of marriage.

One might ask, who would propose such mean-spirited legislation? Equality for same-sex marriage had hardly begun, and the religious right immediately commenced erecting barriers implementing the same tactics used in the anti-abortion movement.

Many religious persons of faith urge compassion and inclusiveness; however, they are overshadowed by their powerfully endowed religious institutions such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Jewish movement, the Southern Baptist Convention, and other fundamentalist Christian and non-Christian institutions who protest LGBT rights, cry foul, and lobby politicians who in turn pick up their banners.

Our legislators are allowing our constitutional rights to be bought by religious institutions that intend to preserve their bigotry – a bigotry that goes so far as to proclaim what God thinks, wants, and needs on behalf of their private interests. Under the guise of religious liberty, these bills allow individuals, businesses, and tax-funded organizations to ignore laws that conflict with their religious beliefs about marriage and sexuality. This is legalized discrimination; legislators must be held accountable.

In a civil society such as ours, we must maintain a separation of church and state. No religion should have the right to dictate or superimpose a particular religious belief on others who do not share that belief.

Let us be reminded of the dangers of allowing matters of religious beliefs to permeate the law: the time when interracial marriages were illegal,

women were denied the right to vote, blacks were denied civil rights, women and children were denied protection by the law, married individuals were denied divorce, and women called witches were burned at the stake. Throughout history, individuals have suffered under religious institutions and beliefs – beliefs that supported slavery, apartheid, segregation, and even opposition to the Magna Carta.

To codify religious beliefs into law is dangerous; it threatens our democracy and undermines the rule of law creating a Taliban-like society filled with divisiveness and sectarianism. There is no peace in such a society.

What has happened? How have we allowed a suppressed citizenry in a self-declared free country? In speaking for the LGBT community, I am here to say *we are you*: rich, poor; black, white; men, women; mothers, fa-

We must stand together, each supporting the other so that all of our human and civil rights may be manifest.

thers; sons, daughters. We are people with the same needs and similar desires and aspirations. *We are you.*

We must stand together, each supporting the other so that all of our human and civil rights may be manifest. We must hold our legislators accountable to our constitutional rights and also to our unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Let us uphold one another. By uplifting the rights of others we can uplift our own.

Doris Cipolla holds degrees from Villa Maria College and Case Western Reserve University. She is a secular humanist. After her partner Charlene M. Tanner's death, she became an advocate for LGBT rights. Cipolla also funds the Charlene M. Tanner Speaker Series, inviting known individuals who focus on social justice, peace and the environment. A version of this message was given at the Erie Women's March. She can be contacted at dtcipolla@gmail.com

By: Doris Cipolla

On June 26, 2015 LGBT communities throughout the world cheered the Supreme Court's ruling on the right to same-sex marriage. What a leap into mainstream culture! Having advocated for such rights, I was overjoyed, knowing that if my partner were living today, we could marry, and I would not be socked a 15 percent inheritance tax on half our joint assets, as I was 12 years ago. Today, I would be free from such discrimination.

But the legalization of same-sex marriage has not helped everyone out of the closet. The freedom to marry did not come with human rights protection. Simply put, you can marry today, but tomorrow you could be fired from your job, or ousted from your rented living quarters, or denied services, be-

cause there is no protection from such discrimination. The amount of freedom or the number of rights you have is highly contingent on where you live or how accepting your employers or peers may be. Fortunately, in Erie County, we do have an anti-discrimination ordinance, but that is not the case in all Pennsylvania counties or in many parts of the country.

Since the legalization of same-sex marriage, over 100 anti-LGBT bills are pending throughout the United States. There has been a horrendous backlash fueled by the religious right. You may be familiar with the "potty bills" barring transgendered persons from using bathrooms that match their gender identity; but it may be news to you that some bills allow healthcare professionals to refuse treatment for mental or physical problems, nursing

NWIPA PROGRESS

A better, brighter, bolder future

Almi Clerkin, candidate for mayor, outlines her vision for a 21st century Erie



Surrounded by supporters, Erie Playhouse Executive Director Almi Clerkin announces her candidacy for mayor at 21 la rue dix on January 7, 2017.

and a 21st century Erie begins to take shape.

We can create opportunity by cultivating innovation and entrepreneurship. Let us build on the strengths of our existing businesses, colleges and universities, and the non-profit sector. Erie is a great place to start a business. We will promote and strengthen our economy and expand the tax base by supporting employers, large and small. That means working to connect people with resources – something I've done my entire career.

And we can build better neighborhoods. A strong neighborhood needs strong partners. Let's empower community organizations and associations so that our neighborhoods have the resources they need to address poverty, drug addiction, struggling schools, unemployment, and neighborhood beautification.

We can restore hope in our community. Every resident on every block in every neighborhood of our city deserves to live in a safe, livable, and healthy environment. We will protect our citizens and those who pledge to keep us safe. No parent should lose a child to violence. Every life has value. Children should be free to be children, and no dream for the future is too big or too bold. I am running for their future.

We can champion Erie throughout the region and state. I will visit Harrisburg and other prominent cities at least 50 times in my first term to promote our city, assets, natural resources, and our greatest resource: our people. I'll also look to other

cities that have rebounded from tough times to see what might work in Erie. Our state leaders will know and respect our hometown and understand its importance to the entire northwestern Pennsylvania region.

I believe that Erie's best days are yet to come. These past few weeks, I've been overwhelmed and excited by people who stop me on the street, total strangers who say "Hey aren't you that lady from TV?"

I can't help but be optimistic about Erie's future. We will face challenges and opportunities head on, together.

The one running for mayor? Thank you for running and thank you for being positive."

I can't help but be optimistic about Erie's future. We will face challenges and opportunities head on, together.

I've never been one to shy away from a challenge. Now is not the time to give up – it's the time to stand up. We are at a critical juncture, and the stakes could not be higher. We owe it to our children, neighbors, and future generations to make our city stronger than ever before.

As your mayor, I will put my heart and soul into being your leader, your advocate, your voice, and your champion. Let us rise to this challenge together. Let us move Erie forward, together. Let us fight for a better, brighter, and bolder future, together.

For more on Almi Clerkin's mayoral candidacy, visit www.almiforerie.com, email info@almiforerie.com, and follow @AlmiForErie on Twitter.

By: Almi Clerkin

I have had the pleasure of leading the Erie Playhouse, our award-winning community theatre, through major transitions these past 10-plus years, with a dedicated staff and board. It's been an enormous privilege to steer one of our city's largest and most respected arts organizations through its 100th season and into its second century.

When I announced my intention to run for mayor, I surprised a few people. After all, I have never run for office. But many people – especially those who know me best – were not surprised. They know that I'm passionate about Erie, where I have lived for more than 50 years. To them, and to me, running for mayor makes sense.

But just being passionate about Erie does not mean you will be a great mayor. It takes

tenacity, administrative experience, and a get-things-done attitude. Just as I felt called to public service in the non-profit sector, I feel called to serve in a new way: as your next mayor. I have both the passion and the experience being mayor demands.

Yet, for me, being mayor won't be a job, or a line on my resume. It's not a step toward some bigger, more ambitious political goal; it's a vocation. It cannot be done by sitting behind a desk. Erie's next mayor must be engaged and energetic, must provide inspiring and creative leadership, and must have a strong vision that includes building coalitions and partnerships to move Erie forward.

I am not a politician, and frankly, I never planned to be one. Growing up in my family, serving others was what we did. If you can hold out a hand to a neighbor or a stranger, to make their day a little better,

their load a little lighter, you did it. Those are the values that were strengthened in me by my parents, Alex and Jean Clemente, and at St. Peter's, Villa, and Gannon.

My dad used to say to my brothers Sal and Paul and me, "Plan the work, work the plan." For decades, we've listened to career politicians promise change, commission studies, and develop plans. But the direction that is needed hasn't come to Erie yet. Erie's done a lot of planning. It is time to turn those plans into action.

The *Erie Refocused* Comprehensive Plan lays a detailed roadmap to move Erie forward. You can find all 106 pages online at almiforerie.com. Combine that with elements from *Emerge 2040: A Focused Partnership for the Erie Region's Future*, and the *Erie Downtown Partnership Master Plan*, as well as detailed neighborhood plans,

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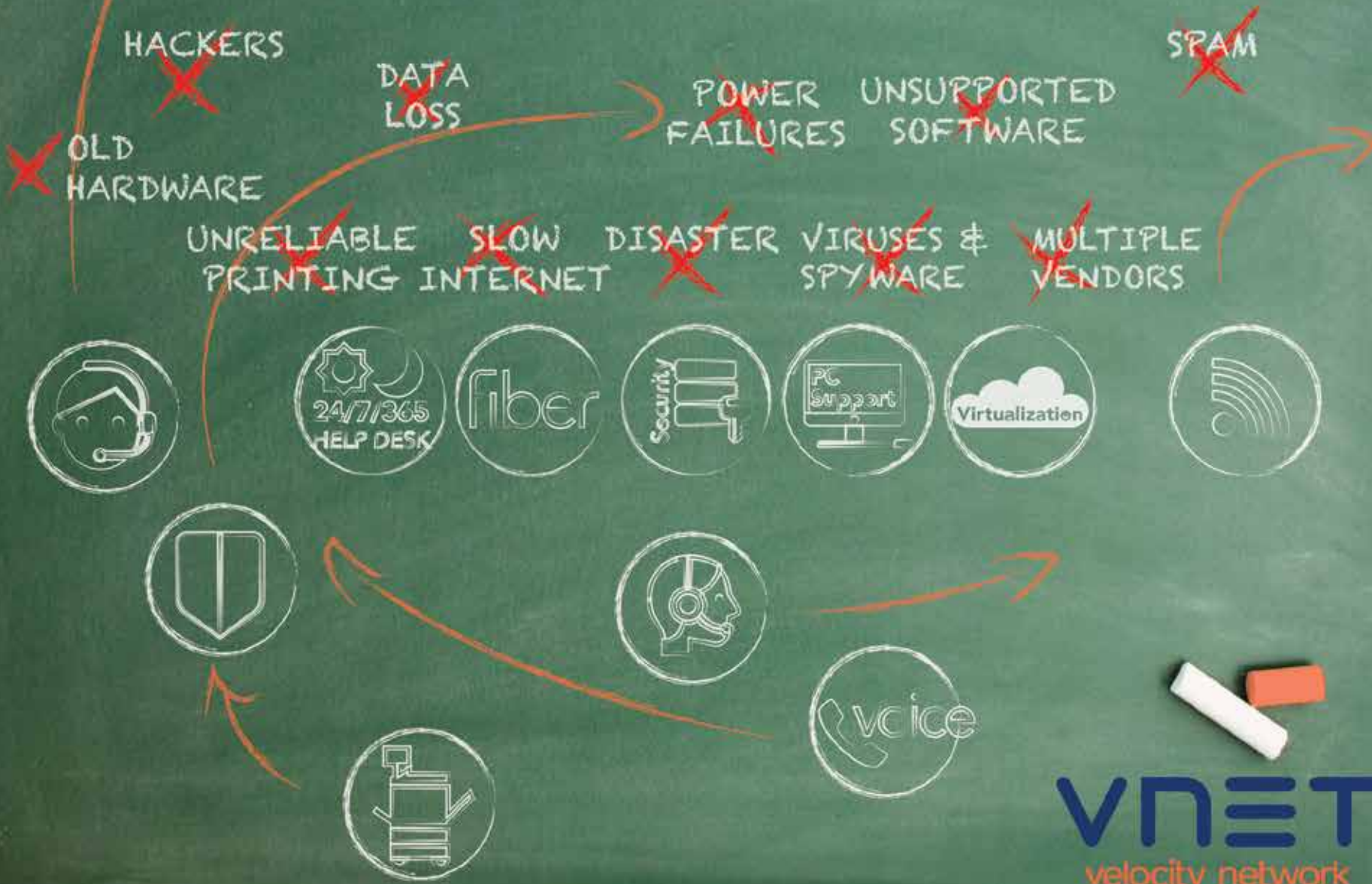
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Harrisburg Happenings

Concerns over gaming revenues, the closure of unemployment centers, and the growing opioid epidemic



BESTBUSBRIAN VIA WIKIMEDIA

By: Sen. Dan Laughlin

We are barely into the 2017-18 Legislative Session and several matters are already on the Senate's list of issues to be addressed.

