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**ERIE READER**

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**SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL  
PREVIEW**

**A PRIMARY POSTGAME**

ANALYSIS, COMMENTARY ON  
ERIE'S LATEST ELECTIONS

**EXILE ON STATE STREET**

ADVICE FROM A FORMER  
MAYOR TO A FUTURE ONE

**RIBFEST | TROIKA RUSSIAN FESTIVAL | HARRISBURG HAPPENINGS | ERIE OTTERS**

**Baaaaaah**

**Baaaaaaaaaaaaaah**

**Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah**

**Bah Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah**

**Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum  
Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum  
Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum Drum**

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## From the Editors

### Decisions made and plans forged

Erie's mayoral primary consumed our thoughts for months. Worries and fears that the wrong person would be elected to lead our city gave rise to a growing sense of urgency. What would our future hold?

When the dust settled on Tuesday night, May 16, two victors emerged. By a healthy margin, Erie selected Joe Schember as their Democratic candidate for mayor. On the Republican side, John Persinger won with almost two-thirds of the vote.

We think Erie will be in good hands.

In our last issue, we endorsed candidate Jay Breneman. It was a difficult decision, but one that we stand by. Although Breneman finished in third place, it proved to be a strong showing in a crowded field of worthy contenders.

Schember struck us as honest, invested, and thoughtful. He was ready to give multiple examples and cite specific plans he has to bring our city to the next level. He's an engaging person to talk to one-on-one; a statesman who will represent us faithfully in the public eye, as well as in the office at City Hall.

Sometimes things have a way of working out, even when they don't go precisely as planned.

Throughout the campaign, we were exceptionally impressed by Joe Schember. It was a pleasure to have lengthy discussions with all (save for one) of the mayoral candidates, and get to know them beyond their platforms and talking points. Schember struck us as honest, invested, and thoughtful. He was ready to give multiple examples and cite specific plans he has to bring our city to the next level. He's an engaging person to talk to one-on-one; a statesman who will represent us faithfully in the public eye, as well as in the office at City Hall.

In the coming months leading up to November's election, we look forward to a spirited discussion between the two candidates. John Persinger is a strong candidate in his own right, despite the odds being stacked against him due to the city's heavy Democratic leanings.

In this issue, Ben Speggen concludes his primary coverage with some insightful analysis and commentary about the results of last Tuesday's vote. As we look to broaden our coverage regarding other upcoming races, we look forward to more from Ben.

Former Erie mayor Rick Fillipi returns with his own thoughts on the results. In his latest edition of "Exile on State Street," Fillipi laments the poor voter turnout in the city and warns the next mayor to be aware of the difficult job ahead. Each leader is faced with challenging choices, and must make them with the city's best interest in mind.

Not everything has to have such high stakes.

Some decisions that are a little more fun to make, like which summer festivals to attend. Nick Warren looks at more than 20 different options within driving distance where you can let loose for a weekend and check out some decent music.

Decisions, decisions.



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## Exile on State Street

Frank advice from a former mayor to a future one



By: Rick Filippi

“If you're not part of the future then get out of the way” – John Mellencamp

So the election is over, what comes next?

Well, I had hoped to return to the pages of the *Erie Reader* prior to the May 16 primary election, but as things have it, family issues prevented me from doing so. Nevertheless, the primary did in fact provide a host of candidates in many races in the city and county, many new, who offered some really hopeful and encouraging positions regarding the almost overwhelming issues facing our region, particularly the city.

With the Erie School District in a state of rapid transformation (read: near collapse), and the city attempting to embark on a reinvention of itself through the new comprehensive plan, known as *Erie Refocused*, the stakes were enormous. My hope, and that of many others who have hung on for years in the city, was that the primary – particularly in the mayor's race – would produce a new cadre of leaders that could move the city forward. Time will tell if that will be the case. And, with all due respect to my friends on the other side of the aisle, the spring primary really is the election for the city, given the Democratic

Party's registration edge.

This election had been billed as the most significant in more than a generation. At its conclusion though, I am not sure that anyone emerged who can bring about transformative change that the city needs to survive. Nonetheless, I do remain hopeful on that account.

However, there was one major result from this election, aside from the people who received the electoral nod, that has a telling and, perhaps, foreboding implication for our city.

Despite the fact that the city would be nominating someone to be the first new mayor in 12 years; despite the fact that there were at least two open seats up for grabs on an essentially do-nothing city council; despite the fact of the city's continued population decline; despite the fact of the increasing poverty level of the citizens; despite the fact of increasing job losses; despite the fact of the collapse of the school district; despite the fact of the inequitable and outrageous tax burden on the city's tax base including the relentless onslaught of tax exempt properties; despite the fact of the explosion of violent crime and neighborhood blight; despite all of these facts, less than 30 percent of city of Erie voters even bothered to get out of their recliners and go to the polls – not just to perform their

Serving as Erie's 46th mayor from 2002 to 2006, Rick Filippi has some advice for the 48th mayor.

constitutional duty, but to have a say and support candidates that could potentially lead a broad coalition of citizens, civic leaders, business leaders, and politicians in moving the city out of its 40-year malaise. Incredibly, seven out of 10 people did not give a damn enough about the city's situation to bother to get out and vote in this election!

The Erie County Election Office's early estimate of the city's voter turnout was approximately 29 percent. With some other big races at issue outside the city, such as the Millcreek supervisor race and district judge race, the county's overall turnout was even more dismal, at around 26 percent.

Thus, almost three-fourths of the county's voters and about 70 percent of the city's electorate either didn't care what happened or were too bothered with other things to take the time to get off their behinds and vote in what was arguably the most pivotal election in the last 50 years. We now have fewer people in all of Erie County than we did in 1980! No wonder. It appears people don't care.

Thus, as a city, and as a community, I believe we really have to take a hard look at whether the people of this city, not just the elected officials, have the guts and fortitude to take on the *Erie Refocused* plan and try to reverse the social, economic, and demographic trends that have eviscerated the city for more than a generation.

And why has it come to this? Has hope evaporated so much that the majority of voters are simply apathetic, or possibly so consumed with making their own ends meet that they can't be bothered? I'm sure it's a bit of both of those things, and others, including the fact that most of the city's neighborhoods are unrepresented, an issue I wrote about more than a year ago when I advocated district, rather than citywide, election of council members. The disconnect has become palpable. Despite this disconnect, or perhaps partly because of it, change, of monumental proportion,

must come now.

To that end, many of the candidates have given at least vocal support to the *Erie Refocused* plan, but as we all know, that amounts to little. What is really critical is whether these candidates, one of whom will be elected in November, are willing to take the chances, stick out their necks, fend off persistent criticism, and yes, sometimes threats, to make this plan the one that finally, after years of decline, turns the city around. Again, we will see how these candidates, now nominees and likely soon-to-be elected officials, carry out their role in revitalizing the city. What is it worth if the vast majority of the people in this city are indifferent to the task at hand? Does this voter turnout reflect

Almost three-fourths of the county's voters and about 70 percent of the city's electorate either didn't care what happened or were too bothered with other things to take the time to get off their behinds and vote in what was arguably the most pivotal election in the last 50 years.

an acceptance of the city's decline? Is it an inevitable conclusion? I pray not!

I for one am not ready to give up the fight. As Bluto said from one of my favorite movies, “[w]as it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor?” Obviously, not. So the question is this: Does the likely new mayor, Joe Sember, have what it takes in terms of vision, raw courage and steel-like persistence in the face of what will be unrelenting opposition and flak to make the *Erie Refocused* plan a reality? Does a retired banker have what it takes to get this messy, painful job done?

Regulars to the *Reader* know that I like to tell it like it is. The task ahead of us is difficult, if not impossible in my lifetime. But it is a task we must undertake. And now, we must place

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**NEWS & VIEWS**

our hope in a leader that we must believe in to give it the best effort. There is at least hope, and faith, that he can get the job done.

But it's not a job for one person alone. On the City Council side, thankfully two new faces entered the scene as Democratic primary winners likely to gain a seat in the fall. Newcomers Liz Allen and Kathleen Schaaf join returning incumbents Jim Winarski and Kaz Kwitowski on the seven-member City Council. The same question applies here: Do these new City Council members have what it takes to join with their existing members to support the vision for a new Erie, and importantly, to support the potential new mayor in making the hard, gritty choices that are necessary, and almost inevitable, to make Erie a growing, vibrant city again?

Overall, I was encouraged by the number of candidates running for all offices, especially in the city. Many offered a coherent vision for Erie and adopted the *Erie Refocused* plan as a way to get there. Most, including those elected in the primary, have publically supported the plan. Again, however, time will tell if they are still willing to make the tough decisions when the rubber hits the road.

The candidates, and now nominees, have spoken. Twenty-nine percent of city voters have spoken. We know the nominees' positions. But what of the 70 percent of city voters who did not turn out? Do they have the stomach to take some of the tough medicine that will be required to cure the ailments that have afflicted us for so many years?

And we don't have much time to tell. The time is now to get mobilized as a neighborhood, as a community, as a city, and to get involved and participate in the rigorous, daunting road ahead of us. I remain hopeful, that even if they did not show up for this election, they may yet be brought on board. But if not, the reality is that the future is here, and now we must act.

We can take the challenges of the *Erie Refocused* plan on and make

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The time is now to get mobilized as a neighborhood, as a community, as a city, and to get involved and participate in the rigorous, daunting road ahead of us. I remain hopeful, that even if they did not show up for this election, they may be yet brought on board.

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its fulfillment a centerpiece of our civic duty and the groundwork for our future, and our children's future. But, ladies and gentlemen, if you don't care to be part of the future, if you don't want to be bothered, if you don't have the time, then please, please get out of the way and let those who do have at it.

*Rick Filippi can be contacted at [atty.filippi@gmail.com](mailto:atty.filippi@gmail.com).*

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## NEWS & VIEWS

### Just a Thought

No comment



GARY LEVENS ON FLICKR

By: **Katie Chriest**

A catbird flew into our window the other morning. I heard its horrible glassy thud and hurried to the back window, only to find it writhing in agony on our deck. A grackle on the deck rail chattered angrily, either at me or at the poor suffering catbird.

This would have been gut-wrenching regardless of species, but I happen to adore catbirds. Their songs are so mellifluous and expressive, and their meow-like whines crack me up. Plus, they're just plain lovely, with deep gray bodies, black caps and fantails, and a little brown accent on their undersides, like they're dressed for a Manhattan jazz club.

This catbird twisted and roiled from its trauma, its beak opening as if in a silent scream. How horrible to watch the poor being suffer in rare silence. My instinct was to cradle the bird and talk to it comfortingly, but I knew that my version of comfort and its differed considerably. I also knew that if it stayed like that for five, maybe 10 more minutes, I'd have to humanely put it out of its misery.

But soon, the bird righted itself. Its eyes remained at half-mast, but it gathered its body back into normal nesting form, perching lightly and looking to be catching its breath. I let out the breath I'd been holding and waited.

I kept checking on the bird, and it just sat there, progressively resembling a meditating sage.

After an hour, I stepped onto the deck with a shoebox, hoping at least to protect the little thing from neighborhood stray cats. It saw me, fluttered a bit, and managed to fly mostly evenly toward a spot in our back garden. Encouraged, I moved slowly in its direction. It got the hint and flew a few feet up our lilac bush, where it gained strength out of harm's way. It rested there for a spell, then eventually rejoined its singing brethren.

I haven't been able to get the image of that traumatized bird out of my head. It was dramatic, for certain, but also reminiscent of the sorts of things we encounter daily in this complicated world of sensory ambush.

Maybe we're not hurtling full speed into hard surfaces, but we are pummeled by terrifying news, delivered in horrifying ways, by talking heads schooled in us-vs.-them snark. Even car commercials sound like battle cries.

And, we live in a country where the average person struggles to meet the simplest of human needs; where ideals often become mere slogans. It's enough to make you want to bang your head against something.

Is it any wonder we flip each other off behind the wheel? Or fight over frivolities of opinion? Or vote for the candidate whose vitriol on the podi-

A catbird in quiet repose, probably not overly-concerned with the madness of its newsfeed.

um reflects our own resentment? Or snidely await the next numbskull tweet or status update to add fuel to our hateful fires?

All of this lashing out at each other, from petty put-downs to violent rage, seems like an attempt to deflect the pain we're dealing with as immediately as possible.

And so I'm struck most by the catbird's response to its trauma: To pause. To wait until it had gathered its wits about it. To take its next moves slowly, after testing its resolve.

What if we responded instead like that catbird? Had the courage not

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I'm struck most by the catbird's response to its trauma: To pause. To wait until it had gathered its wits about it. To take its next moves slowly, after testing its resolve.

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to "comment," but to wait? To react to stunning realities in the only way that's truly reasonable: by sitting with that stunned feeling. With the pain, the fear, the bafflement, the hurt and betrayal. By awaiting wisdom, and trusting our enlightened selves to know when it's safe to fly – just not off the handle.

This is a world that will break your heart. We can plop gobs of asphalt into the broken places like streets departments, hoping that temporary fix will at least keep us from crashing. Or, we can let our broken hearts create more space for understanding.

Not such a birdbrained notion, eh?

*I'm taking my leave, dear Reader readers, but will occasionally be writing "Just a Thought"-ish missives at [aneditedgarden.com](http://aneditedgarden.com), where you're welcome to visit and/or contact me. Thanks very much for reading!*



## Harrisburg Happenings

### Education's piece of the state budget



**Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera (left) sits alongside former mayor Joyce Savocchio and former Erie School District Superintendent Jay Badams, looking on at a May 24 forum at the Jefferson Educational Society.**

MAITHAM BASHA-AGHA

tory of the district's financial situation, the efforts now underway, and those planned for the future to address the funding crisis. The panel explained the many belt-tightening measures taken by the school district as it tries to make do with the resources it has available.

Following that segment of the hearing, Jim Ohrn, vice president and chief financial officer for Custom Engineering Co., and Charles Hagerty, chief development officer for Hamot Health Foundation, provided views on the Erie business community.

Closing out the hearing was a discussion with a panel of superintendents from three other Erie County school districts: Richard Scaletta, General McLane School District; William Hall, Millcreek Township School District; and Shane Murray, Iroquois School District. Each talked about the financial issues facing their districts and the increased burdens they would incur if they must accept displaced students from the Erie School District.

All told, this was a very frank and informative hearing. I believe the Education Committee members came away with a much better and deeper understanding of the Erie School District's financial issues.

I certainly appreciate Senator Eichelberger's willingness to give our local officials this forum to present a case for increased state support for the Erie School District.

*I encourage everyone to watch the video of the Education Committee's hearing that is posted on my website, senatorlaughlin.com. My website and my Facebook page, facebook.com/senatorlaughlin/, are also good resources for constituents to use as a way to keep up to date with state government news – including the state budget – and learn more about state services and agencies.*

By: Dan Laughlin

As we move into June, the legislature is now focused on finalizing a state budget for the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1. We face many challenges in developing this spending plan, not the least of which is finding the financial means to address a potential \$3 billion budgetary deficit in the coming year. That means the General Assembly must ensure that every tax dollar is spent wisely and responsibly.

Personally, as I have said many times, my top priority is making certain that a strong commitment to the children of the Erie School District is included as part of the final budget package. I am grateful that my colleague, Senate Education Committee Chair John Eichelberger, brought his committee to Erie on May 12. I requested that he do so in order to hear from local school and business officials and learn more about Erie School District's financial crisis.

Prior to convening in the Central Career & Technical School library for the public hearing, members of the committee had the opportunity to visit our schools and see for themselves the less than acceptable conditions in those buildings.

The hearing opened with Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera, who gave an overview of the state's funding to Erie and the other 499 school districts across the commonwealth. He also discussed the state's rejection, earlier this year, of Erie School District's proposed financial recovery plan.

Next, the Education Committee heard from Erie School District officials: Superintendent Jay Badams, Chief Financial Officer Brian Polito, and School Board President Frank Petrunger, Jr. They detailed the his-



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## News of the Weird

### Scenic speed bumps and ski mask surprise

By: **Chuck Shepherd**

#### Pedestrian Calming

Officials in charge of a Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal heritage site recently installed "speed bumps," similar to those familiar to Americans driving residential streets but on a pedestrian walkway, with row upon row of risers to resemble a washboard. A Western travel writer, along with editors of People's Daily China, suggested that officials were irked that "disorderly" tourists had been walking past the ancient grounds too rapidly to appreciate its beauty or context. [Daily Telegraph (London), 5-4-2017]

#### The Job of the Researcher

"Marine mammologist" Dara Orbach's specialty is figuring out how bottlenose dolphins actually fit their sex organs together to copulate. When dolphins die of natural causes, Orbach, a post-doctoral fellow at Nova Scotia's Dalhousie University, is sent their genitals (and also those of whales, porpoises and sea lions) and fills each one with silicone to work from molds in understanding the sex act's mechanics. Dolphins' vaginas are "surprising" in their "complexity," she told Canadian Broadcasting Corporation News in April, for example, with the ability to twist inner folds to divert the progress of any sperm deposited by undesirable mates. [CBC News, 4-26-2017]

#### Bright Ideas

Compared to busy coastal metropolises, Indiana may evoke repose,

and entrepreneur Tom Battista is suggesting the state's largest city capitalize on the sentiment by reserving a destination site on a low-lying hill overlooking the chaotic merge lanes of two interstate highways affording visitors leisurely moments watching the frantic motorists scrambling below. He plans three rows of seats and a sunshade for the relaxed gawkers to take in the "ocean"-like roar and imagine overwrought drivers' rising blood pressure (while their own remains soothingly calm). [WTHR-TV (Indianapolis), 4-25-2017]

Several treatments are available to combat the heart arrhythmia "atrial fibrillation," but all require medical supervision, which John Griffin, 69, said he tried to acquire at the emergency room at New Zealand's Waikato Hospital in April, only to be met with delay and frustration. Griffin went home that day, took notice of his neighbor's 8,000-volt electric security fence and, with boots off, in a fit of do-it-yourself desperation, nudged it with his arm. He got quite a jolt, he said, but he walked away, and his heart returned to natural rhythm. The medical director of the Heart Foundation of New Zealand said that Griffin was lucky and sternly warned against the "procedure." [New Zealand Herald, 5-2-2017]

#### Weird Science

Medical researchers have been frustrated for years at failures in getting certain cancer-fighting drugs to reach targeted areas in women's reproductive tracts, but doctors in Germany announced in April a bold tech-

nique that appeared to work: sending the drugs via sperm cells, which seem to roam without obstruction as they search for an egg. The process involves coating active sperm cells with an iron adhesive and magnetically steering them to their internal targets. [Phys.org, 4-14-2017]

#### News That Sounds Like a Joke

Sean Clemens, now awaiting trial in Liberty, Ohio, in the death of an 84-year-old woman, allegedly confessed his guilt to a co-worker after telling the man that something was bothering him that he needed to tell someone about but only if the co-worker would "pinkie-swear" not to tell anyone else. (The co-worker broke the code.) [WKBN-TV (Youngstown), 4-25-2017]

In the course of pursuing claims against Alaskan dentist Seth Lookhart for Medicaid fraud, government investigators found a video on his phone of him extracting a sedated patient's tooth while riding on a hoverboard. (He had apparently sent the video to his office manager under the title "New Standard of Care.") Lookhart had been indicted in 2016 for billing Medicaid \$1.8 million for patient sedations unnecessary for the procedures they received. [Alaska Dispatch News, 4-21-2017]

#### Perspective

In April, Tennessee state representative Mike Stewart, aiming to make a point about the state's lax gun-sales laws and piggybacking onto the cuddly feeling people have about children's curbside lemonade stands, set up a

combination stand on Nashville's Capitol Hill, offering for sale lemonade, cookies and an AK-47 assault rifle (with a sign reading "No Background Check," to distinguish the private-sale AK-47 from one purchased from a federally licensed dealer). (In fact, some states still regulate lemonade stands more than gun sales by nettlesome "health department" and anti-competitive rules and licensing, though Tennessee allows the stands in most neighborhoods as long as they are small and operated infrequently.) [WKRN-TV (Nashville), 4-5-2017]

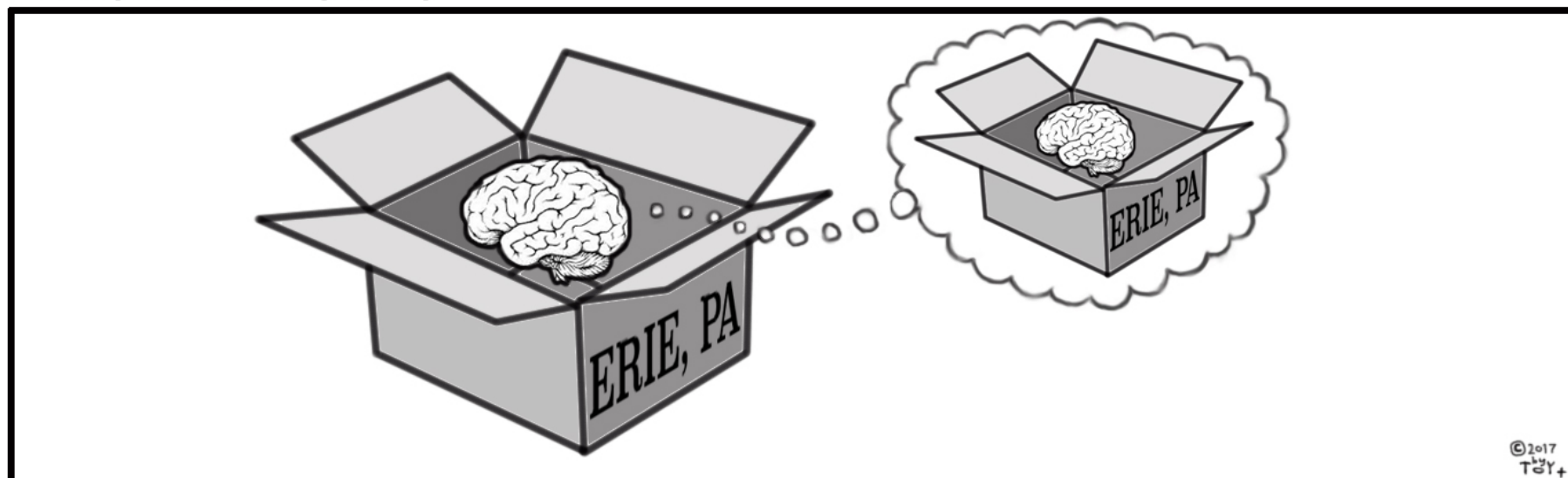
#### Ironies

The Wall Street Journal reported in February that among the most popular diversions when Syrian households gather to escape the country's bombs and bullets is playing the Hasbro war board game Risk (even though the game's default version contains only five armies not nearly enough to simulate the many Syrian factions now fighting). (2) The parliament of Australia's New South Wales, entertaining a February citizen petition to cut societal "waste," admitted that the petition's required 107,000 signatures (already on a USB stick) would, by rule, have to be submitted in hard copy (4,000 pages), even though the pages would immediately be electronically scanned into a format for data storage. [Wall Street Journal, 2-16-2017] [Sydney Morning Herald, 2-26-2017]

#### People Different From Us

In March, an electrician on a service call at a public restroom in Usuki,

### Just Toyin Witcha - By B. Toy



## NEWS & VIEWS

Japan, discovered a crawlspace above the urinal area, which had apparently been a man's home (with a space heater, gas stove and clothing). Investigators learned that Takashi Yamanouchi, 54, a homeless wanderer, had been living there continuously for three years and had arranged everything very tidily, including the 300-plus plastic two-liter bottles of his urine. (It was unclear why he was storing his urine when he resided above a public restroom.) [Rocket News, 4-24-2017]