One major issue that hits home in Erie County involves the "host fees" that casinos pay to counties and municipalities to offset the costs of the public services provided. The system was thrown into turmoil last September when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled the Local Share Assessment (LSA) unconstitutional.

This is an issue that has wide-ranging impacts not only for Erie, but for communities across Pennsylvania. The General Assembly and the Wolf administration must work quickly to finalize legislation that will ensure the flow of funding from casinos to counties and

local entities continues unabated. Presque Isle Downs & Casino is a vibrant part of the Erie community and a key attraction for visitors to the region.

It does, however, rely on a spectrum of community services. If the casino were to withhold its local share funding, the burden of additional financial costs would fall directly on taxpayers in many cases. That's what makes finding a legally sound solution to the issue a matter of utmost importance.

Another issue that is adversely impacting Erie County residents is Gov. Wolf's closure of Unemployment Compensation Service Centers in Allentown, Altoona, and Lancaster, after his request for a transfer of \$57 million in additional funding from the Unemployment Compensation Fund failed to receive legislative approval before the end of the 2015-16 Leg-

islative Session on Nov. 30, 2016.

That unilateral decision by the governor to close those three centers substantially increased the demand on the five remaining service centers: Duquesne, Erie, Harrisburg, Indiana, and Scranton. This has unfortunately resulted in thousands of unemployed Pennsylvanians being forced to stand for hours at CareerLink centers waiting to receive services.

There is much more to this story. Funding was available to keep those service centers open through January, which makes it somewhat surprising and disappointing that the administration decided to close them down over the holiday season.

In addition, the fund transfers that the governor wants extended were for a fixed four-year period to support a technological upgrade that (ironically) was intended to upgrade the technology used to process unemployment compensation claims and ultimately lead to the phase out of the service centers.

Even so, the Legislature gave the governor's request for an extension serious consideration last year, and we may still agree to an extension in the future. However, one of the major sticking points up to now has been the Wolf administration's failure to answer basic questions about the need

for the transfer and its failure to adequately explain why the technology upgrades are not finished.

It is also important to know that this transfer would take resources from the fund used to pay unemployment compensation claims, which further exposes the fund to insolvency and could ultimately result in an increased tax burden to employers and employees.

While we continue to work on this issue, my office is committed to providing assistance to unemployed workers who are seeking the benefits they deserve.

I am open to considering legislation, policy changes, and development of new and innovative services – whatever it takes to stop this ongoing tragic situation.

One of the ongoing issues we must address is the opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania. A July 2016 report from the Drug Enforcement Administration Philadelphia Field Division's Intelligence Program indicated that more than 3,300 people died from an overdose in Pennsylvania in 2015. That same report cited a 23.4 percent

increase in the total number of overdose deaths in Pennsylvania from 2014 to 2015. All indications are that we will see an increase in overdose deaths during 2016.

We are working with the administration, law enforcement officials, healthcare professionals, and community leaders to develop solutions to curb those numbers. I am open to considering legislation, policy changes, and development of new and innovative services – whatever it takes to stop this ongoing tragic situation.

Perhaps the biggest legislative challenge ahead of us is the finalization of the annual state budget. That exercise will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 7, when Gov. Wolf addresses a joint session of the General Assembly to unveil his proposal for Fiscal Year 2017-18, which begins on July 1. I will study this proposal closely, especially the funding dedicated to the Erie School District. Next month I will discuss the governor's proposed budget and its impact on the state and our region.

I encourage local residents to visit my website, senatorlaughlin.com, and my Facebook page, [facebook.com/senatorlaughlin/](https://www.facebook.com/senatorlaughlin/), to keep up-to-date with state government news and learn more about state services and agencies.

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News of the Weird

From inappropriate imbibing to gratuitous gratuity

By: Chuck Shepherd

Suspicious Confirmed

Schools' standardized tests are often criticized as harmfully rigid, and in the latest version of the Texas Education Agency's STAAR test, poet Sara Holbrook said she flubbed the "correct" answer for "author motivation" in two of her own poems that were on the test. Writing in Huffington Post in January, a disheartened Holbrook lamented, "Kids' futures and the evaluations of their teachers will be based on their ability to guess the so-called correct answer to (poorly) made-up questions." [Huffington Post, 1-5-2017]

Compelling Explanations

In December, James Leslie Kelly, 52, and with a 37-conviction rap sheet dating to 1985, filed a federal lawsuit in Florida claiming that his latest brush with the law was Verizon's fault and not his. Kelly was convicted of stealing the identity of another James Kelly and taking more than \$300 in Verizon services. He bases his case on the Verizon sales representative's having spent "an hour and a half" with him surely enough time, he says, to have figured out that he was not the James Kelly he was pretending to be. He seeks \$72 million. [WFTV (Orlando), 1-2-2016]

In Hong Kong in December, Mr. Lam Chung-kan, 37, pleaded guilty to stealing a bottle of a co-worker's

breast milk at work and drinking it but only to help with "stress" in his job as a computer technician. Undermining the health-improvement explanation was a photo Lam sent the woman, showing himself in an aroused state. [South China Morning Post, 12-21-2016]

Ironies

London's The Guardian reported in January that "dozens" of people have been charged or jailed recently for "defaming" the new Myanmar government, which has been headed (in a prime-minister-like role) since April by Aung San Suu Kyi, who was elected after her release from house detention following two decades of persecution for criticizing the longtime military regime. For her struggle for free speech, Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Said the wife of the latest arrestee, Myo Yan Naung Thein, on trial for "criminal defamation" of Suu Kyi's regime, "This is not insulting this is just criticizing, with facts. This is freedom of speech." [The Guardian, 1-9-2017]

The Litigious Society

High Finance: Sometime in 2006, a photographer on assignment roamed a Chipotle restaurant in Denver, snapping photos of customers. Leah Caldwell was one person photographed, but says she refused to sign the photographer's "release" and was surprised, nevertheless, to see a photo of herself in a Chipotle promotion in

2014 and again in 2015 (and on her table in the photo were "alcoholic beverages" she denied ever ordering). In January, Caldwell said the misuse of her image is Chipotle's fault for ignoring her non-"release," and thus that she is entitled to all of the profits Chipotle earned between 2006 and 2015: \$2.237 billion. [KMGH (Denver), 1-5-2017]

Precocious

In December, Ashlynd Howell, age 16, of Little Rock, Arkansas, deftly mashed her sleeping mother's thumbprint onto her phone to unlock the Amazon app and order \$250 worth of Pokemon toys. Mom later noticed 13 email confirmations and asked Ashlynd if something was amiss. According to the Wall Street Journal report, Ashlynd said, "No, Mommy, I was shopping." [Wall Street Journal, 12-23-2016]

Leading Economic Indicators

The British think tank High Pay Centre reported in January that the average CEO among the U.K.'s top 100 companies (in the Financial Times Stock Exchange index) earns the equivalent of around \$1,600 an hour meaning that a 12-hour-a-day boss will earn, by mid-day Jan. 4, as much money as the typical worker at his firm will earn the entire year. (Around the same time, the anti-poverty organization Oxfam reported, to an astonished press, that eight men six Americans, headed by Bill Gates have the same total "net worth" as the 3.6 billion people

who comprise the poorest half of the planet.) [The Guardian, 1-3-2017] [New York Times, 1-16-2017]

An organization that tracks "high net worth" investors (Spectrem Group of Lake Forest, Illinois) reported recently that, of Americans worth \$25 million or more, only about two-thirds donate \$10,000 or more yearly to charity. And then there is Charles Feeney, 85, of New York City, who in December made his final gift to charity (\$7 million to Cornell University), completing his pledge to give away almost everything he had \$8 billion. (He left his wife and himself \$2 million to live on, in their rental apartment in San Francisco.) A January New York Times profile noted that nothing is "named" for Feeney, that the gifts were mostly anonymous, and that Feeney assiduously cultivated his low profile. [Harper's Index (February 2017)] [New York Times, 1-6-2017]

A "disturbingly large" (according to one report) number of smartphone apps are available devoted to calculating how much the user has "earned" per day and per year during restroom breaks answering nature's calls while at work. Australia's News Limited's rough calculation estimated \$1,227 for someone making \$55,000 a year, but results might vary since there are so many apps: Poop Salary, ToiletPay, Log-Log, Paid 2 Poo, Pricy Poop, Poop Break and perhaps others. [News.com.au via New York Post, 12-9-2016]

JUST TOYIN' WITCHA - BY B. TOY



NEWS & VIEWS

People Different From Us

"Every major event in my life has been about insects," Aaron Rodrigues, 26, told The New York Times in December, home in New York City during a winter break from his doctoral research at Purdue University on the "sweet tergal secretions" of German cockroaches, and on his way to buy a supply of crickets and hornworms. ("Hornworms," he said, have an "amazing defense" where they "eat tobacco for the nicotine, which they exhale as a gas to scare away predators.") "When I'm feeling stressed out," Rodrigues said, he might take one out to "calm me down." He met his first girlfriend when she was attracted to his pet giant African millipede (as long as a human forearm), but admits that "for the vast majority" of time in school, "I was alone." [New York Times, 12-29-2016]

Updates

Two years ago, News of the Weird updated previous entries by noting that China's Ministry of Culture had cracked down on the centuries-old tradition of festively over-the-top funerals (ceremonies to assure the family that the deceased did not die "faceless") by arresting the song-and-dance people (including strippers and pole-dancers) peddling their services

to mourners. Even though that ban has been working, nostalgic Chinese can still see great funeral pole-dancing in Taiwan according to a January report on the death of Chiayi county official Tung Hsiang, featuring 50 "scantily clad" entertainers. (Pole-dancing, itself, is still big in China, where the national pole-dancing team recently performed its annual outdoor show, wearing shorts and halter tops, in the country's northernmost village, Beiji where the temperature was minus 33 Celsius.) [Shanghaiist, 1-5-20-17] [Shanghaiist, 12-21-2016]

The Passing Parade

Woodstock, Vermont, police arrested a 28-year-old man for bank robbery in January, with a key piece of evidence coming to their attention when a disapproving Vermonter noted a paper coffee cup not in its proper recycling bin. The cup held the robber's holdup note and DNA. (2) A 46-year-old man was arrested in December after an evening at the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and charged with leaving a server a non-monetary "tip" of a Valium pill. [Valley News (Lebanon, N.H.), 1-12-2017] [Morning Call (Allentown), 12-30-2016]

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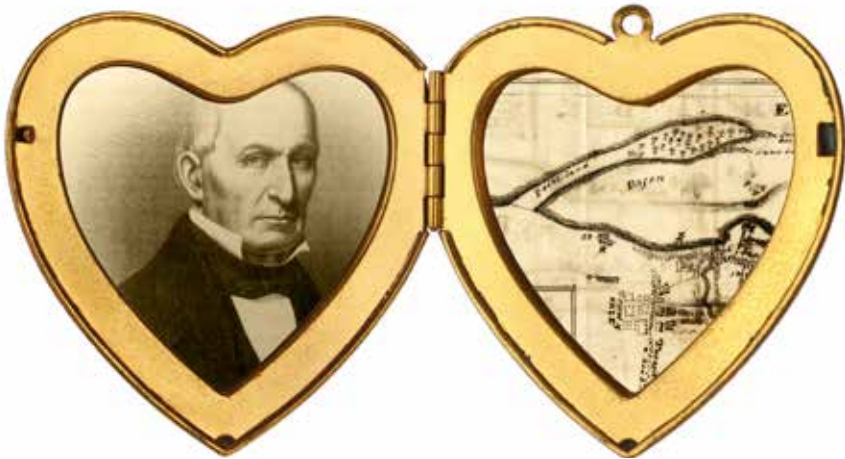
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Erie Affairs

And their well-bred and misbegotten outcomes



By: Matt Swanseger

Mid-February is nigh, which historically implies air perfumed with any one of the following: love, cynicism, or the stench of ritualistic animal sacrifice.

If you've ever had trouble distinguishing "putting yourself out there" from "throwing yourself to the wolves," you'll empathize with the young women of the Classical era. From Feb. 13-15, the ancient Romans celebrated Lupercalia, a Pagan feast dedicated to Lupa (the she-wolf of Rome) and Faunus (the satyr god of the forest). In essence, it was a glorified frat party.

Each year, two eligible (i.e., wealthy) young bachelors were initiated into the Luperci ("Brotherhood of the Wolf") with a smear of sacrificial blood (2 parts goat: 1 part dog) and sent out into the streets to lash at eligible (i.e., affluent) young bachelorettes with goat-hide thongs ("februa"). Each spanking was thought to convey reproductive health and fertility (and perhaps a potential hookup), and an appalling number of women fell in line with the belief. Like Tinder, only slightly more barbaric.

By the time 496 rolled around, the Luperci had fashioned more thongs than Victoria's Secret. And Pope Galesius I, for his coinage, had seen enough. He replaced Lupercalius with Candlemas, a Christian feast honoring the Virgin Mary (observed Feb. 2). Incidentally, he also added one Valentine of Rome to the Calendar of Saints that same year. Christian folklore holds that this

St. Valentine secretly married soldiers against the decree of Emperor Claudius II, who did not want an army of lovesick sissies. For this and refusing to renounce his Christianity, St. Valentine was incarcerated. It is said he cured the jailer's daughter of her blindness and left her a letter signed "from your Valentine" on the eve of his execution.

There is little evidence to support this tale, but people love a good tearjerker, so the American Greetings company took it and ran with it. In reality, it was not until Geoffrey Chaucer's 1382 poem "Parlement of Foules" (written in tribute to King Richard II's engagement to Anne of Bohemia) that Valentine's Day became connected with romance. Other poets followed suit with their own Valentine's verse, and eventually (400 years later) the practice was popularized in the United Kingdom before carrying over to the United States in the mid-19th century.

Our secular Valentine's Day is the lovechild of vastly disparate influences. Despite this unusual crossbreeding of traditions, the resultant offspring is in robust health, generating \$14 billion in revenue annually. In that spirit, the *Reader* will now examine notable couplings in our regional lore and the successes – or failures – that they produced.

(top) Master ship builder Daniel Dobbins (left) found that the waters of Presque Isle were the perfect place to set up shop. (bottom) The Erie Insurance Arena, on the other hand, would not find such good fortune with any of its indoor football teams.

HIT IT OFF FAMOUSLY

Daniel Dobbins + Presque Isle = The Battle of Lake Erie's Winning Fleet

Presque Isle has drawn many men into her loving arm through the years, including City of Erie founder Seth Reed and the eccentric hermit Joe Root, who were both enamored of her ample nature. Shipbuilder and sailing master Daniel Dobbins was also impressed with the peninsula, albeit for strategic purposes (marriages can be practical, too). When tasked with building a fleet to take on the British Royal Navy, his thoughts immediately gravitated toward Presque Isle: "No finer oak grew than what was to be found there, close to the water's edge, and in the land-locked harbor the vessels, when built, could ride in security" (Frank Severance, "The Dobbins Papers").

Presque Isle proved the ideal "big spoon" to the fleet's "little spoon," and with it the United States scooped up a major victory in the Battle of Lake Erie (1813), further affirming its independence as a sovereign nation.

Ida Tarbell + the Titusville Oil Boom = investigative journalism

Sometimes the greatest innovations are born out of the most trying circumstances. In her youth, Erie County native Ida M. Tarbell was deeply affected by the abuses the Standard Oil Company inflicted upon her father, small businesses, and the Titusville region. The injustices inspired her to pursue a career as a journalist, suffragist, and political activist. While working at NYC-based *McClure's Magazine*, Tarbell authored *The History of Standard Oil* (1904), an exposé of Standard Oil and

its "money-grubbing" chairman, John D. Rockefeller. Although she never married or mothered any children of her own, Tarbell is credited with the birth of investigative reporting and a new generation of American journalism.

Richard Anuszkiewicz + Josef Albers = the Op-Art Movement

A masterpiece of geometric form holds visual interest under variable lighting conditions. Such is a fundamental philosophy of the Op (as in Optical) Art Movement – and also something you might say to endear yourself to your spouse. Erie's Richard Anuszkiewicz (born 1930) stated a fascination with "making something romantic out of a very, very mechanistic geometry." After graduating from Erie Technical High School, he studied at Cleveland Institute of Art and then Yale, where he was mentored by Germany's Josef Albers ("Homage to the Square"). According to the website op-art.co.uk, he took his cues from the Bauhaus Movement, the color theory of Paul Klee, Impressionism, and Post-Impressionism in evolving his signature style. His work emphasizes rectangular forms and striking contrast from limited color palettes. Is it getting hot in this corner, or is it 90 degrees?

DIDN'T WORK OUT SO WELL

Railroad standardization + Erie street merchants = the Erie Gauge War

The year was 1853 and Erie lay at the confluence of three different railroad systems – specifically, the Erie & North East, the Franklin Canal Co., and the Buffalo & State Line. Although they operated closely together, they were far



FEATURE

apart in one key aspect – gauge, or the width between the inner surfaces of the rails. The Erie & NE tracks measured six feet across, while the others measured 4-foot-10 (Ohio gauge). Consequently, passengers riding between Cleveland and Buffalo faced frequent delays, precipitating a sort of layover tourism industry. Erie was quite compatible with the gauge incompatibility, especially street vendors who profited handsomely from the stranded travelers.

Our secular Valentine's Day is the lovechild of vastly disparate influences. Despite this unusual crossbreeding of traditions, the resultant offspring is in robust health, generating \$14 billion in revenue annually.

Naturally, they were upset when Buffalo & State Line acquired Erie & North East's stock and began replacing the 6-foot gauge with Ohio gauge. Under pressure from local business owners, Erie City Council passed an ordinance to allow police to dismantle any railroad bridges that crossed city streets. In Harborcreek, citizens tore up the new tracks themselves and even got in a spat with a U.S. Marshal sent to defuse the situation. In a separate incident, a protestor was shot by a railroad official, but ultimately survived.

If you were to define "dysfunction" with the "Erie Gauge War," you'd certainly be on the right track.

Erie Mayor Lou Tullio + downtown revitalization = The Transitway Mall

Former Erie Mayor Lou Tullio is warmly remembered for keeping in touch with his citizenry – in fact, his home phone number was listed for all 23 years he served. However, his plan to revitalize Erie's downtown was grossly miscalculated and off-base. Shortly after being reelected for a second term in 1969, Tullio proposed a pedestrian shopping center on State Street, in the heart of the declining downtown retail district. The motion was fiercely debated, but ultimately passed in March of 1972. That summer, a collective of downtown business owners sued the city for projected losses, fearing the frustrations of inconvenienced customers

forced to park blocks away.

The Transitway Mall withstood the lawsuit, but it would not withstand a dwindling population, an eroding tax base, continuous objection, and the construction of the Millcreek Mall. On Aug. 20, 1986, Sixth through 10th streets were reopened to traffic and the Transitway Mall faded into obscurity. Although Tullio was broadly considered one of the family, this was an infatuation few in the family approved of.

Erie Insurance Arena + professional indoor football = (no heir)

It could be argued that King Henry VIII's wives had better luck than Erie indoor professional football. The irascible Tudor king burnt through six marriages over a span of 34 years, while Erie churned through seven leagues and five teams in 16. It's worth remembering their names, even though they didn't last: the Erie Invaders (2000, Indoor Football League), the Erie Freeze (2005-07, American Indoor Football League/American Indoor Football Association), the Erie River Rats (2008-09, AIFA), the Erie Storm (2010, AIFA), and the Erie Explosion (2011-15, Southern Indoor Football League/Ultimate Indoor Football League/Continental Indoor Football League/Professional Indoor Football League).

Like Henry's spouses Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, franchise after franchise was beheaded after failing to produce a suitable heir. The Explosion did win back-to-back CIFL championships in 2013 and 2014, but that was not enough to sway Erie sports fans already smitten with the Otters and SeaWolves. Both claimed more noble heritages in their respective sports (players with NHL and MLB bloodlines) than the fledgling arena leagues, viewed as bastard spawn of the traditional gridiron.

The pace was fast, the scoring was high, and the action was crisp, but for now it seems the clock has run out on indoor football in Erie.

Relationships don't always last, nor do their offspring always flourish. But without risk, there can be no reward. And so, like the goats of antiquity, we make our way to our altars and hope for the best.

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



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Builders Association 57th Annual HOME SHOW

Zem Zem Shrine Club
2525 W. 38th St, Erie, PA 16506

Friday, Feb. 24, 2017 - Noon to 8PM
Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 - 10AM to 8PM
Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017 - Noon to 5PM

Admission: \$5.00

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- See what Andrea has at the Home Show. Mini craft workshop and paint demonstrations throughout the show. Also featuring a shopping boutique including home décor, accessories, jewelry & more!
- Home Depot will be featuring a "Kids Work Shop" on Saturday February 25th from 12 - 4 at the Builders Association Home Show. See us at Booth 11AM for all your Building & Design Needs

Drawing for all prizes will be after the show ends.



Spotlight on Erie

February 1 – 14, 2017

Thursday, Feb. 2

Erie Auto Show Returns



The Erie Auto Show is revving up for its 10th year at the Bayfront Convention Center.

Presented by the Automobile Association of Erie County and the *Erie Times-News*, the Erie Auto Show features 26 local auto dealers and at least 25 additional vendors.

Guests are welcome to explore the more than 100 new models brought by local dealers and to admire over 50 antique and muscle cars. But the highlight of the weekend is the custom-made replica of the Pontiac Trans Am that was used in the 1977 hit movie *Smokey and the Bandit*. (At last year's show, a Batmobile replica was the featured attraction.)

Over the course of four evenings, two detailing packages valued at \$250 will be raffled off to lucky visitors who purchase tickets.

Attendees can also gather auto-related information from various vendors like Kyle's Real Audio, National Fuel Gas, and Off Road Express.

It's a family-friendly event that promises a great time for guests of all ages; it definitely won't be a burnout. – Tracy Geibel

Thursday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 5 // 12 to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday // Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafraz Pier // \$5 admissions; kids under 10 free // eriepromotions.com/Auto/Default.aspx

Friday, Feb. 3

Spider's Web Spins a Suspenseful Whodunnit

No mystery here. In presenting another Agatha Christie play for its 2017 season, All An Act Theatre is both keeping a tradition and giving Erie audiences what they want.

"This is the seventh consecutive season we've opened with an Agatha Christie show," explained Larry Lewis, A3's managing director and cofounder.

"They've proven to be an audience favorite and have consistently been some of our most attended productions."