### Least Competent Criminals

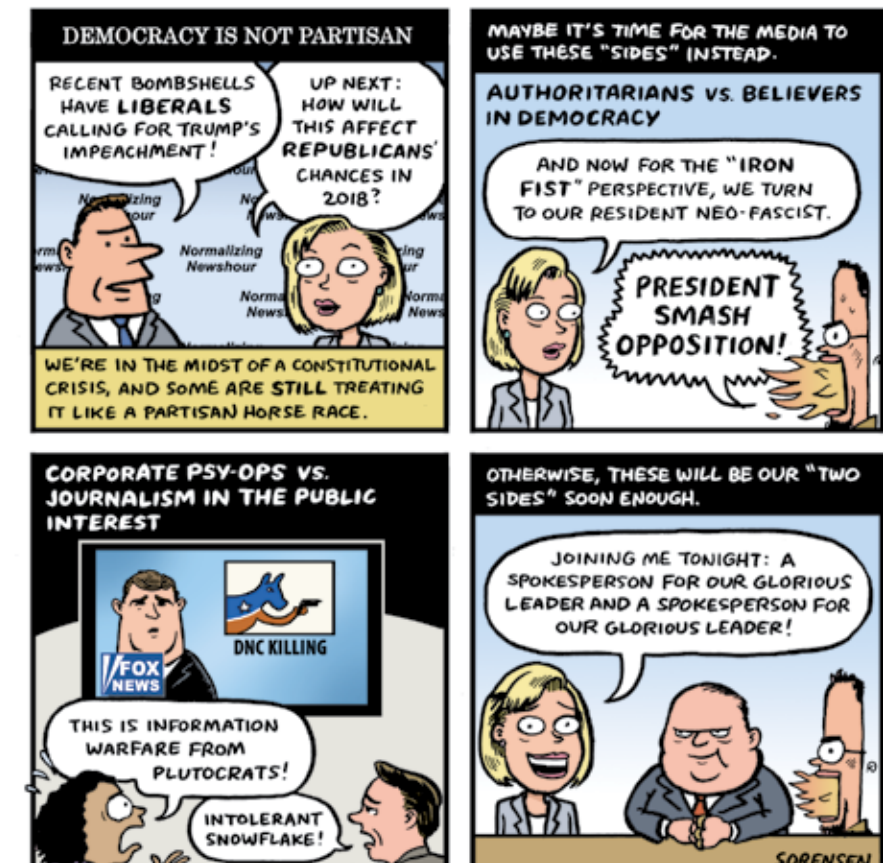
**N**ot Ready For Prime Time: (1) In March, WTTG-TV in Washington, D.C., broadcast surveillance video of a 7-Eleven armed robbery in the city's northeast sector since some footage offered a clear picture of the suspect's face. Moments into the robbery, the man peered upward, caught sight of the camera and, shocked, reached for his apparently forgotten ski mask on top of his head, where (better late than never) he pulled it into place. (2) In November, three teenagers were arrested after stealing superfast Dodge cars in the middle of the night from a dealership in St. Peters, Missouri. (After driving less than a mile, police said, the three had lost control of their cars, crashing them, including "totaling" two

700-horsepower Challenger Hellcats.) [WTTG-TV, 3-28-2017] [KTVI (St. Louis), 11-16-2017]

### No Longer Weird

**N**ews that was formerly weird but whose patterns more recently have become so tedious that the stories deserve respectful retirement: (1) On May 5, an elderly woman in Plymouth, England, became the most recent to drive wildly afield by blindly obeying her car's satellite navigation system. Turning left, as ordered, only to confront a solid railing, she nonetheless spotted a narrow pedestrian gap and squeezed through, which led to her descending the large concrete stairway at the Mayflower House Court parking garage (until her undercarriage got stuck). (2) Police in East Palestine, Ohio, said the 8-year-old boy who commandeered the family car and drove his sister, 4, to the local McDonald's for a cheeseburger on April 9 was different from the usual underaged drivers in that he caused no problems. Witnesses said he followed traffic signals en route, which the boy attributed to learning from YouTube videos. [DevonLive.co.uk, 5-5-2017] [WFMJ-TV (Youngstown), 4-12-2017]

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## What Made the Difference in the Otters' Cup Win

Erie team ends its championship drought

By: Kristen S. Swann

Fifteen years. That's how long Otters fans have been waiting for the J. Ross Robertson Cup to return to Erie. On May 12th, the Otters won the OHL championship for the second time in franchise history. Erie Insurance Arena was packed as the Otters hoisted the cup following an exciting win over the Mississauga Steelheads 4-3 in overtime.

"The goal was pretty crazy. My heart was pounding the whole overtime. When they scored I was so excited that all I remember was yelling," explained Otters fan, Brandon Soto, who attended the game and recalled how exhilarating the final minutes were.

Game five of the championship series was nothing short of a nailbiter when Tampa Bay prospect Taylor Raddysh scored the third goal of his hat-trick night to tie the game at three apiece with 1:15 remaining in the third period. Fellow Lightning prospect Anthony Cirelli buried the game-winning goal 2:41 into the OT period, securing the cup for the Otters.

"The goal was pretty crazy. My heart was pounding the whole overtime. When they scored I was so excited that all I remember was yelling," explained Otters fan, Brandon Soto, who attended the game and recalled how exhilarating the final minutes were.

"I was just in shock," said Otters veteran forward and captain, Kyle Pettit. "We've been so close for so many years, to finally win feels amazing."

The Otters made Canadian Hockey League history in 2015-16 by completing their third consecutive 50-win season. They added to the record this year, finishing with exactly 50 regular season wins.

The Otters have been near the top of the league for the past few years. A championship seemed to be right around the corner, although many thought it would come from the help of 2015 number one NHL draft pick, Connor McDavid. But McDavid left for his new home in Edmonton following the NHL draft. Even with some key players remaining, Erie fans were less than optimistic about the post-McDavid Otters.

Who knew the best was yet to come?

This season was proof that no individual player (no matter how Gretzky-like) can make a championship team alone.

Main contributors this season included forwards Alex DeBrincat and Taylor Raddysh, who finished as the top two scorers in the OHL. Darren Raddysh tallied 81 points, earning his spot as the highest scoring defenseman.

Pettit, in his fifth year with the Otters, believes that the experience gained from falling short in recent years is what helped his team to victory.

"We had the kind of experience of being in the finals and that helped us," he said. "A lot of our team was in it when we lost to Oshawa in the finals two years ago. Nothing was new for us so we knew going into this what we were expecting."

The Otters are now competing for a chance to bring the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup to Erie for the first time ever.

"Obviously we had fun and enjoyed our OHL win, but none of us are satisfied yet," said Pettit. "We have to focus on playing like we have been playing and hopefully we can win."

The Memorial Cup tournament takes place in Windsor, Ontario. The Otters will play in the round-robin tournament against other CHL champions the Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League, the Saint John Sea Dogs of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, and the hosting Windsor Spitfires.

Kristen S. Swann can be reached at [kristensswann@gmail.com](mailto:kristensswann@gmail.com).

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## A Primary Postgame

Analysis, commentary on Erie's latest elections



NICK WARREN



NICK WARREN

By: Ben Speggen

The field for the general election is set. Almost.

A few things remain unsettled as we march toward the Nov. 7 election, including how any write-in candidates fared and whether alliances and candidate endorsements will depart from the traditional pathways with any across-the-aisle overtures and offers of support.

The outcome on the Democratic side of the Erie County Executive race featured no surprises. Incumbent Kathy Dahlkemper handily defeated her opponent, Joseph Curlett, a 68-year-old retired state employee. Curlett, who worked at the state's Department of Community and Economic Development for a decade, earned 7,585 votes, falling well short of the former congresswoman's 16,301.

Dahlkemper's Republican opponent, businessman Art Oligeri, isn't a newcomer to the campaign trail. He mounted a bid for County Executive in 2005 but lost in the primary election that year.

A surprise to some was how tight the Republican candidate race for County Executive ended up being. Just 214 votes separated 64-year-old Oligeri from Brenton Davis, a 33-year-old private contractor. Although Oli-

geri took an early lead and held it throughout the night, the top three returns shuffled with Davis, Ed DiMattio, and Tim Sonney remaining in the mix.

Davis, a newcomer to Erie politics, surprised some, rocketing upwards in the vote tallies late into the night, drawing in strong support from Erie County's outlying districts. DiMattio, a current County Councilman representing the 6th District, took third after Davis, earning 1,695 less votes than

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Ever since the field was set, most analysts had Schember at the top along with two of his six challengers, City Councilman Bob Merski and County Councilman Jay Breneman. Most also had Persinger, the more conventional candidate, defeating Jon Whaley.

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Davis did.

After the official ballot count on Friday, May 19, Davis conceded to Oligeri, offering what seems to be his full and unwavering support.

"My resources, my assets, my information, and my team now become

Mr. Oligeri's," David told *Erie Times-News*' Nico Salvatori on Friday. "And we're just going to shift gears and move forward to ensure that the status quo ends and we don't have four more years of managed decline."

As for the write-in results, the safer assumption to make (note: final results aren't in yet and are projected to be tallied in the coming weeks) is that it won't change the outcome. Rarely can a candidate create the necessary groundswell around a write-in campaign to outpace any of the names on the ballot.

That leaves us looking at the results of two major races in the city: Erie City Council and Erie mayor.

Amongst the crowded field of 16 Democrats looking to finish 1-4, political newcomer and former reporter and editor for the *Erie Times-News* Liz Allen garnered the most votes with 4,434, or nearly 12 percent of the total vote. Behind her, incumbent Councilmen Jim Winarski and Casmir "Kaz" Kwitowski each earned nearly 11 percent of the vote, or 4,090 and 4,025 votes, respectively.

Kathleen Schaaf closed out the winner's circle with 3,236 votes, or 8.66 percent of the vote. Schaaf, a teacher, and Allen are two new faces vying to join City Council.

They're competing to fill the va-

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The primary results finally tallied, Ben Speggen (left) spoke with Democratic nominee Joe Schember and Republican nominee John Persinger on the evening of Tuesday, May 16.

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cancies left by Curtis Jones, Jr. (who steps off of council due to term limits) and David Brennan (who, after filling the vacancy created by the death of Councilman Jim Thompson, went on to win one term but decided to step away from Erie politics). Winarski and Kwitowski sought reelection to keep their seats.

Despite running in a more-crowded-than-usual field, the incumbents – although neither finished first in the vote count – won most likely due to name recognition and experience (and that they had political machines already in place and weren't starting from scratch).

Allen's time with the *Times* likely gave her a boost – coupled with both her strong community presence and door-to-door strategy. Schaaf, who ran a quieter campaign than others, owes some of her credit to the luck of the draw: She was first on the ballot.

Lone Republican Dan Nick will join the four Democrats in the general election when five will be whittled to four. The last Republican elected to Council, Denise Robison, was elected

in 1990.

That takes us to the big dance: The race to become Erie's next mayor.

The match-up for Nov. 7: Democrat Joe Schember vs. Republican John Persinger.

Both the night of and in the days following, most folks I ran into asked a simple question: Were you surprised by the results?

My answer: No. And yes.

Ever since the field was set, most analysts had Schember at the top along with two of his six challengers, City Councilman Bob Merski and County Councilman Jay Breneman. Most also had Persinger, the more conventional candidate, defeating Jon Whaley.

In the lead-up to the primary, it was clear that both Persinger and Whaley care about Erie and want to take steps to build it back up. Both had messages of "ending the status quo" and both argued it would take change (heavy on the notion of electing a Republican instead of a Democrat, like Erie's historically done, to push such change) to improve the region.

But Persinger is the Superman to Whaley's Dark Knight.

Persinger's pedigree, a Harvard grad with a law degree from Notre Dame with time spent working in the White House, painted him as the more traditional option on the Republican card a la White Knight who dons the suit and comes off more polished.

Whaley, who worked as an aide in the Sinnott administration's early days but left due to what he cites as philosophical differences, ran an unsuccessful write-in campaign against Sinnott in 2013, switched parties to run for City Council as a Democrat in 2015 but failed to make the cut, and ran a far less traditional bid for mayor this year with his gritty, rough-around-the-edges style.

But that's not meant to sell Persinger short here. He's bright, he's active, and he's focused.

"They're hungry for new leadership in this city," Persinger told me about the people of Erie the night of his victory. "We put in a lot of hard work, going back to February, knocking on doors meeting with people and talking about their concerns, letting them know that they have a choice in this election, and people responded."

Persinger's big on "choice" in the election for Erie's next mayor, adding that he plans to go across the city "from

Pittsburgh Avenue to Buffalo Road to let people know they have a choice in this election. They can choose between the status quo and 60 more years of decline, or they can choose a brighter future. We have new leadership ready to go, and I think people respond to that message."

Whether Erie will buck its historic trend remains to be seen. But what is clear is that if anyone has the will and energy to have minority-party impact, it's Persinger.

"If we're going to be a thriving city in the future, we need a mayor who understands what the future looks like, and I'm ready to take advantage of that," he said.

Although Schember didn't command a majority of the votes like Persinger did, his victory was decisive. His 3,764 votes represents 30.46 percent of the overall Democrat voter turnout. A near one-third get isn't a clock-cleaning, but the bell's been rung loudly.

"We ran against six very talented people," Schember said on the night of his victory. "I want to work with

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### Schember credits his ground game for his victory, noting that he knocked on more than 2,500 doors during the primary and plans to use a similar strategy in the general election.

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them moving forward."

Schember credits his ground game for his victory, noting that he knocked on more than 2,500 doors during the primary and plans to use a similar strategy in the general election.

"A huge part of [the general campaign strategy] will be door-to-door because that made a huge difference today," he said, "and I just love doing door-to-door."

"Not one person was rude to me," he added. "They talked to me; they recognized me; we had great conversations. That definitely helps a lot. If I get elected to be mayor in November, I want people to feel that they know me and have access to me. That's key."

Like Persinger, Schember, too, is bright, active, and focused.

"I want to help transform Erie," he said. "We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do that."

portunity to do that."

And he acknowledges that it won't be quick and it won't be easy, citing the need to work with private development that's underway.

"It's not going to happen overnight," he said of Erie's potential transformation. "It'll take 10 years, according to *Erie Refocused*, but I'm committed to leave a great city for the next generation."

At the top of the pack but falling short to Schember were Merski and Breneman, who placed second and third respectively. Merski received 3,086 votes – or just shy of 25 percent of the overall vote, and Breneman garnered 2,421 votes – or nearly 20 percent of the overall vote.

Polls and pundits had these candidates towards the top and the polls proved to be right.

Not too far behind, Rubye Jenkins-Husband finished with 1,685 votes – or 13.63 percent of the vote. While she ran a markedly quieter media campaign, her name recognition (most likely from her time on City Council) landed her in the middle of the pack.

So it's not a surprise that out of seven candidates, the perceived front-runners finished in the top three with a well-known, well-liked candidate in Jenkins-Husband right behind. What is surprising is how the bottom, well, bottomed out.

Together, the bottom three candidates didn't muster enough votes to match Jenkins-Husband. Franklin, who arguably ran the most austere campaign in the pack, finished last with 314 votes. Next, Clerkin clocked in with 518, and Austin closed out with 555.

What's not surprising is that Schember and Merski, who spent the most at \$111,000 and \$109,000, respectively, finished first and second. TV and print ads, mailers, and billboards aren't free, and although some candidates may be able to attract voters with good ground games and strong debate performances, repeated images of candidates and their platforms across a variety of media rarely hurts and often helps.

Where it gets interesting is that Austin spent \$45,114 and finished fifth. Breneman spent less (at \$39,729) and finished third. Jenkins-Husband finished in between them, spending the second-least amount amongst the

seven candidates (\$8,368).

Clerkin, who was just shy of Austin's vote count by 37 votes, spent nearly \$30,000 less than Austin did at \$17,270. Franklin, who finished last, spent the least at \$7,368.

Per-vote spending (based on reported amount spent divided by reported number of votes earned):

Austin: \$81.29

Merski: \$35.32

Clerkin: \$33.34

Schember: \$29.49

Franklin: \$23.46

Breneman: \$16.41

Jenkins-Husband: \$4.97

What likely hurt Merski the most was the crowded field and losing some key endorsements. The camp had fundraised well, they stuck to their message of people over politics, and Merski did pick up endorsements from police, fire, Lilly Broadcasting, and more.

Although Merski can't solely be blamed for Council's approach to *Erie Refocused* or the city-county EMTA battle, he was president during the times both were critical conversations for Erie's future. Linking him to that reminds voters that he's tied to Erie's current condition and that if change is what is coveted, he's not the strongest choice.

And three sitting City Councilmembers endorsed Schember over Merski. Although two are immediately on their way out the door (Brennan and Jones, Jr.), it still sends a message.

In the last feature I wrote for the *Erie Reader*, "When Nine Become Two," I made sure to include an important takeaway from the Erie's Next Mayor Debate:

Of critical note, C-SPAN Senior Executive Producer, Political Editor, and Primary Host Steve Scully, who hosted the debate held at the Jefferson Educational Society in partnership with the *Erie Reader* and WQLN Public Media asked a straightforward question of all of the Democratic candidates.

"One of you will represent your party; the others will be voted off of the island.

Show of hands: Who will support the Democratic nominee?"

Every candidate raised their hand.

This will indeed be critical moving forward into the general election. In the primaries, it's easy – and often more effective – to keep the message



simple. Candidates, especially when there are more than four, are looking to distinguish themselves from their competition without alienating the fringe. That is, appeal to your base but don't say anything too specific that could cost you votes in the margins.

In the general election, it's different. It's one party against another. One candidate against another. With a lot of room to discuss details and specifics.

And in Erie, as it stands, it's now a banker versus a lawyer. The second-oldest candidate in the race versus the second-youngest.

Both will be looking to fortify their campaigns. How they approach those who lost on May 16 could be a decisive factor.

If Persinger's able to sway either Breneman or Merski away from their pledge to support the Democratic nominee, it could help bring along a stronger coalition of the youth vote to his side. Breaking the bloc in any way could actually help. But if Schember

is able to keep the party unified, the path to victory for Persinger remains slim solely based on registered voters.

When dealing with any defeated candidates, when they're brought into the fold, so comes whatever baggage they bear that kept voters out of their camps initially. At the end of the day, though, political capital – and the machines that help mount it – is still capital.

The biggest surprise this election (to the optimists) and non-surprise (to the cynics) was the voter turnout. Twenty-six percent of registered voters have led us to where we are today.

Of the 67,599 registered Republican voters in 150 precincts, 17,250 ballots were cast, meaning that 25.52 percent of registered voters took to the polls.

Of the 97,283 registered Democratic voters in the same precincts, 26,418 ballots were cast, meaning that 27.16 percent of registered voters took to the polls.

Together, that yields an average turnout of 26.47 percent. Or, it means

that slightly more than one out of every four registered voters determined what the field looks like headed into the general election.

In my last feature, I wrote: Without a national headliner on the bill, though, anything greater than one-third voter turnout will be heralded as a "good"

**The biggest surprise this election (to the optimists) and non-surprise (to the cynics) was the voter turnout. Twenty-six percent of registered voters have led us to where we are today.**

turnout. I wrote it a bit tongue-in-cheek since I don't think 30 percent is all that good. Turns out, we're worse than that.

Perhaps the overwhelming presentation of options kept folks home. Per-

haps there's some truth to what Mayor Joe Sinnott told Erie News Now's Lisa Adams following the primary election: "I think all elections are important in Erie's future, especially when we elect the top leadership, but the way it was portrayed, that this was times of crisis and things, it is not times of crisis, we're doing fine and I think people know that and I think that's why you saw the low turnout."

Maybe it was something else.

Regardless, we are where we are today because of the proverbial yesterday. The proverbial tomorrows will be shaped by what we do with our proverbial today. And as it stands, we have more than five-months' worth of them before the city of Erie decides who will lead it next. What candidates – and voters – do with them will say a lot about Erie for years to come.

*Ben Speggen can be reached at [bSpeggen@ErieReader.com](mailto:bSpeggen@ErieReader.com) and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.*



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# Spotlight on Erie

May 24 – June 6, 2017

Wednesday, May 26

## A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste: The Social Commentary of *Get Out*



Horror movies work best when the horror in question can serve as a metaphor for some aspect of society. These types of films are often the best way to address the concerns of the audience that consumes them. Whether it's exploiting personal anxieties or the current fears and uncertainties of the public, horror is sometimes the only genre to bring up points that we would dare not bring up in any other situation. Jordan Peele's directorial debut *Get Out* is just such a story.

The film follows a young man named Chris who is heading out of town for the weekend to meet his girlfriend Rose's family for the first time. This situation is already what plenty of people would call awkward, but it is doubly troubling for Chris for one simple reason: Chris is black and Rose is white, a fact that Rose hasn't told her family yet. Rose assures Chris that this won't be a problem for her family (even stating that her father "would've voted for Obama for a third term if he could"), but Chris still has his misgivings. His fears are confirmed when he actually meets Rose's family only to find himself in increasingly bizarre and frightening situations throughout the course of the weekend.

Without spoiling anything I'll just say that Rose's family is not what they seem and they have sinister intentions for Chris. Now, in a regular horror film, the family might just be depicted as typical bigots who resent Chris merely because he's black. But this film has much deeper concerns. It isn't that Rose's family is racist per se, it's that they're so non-racist that they actually come back around to being racist again. In other words, they're the dangerous inversion of racism: people who have so idolized and fetishized black people that they don't even treat them like human beings anymore. In a lot of ways they are more terrifying than the snarling

bigot because they come at you with a smile. However, placing people on a pedestal still dehumanizes them and it is obvious that Peele detests this sentiment entirely. The film works as an interesting metaphor for a big problem with race relations today: people who try so hard to not be racist end up being the most condescendingly racist people in the room.

Beyond that however, the film also works wonderfully as a straight horror film. Peele is clearly a fan of the genre and makes great use of some old horror tropes. The film owes a tremendous debt to paranoid horror movies like the 1978 remake of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, there's a hypnotism sequence that is straight out of David Lynch, and it even has a strange, twisted sense of humor that reminded me of suburban horror flicks like Brian Yuzna's *Society*. All in all, *Get Out* is a fun, creepy little film that leaves plenty of material for the mind to chew on long after it's over. – Forest Taylor

7:00 p.m. // Erie Art Museum, 20 E. 5th St. // [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org)

Friday, June 2

## Linking Music and Nature



TOMMY LINK

A big, beautiful old barn – especially a converted-for-performance one nestled in the middle of a big, beautiful old farmstead property – is a choice location for a summertime musical performance.

Edinboro's Goodell Gardens continue to provide the space, the place, and the sweet sounds to fill them with their ongoing Summer Music Series.

The next artist up in the Goodell series is gifted, busy local singer-songwriter Tommy Link Inc., appearing at the homestead's Barn Stage on the evening of Friday, June 2.

Link's solo work is a good fit for that space, where sound just carries well, and, with those barn doors wide open, lingers sweetly as it flows out into the air.

His summer night's performance is one of several laid out for this year's music series at Goodell. Other performances still to come – all from 7 to 9 p.m. – include Tiger Maple String Band on July 14 and This American Song on Aug. 18.

Goodell's namesake botanical gardens and arboretum are as worth seeing as its Summer Music Series is worth hearing. The chance to experience both are included in the cost of regular admission to the nonprofit venue, which receives arts funding support through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. – Ryan Smith

7 p.m. // 221 Waterford St. (Rte. 6N), Edinboro // [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org)

Friday, June 2

## Reefer Madness Tokes Up at Dramashop

Would you kill for a joint? Perhaps it's time to examine your conscience with the Dramashop production of *Reefer Madness*, a musical comedy based on the 1936 anti-marijuana propaganda film of the same name. Inspired by the zany irreverence of musician Frank Zappa, co-writers Kevin Murphy and Dan Studney effectively hyperbolized source material already notorious for its hyperbole – quite the feat if you're familiar with the original.

The script and the musical numbers make “no attempt to equivocate the soul-destroying effects” of the reefer, which leads to “uncontrollable laughter, dangerous hallucination, monstrous extravagances, emotional disturbances, and the loss of power to resist physical emotions.”

*Reefer Madness* the musical debuted in 1998 to rave reviews and took home six Backstage West Garland Awards

(including “Best Production”) and seven Drama Critics Circle Awards (including another “Best Production” honor) in 1999. Since intoxicating Los Angeles, *Reefer Madness* has swept the globe just like the deadly scourge that is its focal point. The script and the musical numbers make “no attempt to equivocate the soul-destroying effects” of the reefer, which leads to “uncontrollable laughter, dangerous hallucination, monstrous extravagances, emotional disturbances, and the loss of power to resist physical emotions, leading to acts of shocking violence – ending often in incurable insanity.”

That insanity is immediately apparent after protagonist Jimmy Harper takes his first toke at the seedy Reefer Den amongst the deplorable Denizens of the Night. The accompanying song “Jimmy Takes a Hit” brings to life a hypersexual vision perpetrated by the marijuana, including fire eaters, belly dancers, and the Lecturer (the narrator who is relaying this cautionary tale to a room of concerned parents at Jimmy's high school) as a fearsome Goat-man. Elsewhere, Jesus himself makes an appearance with a backing of angelic Vegas showgirls in the Tom Jones-flavored “Listen to Jesus, Jimmy.”

Your soul will rest easy knowing you don't have to make the same mistake. Audiences will have six chances to remain morally upright (while possibly collapsing from laughter), with a Friday and Saturday showing each weekend through June 17. – Matt Swanseger

8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays June 2 through 17 // 1001 State St. // [dramashop.org](http://dramashop.org) // \$12

Saturday, June 3

## Paddle for Presque Isle



Can you imagine playing poker while paddling through Presque Isle?

The Presque Isle Poker Paddle kicks off summer on Saturday, June 3 in a

unique way: It invites paddlers to take on a 6.25-mile trip through the park while playing poker.

Paddlers stop at five checkpoints where they will draw a card. The player with the best five-card poker hand wins \$300, and the player with the worst wins \$150.

The round-trip paddle route travels through Presque Isle's lagoons, Marina Lake, Presque Isle Bay, Horseshoe Pond, Misery Bay, and Graveyard Pond. Proceeds benefit the Presque Isle Partnership.