Lewis added, "Agatha Christie remains popular today because of her talent for weaving plots that draw the audience into her characters and twisting developments. Just when you think you've figured out 'whodunnit,' her storyline shifts to point the finger of guilt in a different direction."



And this year's show, *Spider's Web*, promises to entrap visitors in their seats as well. As A3's 69th production, what else can audience members expect from seeing *Web*?

"Patrons can expect a night of suspense as they try to figure out the guilty party," offered Lewis. "Audiences are always smiling at the end of Christie's shows and commenting that they were sure they had figured it out, but were wrong again." – Gregory Greenleaf-Knepp

Feb. 3-26 // \$12 for adults, \$10 seniors/students, \$5 children 6-11 // For more information, visit allanact.net or call 450.8553 or 449.6554

Saturday, Feb. 4

Two Events, One Busy Day at Basement Transmissions



In the spirit of diversity, Basement Transmissions is hosting two vastly different events on the same day, including a pop-up shop during the day,

and a metal and pop punk show in the evening.

The pop-up shop will be a sort of bizarre bazaar. With local artists selling their work, and musicians their merch, the shop truly embodies the essence of Basement Transmissions – supporting the arts. BT owner Bob Jensen is himself an artist, whose eccentric and off-the-wall works have been sold at BT in the past. He's likely to be showcased again at the pop-up shop, along with many others.

"The store will be focused on the underground and avant-garde, general weirdness is encouraged," said shop organizer, Ben Himan. "However, anything creative and handmade has a place. Some examples of items that will be found at the pop-up shop include clothes, jewelry, drawings, paintings, puppets, local underground music and merch, reupholstered furniture, lamps, bleep bleeps, and knickknacks."

Himan added that a portion of the profits will go toward funding a permanent store on Peach Street called Gem City Records and Collectibles. A Kickstarter campaign for the store will also launch shortly after the pop-up shop closes.

The second event of the day is the metal/pop punk hybrid show featuring local and regional bands Ashes of a Generation, Mallory Run, Into the Harbor, Jurassic Skatepark, and Raven's Law.

From Meadville, Ashes of a Generation brings their metalcore infused with southern rock stylings to the stage. The southern rock influence takes the lead in their song "Plenty More," while "Collection Day" stays true to their metal roots. Erie's Mallory Run is hard to pin down to any one genre. Some songs are pop punk, some lean toward emo, and sometimes the band even delves into hardcore. Regardless, Mallory Run is making headway in the scene. They recently signed to Wilhelm Records, and are working on their next release on the label, a follow-up to their 2016 self-titled EP. I've had the pleasure to hear some of their new material live, and I can't wait to see what this band does next.

Filling the rest of the bill are In the Harbor from Rochester, New York, and Jurassic Skatepark and Raven's Law, both from Erie. In the Harbor and Raven's Law each play their own take on metalcore while Jurassic Skatepark plays heavy but upbeat pop punk.

Everything that Basement Transmissions represents – supporting local art and music – is perfectly manifest in the events of this day. So come out and show your support for local creativity. – Tommy Shannon

Pop-up shop 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. // Free // Show 6 p.m. // \$7 // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // facebook.com/events/1828951534044794 // facebook.com/events/244672349303328

Saturday, Feb. 4

Hear the Erie Philharmonic "Play it" Live to Casablanca



What better place in Erie could there be to watch *Casablanca* than where it originally played back in the 1940s? On Feb. 4 at the Warner Theatre, this timeless, romantic classic will be screened with a live performance by the Erie Philharmonic. This "fun, nostalgic project" was put together to "recreate the perfect environment for this film in this beautiful space," according to Erie Phil Executive Director Steve Weiser and Director of Community Impact Lisa Herring. Audiences are in for a wholly glamorous sensory experience.

For first-timers to both the Philharmonic and *Casablanca*, the marriage of live music to a film on the big screen will make the film seem more alive, explains Weiser. "Patrons will be engaged with the film but also will soak up the music surrounding them," adds Herring. "It will open your eyes for the next time you watch a movie at home, too." And *Casablanca* is a classic for good reason. Directed by Michael Curtiz in 1942, and winner of three Academy Awards, the plot centers around Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) who runs a local hotspot, Rick's Cafe. He comes into possession of two "letters of transit," which enable the bearers to travel

CALENDAR

freely through greatly-occupied World War II Europe. One night, his former love Ilsa Lund (Ingrid Bergman) comes into his establishment ... with her now partner, the Czech resistance leader, Victor Lazlo (Paul Henreid). The rest is cinematic history.

The stunning Warner Theatre isn't just any "gin joint," but it's certainly the prime spot for this experience. "Every aesthetic and image from the movie will blend in with the surroundings

"Every aesthetic and image from the movie will blend in with the surroundings because of the era of the hall."

because of the era of the hall," Weiser adds. (*Casablanca* just so happens to be one of his favorite films, as well.) "With a live orchestra, it will draw attention to the beautiful soundtrack and showcase the Warner Theatre at the same time," providing more than a touch of romance – and making this event ideal for a pre-Valentine's Day date. Here's looking at you, Erie. – Miriam Lamey

8 p.m. // Warner Theatre, 811 State St. // 453.7117

Saturday, Feb. 4

Stereosphere Brings Electro-Prog Magic to the Rook



Sometimes, just sometimes, things really start coming together when one well-loved band disbands.

Take Tuscarawas County, Ohio-based electro-prog rockers Stereosphere, for whom things came full circle once members dissolved their old band, hard-working area jam favorites The Stagecoach Robbery.

A short, well-earned break came af-

ter six years of hefty touring, but for three of that band's four members – John McCarron, Seth Swegheimer, and Marcus Dreher – around a year was about enough time to go without getting together and gettin' down. So, joined by well-established Ohio-based musician Zac Pirillo, they arrived on the scene once again, this time as the dynamic foursome Stereosphere.

By our count, anyone who's a fan of truly decent prog-jam – and who's not already long-trekking to that night's Umphrey's McGee show in Detroit – should make their way to the Kings Rook Club to check these guys out on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Who says you have to go far to get far out? – Ryan Smith

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

Wednesday, Feb. 8

Andrea Arnold's Films Show Us Teens with Nothing to Lose

The last few years have given us a series of films about young people grabbing the American Dream by the throat and shaking it until it gives them everything they want. Films like *Spring Breakers* and *The Bling Ring* –



and now Andrea Arnold's *American Honey* – depict rebellious teens seeking out what they desire in any way possible.

American Honey, Arnold's first film made in America, is about a young girl who joins up with a crew that travels the country and gets involved in partying and rule-breaking while selling magazine subscriptions. Like one of Arnold's previous films, the truly excellent *Fish Tank*, this film looks to be another story about a teenaged girl discovering herself while simultaneously in full-on rebellion against the world in general and the society she was raised in particularly. The film was inspired heavily by Kitchen Sink realism, a style that developed in Britain in the late 1950s, which focused on angry young people disillusioned with modern society.

As in *Fish Tank*, I would like to see Arnold imbue this film with some of

MUSIC

February Acoustic Showcase

Feb. 3 — 5 to 9 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/pg/basement.transmissions.

Perdition, Greywalker, Requiem for Oblivion and Manokin

Feb. 3 — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Bobby's Place, 1202 W. 18th St. facebook.com/pg/gimpguyunderground.

Sean Patrick & The Newgrass Revolution

Feb. 3 — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/pg/sherlocksparkplace.

Jennifer Westwood and the Handsome Devils

Feb. 3 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Julio Quezada and Friends

Feb. 4 — 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Casablanca

Feb. 4 — 8 to 10 p.m.
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. eriephil.org.

The Vehicle

Feb. 4 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Darcy's Pub and Grub, 3746 W. 12th St. facebook.com/events/688235221338465.

Stereosphere

Feb. 4 — 10 p.m. to midnight
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Whiskey Road Rock Show

Feb. 4 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/pg/sherlocksparkplace.

Gem City Revival

Feb. 5 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

The Jeff Fetterman

Band

Feb. 6 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Rockin' Road to Dublin

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

Last Band Standing

Feb. 7 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

Young Lovers Show

Feb. 10 — 5 to 10:30 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/pg/basement.transmissions.

Strange Bedfellows

Feb. 10 — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Luther Memorial Chruch, 225 W. 10th St. facebook.com/pg/eriechamberorchestra.

Hollywood Blanks

Feb. 10 — 10 p.m. to midnight
Kings Rook Club, 1921

Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

The Hangover Band

Feb. 10 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/pg/sherlocksparkplace.

St. Valentine's Metal Meltdown

Feb. 11 — 5:30 to 10 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/pg/gimpguyunderground.

Tyler Pearce Project

Feb. 11 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Radio Age

Feb. 11 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Sherlocks, 508 State St. facebook.com/pg/sherlocksparkplace.

The Probables

Feb. 12 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Arundel Cellars, 11727 E. Main Rd. arundelcellars.com.

Chris Higbee

Feb. 13, 14 — 9 p.m.
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. presqueisledowns.com.

D'Angelo Department of Music: Faculty Recital

Feb. 15 — 8 p.m.
Walker Recital Hall, 501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

DANCE

Erie Festival of Dance

Feb. 4 — 7 p.m.
Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, 501 E. 38th St. eriedanceconsortium.weebly.com.

1950's through the 2000's Decade Dance Party

Feb. 11 — 5 to 10 p.m.
McCoy's Barrelhouse and Grill, 1013 State St. facebook.com/mccoysbarrelhouse.

FOOD & DRINK

Wine and Cheese Pairing

Feb. 1 — 1 to 4 p.m.
Presque Isle Wine Cellars, 2658 W. 8th St. piwine.com.

Boy Scout Troop 57 Spaghetti Dinner

Feb. 3 — 5 to 7 p.m.
Park United Methodist Church, 30 N. Lake St. pumcne.org.

Mind, Body, Beer

Feb. 7 — 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. facebook.com/ErieAleWorks.

For the Love of Rescues Celebrity Bartender Night

Feb. 9 — 5 to 8 p.m.
Millcreek Brewing Co., 1402 W. Lake Rd. becauseyoucare.org.

Dinner Under the Stars

Feb. 10, 11, 12 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Penn State Behrend Yahn Planetarium, 4205 College Dr. eriehistory.com.

Ales for Sails

Feb. 10 — 6 to 9 p.m.
Bayfront Maritime

Center, 40 Holland St.
bayfrontcenter.org.

Home Wine Making Seminar

Feb. 11 — 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Luther Memorial Church, 225 W. 10th St. facebook.com/pg/piwine.

St. Andrew KOC Pancake Breakfast

Feb. 12 — 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. Andrew Church, 1116 W. 7th St. saintandreweerie.com.

Valentine's Day Luncheon and Dance

Feb. 13 — 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

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. biggreenscreen.com.

Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West

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

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Journey to Space

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

Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. biggreenscreen.com.

Don't Think Twice

Feb. 1 — 7 p.m.

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

Cat Women of the Moon (1953)

Feb. 2 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Heavy Metal

Feb. 2 — 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

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

American Honey

Feb. 8 — 7 p.m.

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

The Sheik (1921)

Feb. 9 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Deathdream AKA Dead of Night (1974)

Feb. 10 — 8 to 10 p.m.

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

Erie's Voices & Moonlight

Feb. 15 — 7 p.m.

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

VISUAL ARTS

Repurposed by Ronald Gonzalez and Richard Sadlier

Ongoing through Feb. 5

Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery, 501 E. 38th St. mercyhurst.edu.

Mood Swing Review: A solo exhibition by Ron Bayuzick

Ongoing through Feb. 11

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

Color and Possibility by Gail Beem

Ongoing through Feb. 14 (Reception Jan. 21 — 1 to 4 p.m.)