Participants will receive a commemorative P.I. Poker Paddle t-shirt, a safety whistle, and admission to an after-party at the Millcreek Brewing Company with complimentary beer. Plus, more than \$400 in door prizes will be raffled off, and every participant receives an entry.

Paddlers should arrive at least 45 minutes early and park at Beach 11, where a shuttle bus will provide rides to and from the launch site.

The paddle is a "Bring Your Own Boat" event, but for an additional \$15,

participants can reserve a kayak by calling event coordinator Jim Butts at 838.5144, ext.102. – Tracy Geibel

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. // Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. // \$45 // [discoverpi.com/events/presque-isle-poker-paddle](http://discoverpi.com/events/presque-isle-poker-paddle)

## Saturday, June 3

### TailGREAT Party Reimagines Tailgating



Before the Seawolves game on Saturday, June 3, the annual TailGREAT party, hosted by the Side

Project, will raise money for six local charities.

This tailgate party with a twist benefits Linked by Pink, the Neighborhood Art House, the Twilight Wish Foundation, the Veterans Miracle Center of Erie, the Side Project, and a Gannon University scholarship. The entirety of the proceeds goes to these charities.

At the Side Project, donations will be used for its internship program and nonprofit incubator. The organization works with various nonprofits, charitable foundations, and others to provide "legal and professional support" and strives to have a "positive impact on the community."

Linked by Pink intends to use donations to provide financial support for breast cancer patients and to improve breast cancer awareness, while the Neighborhood Art House offers at-risk children visual, performing, and literary art classes.

The Twilight Wish Foundation grants wishes for those over age 68 who live in poverty or other qualifying situations, while the Veterans Mir-



acle Center of Erie provides clothes and personal items to veterans and their families. Gannon's scholarship supports a first-year Doctor of Physical Therapy candidate.

Since 2014, over \$7,500 has been raised through the Erie TailGREAT by more than 700 people.

The evening features yard games, food from The Que Abides, dessert, and drinks.

Following the party, guests are welcome to stay for the Seawolves game for only \$5 more. – Tracy Geibel

3 to 7 p.m. // Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. // \$20, or \$25 with Seawolves Game // [facebook.com](http://facebook.com)

## MUSIC

### Dave VanAmburg & Friends

May 24, 31 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Maxi's Restaurant at Bel Aire Clarion Hotel, 2800 W. 8th St. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

### Colony Pub Trio

May 25 & June 1 — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W. 8th St. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

### Gem City Jazz Ensemble

May 25 — 7 to 8 p.m.  
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, 560 E. 3rd St. [gemcitybands.org](http://gemcitybands.org).

### Lucky Dog

May 25 — 8 to 10 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### Dave VanAmburg

May 26 & June 2 — 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St. [jazzerie.com](http://jazzerie.com).

### Next of Kin

May 26 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com).

### John Sedelmeyer

May 26 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
The Cork 1794, 17 W. Main St. [cork1794.com](http://cork1794.com).

### Superband

May 26 — 8 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs, 8199 Perry Hwy.

[presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### Gem City Revival

May 26 — 9 p.m. to midnight  
Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. [oasispuberie.com](http://oasispuberie.com).

### Axed & Smashed, Sonic Medusa, Liotta and New Contender

May 26 — 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
Bobbys Place, 1202 W. 18th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Of Good Nature with Drunken Sunday

May 26 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### New Way Nation

May 26 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sherlocks, 508 State St. [facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace](http://facebook.com/sherlocksparkplace).

### The Groove

May 27 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com).

### Spring Concert Series 2017

May 27 & June 3 — 6 to 9 p.m.  
Lakeview Wine Cellars, 8440 Singer Rd. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Oh no it's Mustard Gas, The Travel Agents, Forborn and Heliofiction

May 27 — 7 p.m. to midnight  
Bobbys Place, 1202 W. 18th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Geek Army

May 27 — 8 p.m.  
Presque Isle Downs,

8199 Perry Hwy. [presqueisledowns.com](http://presqueisledowns.com).

### Treespeak with members of Gnosis

May 27 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### Purple Jam III

June 1 — 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### Small Town Revolution

June 2 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com).

### Summer Music Series: Tommy Link

June 2 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org).

### My Penis, Mala Sangre, Dysmorphia, Weapons of Choice and My Father's Garage

June 2 — 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.  
Bobbys Place, 1202 W. 18th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Start Making Sense and Funktional Flow

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

### Key West Express

June 3 — 6 p.m.  
Coconut Joe's, 28 N. Park Row [cjoes.com](http://cjoes.com).

### La Traviata

June 3 — 6:30 p.m.  
Church of the Covenant, 250 W. 7th St. [gannon.edu](http://gannon.edu).

### Concert, One Night Only with James Crumbly Jr.

June 3 — 7 p.m.  
St. John's Lutheran Church, 2216 Peach St. [stjohnserie.org](http://stjohnserie.org).

### Pine Diary

June 3 — 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

### Blasco Concert Series: Erie County Clarinet Choir

June 4 — 2 p.m.  
H.O. Hirt Auditorium at Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org).

### Gem City Revival

June 4 — 4 to 6 p.m.  
Oasis Pub, 3122 W. Lake Rd. [oasispuberie.com](http://oasispuberie.com).

### Kate Buczek Memorial Concert

June 4 — 4 to 6 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy. [uerie.org](http://uerie.org).

### New Contender, Caving, Ponder, Safe Bet and more

June 6 — 6 to 11 p.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Mid-Day Art Break

June 7 — noon to 1 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State

[St.erieartmuseum.org](http://St.erieartmuseum.org).

### The Concert Band of Northwest Pennsylvania Concert

June 7 — 7 p.m.  
Louis C. Cole Auditorium in Memorial Hall at Edinboro University, 205 Meadville St. [events.edinboro.edu](http://events.edinboro.edu).

## DANCE

### Alice in Wonderland

May 27 — 5 p.m.  
McDowell High School, 3580 W. 38th St. [eriedanceconservatory.org](http://eriedanceconservatory.org).

### Sovereign Ballet End of Year Performance

June 3 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Harding Elementary School, 820 Lincoln Ave. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### A Celebration of Dance Stardust Showcase

June 3 — 5:30 to 10 p.m.  
Realife Assembly, 3902 W. 38th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Little's Dance Recital

June 3 — 7 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

## FOOD & DRINK

### Ethnic Cooking with Analida

May 25 — 1:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. [lifeworkserie.org](http://lifeworkserie.org).

### BBQ, Beer & Beards

May 26 — 5 to 8 p.m. & May 27 — noon to 8 p.m. & June 2 — 5 to 8 p.m.

Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Erie Food Tours

May, 27 & June 2, 3, 9, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Like My Thai, 827 State St. [eriefoodtours.com](http://eriefoodtours.com).

### Mind, Body, Beer

May 30 — 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.  
Erie Ale Works, 416 W. 12th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Erie's Wild Rib Cook Off & Music Festival

May 31 & June 1 — 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. & June 2, 3 — 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Perry Square, 568 State St. [erieribfest.com](http://erieribfest.com).

### Erie TailGreat 2017

June 3 — 3 to 7 p.m.  
Inner City Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

## FILM

### Extreme Weather

Ongoing — 11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](http://biggreenscreen.com).

### Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West

Ongoing — noon & 4 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](http://biggreenscreen.com).

### Prehistoric Planet

Ongoing — 2 & 5 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggreenscreen.com](http://biggreenscreen.com).

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OF GOOD NATURE  
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TREESPEAK

**THURS 06/01**

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**FRI 06/02**

START MAKING SENSE

[DOWNSTAIRS]

FUNKTIONAL FLOW

[UPSTAIRS]

**SAT 06/03**

PINE DIARY

**FRI 06/09**

MOCHESTER

**SAT 06/10**

JEREMY PORTER & THE TUCOS

+ BROKE BOLAND

**THURS 06/15**

PAINT & ROCK

**FRI 06/16**

THE LEC

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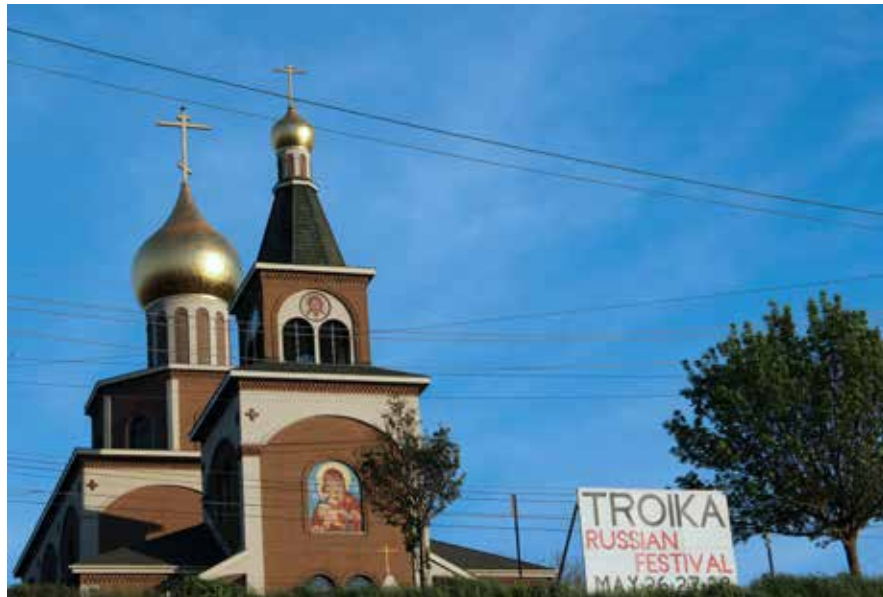
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- JUNE 21ST: DIVISION STREET MACHINE
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- JULY 12TH: TWISTED LID
- JULY 19TH: LAST BAND STANDING
- JULY 26TH: SMALL TOWN REVOLUTION
- AUGUST 2ND: VENDETTAS
- AUGUST 9TH: DIVISION STREET MACHINE
- AUGUST 16TH: ACOUSTIC EARLE
- AUGUST 23RD: SASS ACOUSTIC
- AUGUST 30TH: LAST BAND STANDING

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## The Troika Tradition Continues

Erie's Russian Festival kicks Memorial Day weekend



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAY 27 – 29

Turn your attention on the golden onion dome beckoning along the bayfront. A colorful piece of the Erie skyline, the Church of the Nativity, is happy to host the Russian festival. This marks the festival's ninth year, once again over

Memorial Day weekend. The celebration will feature a wide array of Russian food and culture for all ages.

Russian Fest has taken its place as one of the most popular kickoffs to Erie's summer events, including a handful of other ethnic celebrations. Dating back centuries, these traditions can

An easily recognized site along Erie's bayfront, the Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity will be the site of Troika.

now be embraced by people of all cultures and backgrounds.

Get ready to feast, as well as dance, though not necessarily in that order.

Renowned folk ensemble, Barynya, will be the featured performers again this year. Founded in New York City in 1991, the group has grown into the premier Russian folk ensemble outside of Russia itself. Led by accordionist Mikhail Smirnov, Barynya has performed everywhere from Carnegie Hall to *The Today Show*. The ensemble blends acrobatic Eastern European dances with colorful authentic costumes and musical virtuosity. They will be performing several times each day throughout the weekend, entertaining audiences with their energetic program.

Authentic hand-made dishes will be served, including hearty items with names like vareniki, borscht, and golubtsy. Treats like matryoshka and skan-si should pique your interest, as well as

your taste buds. Diners can also enjoy some beef stroganoff, a fan favorite.

The name "troika" literally refers to a three-horse sleigh used in Russian winters. The Church of the Nativity took one look at the three golden domes that top their church and saw a similar trio at work. If you've ever wanted to go under the dome and see the inside of the church, this is your chance. Self-guided tours will be available all weekend. You'll be amazed by the captivating Byzantine iconography by Erie native Theodore Jurewicz. A world-renowned fresco muralist, Jurewicz has hand-painted churches throughout the country.

You can sip on an imported beer, or grab a shot at the vodka ice bar. But don't worry, the event is very family friendly, with a children's area perfect for the kids. – Nick Warren

4 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 27; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 28; 8:15 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, May 29 // 109 German St. // free // churchofthenativity.net/troika/

### Get Out

May 24 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Erie Art Museum, 10 E. 5th St. facebook.com.

### Burden

May 25 — 6 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. environmenterie.org.

### The Light Between Oceans

May 28 — 1:30 p.m.  
H.O. Hirt Auditorium in the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. erielibrary.org.

### At War With The Army (1950)

June 1 — 8 to 10 p.m.  
Erie Movie House, 3424 W. Lake Rd. facebook.com/ErieMovieHouse.

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Care For Your Mind: The Mental Health Show

Ongoing through May 27  
Meadville Council on the Arts, 910 Market St. artsmeadville.org.

#### Natural Impressions 6th Annual Mixed Media Student Art Show: All Things That Flower

Ongoing through May 28 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

### Earth Stories

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

### Lucid Dreams by Joanne Loew

Ongoing through June 20  
Glass Growers Gallery, 10 E. 5th St. glassgrowersgallery.com.

### Photographs by Gary Cardot

Ongoing through June 24  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

### Dreams, Visions and Other Realities: Collective Works by Ann St. George

Ongoing through June 30  
PACA, 1503 State St. annabellasdesign.com.

### 94th Annual Spring Show

Ongoing through July 9  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

### Erie County Art Teachers

Ongoing through Aug. 11

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

### Tin Plated Dreams: Sculptures by William Brady, Jr.

Ongoing through January 7, 2018  
Erie Art Museum, 411 State St. erieartmuseum.org.

### THEATRE

#### Enjoy It Now, Your Children Will Survive

May 24 — noon & May 27 — 5:30 p.m.

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

#### Romeo & Juliet

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

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

#### Reefer Madness by Kevin Murphy and Dan Studney

June 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 — 8 p.m.

Dramashop on 2nd Floor of Renaissance Centre, 1001 State St. facebook.

#### Sex Please, We're Sixty

June 7, 13, 14, 21 — noon & June 11, 18, 25 — 2:30 p.m.

& June 17, 24 — 5:30 p.m.  
Station Dinner Theatre, 4940 Peach St. canterburyfeast.com.

### COMMUNITY

#### Tai Chi

May 24 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

#### Erie SeaWolves vs. Harrisburg Senators

May 24, 25 — 11 a.m. & June 2, 3 — 7 p.m. & June 4 — 1:30 p.m.

UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

#### Guided Meditation

May 24 — 1:30 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

#### The Death of the Roman Republic: Lessons For The American Republic Today

May 24 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

#### Weightlifting & Cardio Fitness Class

May 25 — 9:30 a.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Adult Art Classes

May 25 & June 1 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
LEAF Education Center, 1501 W. 6th St. leaferie.org.

### Discover Your Hidden Talent: Drawing for Absolute Beginners

May 25 & June 1 — 1 to 3 p.m.  
LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

### American Short Stories

May 25 & June 1, 8, 15, 22 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.

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

### New Horizons Music Project: Strings and Folk

May 25 — 4 to 6 p.m.

LifeWorks Erie, 406 Peach St. lifeworkserie.org.

### Lecture & Book Signing with Longmire Series Author Craig Johnson

May 25 — 7 to 9 p.m.

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

### Tai Chi

May 26 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Regency at South Shore, 322 Washington Pl. lifeworkserie.org.

### Lagoon by Pontoon

May 26 through Sept. 4 — 10 a.m.

Lagoon Boat Launch in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

### 9th Annual Troika Russian Festival

May 26 — 4 to 9 p.m. & May 27 — noon to 6 p.m. & May 28 — noon to 9 p.m.

Church of the Nativity Community Center, 109 German St. churchofthenativity.net.

### Erie SeaWolves vs. Altoona Curve

May 26, 27 — 6:30 p.m. & May 28, 29 — 1:30 p.m.

UPMC Park, 110 E. 10th St. erieevents.com.

### Evening Lagoon by Pontoon

May 26 through Sept. 1 — 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Lagoon Boat Launch in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. events.dcnr.pa.gov.

### Candlelight Ghost Walk

May 26 — 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Dobbins Landing, 1 State St. candlelightghostwalks.com.

### Bug Hotel Builders

May 27 — 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Asbury Woods Nature

## A Good-natured Ribbing

Plenty of Pork in Store for 27th Annual Ribfest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### MAY 31 – JUNE 3

Americans pigged out on pork products in 2016, with a total of 9,452 metric tons consumed, or an average of only about 50 pounds per person. If that seems underwhelming to you, don't despair – the 27th annual Ribfest will offer plenty of opportunity to pick up the slack (by the three-bone sampler, half or

full slab).

Swine-and-dine with the mouthwatering wares of Armadillo's (Youngstown, Ohio), Carolina Rib King (Spartansburg, South Carolina), Jack-On-the-Bone (Massillon, Ohio), Fine Smoke BBQ (Central Ohio), Pigfoot BBQ (Cleveland/Mentor, Ohio), Mojo's Rib Shack (Canton, Ohio), Big Boned BBQ (Ravenel, South Carolina), Pork Brothers BBQ

**Will pork consumption per capita rise in 2017? Pitmasters and Ribfest attendees will both be a factor in the outcome.**

(Northeastern Indiana) – competitors on the national barbecue circuit, but collaborators in fitting your 25th pound of pork in ahead of schedule. A panel of judges will determine which vendor helped you reach that milestone most artfully, critiquing the ribs on sauce, appearance, taste, and texture. On Friday, they will reveal the winners of Best Ribs and Best Sauce (Fine Smoke BBQ is the defending champion in both categories).

Lest this be confused with an oligarchy, the Cricket Wireless booth will be operating a polling center for the 2017 People's Choice Award (please utilize the paper towels and moist towelettes provided before filling out your ballots). Will a newcomer unseat incumbent Mojo's Ribshack? This question will be answered during the closing ceremonies on Saturday evening. Don't be afraid to let your voice be heard – after all, Ribfest is all about getting things off one's chest.

While those decisions are marinating,

Ribfest patrons can peruse a variety of vendor tables and enjoy a full rack of live entertainment. Should their children be picking away at their last morsel of goodwill, a Ride-A-Ribba-Ramma Pass can be purchased for use in the Rib Kidz Fun Zone (\$10 Wednesday-Friday from 5 to 9 p.m., \$15 Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.). Patience – the other white meat.<sup>TM\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>(annual consumption figures unavailable) – Matt Swanseger

#### MUSIC LINEUP

Wednesday: Jackson Station unplugged (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.), Key West Express (7:30 to 10 p.m.)

Thursday: The Dock Boys (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.), The Groove (7:30 to 10 p.m.)

Friday: Moonshine (5 to 7 p.m.), Next of Kin (8 to 11 p.m.)

Saturday: Rock School Studios (11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.), First to Eleven (1:30 to 3 p.m.), Crush (4 to 7 p.m.), Hiway Starr (8 to 11 p.m.)

*Ribfest runs from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at Perry Square. General admission is free. Visit [erieribfest.com](http://erieribfest.com) for more details.*

Center, 4105 Asbury Rd. [asburywoods.org](http://asburywoods.org).

#### Run-A-Muck Mud Run

May 27 — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Eastside Family YMCA, 2101 Nagle Rd. [ymcaerie.org](http://ymcaerie.org).

#### Wildflower Walk

May 27 — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
B-Trail trailhead in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

#### Crash-A-Rama

May 27 — 5 p.m.  
Lake Erie Speedway, 10700 Delmas Dr. [lakeeriewebsite.com](http://lakeeriewebsite.com).

#### LECOM Graduation

May 28 — 1 p.m.  
Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

#### Free Fireworks

May 28 — 10 to 10:15 p.m.  
Waldameer, 220 Peninsula Dr. [waldameer.com](http://waldameer.com).

#### 15K Freedom Challenge

May 29 — 7:30 a.m.  
Walnut Creek Baptist Church, 6015 W. Ridge Rd. [erie15k.com](http://erie15k.com).

#### Great Books: Standing Down, From Warrior

#### to Civilian

May 30 & June 6 — 4 to 5:30 p.m.  
Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St. [jeserie.org](http://jeserie.org).

#### Enrichment Series: Welcoming the Stranger

May 31 — 7 p.m.  
Mount St. Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Rd. [eriebenedictines.org](http://eriebenedictines.org).

#### Mercyhurst Prep High School Graduation

June 1 — 7 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

#### The New Jim Crow

June 1 — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 Perry Hwy. [uuerie.org](http://uuerie.org).

#### Paint and Rock

June 1 — 8 to 10:30 p.m.  
Kings Rook Club, 1921 Peach St. [facebook.com/kingsrookclub](http://facebook.com/kingsrookclub).

#### DiscoverE: Butterflies

June 2 — 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

#### 10th Annual Art & Sole 5K Run/Walk

June 3 — 9 to 11 a.m.  
Neighborhood Art House, 201 E. 10th St. [eriebenedictines.org](http://eriebenedictines.org).

#### Fund the Facade: Vintage, Artisan & Flea Marketplace

June 3, 4 — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
PACA, 1505 State St. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

#### Presque Isle Poker Paddle

June 3 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [discoverpi.com](http://discoverpi.com).

#### Film & Fun: Flight of the Butterflies

June 3 — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

#### St. Boniface School Alumni Weekend

June 3 — 5 to 11 p.m. & June 4 — 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
St. Boniface, 9367 Wattsburg Rd. [stbonifaceschool.com](http://stbonifaceschool.com).

#### Cathedral Prep High School Graduation

June 4 — 2 p.m.  
Warner Theatre, 811 State St. [erieevents.com](http://erieevents.com).

#### The Biggest Loser Race Series

June 4 — 7 a.m.  
Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [biggestloserraceseries.com](http://biggestloserraceseries.com).

#### Shriners 90th Birthday Bash

June 4 — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Shriners Hospitals for Children, 1645 W. 8th St. [zemem.us](http://zemem.us).

#### Pilates Class with Michelle Curtze

June 4, 11, 18, 25 & July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 11 a.m. to noon  
Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St. [goodellgardens.org](http://goodellgardens.org).

#### Trackside Bocce League

June 5  
The Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W. 14th St. [brewerie.com](http://brewerie.com).

#### Yoga

June 5 through Aug. 28 — 5:30 & 7:15 p.m.  
Barracks Beach in Presque Isle State Park, 301 Peninsula Dr. [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov).

# ERIE'S 40 under 40

**Coming June 21, 2017**

**[www.eriereader.com](http://www.eriereader.com)**

Thank you for your nominations!







**ARTrageous**  
Signature benefit of the Erie Art Museum

Saturday, June 10 from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Every corner of the Museum will burst with amazing music, dynamic art, delectable food and drinks.  
Don't miss this toast to John Vanco, celebrating his 50 years of service!

\$100 for members/\$125 for non-members  
erieartmuseum.org/ARTrageous

# AHOY MATEYS! PARTY LIKE A PIRATE

Benefiting the expERIENCE Children's Museum

Live entertainment, Street performers  
Local food samplings, Drinks, Cheer  
and more fun than you can imagine!

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017

Time: 6 - 10 pm


Place: French Street in front of the Museum

Tickets are on sale NOW for the Street Party of the year.




\*Must be 21 and older to attend

To Purchase Tickets, visit [www.eriechildrensmuseum.org/streetsoiree](http://www.eriechildrensmuseum.org/streetsoiree), call (814) 453-3743 or stop by the museum.



TV 54.1 • Radio 91.3FM • WQLN Education • Q-Media  
Schedule Highlights

## Living with Mental Illness



May 25 at 8pm  
on WQLN-TV 54.1 & streaming on WQLN.org

## NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT



May 28 at 8pm  
Encore broadcast at 10pm  
on WQLN-TV 54.1

## Now bigger and better.

Enjoy live entertainment, food, drink and fun!



**perry square**  
DISTRICT

### Summer Kickoff Party

**Perry Square Park**  
Thursday, June 8  
6:00 to 10:30 PM

Sponsored By



Please note: Coolers, pets and glass containers are not permitted.



Visit [eriedowntown.com/calendar](http://eriedowntown.com/calendar) for details.

GOODELL GARDENS & HOMESTEAD presents

Live music by Tommy Link  
June 2, 7-9 pm  
\$5 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 kids, free for members & EU Students

**Kids' Fest! June 11, 1 - 5 pm**  
Lori Burke, The Real Magic Steve, Story Time, vendors & more!  
\$2 per child (members), \$5 per child (public) free adult w/ each child

**BOTANICAL BEVERAGES**  
June 24, 7-10 pm pre-sale only,  
\$35 members, \$40 public  
[www.bit.ly/botbev2017](http://www.bit.ly/botbev2017)

221 Waterford St. (Route 6N)  
Edinboro, PA 16412



# LECOM 5K

RUN/WALK & 1 MILE WELLNESS WALK  
AUG 5, 2017

Join us for the 4th annual LECOM 5K to encourage an active & healthy lifestyle, promote physical fitness & improve the health of the Erie community. Run or walk the 5K course or participate in the One Mile Wellness Walk starting and finishing at the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center. Bring the whole family. There's an event for everyone! We will have post-race refreshments and a DJ! Join us for the ice cream social after the race sponsored by Bruster's Real Ice Cream!