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

Persuasion

Ongoing through Feb. 21

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

Kids As Curators 2017

Ongoing through Mar. 26

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

Sergei Isupov: Hidden Messages

Ongoing through Apr. 2

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

Earth Stories

Ongoing through June 11

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

The Art of Resistance: Veterans respond visually to war

Feb. 1 through Mar. 4

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

Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

Feb. 11 through January 7, 2018

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

Second Sundays

Feb. 12 — 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Patricia S. Yahn '50 Juried Art Show

Feb. 13 through Mar. 24 (Reception Feb. 16 — 5 to 7 p.m.)

Mercyhurst University Cummings Gallery,

501 E. 38th St. miac.mercyhurst.edu.

THEATRE

Fringe Fest Erie

Feb. 1 through Feb. 24

Various Locations, gannon.edu.

King Charles III by Mike Bartlett

Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11 — 8 p.m.

Dramashop 2nd Floor Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. dramashop.org.

Spider's Web

Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 — 7:30 to 10 p.m. & Feb. 12, 19, 26 — 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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

All The Better to Kill You With

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 — 7 p.m. & Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 5:30 p.m.

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

Silence The Musical

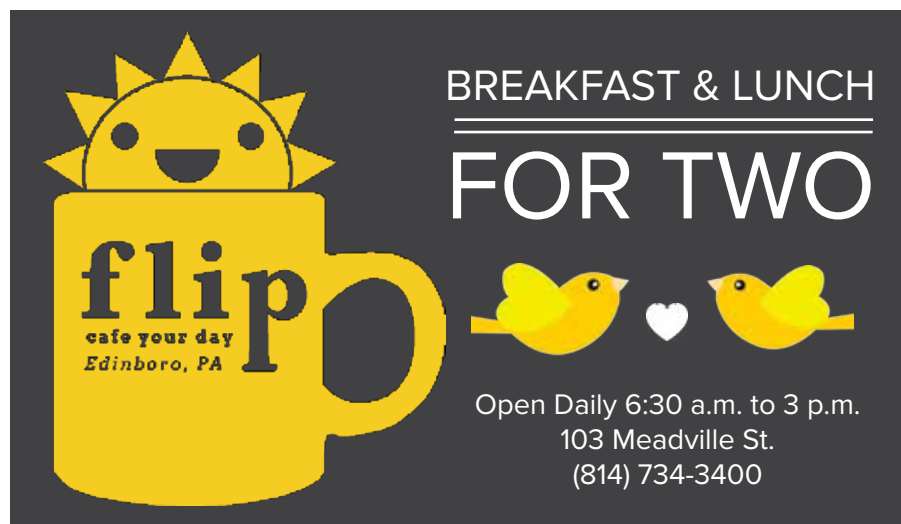


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countryfairstores.com **f** **t**

that Kitchen Sink style and mix it with the modern expressionistic flourishes that we see in the youth films of today. Only this time, our protagonist would discover herself and her place in the world amidst the dreary landscapes of the American Midwest as opposed to dreary old England. Plenty of American films are missing that hard, human realism that is present in so many British films, and that makes Arnold's film a welcome addition to this popular new subgenre. – Forest Taylor

Doors at 6 p.m., film at 7 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. Fifth St. // \$5 // erieartmuseum.org/events-film

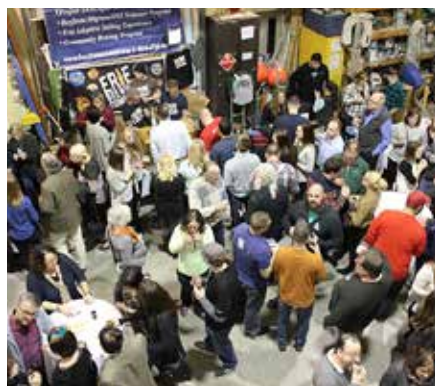
Friday, Feb. 10

Bayfront Maritime Center Hosts its Fifth Annual Ales for Sails

Sometimes you drink to celebrate. Sometimes you drink to forget. But on Friday, Feb. 10, the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC) invites you to drink for a cause.

Those who attend the BMC's fifth annual Ales for Sails fundraiser – a consistently sold-out event that features a local craft beer tasting – are supporting the center's programs.

Guests are welcome to taste-test craft



beer from nine spotlighted local breweries – Voodoo, Lavery Brewing, Blue Canoe, Erie Brewing, Erie Ale Works, Timber Creek, The Brewerrie, Millcreek Brewing Company, and Five & 20 Spirits and Brewing – before casting a vote for their favorite one.

Throughout the evening, guests can try their luck by entering a basket raffle, featuring baskets from Erie businesses and artists. But even if you don't take home a basket, everyone can take home a photo, as there will be a photo booth to capture the memories that you might not otherwise remember if you taste-test too much beer.

Food will be provided by Stephany Catering, and music will be covered by Millennium Sound DJs.

Tickets are pre-sale only and available

online through Eventbrite. Attendees must be 21 or older. – Tracy Geibel

6 to 9 p.m. // Bayfront Maritime Center, 40 Holland St. // \$40 // 456.4077 // bayfrontcenter.org

Friday, Feb. 10

Young Lovers Show Beckons Crowds to BT



Basement Transmissions is celebrating Valentine's Day early with the Young Lovers show, featuring Time Cat, Joose, Maddock, Wasted Info, and Well Below Average.

Coming from Akron, Ohio, Time Cat steal the show with their dynamic set list, covering all bases from psychedelic rock 'n' roll to soulful indie jams. Nearly every song – even deep tracks

– on their 2016 self-titled album could be a single, but "Country Man" stands out. The album begins loudly and keeps pace throughout, and artistically decrescendos at the end, with singer and guitarist Jeri Saponetti whistling the final melody while strumming her acoustic guitar on the final track, "Now I Believe in Magic."

Two BT favorites, Joose and Maddock, also grace the stage. Both create compelling concoctions of experimental grooves and never fail to enthrall their audience. Maddock's latest album *It's Drowning Out* is the band's first full-length, and to quote the *Reader's* own Nick Warren, "Lyrically, the band is far beyond their years, blending emotional forthrightness with clever wordplay ... it's spectacular front to back."

Filling out the bill are alternative rock band Wasted Info, and pop punk outfit Well Below Average, both young locals newly integrated into the Erie scene.

Basement Transmissions' love affair with experimental music is no secret, and you shouldn't keep your love of music a secret, either. So bring that special someone and come celebrate Valentine's Day at BT. – Tommy Shannon

5 p.m. // Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. // \$10 // All ages // facebook.com/events/1695280127430529

Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 & Mar. 3, 4 — 8 p.m.
PACA, 1505 State St. paca1505.com

The White Snake

Feb. 15, 16, 17 — 8 p.m. & Feb. 18 — 2 & 8 p.m. & Feb. 19 — 2 p.m.
Schuster Theatre, 620 Sassafras St. gannon.edu

COMMUNITY

Tinker the T-Rex Comes to the TREC

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

Erie Auto Show

Feb. 2, 3 — noon to 8 p.m. & Feb. 4 — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Feb. 5 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier eriepromotions.com

American Short Stories

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 & Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23 — 4 to 6 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org

Remarkable Women: Sojourner Truth

Feb. 2 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org

Brad Williams

Feb. 2 — 7 p.m. & Feb. 3, 4 — 6:45 & 9:30 p.m.
Jr's Last Laugh Comedy Club, 1402 State St. jrslastlaugh.net

Afaa Michael Weaver

Feb. 2 — 7 to 8 p.m.
Tippie Alumni Center, 520 N. Main St. allegheny.edu

Beach Glass Drilling Valentine Style

Feb. 4 — 9 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

February Speaker Series

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 — 10 a.m.
McCord Memorial Library, 31 W. Main St. mccordlibrary.org

Cross Country Ski Clinics

Feb. 4, 11 — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org

Mindfulness and Meditation Teacher Training

Feb. 4, 18 & Mar. 18 & Apr. 1, 22 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Plasha Yoga Studio, 3330 W. 26th St. plashayoga.com

Pop Up Shop

Feb. 4, 5 — noon to 5 p.m.
Basement Transmissions, 145 W. 11th St. facebook.com/pg/basement.transmissions

Winter Stroll in the Park: Dead Pond Trail

Feb. 4 — 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Thompson Circle in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

Snowshoe Clinics

Feb. 4, 11 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org

Erie BayHawks vs. Canton

Feb. 4 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com

Barista Parlor

Feb. 4 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Lakewood United Methodist Church, 3856 W. 10th St. lakewooderie.org

PA Nordic Championships

Feb. 5 — 8 a.m. to noon
Wilderness Lodge, 13448 Weeks Valley Rd. pacsa.org

Dinosaur Exhibit Tours

Feb. 5 — noon to 2 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

Kids Dino Hour

Feb. 5 — 3 to 4 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

Amazing Animals: Little Leaves Program

Feb. 6 — 10 a.m. to noon

LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org

LECOM Wilderness Medicine Club presents "Winter Weather Injuries"

Feb. 6 — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org

Erie BayHawks vs. Greensboro

Feb. 7 — 11 a.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com

Great Books: Sanding Down From Warrior to Civilian

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Mar. 7, 14, 21 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org

Bystander Intervention Training

Feb. 7 — 5 to 6 p.m.
Penn State Behrend 117 Reed Union Building, 4701 College Dr. behrend.psu.edu

Jesus Christ: Redeemer, Reformer, or Revolutionary?

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

Ceramics Handbuilding Class

Feb. 8, 15, 22 & Mar. 1 — 6 to 8 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. eventbrite.com

Outside the Window: Nature Play

Feb. 8 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov

Romance Paperback Book Sale

Feb. 9 — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Feb. 10 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Feb. 11 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Admiral Room in the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org

RV, Powersports & Camping Show

Feb. 9 — 2 to 8 p.m. & Feb. 10 — noon to 8 p.m. & Feb.

DRAFT SPECIALS

ARENA SPORTS BAR: \$1.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
BUFFALO WILD WINGS: \$3.75 TALL BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
FAIRVIEW LEGION: #742 \$1.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
GIRARD LEGION: FREE BUD LIGHT DRAFTS FOR MEMBERS ONLY
HOOCH & BLOTTOS: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
MARTY'S: \$2.00 16oz. BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
McKEAN TAVERN: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
NUOVA AURORA: .75 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
ODIS12: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS: BUD LIGHT \$1.00 12oz. DRAFTS
QUAKER STEAK & LUBE: \$2.50 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
SANDBAR: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS
SPEED'EEZ: \$1.25 15oz. BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
SUNFLOWER CLUB: \$1.25 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
VETS #470: \$1.25 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
WESLEYVILLE ATHLETIC CLUB: \$1.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. DRAFTS

CANS & BOTTLE SPECIALS

ALIBI BAR: \$4.00 FOR 3 10oz. CANS
AMERICAN LEGION #571: \$1.90 BUD LIGHT 16oz. CANS
AMERICAN LEGION on 3rd: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
AMERICAN LEGION NORTH EAST: \$5.00 FOR 6 BUD LIGHT 7oz. BOTTLES
CAB: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
CALAMARIS: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT BOTTLES
CHICO'S: \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
COLONY: \$11.00 BUD LIGHT BUCKETS
CYS CLUB: 5-10oz. BUD LIGHT CANS \$5
DANS RT 8 BOARDWALK: \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
EDUARDOS: \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
GIRARD CAFÉ: \$2.50 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
HOLY TRINITY: .25 OFF 12oz. BUD LIGHT CANS
HUZAR CLUB: \$1.75 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
JJ'S PUB \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
LAKESIDE: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
LEFTY'S TAVERN: \$2.50 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
MOLLY BRANNIGANS: \$2.50 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
MONIUSZKO CLUB: \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 16oz. CANS
NORTH EAST ATHLETIC CLUB: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
PARK TAVERN: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
POLISH SHARP SHOOTERS: \$1.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. CANS
PULASKI CLUB: \$1.75 BUD LIGHT BOTTLES
PRIMANTI BROTHERS: \$1.50 BUD LIGHT 16oz. CANS
SACRED HEARTS USHER CLUB: \$1.75 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
SCOOTERS: \$2.50 BUD LIGHT POUNDERS
SIEBENBUERGER: \$1.70 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
SOUTH ERIE TURNERS: 10oz. BUD LIGHT CAN BUCKET SPECIAL
SPORTSMEN A.C. CLUB: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
ST. JOES CLUB: \$1.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
THAT PLACE: \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES (6PM-10PM)
VFW NORTHEAST: \$1.25 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
WALL STREET EXPRESS: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 12oz. BOTTLES
9TH & STATE BEER CAFÉ: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. CAN