**DATE:** Saturday, August 5, 2017

**LOCATION :** LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center  
5401 Peach Street, Erie PA

**TIME:** 8:00AM: Registration and packet pick up  
8:30AM: Registration closes  
8:55AM: Pre-race instructions  
9:00AM: 5K Run/Walk begins  
9:05AM: One Mile Wellness Walk begins  
10:15AM: Awards ceremony

**5K RUN/WALK AWARDS:** Awards will be presented to the top three overall male & female finishers. Age group awards will be presented to the top 3 finishers in the following age groups: 12 & under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+. One Mile Wellness Walk is a non-competitive event but results will be recorded.

**COURSE:** The race begins and ends on West 54th Street in front of the LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center. The course will take participants through the Winchester Heights neighborhood east of the Wellness Center.

## LECOM

THE JOHN M. & SILVIA FERRETTI  
MEDICAL FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER

5401 Peach Street, Erie PA | 814-868-7800 | [LECOMWELLNESS.com](http://LECOMWELLNESS.com)

Register TODAY for the LECOM 5K Scholarship  
Run/Walk & One Mile Wellness Walk at  
[www.runsignup.com/LECOM5K](http://www.runsignup.com/LECOM5K)

*Fund the Facade*

# vintage artisan & flea MARKETPLACE



FEATURING LIVE MUSIC  
EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN JUNE  
10AM-3PM @ 1505 State Street in ERIE, PA  
\$1 Donation at the Door to help benefit PACA's Facade Project  
\*Vendors contact Diane Schneider at [diaroses@msn.com](mailto:diaroses@msn.com)\*



The Russian Orthodox  
Church of the Nativity  
Presents the 9th Annual

# TROIKA

## Russian Festival

Friday, May 26, 2017 - 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Saturday, May 27, 2017 - Noon to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, May 28, 2017 - Noon to 9 p.m.



Church of the Nativity Community Center  
109 German Street Erie, PA 16507  
[www.churchofthenativity.net/troika](http://www.churchofthenativity.net/troika)

Russian Food • Ice Bar • Children's Area • & More

## Summer Music Festival Preview



ERIC BREWER AT THE GATHERING AT CHAFFEE'S  
PHOTO BY STEVE LEITZINGER

By: Nick Warren

There's just something about getting away from everyday life and immersing yourself in a world of music and positive energy. That energy comes in all varieties of forms, and pockets can be found dotting the map all summer long. Music festivals are a veritable way of life for some in the summer months.

Ask anyone who regularly attends them and they'll tell you, they're a blast. In addition to being epicenters of constant entertainment, they're a relatively low-cost vacation option, providing a weekend getaway amongst like-minded friends, old and new.

All around the world, festivals seem to pop up. There are the big ones, like Coachella, Bonnaroo, and Lollapalooza (or even the ill-fated Fyre Festival) that gather most of the nation's attention. We also just so happen to have a handful of great options close enough to seriously consider. In fact, if you had the resources to do it (not to mention the stamina), you could be fest-ing every single weekend in June, July, and August. But those of us with tighter schedules, tastes, and wallets will want to pick the right ones. Some are too far, some are too expensive, and some line-ups just aren't appealing enough. But seeing a band you're unfamiliar with play in your backyard sounds pretty reasonable, as does driving a few hours to see a handful of your favorite artists. Finding that sweet spot is what it's all about. Starting chronologically, let's go through them, and try to find it.

All prices reflect a standard, full-weekend pass. Distance was measured from the center of Erie, PA. Single day passes

are available for all events.

### Dark Star Jubilee

May 26 – 28

Thornville, OH (3 hours 58 minutes away)

Headliners: Dark Star Orchestra, Twiddle, Keller Williams Kwahtro

Vibe: Grateful, Dank, Far Out

Not just a clever name, this weekend offers up three nights of the Dark Star Orchestra. The much-more-than-a-tribute band is well-loved for recreating Grateful Dead concerts in full. Even if that's not precisely your bag, there's still plenty of big names to make jam fans of all kinds take notice.

[DarkStarJubilee.com](http://DarkStarJubilee.com) // \$149 advance, \$179 at the gate (includes camping) // VIP options available.

### Nelsonville Music Festival

June 1 – 4

Nelsonville, OH (4 hours 38 minutes away)

Headliners: Ween, They Might Be Giants, Emmylou Harris, Conor Oberst

Vibe: Well-read, Artisanal, Naturally sourced



Now in its 13th year, the Nelsonville Music Festival (NMF) continues its streak of amazingly strong lineups from top to bottom. Imagine if the Pitchfork Music Festival and the Newport Folk Festival had a child, and they offered camping. A majority of the bands are highly regarded on a national level, especially among critics and discriminating listeners of many genres. This is one of the more tempting larger festivals within driving distance.

[NelsonvilleFest.org](http://NelsonvilleFest.org) // \$150 plus \$30 (camping included) // VIP options available.

### Spring Badfish

June 2 – 4

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)



Headliners: Badfish

Vibe: Upbeat, Jumpy, Sublime,

The first of five weekends at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park (NLQP) on this list, Spring Badfish gives fans a healthy double dose of the Sublime tribute band. The beloved location provides a beautiful backdrop for a full weekend of outdoor activities like volleyball, basketball, and of course, the quarry's iconic cliff diving.

[TicketQuarry.com/events](http://TicketQuarry.com/events) // \$80 gate, \$70 presale (camping included)

### Three Rivers Arts Festival

June 2 – 11

Pittsburgh, PA (2 hours 5 minutes away)

Headliners: Michael Kiwanuka, Dawes, Rebirth Brass Band

Vibe: A la Carte, Open Minded, Yinzer-iffic

Taking more a non-traditional festival approach, the Three Rivers Arts Festival provides 10 days worth of free events in locations all around the city. It's a coordinated effort put on by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, with help from sponsors like Dollar Bank. In addition to dozens of musical performances (including Erie's own Tyler Smilo), the lengthy cavalcade of events has slews of visual art and creative activities to be part of.

[TRAF.trustarts.org](http://TRAF.trustarts.org) // Free (no camping option)

### Classic Fest

Jun 9 – Jun 11

Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)

Headliners: Several Species, Kashmir

Vibe: Nostalgic, Tributary, Booming

This event at NLQP promises to be an entertaining one, full of convincing acts faithfully playing hits from your favorite rock bands of all time. While headliners pay homage to Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin, others will offer up sets by the Rolling Stones, The All-

Your guide to the 2017 festival season

man Brothers, and more, all amidst the welcoming natural atmosphere of the quarry.

[TicketQuarry.com/events](http://TicketQuarry.com/events) // \$85 gate, \$75 presale (camping included)

### LaureLive

June 10, 11

Russell Township, Ohio (1 hour 39 minutes away)

Headliners: Gary Clark Jr., The Head and the Heart, Young the Giant

Vibe: Community-minded, Progressive, Kid-friendly

In its sophomore year, LaureLive shows no signs of slowing down. Run in association with Laurel School (a K-12 school for girls in Shaker Heights) and the Elevation Group (a locally-based promotions company) the city festival's tagline is "Music with a Mission." The two-day fest features a solid middle card of artists, as well. Some, like Dawes, Strumbrellas, and St. Paul & the Broken Bones, are even headliners at other fests.

[LaureLive.com](http://LaureLive.com) // \$125 (no camping option) // VIP options available.

### The Mad Tea Party Jam

June 15 – 18



Artemas, PA (4 hours 29 minutes away)

Headliners: Papadosio, TAUk, BIG Something

Vibe: Mind-bending, Costumed, Wondrous

Near the Pennsylvania-Maryland border lies the Mad Tea Party Jam. Located at Four Quarters Interfaith Sanctuary, this festival wonderland boasts multiple sets by its headliners, as well as some of its featured favorites, such as Spafford, Litz, and Aque-

ous. Remember to go in costume, too, as the fest encourages Tea Partiers to dress up as their favorite meme, don a onesie, and cosplay a Disney Character over the course of the weekend. Sounds like a mad time.

*TheMadTeaPartyJam.com*  
// \$160 (camping included)  
// VIP options available.

**North by Northeast**

**June 23 – 25**

**Toronto (3 hours 21 minutes away)**

Headliners: Post Malone, Tyler the Creator, Passion Pit

Vibe: Bustling, Northern, Fresh

Patterned after the wildly successful South by Southwest (SXSW) festival, North by Northeast (NXNE) provides tons of things to do for eager festival-goers. This is the second year in the current format, adding a more traditional three-day festival (at Port Lands) to the sprawling, weeklong opus that SXSW is known for. The lineup features a great crop of up-and-coming indie and electronic artists, as well as comedy acts and visual arts.

*NXNE.com* // \$125 CA (no camping option) // VIP options available.

**Great Blue Heron**

**June 30 – July 2**

**Sherman, NY (42 minutes away)**

Headliners: Donna the Buffalo, Rusted Root, Jim Lauderdale, Suitcase Junket

Vibe: Earthy, Welcoming, Iconic



DONNA THE BUFFALO AT THE GREAT BLUE HERON  
PHOTO BY STEVE LEITZINGER

One of the key signposts in an Erieite's summer is the exodus to the Great Blue Heron Music Festival. Now in its 26th year, this weekend provides an oasis of folk and authentic American music from around the region and the nation. "The Heron" is local favorite for a reason. Between the beautiful scenic location and the family-friendly activities and bands, it's easy to feel like fam-

ily at this festival.

*Greatblueheron.com* // \$95 advance  
\$110 at the gate, camping \$60/80  
// Youth options available.

**Freedom Fest**

**Jun 30 – Jul 2**

**Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)**

Headliners: Rusted Root, Cheech & Chong

Vibe: Smoky, Celebratory, Giggly

During the weekend before the 4th of July, NLQP will be lit up. A fireworks show will take place over the water to celebrate the holiday. It's a unique opportunity to see comedy legends Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong perform their hilarious act in addition to hearing some great music in a beautiful location.

*TicketQuarry.com/events*  
\$120 gate, \$100 presale

**Slightly Stoopid**

**Jul 7 – Jul 9**

**Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)**

Headliners: Rusted Root, Slightly Stoopid

Vibe: Chill, Fun, Stoopid

Well-loved California band Slightly Stoopid have been making loveable, weird music since 1995. The band will bring their signature sound to NLQP for three massive nights of music. Joined by Rusted Root, Iration, and The Movement, this weekend will prove to be a perfect opportunity for fans both casual and dedicated to cut loose and enjoy the scenery.

*TicketQuarry.com/events*  
\$125 gate, \$110 presale

**Cobblestone Live**

**July 15, 16**

**Buffalo, NY (1 hour 40 minutes away)**

Headliners: Moon Taxi, Real Estate, Aqueous

Vibe: Bumpy, Buffalicious, Affordable

In its inaugural year, Cobblestone Live is putting together dozens of great bands and uniting one of Buffalo's hippest places. With plenty of bars, restaurants, and venues residing in the Cobblestone District, having a festival there just makes sense. Given the reasonable ticket prices and bands like Wild Child and Moon Hooch, it already looks like this festival has a bright future.

*CobblestoneLive.com* \$45 (no camping option) // VIP options available.

**Buffalove**

**July 20 – 23**

**Franklinville, NY (1 hour 52 minutes away)**

Headliners: Electron, Herobust, Boombox, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad

Vibe: Danceable, Jammable, Bangin'

One of Buffalo's favorite festivals is back again. Located at The Woods at Bear Creek about an hour south of the city, the festival boasts four days of artists like Broccoli Samurai, After Funk, and Zoogma.

*BuffaloveMusicFest.com* // \$125 advance / \$150 at the gate (camping included) // VIP options available.

**Karoondinha**

**July 21 – 23**

**Centre Hall, PA (3 hours 41 minutes away)**

Headliners: Chance the Rapper, John Legend, Paramore

Vibe: New, Natural, Intriguing

In its first year of existence, Karoondinha is already turning a few heads. Located at Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park, the lineup is formidable, with acts like Sturgill Simpson and Porter Robinson filling out the top of the card. Tours of the all-water cavern are also available for guests. If all goes well, Karoondinha has the potential to be one of the more popular music festivals in the Northeast.

*Karoondinha.com* // \$279, \$29/\$49 for camping // VIP options available.