BUD LIGHT



SUNDAY @ 5th

PITCHER SPECIALS

BACK DECK: \$5.00 BUD LIGHT 32oz. PITCHERS
BOOTLEGGERS: \$4.75 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
CHESTNUT ST. PUB: \$5.00 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
CHIPPERS: \$4.00 SMALL \$6 LARGE BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
COACH'S SPORTS BAR: \$5.00 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
CORNERSTONE: \$4.00 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
FALCONS 19TH ST: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 32oz PITCHERS
FIDDLE INN: \$5.00 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
IRISH COUSINS: \$4.00 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
NUNZI'S: \$4.00 PERSONAL BUD LIGHT PITCHERS
PLYMOUTH: \$7.00 BUD LIGHT PITCHERS

ALUMINUM BOTTLE SPECIALS

BRUCE'S PUB & GRUB: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
CASCADE CLUB: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
DARCY'S PUB & GRUB: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
DOC HOLLIDAYS: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
FULTON CLUB: \$2.25 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
FALCONS EAST 3RD: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
RED FOX INN: \$2.75 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
STAR CLUB: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
TREEHOUSE TAVERN: \$2.50 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
THE BARRACKS: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
THE LAST SHOT: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
UGLY TUNA: \$3.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM
21 HAMPTON: \$2.00 BUD LIGHT 16oz. ALUMINUM



Dollar Duck Race and Recycled Sleds at Winterfest'17

Paint your face, paint the snow – it's all good, cold fun in February.



By: Ti Sumner

Ever wonder what it's like to be a squirrel packing its cheeks full of nuts to hide for winter? Want to go ice fishing but don't know how? At Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park's (LEAF) Winterfest, you can answer these questions while taking part in outdoor activities

everyone can enjoy. If you think February is a time to hunker down, LEAF says: Think again.

"Winterfest is our annual family-friendly event showcasing cold weather activities," explains Catherine Toews, LEAF program manager. "It's an opportunity to have fun in the snow while getting acquainted with all that we offer here at

the arboretum."

Each year, the recycled sled contest (participants use such materials as rope, cardboard, old garbage cans, and plastic containers) proves to be a hit with Winterfest attendees of all ages. Prizes are awarded to the sled that goes the farthest and the one that utilizes the greatest variety of materials.

"One year, somebody made a black dragon out of milk cartons, cardboard, pop bottle tops, garbage bags, and gauze," Toews continues. "Everyone loved it."

Returning again this year will be ice sculptor Bill Sandusky of Erie Ice Works to chisel a kids' ice bowling lane and a sculpture unique to Winterfest. Other popular festival returnees include the horse-drawn wagon rides and the snow painting station. A new bird-feeder-building crafts table will be available, as well as an ice-fishing demo and face painting.

If you think February is a time to hunker down, LEAF says: Think again.

The event will culminate with a 50/50 fundraiser duck race down Cascade Creek at 3:15 p.m. Ducks can be purchased for \$1, with the winner taking home half of the funds raised for the race.

Noon to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12 // Frontier Park, snow or shine // free admission; fee for some activities // Full schedule: leaferie.org // For more information, contact Catherine Toews at education@leaferie.org

Ti Sumner can be reached at TSumner@ErieReader.com



11 — 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. & Feb. 12 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafra Pier erieevents.com.

Erie BayHawks vs. Reno

Feb. 9 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Memoirs of a Young Man

Feb. 9 — 7 p.m.
Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. gcsoe.org.

The Future of Community Colleges: Their Role and Impact in Regions They Serve

Feb. 9 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Love Birds Paint and Rock with Alyssa

Feb. 9 — 8 p.m.
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. facebook.com/kingsrookclub.

Sarah Backstrom Women's Hockey Tournament

Feb. 10, 11, 12
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Give Kids A Smile Day

Feb. 10 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fortis Institute, 5757 W. 26th St. adafoundation.org.

Marketing Workshop

Feb. 10 — 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Presque Isle Designs, 2820 W. 21st St. presqueisledesigns.com.

Scott Henry

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

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Feb. 10 — 7 to 9 p.m.
Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. asburywoods.org.

Just War Reconsidered: Strategy, Ethics, and Theory

Feb. 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

Presque Isle After Dark Hike: Long Pond Trail

Feb. 10 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
East Pier parking area in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Seawolves Job Expo

Feb. 11 — 9 a.m. to noon
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. milb.com.

Herbs for the Heart: A Herbal Valentine's Day

Feb. 11 — 10 a.m. to noon
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Winter Stroll in the Park: Fox Trail

Feb. 11 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Presque Isle Lighthouse

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

Annual Valentine's Program: Thai Yoga Massage, Wine and Chocolates

Feb. 11 — 3 to 5 p.m.
Plasha Yoga Studio, 3330 W. 26th St. plashayoga.com.

Valentine's Ghost Hunt at the Haunted Hotel Conneaut

Feb. 11 — 5 to 11 p.m.
Hotel Conneaut, 12241 Lake St. eventbrite.com.

Cocktails and Clay

Feb. 11 — 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Erie ClaySpace, 1505 State St. eventbrite.com.

Erie Otters vs. Saginaw

Feb. 11 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Juicy Dating

Feb. 11 — 7 to 9 p.m.

The Juice Jar, 2620 W. 8th St. facebook.com/ErieJuiceJar.

1st Annual Pre-Valentine's Day Red & White Affair

Feb. 11 — 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Erie Maennerchor Club, 1607 State St. eventbrite.com.

EPIC Volleyball Tournament

Feb. 12 — 8:30 a.m.
Family First Sports Park, 8155 Oliver Rd. eriesportscommission.com.

12th Annual Winterfest

Feb. 12 — noon to 3:30 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

Erie Otters vs. Windsor

Feb. 12 — 5 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

TJ Hesch, Finance Speaker Series

Feb. 13 — 7 to 8 p.m.

Penn State Behrend 180 Jack Burke Research and Economic Development Center, 5101 Jordan Rd. behrend.psu.edu.

Presque Isle History Series: Wildlife

Feb. 14 — 6 to 7 p.m.
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

Erie Otters vs. London

Feb. 15 — 7 p.m.
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. erieevents.com.

Garden Design Basics with Dan Dahlkemper

Feb. 15 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

The Electoral College: An Examination of Its Past, An Analysis of the Present, and Discussion of Its Future

Feb. 15 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. jeserie.org.

A Very Erie Valentine's

Fun local activities for couples, singles, and families



By: **Miriam Lamey**

You've done flowers. You've bought chocolates. You've searched for the right kind of card (not sappy, definitely interesting, your exact sentiments). You've tried candlelit dinners (yawn). And Valentine's Day is here again. Now what?

Well, take it from this Erie newbie that the best way to date or celebrate in this town is to get creative. That doesn't mean there's a dearth of options, it just means it's just a matter of exploring to unearth the many fun, unique, and hyper-local ways that Erieites can celebrate V-Day as a single, as an adventurous couple, as a family, or with friends. Here are offbeat and intriguing ideas to show someone – or yourself – just how much you care.

Couples: The Big Downtown Date

Erie has welcomed many new restaurants in the past year, namely Alkeme, a Mediterranean spot right on recently-renovated Perry Square. It's cozy, cool, and casual with a menu that sounds entirely classy: Porcini Ricotta Gnocchi, Chianti Chicken, mussels, a cheese and charcuterie plate, and plenty of fresh pasta, meat, and fish. Start

the evening off at Cloud 9 for posh wines and romantic chats, and end with a nightcap at 28 North Gastropub – the cocktails are superb.

Also good for: girls' night out, a big group of friends

Singles: Love Thyself with Yoga and Juice

How convenient that yogaErie and The Juice Jar are within walking distance of one another. For those who want to detox and show plenty of self-love, a rejuvenating date can start off with sweating to a fast-paced and energizing yoga class, where ladies and gents can take care of body and mind. To refuel and feel good on the inside, it's mere steps to The Juice Jar for a delicious, healthy brew, a smoothie, or an all-natural, hearty lunch. The cafe recently hosted a date night, so singles may just meet their ideal significant others here, too.

Also good for: couples on a health kick, friends, treating your fit mom or dad

Teens: Menchie's and a Movie

We get it. Dating when you're too young to hit up the bars and too sick of bowling can be tough, especially in

Indoors or Outdoors, there are oodles of creative things to do for an off-the-beaten-path Valentine's date.

the winter. However, the proximity of many establishments to one another is a huge benefit of living in Erie. So rather than go nuts spending on dinner and a movie, why not head out for frozen yogurt and a movie? Grab a tasty treat and lock eyes over the M&M's before settling in for a flick, or catch an earlier show and discuss the film over some fro yo. The possibilities, like the toppings at Menchie's, are endless.

Also good for: families, girls' night out, singles with a sweet tooth

Couples and Groups: Erie Beer Tour

With the opening of VooDoo Brewery's Erie location, there are now several solid breweries downtown, including Lavery Brewing Company, Erie Ale Works, and Erie Brewing Company. Grab a designated driver – or an Uber – and set out for some local brews, enjoying seasonal samples or full pints of your favorite. We recommend finishing off the tour at VooDoo – the menu is pretty stellar and should satiate all beer-hungry appetites.

Also good for: going out with the lads (especially now that football's over), treating your dad to some local ales

Here are offbeat and intriguing ideas to show someone – or yourself – just how much you care.

Singles, Couples, and Families: Sourcing and Making an All-Erie Meal

Enough. No more picking up the rotisserie chicken and bottle of wine from Wegman's, and consuming both in front of Netflix. Instead, head to local businesses to buy groceries and items and turn making dinner into a fun, all-Erie event. Start off at Gordon's Meat Market for the protein portion of the journey (or skip if you're a vegetarian) before heading to Whole Foods Co-op for sides, sauces, and all sorts of meat-free fare to bulk up your meal.

Finally, if you're into wine, stop at Presque Isle Wine Cellars and try a few vinos before grabbing a bottle or two to complement the meal. And if the kiddos are with you – or wine is a no-no – hit The Juice Jar for some fun juices as either an appetizer, dessert, or main dish accompaniment.

Also good for: impressing your relatives, unexpected guests, having a dinner party just because

Intrepid Explorers: Hit the Presque Isle Trails and Warm Up at the Colony

The Norwegians say that there is never any bad weather, just bad clothing, so if you haven't cashed in those Christmas gift cards yet, it's time for some cold-weather gear. When appropriately bundled, outdoorsy types can watch the crazy waves and walk the beach sand trails, strap on some boots (or snowshoes or skis) and hit the nature trails, or walk along the bay and enjoy the blustery weather. To warm up after your adventures, the Colony has a roaring fireplace and some stiff drinks or most excellent hot cocoa – all of which are certain to revive the chilliest of fingers and toes. Stick around for appetizers or burgers and whatever local music is being performed.

Also good for: families with older kids, your cousin who hiked in the Himalayas

Couples, Families and Groups: Bowling and Home-cooked Food

Not everyone can handle the cold, which might be why bowling is so popular in Erie. Fortunately, it's affordable and fun, and Greengarden Lanes isn't far from McGarrey's Oakwood Cafe. Grab your sweetie or your best mates, and head out for a little friendly competition – bumpers optional – before trekking across 38th Street to McGarrey's for some tasty, homey fare. Try their "famous" Reuben sandwiches, warm up with their hearty homemade soups, or get a sampling to share with your nearest and dearest. Bonus: They have gluten-free bread.

Also good for: your energetic grandparents, a first-ever date, teens, those new to Erie

Miriam Lamey can be contacted at Miriam@eriereader.com.

Erie Gems

Presque Isle's Gull Point



MATT FANG

realize how lucky we are, we Erieites, to have our own wrap-around front porch. This wild place that lets us step away from our city to turn and look back on what we have built, and think about where we are going. Yes, we've got messes to clean up here at home, and more in the making for our nation; but

It is in this moment that I realize how lucky we are, we Erieites, to have our own wrap-around front porch. This wild place that lets us step away from our city to turn and look back on what we have built, and think about where we are going.

By: Matt Fang

It is one day after Trump's inauguration. There is now an administration of climate deniers in office, a federal bill with legislation crafted to devalue our national forests has recently been passed, and here at home we can't figure out how to keep our schools open. I need some space to clear my head, reflect, and refill – I know just the place.

Far beyond the well-trodden trails of Presque Isle's interior lies a wild and windswept landscape known as Gull Point. This vast expanse is dotted with rolling dunes and shallow coastal lagoons. Day by day, the soft extremities of this sandy mass are swept to and fro, molded and reshaped by the sculpting action of churning waves. Each visit to the point is an expedition into something fresh and new.

I arrive at the trailhead, tucked away at the back corner of the Budny Beach parking lot. Winter hiking on this trail is a treat. Intermittent stretches of typically muddy and swampy terrain crust over in cold temperatures. From April 1 to Nov. 30, strict boundary restrictions enacted

to protect nesting migratory birds affect access to certain areas. But in late January, I have free range to wander.

Several times along the way, the trail cuts to the coast and runs me through thick stands of aspen trees and tall grasses. A brazen troupe of young male chickadees chaperones me as I pass through their turf, taunting me with chirps and cheeps while strutting their stuff through dense thickets of bayberry.

Northern Bayberry is a short coastal shrub that produces clusters of small blue-white waxy berries. American colonists boiled the berries to extract the sweet-smelling wax, which they used to make clean-burning candles. During fall, aromatic leaves dry up, turning a reddish-brown. I gather several in hand and roll them between my palms until crushed. A pungent spicy-sweet aroma rises from the

(top) Standing amidst the brush, Emily Britton is well bundled up as she looks out onto Lake Erie from Gull Point. (right) The lone observation tower stands among the cold, beautiful peninsula expanse.

potpourri: lovely. The troupe returns, annoyed that I have yet to vacate the premises. I move on to avoid any trouble.

In the distance, I hear the telltale chorus of cackling, yodeling, and all around ruckus that generally accompanies the presence of shore birds carrying on. I am getting close to the point.

All at once, the tight walls of brush alongside the trail fade down, and the terrain opens into a vast expanse of gently

rolling grassy dunes. Hundreds if not thousands of seagulls dot the sky. I make my way to the lone observation tower standing tall on the horizon.

From the top, I do a slow spin to take it all in. It's a breathtaking panorama. The sandy foreground fades north into the endless blue of Lake Erie. The lake fades east to the shoreline bluffs of mainland Erie, and then wraps back to the wilds of Presque Isle on which I stand.

It is in this moment that I



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Just War Reconsidered: Strategy, Ethics, and Theory
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Mixtape: My Erie Valentine

Fourteen local songwriters weave tales of love and loss.



By: Nick Warren

For songwriters, love is a well-worn road. Practically every aspect of a relationship lends itself to a handful of songs. That's no less true in the case of Erie's lovelorn troubadours. Reaching out to 14 different artists (since Valentine's Day is the 14th, and all), we were able to trace the ups and downs on the path of the hopeless romantic. Go to eriereader.com/article/vdaymixtape to hear every one of these tracks.

BROOKE SURGENER

"Some Sort of Special"
Previously unreleased

First, there's that tingle when you meet someone, the butterflies. The melodies of Brooke Surgener's adorable soprano evoke that feeling perfectly.

"Playing on my banjo in the cabin behind my house, I wrote 'Some Sort of Special' while stuck inside on a rainy day. It has been a long time since I've been in a relationship or written about being in one, and daydreaming as I do, I wrote this song imagining meeting the right person for me. It's a simple song about patience and waiting for a real love instead of pursuing something insignificant." – Brooke Surgener

ELI WAY & IAN EWING (FEAT. NAJI)

"Happy With U"
Single

Then there's that moment when the butterflies are released and the world is open. It's the time of romance, of winning that special someone over. This lush R&B track underscores that instance

when you know you really want to be with someone.

"This song represents the love I have yet to feel. It's a fantasy about the girl I may or may not have met yet. Simple, sweet, and smooth, just like that love should be. <3" – Naji Adamson

JESS ROYER

"No Stranger to Love"
Previously unreleased

Things start to get a little more invested. Maybe the "L" word gets thrown around. You make yourself vulnerable, hoping that the object of your affection will feel the same. Singer-songwriter Jess Royer conveys that hopeful uncertainty abounding in a new relationship.

"I'm a big sap, so writing love songs is easy for me. I've been inspired by the theme of love itself, and I choose to fill my life with it. Music makes it easy to express this." – Jess Royer

ZACK ORR

"Niagara Falls"
From the album Francisco the Man

You know that one defining day when you know things are truly special? That's what indie artist Zack Orr has detailed here. With a wonderful instrumental buildup, Orr's wistful tenor weaves a beautiful scene.

"There are similarities between attraction and songwriting. You can't choose who you are attracted to and you can't choose what songs you write. 'Niagara Falls' was written about one particularly beautiful day I shared with someone at one of the cheesiest love destinations on earth. Lyrically, I wrote it as if the falls

Hear what some of the best local songwriters have to say about love, like Brooke Surgener (left), Pine Diary's Jess Royer, and Zack Orr

itself was the woman and a man was falling for her." – Zack Orr

THE SEX BLOSSOMS

"Valentine"
Demo

You're together now. Inseparable, just like the young duo of Andrew Henderson and Madeline Genest. This raw, delicate recording illustrates an adventurous, inventive (and perfectly named) love story.

"We recorded 'Valentine' at Frontier Park during the first wondrous thrust of summer. The feeling of escape and togetherness was captured amongst the merry din of sweet pollen-thick wind, scampering bare feet, and the calm gossip of tall wheatgrass. I sometimes think that you're never more free than when you're alone together, wading through the rush-and-bustle." – Andrew Henderson

PLANET CLAIRE

"Biggest Fan"
From Split 7" with This American Song

Things begin to get a little more comfortable. You develop inside jokes and pet names. This quirky, fun track hides how things might begin to be unbalanced, with obsession and jealousy starting to peek out.

"She describes her point of view, of who she thinks Cary Grant was from seeing him in the movies ... and she's his biggest fan." – Sue Martin

THIS AMERICAN SONG

"Dark Star"
Previously unreleased recording, originally appeared on the Hitting the Wall EP

You have your first real fight. There are plenty of unanswered questions but you're still ultimately happy, despite the cracks starting to emerge. The honeymoon is over.

"Sometimes love exists away from the light." – Larry Wheaton

TONY KELLOGG

"Don't Give Up on Love"
From the album Don't Give Up on Love

Despite any small doubts, you remain resilient and positive. Commitment

is important to you, and you're not about to forget that. This is where "side B" of your metaphorical mixtape starts.

I wrote "Don't Give Up On Love" 10 years ago, inspired by a friend who'd been dumped. Years later, it's been a song that has meant a lot to many people's lives, as well as mine. My mom even has a tattoo of the title on her shoulder. These days, love is the last thing we should give up on. – Tony Kellogg

THE HONEST MISTAKES

"You Were Wrong"
Previously unreleased, from the upcoming album The Honest Mistakes Burn it Down

Despite your best efforts, things aren't working out. You get introspective and try to figure out what went wrong.

"A distressing amount of our music seems to be about the problems inherent in finding someone, and then somehow making things work. This song concerns the end of a relationship, with the narrator basically saying 'told you so – told you I'd screw it up.'" – Chris Erich

"Love is a blind spot. We don't always see people for who they are, but who we want them to be. We don't always see ourselves honestly, either." – Joylene Erich

C.BROWN

"Lose Me At All" (Prod. by C.Brown/
Mixed by Nick IamADon)
From the album The Feels EP

Things get a little bleaker. The breakup is here. Erie emcee C.Brown empathizes, his emotions bubbling up to the surface.

"The song is about people not being afraid to lose you. In the first verse, I speak of a girl who could care less about me walking away from our relationship. It's a true story, so she's the inspiration behind the concept. In the second verse, I speak from the voice of 'opportunity.' If it could talk, this is what I think it would say to the people who pass it up daily." – C.Brown

OPTIMISTIC APOCALYPSE

"The Mind"
From the forthcoming album The Art of Love

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"Sometimes things don't work out with people, and that is okay! Be productive and make something positive out of it – like I did with this song. Much love." – MacKenzie Lee Sprague

STRANGERS AND LIARS

"Love Sick"

From the album A Little Bit Stranger

Love has hurt you by now. But you've accepted it and know it's important to move on. Blaming the other person helps. Strangers and Liars' feel-good classic vibes have that bite you need.

"As with any other sickness, if you don't take steps toward getting better, it's going to be that much harder to kick – and love is no exception. Most of us have found ourselves in relationships that we're better off not being in, but we keep falling back into them. Besides, when has knowing something is bad for us ever stopped us from doing things we shouldn't?" – Tommy Link

THE NEW MORNING SUNRISE

"Morning Train"

From the album The New Morning Sunrise

You begin to think of what might have been. You dream about someone else, someone new. Even though you're a tad jaded, you're hopeful. The dark folk ruminations of The New Morning Sunrise help you look ahead.

"I got married too young and it didn't work out. By 22, I had been married and divorced and found myself single and lonely with no idea how to start over from something like that, so I tried an online dating site. I ended up meeting a girl who was nice and funny. We would talk on the phone and email, but it never led to anything romantic. She lived a thousand miles away and was focusing on building a career. I was finding a new

Real life couple Chris and Joylene Ehrich (left), also known as The Honest Mistakes; C. Brown; and McKenzie Lee Sprague of Optimistic Apocalypse weigh in on their thoughts about love and relationships.

path for my life, writing songs and enjoying the bohemian life with few responsibilities and lots of open mic nights followed by 24-hour diners. But we had a connection. Eventually, we talked less and less, then not at all, and life continues to diverge down new roads. This experience led my imagination to form the story in 'Morning Train,' about two people who had a connection, but it was never meant to be anything more, and that's okay. Sometimes love doesn't have to be romantic, just a brief connection with another soul." – Gabe Poland

TYLER SMILO

"Elliott Song"

Previously unreleased, from the forthcoming album Burn the Rivers

Eventually you move on, realizing that romantic love doesn't have to be the most important thing. Your family grows, and your heart grows along with it. You focus a familial love on these new people in your life, swearing to give them the best pieces of your heart forever.

"I wrote this for Elliott Smilo, my son. I needed something to leave him on record for when I pass on. You never know when it's time to go." – Tyler Smilo

We hope your holiday is a bright one. And hey, if it isn't, maybe you can write a song about it.