**The Gathering at Chaffee's**

**July 21 – 22**

**Girard, PA \$60 (28 minutes away)**

Headliners: Tropicadelic, Spirtual Rez

Vibe: Familial, Funky, Fantastic

One of the longest-running music festivals in the United States, the Gathering at Chaffee's is a defining moment in an Erie County summer. Featuring a veritable who's-who of local talent in addition to popular regional bands, the festival is a favorite of the Erie music scene, and when you're there, it's easy to see why.

*TheGatheringatChaffees.com*  
// \$60 (camping included).

**Grateful Fest**

**Jul 28 – Jul 30**

**Garrettsville, OH (1 hour 40 minutes away)**

Headliners: David Gans, New Riders of the Purple Sage

Vibe: Dead-Friendly, Groovy, Kind

With more acts being announced soon, Grateful Fest promises to be a lovely experience at the gorgeous NLQP. Dead-adjacent acts David Gans and the New Riders of the Purple Sage are sure to unite fans of the legendary jam band.

*TicketQuarry.com/events* // \$80 gate, \$70 presale

**WayHome**

**July 28 – 30**

**Oro-Medonte, Ontario (4 hours 23 minutes away)**

Headliners: Flume, Imagine Dragons, Frank Ocean

Vibe: Modern, Youthful, Impressive



The first of three events on this list taking place at Burl's Creek, WayHome has already earned a seat with the heavy hitters of the festival scene, despite only being in its third year. Although early lineup reactions seemed lukewarm to diehard fans, this year will surely prove successful. With a remarkable undercard of acts, the quality of this festival is hard to deny.

*WayHome.com* // 279.99 CA / 205.82 USD + 139.99 CA / 102.91 USD for camping // VIP options available.

**Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Fest**

**August 4 – 6**

**Erie, PA (8 minutes away)**

Headliners: TBA

Vibe: Artsy, Family-Friendly, Essential

Though the lineup is yet to be announced for the Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival, you should still mark your calendars. This year, you can add an extra day to that! Now in its 25th year, this free festival takes place at Frontier Park, and stretches over three days. A local favorite, it's one of the keys to a successful Erie summer. Stay tuned for full, exhaustive coverage

## FEATURE



BASSIST TONY GREY OF THE GALACTIC DUO HITS A FLURRY OF NOTES AT THE 2016 ERIE ART MUSEUM BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL

in our August 2 issue.

[ErieArtMuseum.org/events-blues-jazz-festival](http://ErieArtMuseum.org/events-blues-jazz-festival) // Free (no overnight camping option)

### Veld Music Festival

August 5 – 6

Toronto, Ontario (3 hours 24 minutes away)

Headliners: Future, Major Lazer

Vibe: PLUR, Tunrt, Plunrt

Featuring some big names in the world of hip hop, dance, and electronic music, Veld Music Festival is now in its sixth year. Taking place in Downsview park in the city of Toronto, Veld features acts like A\$AP Ferg, Migos, and many more for all your dancing needs.

[VeldMusicFestival.com](http://VeldMusicFestival.com) // \$179.50 (no camping option) // VIP options available.

### Boots and Hearts

Aug 10 – 13

Oro-Medonte, Ontario (4 hours 23 minutes away)

Headliners: Luke Bryan, Keith Urban, Brantley Gilbert, Brett Eldredge

Vibe: Rustic, Country, Western,

Interestingly, one of North America's biggest country music festivals happens to take place in Canada. Country fans looking for festivals might find themselves lost in a sea of jam bands or blaring rock and roll. No longer. Our neighbors to the north at this Burl's Creek festival are just as appreciative of cutting loose a little bit when you've earned it. Their motto: "Work Hard. Play Harder."

[Lineup.bootsandhearts.com](http://Lineup.bootsandhearts.com) // \$249.99, \$149.99 camping // VIP options available.

### Fashion Meets Music Fest

August 18 – 19

Columbus, OH (3 hours 52 minutes away)

Headliners: Third Eye Blind, Fetty Wap

Vibe: Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Glamorous

Not a fan of camping in the woods? This might be the perfect option for any city mouse looking for the fest experience. Presented by I Heart Media, the Fashion Meets Music Fest (FMMF) takes over Columbus' Fortress Obetz for two days with designers like Michael Drummond of Project Runway and acts like T-Pain and Tegan & Sara. See and be seen!

[FMMF.us](http://FMMF.us) // \$70 (no camping option) // VIP options available.

### Big Festival

August 18 – 20

Oro-Medonte, Ontario (4 hours 23 minutes away)

Headliners: Weezer, Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals, OK Go

Vibe: Delicious, Family-friendly, Imported

Following a successful six-year run in the UK, the Big Festival is coming to North America. Perfect for distinguishing gourmants of all ages, the event features dozens of top chefs vying for your tastebuds. In addition to the cornucopia of culinary delights, there are some top-level musical acts providing a fun atmosphere down at Burl's Creek event grounds.

[Canada.thebigfestival.com](http://Canada.thebigfestival.com) // \$220 CA/\$161.72 USD (camping included) // VIP options available.

### Night Lights

August 24 – 26

Sherman, NY (42 minutes away)

Headliners: Papadosio, Dopapod

Vibe: Glowing, Psychedelic, Arborous

As summer starts to wind down and September lurks right around the corner, Night Lights provides one last hurrah right on time. Taking place on the same beautiful campgrounds as the Great Blue Heron, Night Lights provides feasts for the eyes as well as the ears. As some of the top jam and electronic bands take the stage, luminary decorations adorn the wooded grounds, hence the name. It'll be lit.

[NightLightsFest.com](http://NightLightsFest.com) // \$99 (camping included).

Nick Warren will be attending as many of these festivals as humanly possible, and can be reached at [Nick@eriereader.com](mailto:Nick@eriereader.com)

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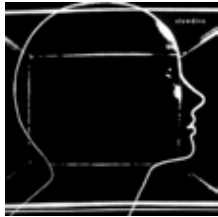
[erieplayhouse.org](http://erieplayhouse.org) OR 814.454.2852

## MUSIC REVIEWS

**Slowdive**  
Slowdive  
Dead Oceans

★★★★★

Making a dramatic return, the English band Slowdive released their first new album in 22 years. Disbanding in 1995 after the release of the minimalistic *\*Pygmalion*, the band reunited in 2014. Not unlike My Bloody Valentine's *\*MBV* and Swervedriver's *\*I Wasn't Born to Lose You\**, this album finds a shoegaze band from the UK reuniting to release new material, thusly finding success. With modern shoegaze and dream pop being in such vogue now, it's no surprise that these bands are coming back. The eponymous new album finds an ideal balance of new and old. It builds on modern methods and technology while remaining faithful to the spirit of the older material. It's a gorgeous record, able to stand alone with or without the context. The luscious tones being thrown around are something to behold. Listening to how notes decay, like an analog tape delay machine losing fidelity, listeners can lose themselves in the evocative atmosphere. Neil Halstead and Rachel Goswell haven't lost a beat, both their vocals and their guitar playing is at peak performance on this album.  
– Nick Warren



**Mac Demarco**  
This Old Dog  
Captured Tracks

★★★★★

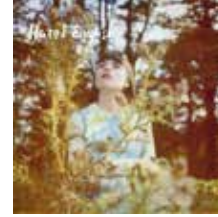
The golden boy of indie rock, Mac Demarco returns with the third proper full-length. On top of his music being somewhat phenomenal, Demarco's charismatic personality has taken him to the next level of indie stardom. The album starts off amazingly strong. "My Old Man" is one of the best songs of the year. It's a timeless rumination that could be right at home in virtually any decade of thoughtful rock music. The warm guitar tones of Demarco's signature vibrato are here to keep you company once again. Tracks jump around in terms of tempo and memorability. There's a welcome vibe from the album in general. Demarco's music has long been able to winkingly inject a whimsical, fun tone into songs, without sounding like a joke. Classic rock sounds bump together, seen through the lens of a millennial hipster. For the most part, it's a formula that works. Despite some tracks in the middle such as "Still Beating," things start to fade a bit after multiple listens. The album bookends itself, "Watching Him Fade Away" catching the listener's attention with its beautiful simplicity.  
– Nick Warren



**Hazel English**  
Just Give In/Never Going Home  
Polyvinyl

★★★★★

The debut album from a 26-year-old Hazel English is a superbly strong one. The Australian native moved to the Bay Area for college and after a short time, decided to stay there. That stereotypically Californian optimism truly shines through on this album. It's a deliciously sweet indie pop record that combines her first EP from 2016 with six new tracks to form a new whole. Immediately, with the opening track "Other Lives," the listener is grabbed by English's catchy hooks. Her soft, unassuming voice drifts airily along each track, creating a loveable blend of youthful freedom and twenty-something anxiety. Fans of Alvvays or Veronica Falls will instantly be won over by English's personality. Although a remarkably consistent album, the (half) titular track "Never Going Home" is a pop standout. Her lyrics hint at a neuroticism, filled with worry and regret. A shimmering reverb coats almost every note, every neurotic sentiment of self-doubt glistening in the sun. Mixing melancholy themes with bright-sounding tones may be nothing new, but here, it works.  
– Nick Warren



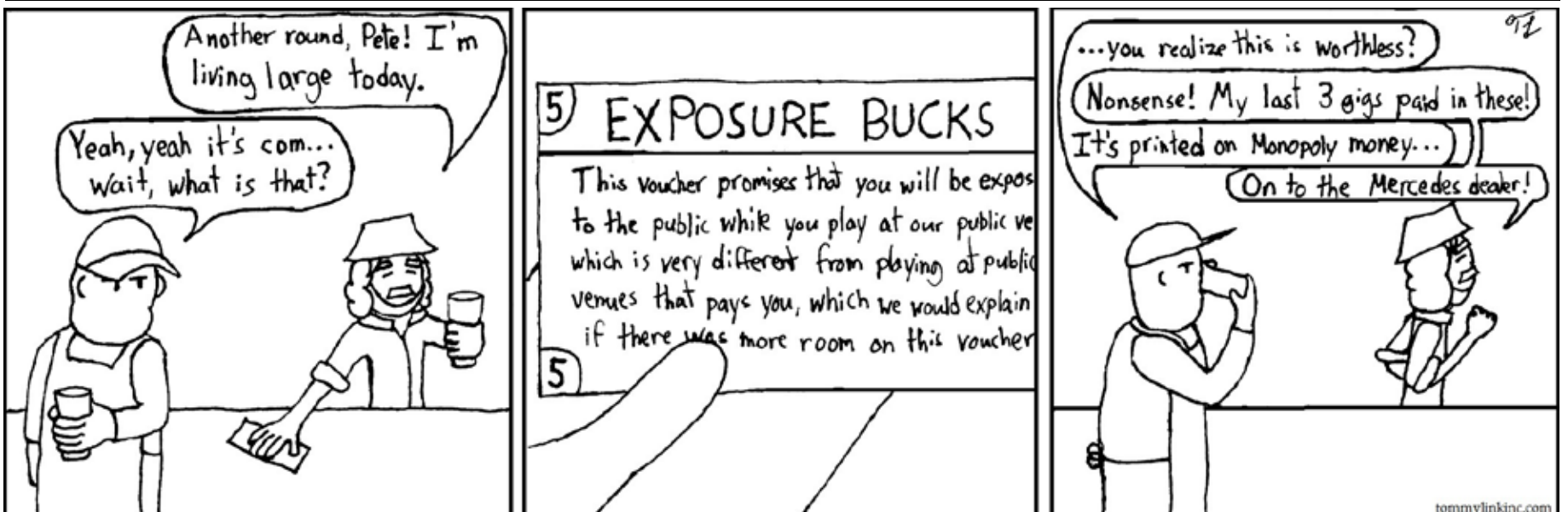
**The Mountain Goats**  
Goths  
Merge Records

★★★★★

"No comped vocals. No pitch correction. No guitars." That was what heralded *\*Goths*, the 16th studio album from the Mountain Goats. If it wasn't for that declaration, it might take the listener some time before they even realized that. While the musical presence of saxophone player and multi-instrumentalist Matt Douglas is becoming a more and more identifiable part of the band's sound, overall it's not a radical departure for the band musically, and it doesn't need to be. The strength of the Mountain Goats will always rest solely on the shoulders of John Darnielle. His brilliant lyricism and idiosyncratic vocal delivery tells a story like no other living person can. Not unlike the band's last album *\*Beat the Champ\**, this is an album with a theme. While in 2015 it was wrestling, the theme of *\*Goths* is, well, goths. The record quickly namedrops Andrew Eldritch (singer of The Sisters of Mercy), and Robert Smith (of The Cure) in "Abandoned Flesh" along with plenty of direct references to dozens of bands. Despite its subject matter, there's so much life in Darnielle's work.  
– Nick Warren



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