Huge thanks to John Johnston of This American Song for mastering these tracks for online streaming. Extra special thanks to Steve Leitzinger for providing artist photos. Nick Warren can be contacted at nick@ErieReader.com.

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The xx
I See You
Young Turks



The downtempo coolness of The xx is back again. It's been more than four long years since their 2012 album *Coexist*. Their third record, *I See You* finds the London trio at their most accessible. The album merges the poppier, softly-sung hooks of guitarist Romy Madley Croft and bassist Oliver Sim with the evocative beats of producer Jamie "xx" Smith. In their relatively short lifespan, the band has garnered consistent critical praise, and this album is no exception. Fans will draw parallels to Jamie xx's 2015 solo opus *In Colour*, which bridges the gap between the haunting minimalistic echoes of *Coexist* and the band's current efforts. It's a much brighter sound. There are probably more major chords on this record than the band has ever used. Some of the tracks are downright positive, like the back-to-back hits "On Hold" and "I Dare You" – the latter even stopping one note shy of the "millennial whoop" in its grandiose chorus. It's an original, rich tone that's ready to move out of the clubs and into the stadiums as the band crosses a pivotal threshold in their careers. – Nick Warren



The Flaming Lips
Oczy Mlody
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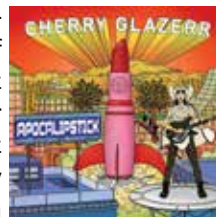
If you're the breed of Flaming Lips fan who absolutely loved *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* and *The Soft Bulletin*, you might want to slow down and check this album out. If you haven't listened to those, drop what you're doing and play them now. Those albums are true pop masterworks and everyone should love them. If you have a soft spot for the lighter experimental elements of *Embryonic* and *The Terror*, then all the better. *Oczy Mlody* is closer to pop than anything the band has done in over a decade. The major trade-off (and also the major detractor) is the added goofiness of this record. For better or worse, we have Miley Cyrus to thank for a lot of this. The Flaming Lips were her backing band on the 2015 album *Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Petz*, so the artists have influenced each other. Cyrus even guests on the lovingly-crafted final track, "We a Family." Reggie Watts also makes a contribution with the bizarre spoken word section in "There Should Be Unicorns." Although at times forgettable, *Oczy Mlody* is a wonderfully friendly, highly listenable psychedelic record. – Nick Warren



Cherry Glazerr
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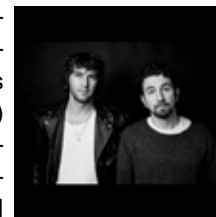
The inner contents of *Apocalipstick* might be slightly gloomier than the cover art implies, but not by much. Hailing from Los Angeles, the trio, fronted by singer/guitarist Clementine Creevy, offers up its sophomore album. The 20-year-old Creevy is a model and an actress, and may be recognizable from her stint on critically acclaimed Amazon series *Transparent*, where she led the fictitious bands known as Glitterish and Fussy Puss. The lo-fi, garage quality of 2014's *Haxel Princess* is traded in for a more polished rock sound. The shift is not altogether surprising (nor drastic), since two-thirds of the band have been replaced since then, welcoming Tabor Allen and Sasami Ashworth on drums and synthesizer, respectively. Overall, the record has an endearing fuzz-pop sound that's ideal for fans of Colleen Green or Ringo Deathstarr. There are moments of humor, most notably in "Trash People," with lines like "we wear our underpants three days in a row." Aside from that, there's an inviting darkness contained here. Youthful energy abounds in tracks like "Instagratication" and "Humble Pro," paired with the sincere delivery of songs such as "Nuclear Bomb." – Nick Warren



Japandroids
Near to the Wild Heart of Life
Anti-



Fans of the Vancouver band Japandroids (sometimes known as JPNDRDS) have been ravenous for new material for years. Will this record quench their appetites? Their nearly perfect masterpiece *Celebration Rock* was released in 2012, following their fantastic 2009 debut, *Post-Nothing*. The duo, comprised of singer/guitarist Brian King and drummer David Prowse have built their brand on a heavy and unmistakable wall of fuzz-drenched sound. Much like the trajectory of countless young, punk-adjacent bands, Japandroids have settled into a more comfortable, albeit generic rock sound. The addition of more instruments (acoustic guitars, keyboards, etc.) to the mix moves the band further from their signature sound into the world of the familiar. But King's songwriting is still as anthemic as ever. These are songs that are endlessly listenable, brilliantly lending themselves to drunken late night singalongs with like-minded friends. Those moments, the ones overflowing with life and the raw energy of an ever-escaping youth, are what JPNDRDS are all about. In the end, the album's maturity may age with its fans, as they settle into their lives for a new chapter. – Nick Warren



Tommy in Toon — by Tommy Link



Erie Faces

Erie

Brenda Costa

executive director
of the French Creek
Valley Conservancy
(FCVC)

Ed Bernik

photographer

"French Creek is incredibly unique – unlike any other waterway in the state of Pennsylvania, and much of the United States."

Ed Bernik: You're a geologist by profession. What insights do you bring to the FCVC director position as opposed to a PR or marketing person, who would typically head an organization like this?

Brenda Costa: My undergraduate degree is in geology, and I worked in geologic consulting for 20 years. I also have an MBA from Penn State, so I have a background in project management and leadership that I think brings a lot to the conservancy that maybe wasn't there previously.

EB: French Creek runs through five counties and two states. Why is it important to our region?

BC: It's incredibly unique – unlike any other waterway in the state of Pennsylvania, and much of the United States. What sets it apart is its biological diversity. French Creek used to flow into Lake Erie. With the advancing of glaciers, that flow was blocked. It reversed, flowing south into the Allegheny River. That change in flow direction brought new biology into the creek. The French Creek Watershed includes biology that you would find in the Lake Erie Watershed, also from the Susquehanna River Watershed – where its original headwaters were, and then the Allegheny River Watershed. It's that combination that creates the unique biodiversity not found anywhere else.

EB: What condition is the river in today?

BC: It's very healthy, very good water quality, but there are always threats, sig-

nificantly from development. Throughout time, properties and parcels are getting smaller as they're subdivided, and more development is taking place. It's the protection of the area around the creek that determines the water quality.

EB: Is there a threat from oil and gas development?

BC: A few years ago, as the Marcellus shale boom took place in this area, there were concerns about development within the watershed. I think oil and gas firms found that tapping into reserves in this area was not economically viable, at least at the price of gas at this point. Development has taken place more to the southwest and to the northeast, and not much at all within the French Creek Watershed.

EB: What impact does farming have? I know in New York state, at the headwaters, there are many dairy farms.

BC: There is certainly impact from that. There's impact directly – runoff from fertilizer – but there's also an impact, especially in the headwaters region, where farmers may be letting their livestock walk in and access the creek. It's important to spread the message of best farming practices to prevent that type of impact. There's impact, both in agriculture and otherwise, on the riparian buffer, where people are cutting down trees and removing vegetation right up to the creek banks. They may be farming very close to the creek banks, and that promotes erosion. It's those trees and that vegetation that hold the creek banks in place.

EB: How do you see the role of the conservancy? Do you have outreach education?

BC: We do. Our primary mission is as an accredited land trust, but we cannot buy or control all of the property within the watershed. Our more effective tool is our outreach and education program, not only through school programs, but also with presentations to civic groups and organizations. We also reach out to riparian land owners, agricultural organizations, and sportsman's clubs, to educate people on the importance of maintaining watershed quality.

EB: How important is tourism to French Creek, and is there an impact, both on the economy and the river?

BC: Outdoor recreation has been growing exponentially, and we try to encourage people to get out on the creek through float events, paddles, those sorts of things. But we also have a program called the Creek Towns Program, where we're working with towns along the creek to help them benefit economically by embracing the creek and encouraging recreation. We're working

with towns to create new boat launches and access points. We've done needs assessments in six different towns now, where we look at things like, "Are there public restrooms? Places to rent kayaks? Places to eat close to the creek? Somewhere to buy groceries if you're camping?" We're assessing these towns, then energizing volunteers within the towns to make those things happen, to ensure economic benefit from outdoor recreation.

EB: You put on an annual cleanup. How much trash do you pull out of the creek?

BC: Last year we removed over 26,000 pounds of garbage from the watershed.

The weight of the garbage actually has been decreasing over the last few years, because, through our cleanup efforts and education, less garbage remains within the creek.

EB: How far north does that cleanup go?

BC: We've had participants as far north as Waterford, but it's our goal to stretch that throughout the entire watershed.

EB: How many members does FCVC have now?

BC: About 125. We've tried to increase the reach of our membership drive on an annual basis, appealing to more people throughout the watershed. A lot of our energy has been focused on the central third of the watershed. One of my personal missions is to expand that to the north and to the south. So much attention in Erie is given to the lakeshore, but half of Erie County is part of the French Creek watershed and important acreage to protect.

EB: Historically, this river played a major role in the development of western Pennsylvania.

BC: I think the most interesting fact that most people are unaware of is that George Washington actually named it "French Creek." Prior to that, the French were occupying northwest Pennsylvania, and were in Fort LeBoeuf, naming it Riviera LeBoeuf in reference to all the bison that they found in the area. I'm thankful that George came along and named it



French Creek, so it wasn't the Beef River.

EB: There's a certain *je ne sais quoi* ...

BC: Right. I think that people are unaware of George Washington's presence in western Pennsylvania, and that history during the French and Indian War. Also, the fact that he really risked his life in his travels up French Creek in December. The course of our nation certainly could have been different had George not been successful in his mission.

EB: What would you like to see for the future of the creek and FCVC?

BC: I want to be sure that we are reaching out through the entire watershed, so that people understand the importance and uniqueness of the creek. Our organization is kind of at a stepping-off point right now. We have a lot of land acquisition deals in the works, and some very important pieces of property that we're working to protect. At the same time, we're really seeing an upswing in support for the organization. I'm excited about how we can grow to the next level and engage our members and volunteers directly in land protection projects.

I came from working in a very high-pressure sales environment in consulting. Not long after I started at the FCVC, I went to a conference. I was overcome by the sense of cooperation and collaboration in the conservation community.

Brenda Costa:

frenchcreekconservancy.org

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SUNDAY'S MELT DOWN HOT SEAT

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF WINTER ALREADY!

Come in between 1pm to 6pm for your
CHANCE TO WIN FREE PLAY!
One lucky slot player will be
selected every 20 minutes!

JUST MAKE SURE TO USE YOUR CARD WHILE PLAYING SO THAT
YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



Friday, February 24th 4pm-10pm
Saturday, February 25th 4pm-10pm
Sunday, February 26th 12pm-6pm

Ten winners every hour will win prizes from
\$50-\$1,000 cash! Ten \$1,000 Cash Winners Each Day!

One Free Entry each promotional day listed above
One Bonus Entry for every 20 points you earn that day
Players can only win one time per night

LBV DINNER FOR TWO SPECIAL!



\$55 Four Course Meal For Two with Wine:

- Shrimp Cocktail to Share
- Choice of House or Caesar Salad
- Choice of Chicken Parmesan, Chicken Milanese, Veal Piccata, or Veal Marsala
- Tiramisu to Share
- 2 Glasses of Greystone Chardonnay

Available Now - March 4th

Offer not valid on weekends and holidays.

Dine In Only



Entertainment 7 Days a Week!
Open Daily at 11am

30 Beers on Tap!

Happy Hour Specials

5pm - 7pm • Monday - Saturday

Visit www.presqueisledowns.com for details

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downs & casino
ELDORADO RESORTS



I-90 Exit 27, Erie PA
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1.866.ERIE.FUN



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